Congratulations to New Staff Council Officers!

Chair: Ashavan Doyon (Student Affairs)
Co-Chair: Donna Safford (Admission)
Co-Secretary: Emily Robinson (Provost/Dean of Faculty)
Co-Secretary: Sherry Wingfield (Community Service Office)
Treasurer: Marin Brady (Student Financial Services)

The full list of new members is available at www.smith.edu/staffcouncil. Committee chairs will be selected in the coming months. We also thank the outgoing officers and members of Staff Council for their dedication, hard work and commitment.

Outgoing Chair Thanks Employees

As we began our 2010-2011 service together, Staff Council members decided to adopt a theme, a paradigm to guide our initiatives for the year, a concept to remind us of the values we wanted to espouse in all our doings. A few ideas emerged including partnership and “allyship,” the notion of joining others in solidarity. We got to work with the intention of actively seeking collaborative relationships with other constituencies. We can be proud of the various ways in which we have partnered with campus departments, organizations, and the Five College and larger community to promote goodwill, camaraderie, and a positive campus climate.

We owe special thanks to many employees who, while not officially on Staff Council, provided time and leadership for many Council initiatives. For many years, Lou Krawcynski has organized Staff Council-sponsored bus trips to New York City, Connie Dragon (retired) and Emily Beaudry have worked long hours to organize and implement the successful Book/Media Swap, Chris Gentes has produced great Chronicle issues and maintained the Staff Council website. Thanks also goes to Abida Adnan, Adrianne Andrews, Alicia Guidotti, Barbara Garcia, Caroline Moore, Chris Carr Hill, Jenny Silver, Joe Bialek, Kathy Yarnell, Scott Morin, Trish Mailler, and Toby Davis, who have served on various Staff Council committees and provided their support and insight in recent years.

A great deal was accomplished in 2010-2011. We celebrate the successes, with a keen awareness that our work is never complete. In the spirit of “allyship,” we recognize a responsibility to continue advancing Staff Council’s mission of giving all employees focused, direct involvement in matters of governance, and in the life of our campus community. Best wishes to the newest members of Staff Council and the newly elected officers! Ana Gorman

Smith College Museum of Art—Your Museum!

Smith College Museum of Art (SCMA) is known throughout the world for its wonderful collection, and we are lucky to have it here in our own backyard. The Museum’s permanent display (in galleries on four floors) includes works ranging from antiquities to contemporary cutting-edge works of art, and you’ll spot famous names (such as Monet, Degas, Picasso, and Cézanne.) SCMA also hosts temporary exhibitions throughout the year, and works on paper can be seen year-round in the Nixon Gallery or by appointment in the Cunningham Center for the Study of Prints, Drawings, and Photographs.

SCMA visitors also enjoy these special amenities: award-winning artist designed restrooms; hand-crafted gallery benches by 11 New England artists; a fabulous Museum Shop; and Riff’s Café (open for breakfast and lunch.)

Admission to SCMA is always free for Smith College staff members and their immediate families. We are also happy to provide department tours—you can schedule a group visit by emailing museduc@smith.edu or calling ext. 2781. For Museum hours, exhibitions, events, and more, check out our new website at www.smith.edu/artmuseum. We hope you’ll stop by for a visit. We would love to see you!
Chris Loring Keeps Watch on Smith’s Intellectual Treasures

If you’re looking for Chris Loring’s offices, you might have to seek help from his library staff on your first try. The office of the Director of Libraries is neatly tucked away in Neilson Library on the first floor in an inconspicuous area. The thoughtful, sometimes humorous white-haired librarian, who has been with the college for 11 years, started his library career at the University of Minnesota in the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, where he worked for 20 years. We can thank Chris’ former boss for his presence at Smith. He mentored Chris and convinced him to take on a library system of his own.

Chris majored in classics as an undergrad at Boston University and classical archaeology in graduate school. He enjoyed going on “wonderful archaeological digs in the Mediterranean” and never thought he would end up getting a master’s degree in library science. His later career choice was influenced by his family, which he described as having a “book culture.” He grew up in Beverly, MA, where his grandparents were involved in the town’s library and libraries in Boston. His grandmother was a bookbinder and author of a book (still in print) on decorated book papers. His father was also involved with a number of research libraries in the Boston area, and it was years later, at his father’s coaxing, that finally got Chris to seriously consider the profession.

So, what does a library head at a prestigious women’s college do these days? The father of two, one of whom now attends Smith, focuses on three major goals: 1. Developing an information literacy program with faculty to teach students to find information efficiently and effectively as well as hone their ability to properly conduct research; 2. Creating and implementing a master plan for the libraries’ physical space; 3. Managing the transition to digital collections that include the digital assets of the college, i.e., the digital data, analysis and research created at Smith.

To Chris’ surprise, besides serving as the Smith libraries’ chief advocate, he has learned a great deal about heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and facilities management in an attempt to keep the college’s collections safe and sound for future generations. Although most people remember librarians for their uncanny ability to maintain a quiet and studious atmosphere, more frequently they are now consumed by teaching, and becoming digital experts and innovative leaders. He muses how the technology supporting libraries has radically changed with the onset of the Internet, wireless access, Kindles, iPads, and digitized periodicals and journals, now spilling over to scholarly books. He explains that “the physical book will always have a future” but ponders, “with so much information going digital, what should we do with space devoted to book shelves?”

When he is not working, you’ll find him at the helm of his brother’s boat in Maine or on the ski slopes of New Hampshire. He enjoys both sports, he says, because they get him into nature and sometimes into risky situations. His willingness to take risks has helped him navigate the waters around budget constraints these last few years—and change in general. He believes “everyone struggles with change,” but with the world of libraries rapidly and profoundly changing, he has learned to “struggle and embrace it.” To inform his decisions, he continually asks himself, “What can I do differently and keep the libraries strong?”

Library Facts
- Over 1.6 million items in Smith’s libraries and archives collection
- Largest liberal arts college library in the country
- Largest women’s history archive in the world (the Sophia Smith Collection and the College Archives)
- Highest staff use at the libraries—the video collection and the Burack Collection for leisure reading
- Access to research level collections through the Five College Consortium
- Partner in Five College Library Depository—storage facility for lesser-used materials

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