Baldwin is the first house on campus to offer new-suite style housing. There are nine new suites located on the basement first, second and third floors. New furnishings for the suites include loft beds and common room furniture.

Students are excited about the new housing alternative. Other areas that were improved include: new bathrooms, new first-floor kitchen, a new gas fire-place and wheelchair accessible side entrance. However, within these many changes, the architect had the foresight to blend the old with the new. This is evident in some suites where the old brick walls were incorporated into the suite design. Baldwin is the first house to have lounges on all upper floors.
Conway House, at 21 Prospect Street, behind Talbot House, is a new ten unit apartment building on three levels accessed by two stairways. The building includes eight two-bedroom apartments, one of which is fully accessible, and two apartments with an additional study room that could be used as a bedroom. The building is also connected to Bedford Terrace with a new pedestrian sidewalk. The building which is named in honor of former Smith College President Jill Ker Conway will be officially dedicated at a ceremony on Oct.19.

The lower level has three apartments with ground-level patios, a laundry room, ten storage cages and a mechanical room. The main level has an accessible apartment, a common room with kitchenette, a public bathroom and three other apartments within the core of the three-story building. The upper level floor has three more apartments for a total of ten. Each apartment is approximately 750 square feet. The building is approximately 13,000 square feet.

The design concept of the building is of traditional architecture, referencing the form and materials of its immediate neighbors. The exterior finishes include brick and stucco which mimic Talbot House, Lamont House and Gill Hall. However the building has its own distinctive interpretation of that tradition with some very decidedly modern elements.

By Gary Hartwell
During the summer College Hall continued its renovation process. Student-service-related offices were moved to the first floor. Other areas were reconfigured, including:

bathrooms
kitchenettes
and offices.
Electrical,
plumbing and
HVAC components were upgraded.
Although the building is not quite complete, the end is in sight!!

“A Work in Progress”
Both Gardiner and Wilson Houses had bathroom renovations over the summer. These renovations include new lighting, private tub rooms, and shower upgrades. New sink and counter tops were installed and look stunning.

Wilson House bathrooms are beige with deep green counters and cubbies, while Gardiner House is beige with maroon accents, Gardiner’s 1st floor study was done over with new carpeting and draperies as well.
Looking Forward
From Pres. Carol T. Christ

With the focus of this fall’s Staff Chronicle on campus construction, it’s an appropriate time to reflect on the college’s historical sense of place and its implications for us today.

In locating the college in Northampton, Smith’s founders wanted to accomplish two things: they wanted to build the college in a place of great natural beauty, which would itself have a teaching power for the students, and they wanted the college to be part of the town of Northampton. They explicitly rejected the model of a single, large, seminary-type building on a hill apart from the town—the kind of model they associated with Vassar and Mount Holyoke—and chose instead to design a set of buildings that would be integrated with the town. Students would live in houses that looked like neighborhood houses; they would use the town library and attend town churches.

These two characteristics of the design of the college—its beautiful natural setting and its integration with the town—remain important today. We all enjoy the park-like landscape of the campus-designed in the 19th century by Frederick Law Olmstead, who also designed Central Park in New York—, the large variety of beautiful old trees and the Botanic Garden. We also enjoy the campus integration with the town—its lack of sharp borders, its buildings, like the Lyman Plant House, the Art Museum, and the Campus Center, which have doors to the community as well as to the college.

Both of these elements of the campus design have relevance to Smith’s mission today. Many of you may have seen Al Gore’s recent movie, An Inconvenient Truth, with its powerful message about global warming. Much as Smith’s 19th-century founders believed that the landscape had an important teaching role for the college, so the college must learn from the natural world today. We all have a responsibility to reduce our environmental footprint by using natural resources in environmentally sustainable ways. One of the goals we have defined in our strategic planning process is supporting and promoting environmental sustainability, both in the curriculum and in our business practices. I encourage all of you to join our discussions this semester about the best ways to achieve this goal.

Another objective of our strategic planning process is to encourage purposeful engagement with society’s challenges. This engagement begins in our community, with the city of Northampton. We have many partnerships with the city, from extensive collaborations with the public schools to long time relationships with the Academy of Music and with the Clarke School. As we develop initiatives to increase opportunities for community service for our students, we will look first to the community that surrounds us.

The architectural philosophy of the college has always made space for the new. Unlike colleges that maintain a uniform style, Smith’s architecture is cheerfully eclectic, including traditional buildings and modern design. But the underlying principles remain constant—integration with the city and a love for the beauty of natural place.

From the Chair

Welcome to another academic year at Smith! September and the start of the fall semester always feels a bit like we are all going back to school. The energy on campus changes. There is a kind of excitement to the start of another year. Smells are different. It feels like we should all go shopping for new clothes and school supplies for ourselves. There is a sense of a clean slate for everyone - a fresh start to another year. Part of it, I think, is that I share in the excitement of the new and returning students. It is something that I never get tired of. I am pleased too to begin another year as the elected Chair to Staff Council. The Council is made up of 23 members, elected by fellow staff members, and two presidential appointees. The stated mission of Staff Council is to give members of the administrative, administrative support and service staff a focused and direct involvement in the governance of non-academic affairs and in the life of the Smith College community.

In other words, we are here to represent your interests and be an advocate for you, providing input in the policy-making process that affects us all. Staff Council also recommends names to the president for staff participation on key committees like the Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation (ACRA). Chris Carr Hill is our staff representative this year on ACRA and I am proud to have her representing us.

Staff Council meets once a month, usually the first Thursday at 2:00 PM and the meetings are open. I invite your participation this year in whatever form it may take. You are welcome to attend our meetings. Perhaps you might consider serving on a Staff Council subcommittee or volunteering at one of the many social events put on by the Staff Council Activities committee. It is a great way to get to know the campus community outside your normal work bubble. We also welcome articles for future issues of the Council Chronicle.

I know I speak for the entire Council when I say we would love to hear from you on any matters that you feel deserve our attention. Here’s to another great year.

Samuel Rush

Staff Council is a rewarding and productive group that is changing the employment environment for all staff at Smith College. Please consider getting involved! Visit our Website at www.smith.edu/staffcouncil
New York City Bus Trips: Saturday Dec. 2, AND Saturday, April, 28, 2007

Take a bite out of the Big Apple! See the sights. Shop. Visit a museum or two. Cost $ 30 per person. Call Ext 2678 or sign up by e-mail: staffactivities@smith.edu

Denim Day for Breast Cancer Awareness, Oct. 6

Staff Council Activities Committee sponsors this event to honor Susan B. Komen by collecting donations to support this cause. There will be a special event in the Campus Center Carroll Room

Julia Child Day, Nov. 16

Holiday Hoopla, Dec. 14, at Campus Center Carroll Room

Human Resource Benefits Fair, Wed. Nov. 8, at Campus Center Carroll Room

Reminder: Drivers still needed for new-hire tours

Staff Visions Art Exhibition and Writer's Booklet

Once again the Book Arts Gallery in Neilson Library will host the Staff Visions Art Exhibition from Nov. 6-Dec 15. Staff writers are also invited to participate in the publication of the Staff Visions Writers’ Booklet. A lively calendar of events includes an opening reception on Tuesday, Nov 7, 4:00-6:00 PM, with entertainment provided by staff musicians; artist gallery talks on Friday, Nov 17 and Thursday, Dec 7, 12:00-1:00 PM, and writers’ gallery reading on Monday, November 27, 12:00-1:00 PM.

For the convenience of staff artists and writers, we have included registration forms in this issue of the Council Chronicle. Don’t miss the Oct 6 deadline for submitting the forms. Visit the Staff Visions Web page for more information http://www.smith.edu/staffcouncil/staffvisions-2006.html If you have questions contact Mimi Lempart, mlempart@email.smith.edu or x2925.

Mimi Lempart