We Need Your Help!  In 1988 a group of Smith College staff members completed multi-cultural training with the Equity Institute. They were challenged to “increase the level of communication among Smith staff” and to help staff “feel more connected to the Smith community.” They formed a working group called “Staff Connection,” and in December 1989, published the first of four newsletters called Connecting. Well, from those humble beginnings our current Staff Council and Chronicle Monthly have evolved. As we approach the 20th anniversary of the publishing of a newsletter for staff, Staff Council needs a new logo and motto—and we need your help! Please send ideas, comments, drawings to “Staff Council Logo” via interoffice mail, or send an e-mail to staffchronicle@smith.edu by September 15 if you would like to be involved in the process.

Comments from the Chair

Many changes have occurred at Smith College during my 35 years as a staff member. As chair of Staff Council, I welcome ideas and comments that can help us all work together toward the mission of the College. I am following a great lineage of Staff Council chairs, who have made my experience at Smith very fulfilling.

By being a member of Staff Council, I have experienced many different ways that Staff Council contributes to the success of Smith as an educational institution and a place of employment.
- We participate in diversity and Class Matters training.
- We provide social activities for the benefit of the Smith community.
- We act as a sounding board for staff to voice proposed changes.
- But most of all, we are a communication forum to make staff aware of issues at Smith College. During the years, we have invited several senior staff to our meetings to be better informed and have the opportunity to ask them questions.

This year will be a trying time for staff who have experienced downsizing in their department. I hope we can work together for the betterment of the college.

I am lucky to work with great people who are there to help and make life at Smith College fun and educational. If you have any questions that you would like to bring to Staff Council, please visit our Web site, www.smith.edu/staffcouncil. Also note that our meetings are open to the Smith community, and we welcome your participation.

—Sandy Bycenski, Staff Council Chair

Online Staff Art Gallery

Join us in welcoming Naomi Sturtevant to the online gallery. This watercolor painting is of her friend Joyce’s garden in Granville. Joyce’s family has lived in the same place for generations. She says, “Everywhere you look could be a painting.” Keep checking the gallery; more of Naomi’s paintings will be added as she creates them.

The following comment about the online gallery was recently submitted by a staff member: “What an incredibly talented and diverse staff we are - poets, photographers, composers, craftsmen, artists, and more! There is genius among us - angles discerned, colors memorized, and new rhythm created every day. So glad to be able to see this small sampling, if only online. It’s in the sharing with others that we frequently find the most satisfaction.”

To view more art, learn how to submit your own art, or leave a comment, visit www.smith.edu/staffcouncil/09.
Profile of a Colleague
Maureen Raucher

Time at Smith: 7 years.
Currently in: Office of Religious and Spiritual Life.
Family: Husband, David; daughters Mackenzie, 12, and Carlie, 9.
Favorite part of my job: Being surrounded by the tranquility of the chapel.
Favorite Food: Home-made ice cream from Mt. Tom Ice Cream Shop.
Favorite Book: Water for Elephants by Sara Gruen.
Life outside Smith: I’ve had a lifelong interest in horses. I showed competitively during college, and after graduation I continued with my passion. My husband’s family owns a horse farm in Easthampton that specializes in buying and selling “nice horses for nice people.” I currently own three horses—two quarter horses (Fanny and Lyle), and a pony named Piper that my youngest daughter shows in hunter events. I have traveled extensively with my family throughout the western states to purchase horses to bring back to New England for the farm.
What do you like about competing in horse shows? That you develop a high level of communication between you and your horse, and that women are able to compete equally against men.

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.

September 10 (Thursday)—Full Council
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Place: Campus Center, Room 204
Chair: Sandy Bycenski

September 17 (Thursday)—Communications Committee
Time: 2:00 p.m. Place: Campus Center Café
Co-Chairs: Barbara Pliska, Kelly Richey

September 25 (Friday)—Diversity Committee
Time: 12:00 p.m.
Place: 30 Belmont Avenue, 2nd Floor Conference Room
Co-Chairs: Abida Adnan, Ana Gorman

Did You Know?
As a Smith College staff member you can purchase a license of Adobe Creative Suite 4 Design Premium for only $299! Regular academic price is $599, and retail is $1,799. What is Adobe CS4? It is a suite of more than seven software programs including Acrobat 9, Photoshop Extended, InDesign, Illustrator, Flash, Dreamweaver, Fireworks, and more. To purchase this license, stop by the Smith College Computer Store located in Stoddard Hall 22. Be sure to bring your Smith College ID as you will be required to sign a contract at the time of purchase. Please contact the Computer Store if you have any questions about this benefit: cstore@smith.edu or extension 3027.

Request for Photos.
Do you have any pictures from any Staff Council-sponsored events or related activities? If so, please contact Barbara Pliska, bpliska@smith.edu, or Deb Letourneau, dletourn@smith.edu.

The Chronicle Monthly is funded by the Smith College Staff Council and is published by and for Smith College staff. To join the 9% 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 material for purposes of clarity or length. All rights reserved.

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