**Focus on Facilities**

In 1946, the Smith College Power Plant was built to provide steam for heating most of the buildings on campus. The steam, also used to create hot water, is distributed through an extensive network of underground tunnels. Over the past 60 years there have been many upgrades to the power plant, but in 2007 construction began on the Cogen Project. Cogeneration means producing steam and electrical energy at the same time.

A highly efficient gas turbine spins the generator to produce about 95% of the electricity used on campus. The hot exhaust from the turbine is directed across a boiler to produce the steam for heat and hot water. During the 2007 project, the three original 1946 boilers were replaced with a single brand-new efficiency boiler.

The Facilities Management team is currently installing steam absorption chillers. This will allow the plant to provide steam for air conditioning for the college during the summer. All of the extra generated electricity is sold to power companies.

Chuck Dougherty is the newly installed chief engineer of the plant. Chuck replaced Fran Raymond, who retired last July after 19 years of service. The plant is attended 24/7 by a staff of eight licensed operators with combined Smith experience of over 130 years.

**The 2010 Creative Gallery**

This month the theme of the Creative Gallery is *A Hint of Spring*. Bill Wisnieski’s (ITS) four photographs depict Valley life in warmer weather—a hot air balloon lifting off, a child eating ice cream, a rustic barn door, and a quiet shaded spot along the Deerfield River.

Tom Riddell (Class Deans Office) has contributed a colorful photo of *Bluebells on Gallants Bower* (Dartmouth, Devon).

For more information and to view all of the work in the Creative Gallery, visit: [www.smith.edu/staffcouncil/10](http://www.smith.edu/staffcouncil/10).

All staff are invited to submit images of art, photos, or other examples of creative activities. Did you take an interesting photo on vacation or a cool picture of your pet? Add it to the gallery! Guidelines are on the Web site.
Profile of a Colleague—Jayne Mercier

Job at Smith: Administrative assistant for several academic programs, under the umbrella of Interdisciplinary Studies (Archaeology, Ancient Studies, Jewish Studies, Public Policy, Urban Studies and the Study of Women and Gender), as well as the Smith College Faculty Council. I’m also an Ada Comstock Scholar, graduating this year (yay, class of 2010!), with a major in Sociology and a minor in Public Policy.
Favorite part of job: Variety: the people, tasks, other departments I get to interact with. It really is a truly ‘interdisciplinary’ position . . . always something new. Love it.
Favorite place at Smith: The trails along the river, Olin Fitness Center, and the Botanic Gardens.
Work before Smith? 25 years in the hospitality industry. If you’re from the Valley, there’s good chance I waited on you at least once.
Favorite TV Show: History Channel, Big Bang Theory (that’s DR Sheldon Cooper to you); and I have an absurd amount of crime dramas on the DVR right now—Law and Order, Criminal Minds, etc.—just waiting for the time to watch them.
Favorite Music: Eclectic, not much I don’t like. On my Shuffle right now?: Nanci Griffith, the Stooges, Detroit Cobras, the Dead, Train, Sugar, MIA, Colin Hay, Al Green.
Favorite Food: Everyone thinks it's chocolate, but it's really salad. Really. Okay, FINE—it’s chocolate.
Favorite Book: I'll read anything you put in front of me, and audiobooks. While it doesn’t fit neatly into the categories here, I’m a HUGE fan of radio drama/audio theatre—I used to love to listen to CBS Radio Mystery Theater as a kid (E.G. Marshall’s narration was always creepy perfection) —so I’m grateful for the resurgence of sonic storytelling in the last decade or so, programs like This American Life, WNYC’s Radio Lab, The Moth, so many others.
Movie: Anything with Hepburn, Tracy, Cary Grant, Jimmy Stewart (I think it’s the clothes) and their peers; but I’ll also confess to sitting through That Thing You Do every time it comes on—I like Lenny.
Three little known facts about yourself: I used to play the glockenspiel. I can still do a round-off back handspring. I make a mean chicken saltimbocca.
Life outside Smith: Studying, hiking the Valley, biking, running with the dogs (no, we don’t have one anymore, but we always seem to be in custody of someone else’s . . . like this one, his name is Bogi.)

Congratulations to Kathryn Messier (Admission) who correctly identified the February Mystery Photo. The figures are part of the facade of Stoddard Hall. Look under the hooded statue on the right. Kathryn wins a specialty beverage courtesy of the Campus Center Café.

Meetings

Personnel Policy Committee: March 3 (Wednesday)
Full Staff Council: March 4 (Thursday)
Communications Committee: March 11 (Thursday)
Steering Committee: March 23 (Tuesday)
Diversity Committee: March 26 (Friday)

All staff are welcome to attend meetings or serve as a non-voting member on a committee. Check the Staff Council Web site for information on meeting times, locations, and minutes from past Council meetings at www.smith.edu/staffcouncil.

Call for Nominations!

Each year Staff Council elects approximately one-half of its 25 members for a two-year term. Elections will be held in April. The term of office is from June 1, 2010, to May 31, 2012. Please be sure to ask if the nominee is willing to serve if elected. Submit nominations with the card distributed in February, or use the comment box on the Staff Council Web site.

Please deliver to:

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.