Staff Council's Communications Committee has developed a revised visual identity. The Committee is excited about the bold new look! Staff Council members will host monthly information tables near the Campus Center entrance and will be ready to answer questions as well as provide materials about Staff Council. Stop by Thursday, October 17 from 11:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. and say hello!

Council Exhibit at Inauguration

The College is gearing up for the president’s inauguration celebration on Saturday, October 19 at 3:00 p.m. in the Indoor Track and Tennis Facility, when Kathleen McCartney will be installed as Smith’s 11th president. There will be presentations, performances, and exhibitions celebrating Smith’s legacy of female leadership. As part of the festivities, Staff Council will present an exhibit, called 20/20: The Past and Future of the Smith College Staff Council, in the Campus Center, in the second floor hallway. As Staff Council celebrates 20 years, the Smith community is invited to reflect on what the Council has accomplished and tell Council members what they hope to see Staff Council achieve by sharing comments on an interactive comment wall. The wall can be seen on the website at www.smith.edu/inauguration/exhibitions.php.

Staff Council Encourages Input

Hello and Happy October, Smith Staff! As your new Staff Council chair, I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself, along with the goals your Council has set for 2013-14.

My name is Halley Ofner and I have worked at Smith for almost three years as Donor Relations Specialist in Development. I’m originally from the Adirondacks in upstate New York and currently live in South Hadley with my partner and two cats, Han and Chewy (yes, named after Star Wars characters; no, I didn’t name them—they’re “second hand.”) Most importantly, I believe that staff should have a voice on this campus.

While Staff Council is great for cider and doughnuts in the fall, ice cream in the summer, and pizza somewhere in between, we are more than that. We are here to listen to concerns you may have and to collect any ideas on what we can do to be more supportive to you. Our focus during the 2013-14 year is to increase our visibility. You’ll notice a new graphic image on all our messaging from now on, and we have members tabling once per month just outside the Campus Center to hear your suggestions.

One of the biggest concerns I have heard from staff since I was elected to Staff Council in September 2012 centers on communication. I want to assure you that the entire Council has already begun meeting with senior administration to increase clear communication with staff. Your input on this issue in regard to what needs to be communicated and in what form (eDigest, campus mail, email, etc.) is appreciated.

If you haven’t done so already, I strongly encourage you to find a Staff Council member who represents your department and introduce yourself. We are making a concentrated effort to ensure all voices are heard. If your department isn’t represented the way you feel it should be, please let me know. I’m available through either the Staff Council email address (staffcouncil@smith.edu) or my own email address (hofner@smith.edu). I look forward to speaking with you soon at one of our Campus Center Café tabling days or at a Between the Lines discussion!

Between the Lines Starts in January

The Staff Council Diversity Committee is pleased to announce that this year’s “Between the Lines” reading program for staff and faculty will feature the memoir My Beloved World written by Sonia Sotomayor. With this program, the Diversity Committee continues its commitment to promote awareness of topics relevant to staff and faculty, deepen our understanding of one another here at Smith, encourage thoughtful discussion, and have fun doing it! We invite all Smith employees—staff and faculty—to read My Beloved World during the fall and participate in a series of facilitated discussions in January, and events around issues of class, inclusivity, equity, and other relevant topics throughout the academic year. To participate, please register for the program at www.smith.edu/staffcouncil/betweenthelines.html (you'll have to log in to the Smith portal.) Questions about “Between the Lines” can be directed to Joanne Benkley (ibenkley@smith.edu).

My Beloved World is the story of American icon Sonia Sotomayor, the first Hispanic and third woman appointed to the United States Supreme Court. In this memoir, written with a candor and intimacy never undertaken by a sitting Justice, Sotomayor recounts her life from a Bronx housing project to the federal bench, a journey that offers an inspiring testament to her own extraordinary determination and the power of believing in oneself.

It is the hope of the Diversity Committee that Smith employees from every department and program on campus will join their colleagues in reading My Beloved World, and continue to engage in thoughtful dialogue and storytelling with one another, building the promise of transparency, trust, and a viable future for the College. Discussions will be divided into two parts. The first session will focus on the story itself, and the second session will focus on discussing diversity issues present at Smith. Copies of the book will be available for Smith community members to borrow. Information about the book, the “Between the Lines” program, and other events sponsored by the Diversity Committee are available on the Staff Council website.

Smith Employee in the Spotlight

Center for Work and Life Program Coordinator Ally Einbinder ’10 is part of the all female band, Potty Mouth. The band’s album, “Hell Bent,” debuted in the U.S. and the U.K. last month to great reviews. Ally, who plays bass and writes songs for the group is joined by two Smithies, Phoebe Harris ‘11 and Victoria Mandanas ’13. The fourth band member is Abby Weems. Ally and Phoebe got the idea to start the band while students at Smith.
“Good People” Talks about Class

Staff Council collaborated with New Century Theatre this summer to offer employees the chance to enjoy three performances of the provocative play, “Good People,” at a discounted rate. New Century Theatre’s production of “Good People” was a telling commentary on the lives of ordinary people. Set in South Boston and written by playwright David Lindsay-Abaire, the story weaves a dramatic tale about the life circumstances of Margaret (Maggie) who finds herself fired from a menial job and searching for work through an old flame. Bubbling to the surface are class, race, gender, and morality issues that reveal character flaws and defects that good people have. Who is good and how it operates in people’s lives are some implicit questions the audience considers.

Margaret, preoccupied with her overwhelming need to pay her rent and take care of her developmentally disabled daughter, reveals deeply personal secrets and defining childhood moments. Peppered with eccentric characters, a well-written script, and great staging, it was easy to see why the play “is currently the most produced play in America.” Sam Rush, Production and Publicity Manager in the Theatre Department, served as the producing director. Following one of the performances the Staff Council Diversity Committee hosted a potluck and discussion to reflect on underlying themes.

Upcoming Events and Activities

- The annual Cider and Doughnuts event will be held on Tuesday, October 15 in front of Pierce Hall from 9:30-11:30 a.m.
- Staff Council will host monthly information tables in the Campus Center. Upcoming times are scheduled for 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on: Thursday, October 17; Tuesday, November 12; and Thursday, December 12.
- The New York City Bus Trip is scheduled for Saturday, December 7. Tickets are $40.00. The trip is open to Smith employees and their guests. Contact staffactivities@smith.edu for more information.

Please deliver to: