

A Letter from the Staff Council Chair

It's hard to believe that we are already coming close to the end of the fall semester. It's always busy here at Smith, but this fall has felt particularly frenetic. There is a lot of change happening on campus these days: both the physical transformation of our buildings and grounds, and the less tangible changes to our technology and processes. At times like these, communication is essential to keeping staff informed and empowered. Your Staff Council plays an important role in facilitating that communication between staff and the administration, faculty, and students.

Obviously a lot of our communication lately has been focused around the events of July 31st. There are far too many thoughts and feelings around that event for me to possibly cover them all. In short, many Smith staff members felt that we were unfairly portrayed in the media, and wish there was more clear communication in the days and weeks afterward. I agree. However, that doesn't change the fact that we also have work to do. Staff Council has discussed these past events, but now our efforts are focused on what we do going forward. We have been meeting with President McCartney, Faculty Council, OIDE, HR, and other groups on campus to work on ways to make our campus a safe and inclusive environment.

Rest assured, this doesn't just mean mandatory online trainings. Those are a starting point, but nothing is better than getting out of our individual 'bubbles' and talking to one another. We need to have more conversations across campus groups. I've met a lot of people here at Smith, and hope to meet many more. I have found that it doesn't matter if you're faculty, staff, or a student: we are all good people who are focused on doing our best work.

I hope this academic year brings us together, and not just in the 'sharing the same physical space' way. Perhaps that sounds a bit too optimistic, but I'm ok with that. I want to work with empathetic people who are happy to be at Smith and want to make the most of it. I hope you do too.

We have some ambitious goals for this year. At the very least, Staff Council will host some fun events with free food and drinks. Come for the freebies, stay and meet some good people.

Wishing you all the best-

Thomas Lawson Lark



Incoming and outgoing Staff Council members at the "crossover meeting" in June 2018.

Staff Council 2018-19

Kate Aloisio, Assistant Director of Institutional Research
Jennifer Blackburn, Administrative Assistant, Poetry and French Studies
Karla Borecky, Systems Administrator, Information Technology Services
Brian Bocchino, Staff Accountant, Controller's Office
Jon Cartledge, Digital Asset Specialist, Imaging Center, Art Department
Jessica Drawe, Administrative Assistant, Admissions
Christina Duquette, Reservation Coordinator, Office of Student Engagement
Jessica Flynn, Payroll Manager, Controller's Office
Donna Gingras, Athletics Business Coordinator
Maya Gounard, Advancement Data Assistant, Development
Eric Jensen, Director, Center for Design & Fabrication, Clark Science Center
Thomas Lark, Financial Systems Coordinator, Dining Services
Amanda Lopez, Dining Room Coordinator, Dining Services
Ann Mayo, Manager Security and Guest Services, Museum of Art
Lindsay McGrath, Program Specialist, Alumnae Relations
Heather McQueen, Resource Manager, Clark Science Center
Maddy Neely, Administrative Coordinator, School for Social Work
Chris Niemiec, Tech Systems Analyst, Information Technology Service
Davis Rivera, Electrician, Facilities Management
Barbara Solow, Assistant Director for News, College Relations
Erin Smith, Stockroom Service Specialist, Clark Science Center
Rashad Uqdah, Catering Cook, Dining Services
Johanna Walter, Facilities Services Rep, Facilities Management
Lucinda Williams, Acquisitions Supervisor, Libraries
Vanessa Williams, Administrative Assistant, Dining Services

The Staff Council Diversity Committee invites you to contribute a dish for our Rice Around the World event on January 8th, 2019 in CC103/104 from 11:30am - 1:30pm.

By preparing rice, a global food staple for half of the people on Earth, we can gather with coworkers to share in our cultural diversity at Smith. We welcome rice dishes that are part of your family traditions, your culture, or something you love to eat!

Rice Around the World 2019

The Staff Council Diversity Committee invites you to enjoy various rice dishes prepared by members of the Smith community.

Come share in our cultural diversity!

Campus Center 103/104

Tuesday, January 8th

11:30 am - 1:30 pm



The 'Smith College Fleet' and the men who kept it running, from 1931. Photograph by Eric Stahlberg. L-R: William Tourvitte, Franklin King, George King, unidentified child, George Mercier, Lucian Veitteux, Daniel Manning, Jr., George Newman, Ted Tracy, Arthur Poudridr, Joseph Kozimerski, H. Abbott, Louis Mercier, Sam Bothwell.

Smith now has 14 reservable vehicles, including a hybrid car, a pick-up truck, a handicap accessibility van, minivans, and 12-passenger vehicles. Facilities maintains 9 other vehicles for the CSO and the departments of Athletics and Education. There are 2 mechanics and 12 drivers.

Facilities has a Fleet Management system that processes 2500 reservations a year. The Department is exploring 'going green,' including switching to reusable plastic envelopes sending keys & vehicle inspections - saving money and the Earth.



Staff Council Website: smith.edu/staffcouncil
Staff Council Virtual Bulletin Board: smith.edu/staffcouncil/bulletin.php
Facebook: facebook.com/SmithStaffCouncil
Staff Council email: staffcouncil@smith.edu
Chronicle email: chronicle@smith.edu
Sign up for the Staff Listserv:

- go to <http://tinyurl.com/q7w6qdr>
- click on the blue "Join Group" button,
- choose your email preferences and click "Join Group."

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Photo credits: Smith College Archives, Smith College Facilities, Andrew Maurer, Jon Cartledge, Liz Bannish, Dan Bridgeman, Betsy Coulter

Membership and Recruitment has set up a new link for nominations. To nominate someone, go to the Staff Council website and click: "submit your name here" and fill out the form. Nominations will be accepted through the middle of March.



Fragists casting votes in New York City, ca. 1917, Library of Congress

Neilson Library Progress Update

November 9th, 2018

By Charlie Conant, Senior Project Manager, Facilities



The work continues on the Neilson Library. In the 1909 Core, masonry reinforcement of the exterior brick wall is being finished, and a lot of ongoing work continues, including the removal and replacement of unsuitable soils, finding space and surfaces for equipment, and de-watering the work site.

The drilling of piles down to bedrock in the core building is underway and will continue over the next couple of weeks. The piles pictured here will hold a series of cantilevered supports cut into the existing 1909 west pavilion wall, to help carry vertical loads on the exterior walls. The similar support piles are being drilled on the east pavilion walls. There will be 80 of these these 24-inch cores cut from the east pavilion foundation for foundation support of the existing walls.

New brown stone, granite, and brick are being sourced to replace not only the west cornice, but also to repair places where the exterior skin has been removed or damaged from previous work. Portions of the exterior of 1909 Neilson that have been concealed since 1962 will once again be exposed. Work will continue throughout the winter, preparing for structural steel installation in March 2019.



On the South Addition, concrete work to create the new sub-basement and in-ground structures is nearly completed. Waterproofing, utility work, and the underground connector into Alumnae Gym will be completed early in 2019. Work on Alumnae Gym will not begin in earnest until next summer.



Staff Accomplishments

Just a few things the extraordinarily talented Staff of Smith College have been up to...

Suzanne Palmer (Systems & Data Administrator, Clark Science Center) was awarded the Hugo Award for Best Novelette for her story, "The Secret Life of Bots", originally published in the September 2017 issue of *Clarke's World Magazine*, at the World Science Fiction Convention in San Jose, CA, this August. She has previously won both the Asimov's and AnLab Reader's choice awards for multiple stories, and has twice been a finalist for the Theodore Sturgeon Memorial Award.



*Tell us about your recent accomplishments for the next Staff Council Chronicle.
Email us at chronicle@smith.edu.*

Smith College Hidden Jobs

Liz Bannish, Visual Arts Technical Specialist, Imaging Center, Department of Art



Tell us about yourself! I'm a Massachusetts native, from the West Springfield. I'm also a triplet, but the only artist of the three. I started college as a marine biology major, but switched to art. I've been making prints (lithographs) and photos for about ten years. After I graduated, I worked at Zea Mays Printmaking and was able to present at the Southern Graphics Council about my work there. I still volunteer there as a lab monitor. I love my cats and scuba diving!

When did you come to Smith College? And what are your daily duties? I was hired into the Art Department in October, 2014. I look after the photography labs, the typography studio, and the printmaking studios. I make mechanical repairs to most of the equipment, handle waste storage and disposal, and manage

our student assistants for those facilities. I also provide academic assistance and guidance for the art students in photography, printmaking and typography techniques.



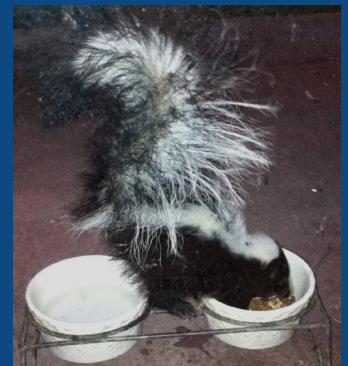
It looks like you have a lot of building projects in your time here, tell us about that. Last year, with the help of Jim Hume (woodshop coordinator) and Lindsey Clark-Ryan (professor of printmaking), I built an 8x3x5-foot aquatint box for the printmaking studio. Student use a hand crank attached to a paddle wheel to create a cloud of rosin dust in an enclosed box. The dust settles on an etching plate, then the plate is moved to a hot-plate to melt the rosin and then to an acid bath. The technique replicates a 17th century etching process used to create grey to black tones on an etching plate. I just completed constructing carts to transport our lithography stones, and I'm on the lookout for replacement parts for our Vandercook letterpress.



What have been the highlights in your years at Smith? Fond memories? I did love working with visiting artist Adrian Herman. We used a laser cutter to cut out paper toilets. Also, working with retired professor Dwight Pogue - receiving his wisdom from many years as a printmaker.

What is the weirdest thing you've had to do on the job? I once helped a student figure out how to turn a piece of baloney into a book cover. We ended up embedding it in resin. I wonder if it is still preserved?

What is your favorite student memory? It's hard to choose. I'm continuously in awe of our students. You have to be at your best because they are always challenging you with new ideas.



pictured (from left to right): Snowy, Vic, Merle, Thelma, Weiner & Bun, Pierre, and Spidey. Got a pet photo you'd like to share? email us at chronicle@smith.edu

Pet Corner