Council News

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE

The committee is moving forward with several projects. The first is a redesign and update of the informative Staff Council brochure that is handed out at new-employee orientations. Kelly Richey has volunteered to be the Staff Council representative at these meetings. She will give new employees the brochure, the latest issue of the Chronicle, an explanation of Staff Council’s mission, and a water bottle. Speaking of water bottles, by now everyone should have received a green Smith water bottle. If you haven’t, please contact Kelly at ext. 2622. The committee is updating the Staff Council slide show to reflect some recent Council activities. Deb Letourneau has joined the Communications Committee as a non-voting member. Welcome Deb!

Did You Know?

As a Smith College staff member, you can purchase one license of either Microsoft Office 2008 for Mac ($10), or Microsoft Office 2007 for PC ($20). This is a “Work-at-Home” benefit of the college’s Microsoft Campus Agreement contract. In order to purchase the license, visit the Computer Store located in Stoddard Hall 22 in person with your Smith College ID. You will be asked to sign a contract and pay the fee. Please contact the Computer Store if you have questions about this benefit: cstore@smith.edu or ext. 3027.

Ad Hoc Archives Committee Formed

An ad hoc Archives Committee has been formed to tackle the job of archiving the voluminous collection of papers and related Staff Council materials that have accumulated over the years. Currently there are several boxes of materials including minutes, agendas, and newsletters in the College Archives. Most of the collection is from 1993 to 1996, the early years of the Council. The ad hoc committee hopes to expand the archives to fill in missing documentation, so if you are a former member of the Council and have in your possession papers or items that may be appropriate for archiving, please contact Sam Rush, Jinny Mason, or Chris Gentes, the ad hoc committee members. To follow the progress of this important project visit www.smith.edu/staffcouncil/archives.html.

Online Gallery

Join us in welcoming Stephen Campbell of Facilities Management to the Staff Council online gallery. Pictured at left is a cabinet of Steve’s own design inspired by Jim Tolpin’s The Toolbox Book. Steve writes, “It is constructed with 150 hand-cut dovetails. Most of the tools are ‘hand-me-downs’ and eBay finds, refurbished and fitted with my own custom handles. It will always be a ‘work in progress’ with every tool purchase finding a new home.”

Steve has also submitted photos of a replica of a grandfather clock that he built—the original is in Wilson House—and a painting based on a Winslow Homer watercolor.

All staff are welcome to submit images of art, photos, or other examples of creative activities. For more information and to view all of the photos in the gallery, visit: www.smith.edu/staffcouncil/09.
The Chronicle Monthly is funded by the Smith College Staff Council and is published by and for Smith College staff. This two-page monthly format of the Chronicle reduces by 40% the amount of paper used in printing annually.

To join the 8% of your co-workers who have opted out of receiving a printed version of this newsletter, see the panel on the right. An electronic pdf version of the Chronicle is available online at www.smith.edu/staffcouncil/chronicle.

Staff Council encourages submission of announcements, photos, and event listings for publication in this newsletter and/or online. Staff Council and the editorial staff reserve the right to edit submitted announcements.

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The Five College IGD Initiative is being coordinated by the Five College Training and Development Collaborative and includes Diversity and Human Resources directors from each campus. The project’s long-term goal is to develop a group of well-versed facilitators across the Five College network who can successfully lead dialogues related to diversity and inclusivity. Abida Adnan, Serena Harris, and Jenny Silver were involved in the overall IGD planning committee and have been instrumental in launching this initiative at Smith College.

As part of the movement to create more welcoming and inclusive campus communities, each of the five campuses will simultaneously host a Day of Dialogue on October 27, 2009. On this day, faculty and staff will have an opportunity to experience the “art of dialogue across difference” as they participate in two-hour sessions related to race, class, or gender. Each session will be co-facilitated by the newly trained staff.

Ana Gorman, Co-Chair, Staff Council Diversity Committee

Meetings

All staff are welcome to attend meetings or serve as a non-voting member on a committee. Check the Staff Council Web site for additional meetings, updates or changes: www.smith.edu/staffcouncil.

August 6 (Thursday)—Full Council  
Time: 2:00 p.m. Place: Campus Center, Room 204  
Chair: Sandy Bycenski

August 20 (Thursday)—Communications Committee  
Time: 2:00 p.m. Place: Campus Center Café  
Co-Chairs: Barbara Pliska, Kelly Richey

August 28 (Friday)—Diversity Committee  
Time: 12:00 p.m.  
Place: 30 Belmont Avenue, 2nd Floor Conference Room  
Co-Chairs: Abida Adnan, Ana Gorman

If you would like to receive future issues of the Chronicle Monthly as a pdf file via e-mail instead of a printed copy, please check the box below and return this newsletter via interoffice mail to “Staff Council.”

☐ Please send future issues to me as a pdf in e-mail.