A Little Can Mean a Lot

The menu read like a "Who's Who of Bakery Heaven:" apple pie, lemon cake, peach pie, fruit parfait, carrot cake, strawberry rhubarb pie. . . . And for just a smile, the food servers at the Empire Grill, bedecked in vintage soda jerk hats and aprons, happily loaded on the whipped cream. Not printed on the menu, but clearly present in the Campus Center Carroll Room on the afternoon of September 20, was plenty of good cheer and camaraderie among members of Smith’s staff and faculty. “Dessert at the Empire Grill” served as the fall kick-off event for Between the Lines, the reading program for all employees, hosted by the Staff Council Diversity Committee. This past summer, all Smith employees were invited to read Richard Russo’s Pulitzer Prize-winning novel Empire Falls in preparation for fall semester gatherings to explore issues of class and rank and the implications of these issues in our community.

The success of “Dessert at the Empire Grill” is owed to the collaborative efforts and participation of faculty and staff from across campus. From Facility Management’s crew members who transported the old-style jukebox and diner furnishings from the theatre department that so generously lent numerous props and costumes, to Dining Services which prepared the delectable desserts and helped transform the Carroll Room into a diner (complete with checkered tablecloths), to Campus Center staff members who provided space logistics and technical expertise, to folks from the Global Studies Center and the many other staff members who helped with promotional materials, to the wonderful cast of Empire Falls character impersonators. All told, over 120 staff and faculty members participated in the Between the Lines program. The afternoon of dessert, oldies tunes, and fun “diner bingo” would not have been realized without the enthusiastic endorsement and support of Staff and Faculty councils. While differences of class and rank will always be with us, on the afternoon of September 20th we were reminded that exploring difficult issues together, in creative and meaningful ways, sometimes indicates we can have our pie and eat it too.

Staff Council Celebrates 20 Years

On April 29, 1992, the charter for the Smith College Staff Council was approved. The mission of the council is to give members of the administrative, administrative support, and service staff a focused and direct involvement in the governance of non-academic affairs, as well as in the life of the Smith College community.

In honor of its 20th year anniversary, Staff Council is planning a series of events to celebrate this milestone. The Council will publish a special issue of the Chronicle in February. From March 11-30, there will be an exhibition in the Campus Center’s Nolen Art Lounge, showcasing the history of the Council, its standing committees and their many activities over the years.

In living testament to Staff Council history, the Council recognizes eight original members of Staff Council who are still working at the college today. They are Lea Ahlen, Chrisie Bell, Tracey Culver, Glenn Meakim, Jim Montgomery, Jeff Rankin, Bill Sheehan, and Kathy Yarnell. Thank you for your vision and hard work!

A Little Can Mean a Lot

It was difficult watching Hurricane Sandy rip through the Northeast, wiping out homes and disrupting lives. But it’s been heartening to witness people rally to help those in need. Just as people pulled together for the greater good following Hurricane Sandy, the United Way of Hampshire County rallies people throughout the year to help provide resources for those who need assistance. When we help one person in our community, everyone benefits.

For many years, Smith College has been a leader in supporting the United Way of Hampshire County. Last year, we raised over $150,000, and we hope to surpass that total this year. We still have a long way to go, and we need your help. Thanks to those who have already given to this year’s campaign. To those who have not, please consider making a gift soon—even if it’s $1 per paycheck; automatic payroll deduction makes it easy. Visit www.smith.edu/unitedway for more details. A little from each of us can mean a lot to many.

Smith United Way Campaign Committee: Marilyn Woodman (chair); Steering Committee: Randy Bartlett, John Brady, Sidonia Dalby, Sandy Doucett, Susan Etheredge, Pat Mahar, Jayne Mercier, Steve Monteiro, Tricia O’Neil, Joseph O’Rourke, Donna Schnopp, Karen Smith-Emerson, Elizabeth Spelman, Eric Weld
Committee Highlights

Committees are an integral part of Staff Council and how it accomplishes its work. Here’s a quick peek into Staff Council’s six standing committees.

Steering: This committee is comprised of the chairs of the standing committees, the president’s two appointed members, and Staff Council officers. Donna Safford, chair of Staff Council, also serves as chair of the Steering Committee.

Nominations and Elections: If you are interested in knowing who your 27 representatives are in Staff Council, click on the 2012-13 Staff Council roster at http://www.smith.edu/staffcouncil/members.html. Staff Council is always looking for staff members to serve on the council. Elections take place in May. Katie Fitzgerald serves as chair.

Communications: The Communications Committee is working diligently on producing a video that will debut at the 20th anniversary exhibit of Staff Council in March. Sam Rush chairs the committee.

Personnel Policy: The Personnel Policy Committee recently met with Larry Hunt, associate vice president for Human Resources, to discuss the impact of the National Healthcare Act on employees. The biggest change is that employees are no longer charged co-payments for annual wellness checkups. Committee co-chairs are Mary Clayton and Deedee Cleveland.

Diversity: This committee is responsible for seeking ways to promote diversity on campus. This year using creativity, ingenuity and hard work, the committee developed the staff reading project, Between the Lines, as an opportunity for staff and faculty to discuss issues of class and rank. Joanne Benkley and Jessica Usher serve as co-chairs.

Activities: Staff Council is known for its many special events such as Cider and Donuts and Winter Wonderland. Mairin Brady chairs the committee. The committee’s next event is a bus trip to New York City scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 1. The cost is $40 per person and seats are still available. Reserve your spot by contacting staffactivities@smith.edu.

Thanksgiving Day Hosts

The Office of Student Affairs invites you to participate in its third annual Thanksgiving Day Match program, where students and hosts are matched up to share a meal at family gatherings on Thanksgiving Day. This year, the program is open to international students, and other students who are remaining on campus for the holiday break. With a global outlook, this program will serve as a cultural and educational opportunity for everyone, while filling a student need. If you would like to participate as a host family for the day or would like more information, send an email to Jan Morris (jmorris@smith.edu) with “Thanksgiving Match Host” in the subject line. Students enjoy this opportunity to connect with local families. Happy Holidays!

Please deliver to:

Managing Editor: Kim Aleton, kalston@smith.edu, ext. 2753
Proofreaders: Carla Cooke, Marti Hobbes, Piper Foreso
Contributing Writers: Ana Gorman, Lou Bouley, Eric Weld, Jan Morris
Staff Photographer: Patty Hentz
Other Photo Credits: Carla Cooke, Sarah Loomis

The Chronicle is funded by the Smith College Staff Council and is published by and for Smith College staff. Staff Council encourages submission of photos, announcements, 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.

If you would like to join more than 230 of your co-workers who have opted out of receiving a printed version of this newsletter, and receive future issues of the Chronicle as a PDF file via e-mail, please check the box below and return this newsletter via campus mail to “Staff Council.” An electronic version of the Chronicle is available at www.smith.edu/staffcouncil/chronicle.

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