Bringing Smith to the World and the World to Smith

Nearly 50% of Smith students spend time abroad, while about 12% come from abroad. These students share a common home in the new Global Studies Center (GSC) in Wright Hall. In addition to supporting students, staff, faculty, and visiting scholars traveling to and from destinations all over the world, the GSC also encourages global engagement on campus. Past events include:

WHAW (What’s Happening Around the World): lunch panels on international news, e.g. the Arab Spring;

Global Salons, informal chats with guests such as Nikiforos Diamandouros, Ombudsman of the European Union, and Farah Pandith ’90, Special Representative to Muslim Communities for the U.S. State Department;

Events like “Smith Remembers Fukushima”: panel discussions with perspectives from Smith students and faculty who were there, with remarks by Takeshi Hikihara, Consul General of Japan, in Boston.

Led by directors Rebecca Hovey, dean for international study, and Gregory White, professor of government, the GSC includes the Office for International Study, Office for International Students and Scholars, and the American Studies Diploma Program for international graduate students.

“A good and robust understanding of citizenship involves a constant appreciation of all the different levels at work. Through the GSC, we’re making the world a more knowable place,” says White. To learn about upcoming opportunities, click on Announcements at www.smith.edu/world.

Who Reads Books, Anyway?

The answer: Many of us! Smith employees across departments, throughout buildings, and all over campus enjoy books in print, in Braille, and on CD as we learn new information, seek adventure, gain insights, and meet characters who are both similar to and different from ourselves.

The Staff Council Diversity Committee presents “Between the Lines,” an opportunity to share a reading experience with colleagues across the Smith community through fun, large group events and small, informal discussion groups.

Join us in reading Empire Falls (2001), Richard Russo’s Pulitzer Prize-winning novel. Discover Miles Roby, once an aspiring professor, and now a college dropout, who manages a struggling diner in Empire Falls, Maine. Follow his story as it interweaves with Tick, his bright, compassionate teenage daughter; Janine, his image-conscious soon-to-be ex-wife; Francine Whiting, the wealthy and cunning matriarch who controls most of the town—and many others. Told from the perspective of rich, complex characters throughout the community, this novel contains enough humor, emotion, and cultural gems to keep discussion groups lively.

The kick-off event, “Dessert at the Empire Grill,” will take place Thursday, September 20, from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Campus Center Carroll Room. Later in the fall, join us for an informal discussion over breakfast, lunch, or afternoon tea. On November 12-13, enjoy a film screening of Empire Falls on campus. For more information, to register, to sign up for a discussion group, or to check film times, visit www.smith.edu/staffcouncil/betweenthelines.htm.

Congratulations to New Staff Council

Chair      Donna Safford
Vice Chair Mary “Lou” Bouley
Co-Secretaries Lisa Nawrocki and Sherry Wingfield
Treasurer   Ana Gorman

The full list of new members is available at www.smith.edu/staffcouncil. A special thanks to all of the outgoing officers and members of Staff Council for their hard work and commitment!

Cider and Doughnuts

Get ready for the fall Cider and Doughnuts event, sponsored by Staff Council’s Activities Committee, on Tuesday, October 9, from 9 to 11 a.m. in front of Pierce Hall. A December New York bus trip is also in the works.
The Candidate Pool Builds

Following a series of listening sessions with the Smith community over the course of the spring semester, the presidential search committee is actively building a pool of candidates. The position prospectus, developed with the guidance of search consultant John Isaacson, reflects in detail the input the search committee received from students, faculty, staff, and alumnae about the opportunities and challenges facing Smith and the qualities of leadership to seek in our next president. It tells a narrative of the college’s origins, evolution, and distinctive strengths, building a case for the opportunities available to the next president to articulate the college’s mission on a global stage and align its resources to make Smith “the first-choice college for talented and ambitious women around the world.” The committee continues to welcome feedback from all members of the Smith community via the presidential search website (http://www.smith.edu/newpresident/), where the presidential prospectus is also available.

Who’s Ruth Constantine?

Describe your role at the college: I am the vice president for finance and administration, and I’ve been at Smith for 20 years. My role involves overseeing the financial areas of the college—the controller’s office, financial planning, and the relationship with our outside investment office—as well as campus police, dining services, environmental sustainability, facilities management, and human resources. Where are you from? I’m a Westerner; I grew up in Seattle and Tucson, then moved East a few years after college. After relocating, I took my first job in higher education at the Vermont State Colleges. I moved to upstate New York for graduate school at Cornell, where I got my MBA and worked for 10 years before coming to Smith in 1991. I have two daughters; one just moved to California for graduate school and the other lives in Israel with her family, including my four granddaughters. They are far away but we use Skype all the time and I visit them every year. What projects of interest and challenges are you working on? In our financial planning, we’re carefully evaluating the effect of the economy on the college’s primary revenue sources, including investment and gift income, as well as tuition, and room and board. On the campus side, we’ve ramped up the funding for facilities repairs over the past decade and established priorities based on building conditions and needs. Currently we’re finishing plans to renovate Cutter and Ziskind Houses as well as the Alumnae House, and we’re considering whether to replace the Friedman Apartments. Working with a staff and faculty committee, we’ve just finished reviewing a proposed library master plan that will be discussed in the fall. What do you like to do in your down time? I enjoy travel and good walks, but my favorite activity is to be out on the water in my kayak. What about your professional and community service involvement? My mom was an avid volunteer while raising seven kids, so I’ve always believed busy people still have time for volunteering. At the end of July, I finished serving as chair of the board of my professional association, the National Association of College and University Business Officers. I’ll continue as a board member for one more year. Locally, I serve on the investment committee for Baystate Health, and I just joined the board of a new regional chamber of commerce.

An Afternoon of Fun & Sun

Lots of smiles, lawn lounging and hearty eating characterized the All-Employee Picnic, sponsored by the President’s Office on July 11. With plates of potato salad, deli sandwiches, and watermelon, employees left work behind for an afternoon of food, camaraderie, and music. It was a perfect sunny day on Chapin Lawn for a giant social gathering. The gourmet ice cream truck was popular. At one point one employee broke into a contagious dance to a Motown classic while standing in line. Kudos are in order for Dining Services, all the volunteers, and Kathy San Antonio, who served as event coordinator.