

A scenic view of a campus featuring a large brick building with arched windows, a white church steeple in the background, and a dam with water cascading in the foreground. The scene is framed by a blue and yellow arch at the top.

April E-Newsletter

for admitted students

A circular logo with an orange background and a yellow border. The text "WOMEN FOR THE WORLD" is written in white, with "WOMEN" at the top, "FOR THE" in the middle, and "WORLD" at the bottom, separated by small white dots.

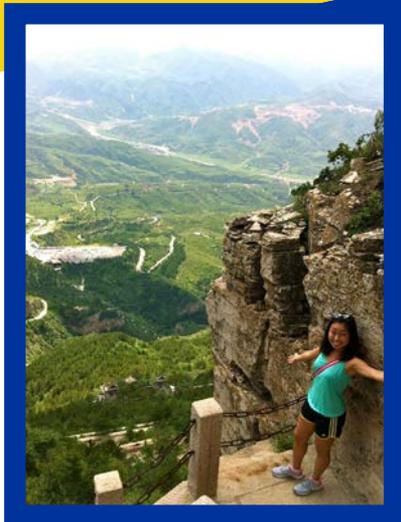
WOMEN
• FOR THE •
WORLD

By
Vivian Sunwoo Lee

Preface

Dear admitted international students,

Welcome and congratulations! My name is Sunwoo (Vivian) Lee and I am Smith College Admission Office's International Recruitment Intern. We are glad that you applied to Smith and we are looking forward to meeting you! If you make the decision to be a part of this wonderful community, I can tell you from experience that Smith will not let you down. In fact, it will make the next four years of your life very meaningful.



In this newsletter, you will find a welcome and my interview with the new Associate Dean of International Students and Scholars Caitlin Szymkowicz. The third part of this newsletter is a section called "An Ordinary Day in the Life of a Smithie". I should warn you beforehand that an "ordinary" day for a Smith student could not be specified to a single routine. There are countless activities, organizations, and events that students from all over the world participate in. Hence, although words may not capture the entirety of the diverse experiences that Smith offers to its students, I hope this section of the newsletter can still give you a well-rounded general overview of life at Smith.

If you wish to hear more specific details from current students about life at Smith, check out my blog: scintladmissions.tumblr.com. It contains my personal experiences at Smith and my interviews with various Smith students.

Feel free to e-mail me with any questions you may have.

Again, congratulations and please do not hesitate to ask if you have any questions. I would love to answer them or redirect you to either a faculty member or a student who can answer your questions in more detail.

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Welcome & Interview with Dean Szymkowicz



Dean Caitlin Szymkowicz started her job at Smith College as the new Associate Dean of International Students and Scholars in February 2014. She has previously worked with younger students in the process of getting into college. Now, she is excited to serve as the Associate Dean of International Students and Scholars to guide and help the international students who are in the next step: entering an undergraduate institution.

From Dean Szymkowicz:

Hello, prospective students! First, congratulations on your admission to Smith College! We are very excited that you are looking to be a part of Smith's warm community and a part of the school's diversity. My name is Caitlin Szymkowicz, and I'm Smith's Associate Dean for International Students & Scholars. I was born in California but was raised in the New England area all my life. I grew up in Rhode Island, and I attended a small liberal arts college in Vermont. I've now lived in Massachusetts for five years and really love introducing new people to the Pioneer Valley.

During my undergraduate years, I studied abroad in Italy through a direct enrollment program at a local university. It was nerve-racking to be in a completely new environment without much assistance and help. From choosing classes to navigating the city, from learning local slang words to trying new foods, it was a challenge to adjust to a new place without the strong support network I had in the US. I know what it is like to relocate to a new area and that is why I love working at such a supportive institution. There are so many people here who genuinely care about your success, and I hope you'll find my office to be just one place where you can openly discuss any concerns or problems you may run into in adjusting to a new location. I can't wait to follow your adventures over the next four years!

Vivian Lee: Why do you think coming to a women’s college is important in this day and age?

Dean Caitlin Szymkowicz: Smith really shows you the possibility that a female can occupy any leadership role. There are no judgments – no barriers – on what you want to study or pursue as a female undergraduate student here. You will always find someone who has similar interests, or who wants to major in the same subjects as you. It’s a school with very driven students, passionate about what they want to study. It really pushes the bar higher for what is possible in your own life when you realize what incredible experiences your peers – and you! – are able to accomplish here. Smith students are “Pioneers,” whether that’s on a small or large scale. Smith supports and teaches you how to become a leader in various leadership roles and to find your path towards making a difference in the world.

VL: Yes, I agree that Smith has helped many students become more vocal, determined, and driven in various ways. What is your favorite location at Smith?

CS: Personally, I love the teahouse trail that runs along the river’s edge! I’m a runner, and I love finding peaceful places where I can clear my head on a busy day. On Smith’s campus, you can easily find a place that’s quiet, where you can self-reflect. That can be really valuable during mid-term weeks when your brain is buzzing! On the other hand, Smith is so close to Northampton’s downtown. There’s always something going on there, always people out and about. It’s nice to have the contrast.



VL: What about your favorite restaurant or café in Northampton?

CS: The place I frequent the most is “The Roost.” The ambiance is flexible and relaxed, with a very Northampton style. I can tell you, as a graduate student, I wrote many papers there! You will see a wide variety of people there from professors to students and outsiders. They have desserts, dinner, drinks, and warm beverages. It’s a really great social place with a lot of variety.

I think “Local Burger” is also great. Many international students might come to the United States with an idea of what an American burger is from having seen McDonald’s. But Local Burger will change that. The burger may still be “fast food,” but it is made from locally fed beef and with organic vegetables. It will make you re-think an American version of “hamburger” because it’s made with more care.

VL: What is your favorite aspect of Smith?

CS: The community is what I appreciate the most here. The people here care about you. As a newcomer to the campus myself, I can tell you that I have experienced this warmth. One example of that community is the fact that we pick up international students from Bradley International Airport to kick off our International Student Pre-Orientation. We know you've had a long journey, so we want to make sure that the 40 minute ride from the airport to Smith is safe and comfortable.

Every college talks about “community,” but there aren't that many places where you can really feel a sense of it. But at Smith, no matter which part of the world you are from, the residential life staff, administrators, faculty members, and even dining hall staff will listen to you and care about you. That is the benefit of going to a small school like Smith. It's the benefit of having access to people. This is not always the case at a big university. Even the President of Smith College, Kathleen McCartney, can be seen having dinner with students or holding open office hours. That is how close the Smith community is. Although hierarchy exists, the fact that the highest official on campus is available to students shows that such hierarchy can be flattened when necessary.

VL: Now let's go on to more specifics about the Office of International Students. What kind of environment does your office try to create for the students?

CS: As a part of the Lewis Global Studies Center, the Office of International Students tries to engage international and US students to become more globally aware. For instance, we have numerous speakers from all parts of the world, who come and discuss their work -- whether that may be a book, a global experience, or a performance. We want to be a central place at Smith for getting students to become more engaged in global experiences and conversations.

On a personal note, I leave my door open –both literally and figuratively – when I am in my office. I try my best to create a flexible environment where students can come in and talk to me because I want the Office of International Students to be a comfortable place, a safe zone. They don't have to come to me with an agenda. They can just come in to say hello, to ask a question, or to talk about something weighty. I am here for students, and I see my role as a liaison to other resources on campus. If I cannot answer a question, I want to help redirect the student so she can find an answer.



VL: What kind of services do you provide?

CS: First, I help the students to do the paperwork for getting your visa to come to the US. Once you enroll, we'll be in touch with you in May. We issue I-20s in June, which we'll send along so that you can schedule your visa interview at home. This immigration visa process is the first and foremost service that we provide to students.

Once you get here, we provide a wonderful Pre-Orientation for international students to get acquainted with the school and the area, before the rest of the campus returns. After that, our main role is to act as advisors. As mentioned before, I am here to help and I am open to hear you out. You will be surprised to see the numerous resources at Smith, and I am one of them.



VL: How can you be reached?

CS: You can feel free to contact our office at interstu@smith.edu or at +1 (413) 585-4940. We are excited to hear from you!

VL: Why should a prospective student consider Smith?

CS: Personally, I think Western Massachusetts is an undervalued place. You can get so much out of this Five-College area. There is always a lot going on here from lectures to concerts to farmer's markets to art galleries. Along with these creative events, you will get the best of both worlds – a good balance between quiet nature and busy college town. You can choose to go hiking, apple picking, and even skiing with friends to relax and enjoy nature, and you can also attend events and concerts that the five schools in our area host.

Remember that this is four years of your life, not forever. It's a great chance for you to live and breathe Smith. And although it will pass more quickly than you can imagine, Smith can change the way you view the world and the path you take through it. I hope to see you this fall!



An Ordinary Day in the Life of a Smithie

What is it like to be a student at Smith College?

What kind of activities are students involved in?

Where do they eat?

What is the house community like?

What is the class schedule like?

To answer these questions to the best of my abilities, I have prepared the last and final part of the newsletter.

Scroll down to take a peek at an ordinary day in the life of a Smithie...



Breakfast is Served

Breakfast is the most important part of the day! Smith offers various dining halls, menus, and hours for students to start their days with healthy breakfast options.

Dining hall hours and menus can be found at: <http://www.smith.edu/diningservices/menus.php>

7:30 AM - 9:30 AM

Time for Morning Classes

Morning class hours vary from as early as 8:00 AM to 12:10 PM. From morning yoga to lectures, there are various classes offered in the morning.

Refer to this link to see a more specific schedule of classes: <http://www.smith.edu/registrar/catalogs.php>

8:00 AM - 12:10 PM



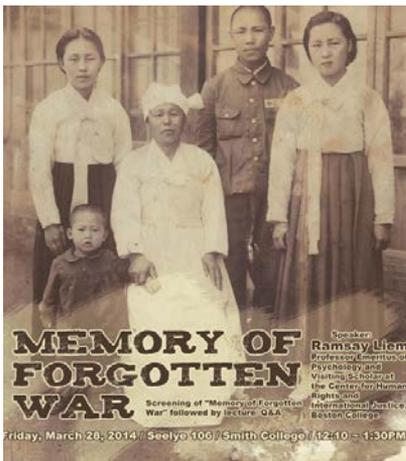
Not Just Your Regular Lunchtime

During the lunch hours, there are two pick up lunch options (Hubbard and Chapin) and eight other dining hall options available for students.

Besides food, Smith also offers various lunchtime discussions and lectures that students can attend. There are no regular classes scheduled during lunch time, so you can have a wholesome meal, take a break, or take advantage of special events.

Use this link to see upcoming lectures and events offered by Smith: <http://smith.edu/calendar/index.php?trumbaEmbed=filterview%3DLectures%20%2F%20Symposia>

12:10 PM - 1:10 PM





Afternoon Classes

Depending on your schedule, you may not have morning or afternoon classes. Afternoon class hours range from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. There are also some night classes ranging from 7:00 PM - 9:30 or 10:00 PM at the latest (some film or astronomy classes are during the night time blocks).

Take a look at the class schedule worksheet to see the class time blocks:

http://www.smith.edu/registrar/documents/class_sched_worksheet.pdf

1:00 PM - 4:00 PM



That Awkward Time Between End of Class Until Dinner

There are plenty of options! Hanging out with friends, checking your mail at the lower level of campus center, or having a meeting with an organization you are a part of are some. But my personal favorite is going to "Awesome Abs," Zumba, or a Yoga class brought to you by the Get Fit Smith program! Free and healthy at the same time!

Check out the Get Fit Smith schedule here:

http://www.smithpioneers.com/sports/2011/1/17/gfs_schedule.aspx?id=81

4:00 PM - 5:30 PM

Afternoon Practice Time for Athletes

Dinnertime may differ depending on what activities you are committed to. If you are an athlete who has afternoon practices, your dinner time may be delayed until later in the evening. Afternoon practices for most sports are from four to seven PM and athletes head to late dinner at Tyler house as a team.

To find out more about Smith Pioneers, click on : <http://www.smithpioneers.com/>

4:00 PM - 7:00 PM



Finally, It's Dinnertime!

Dinner is often a special occasion at Smith. There are pizza talks provided by the Career Development Center (Lazarus Center) and special events held in the Campus Center Carroll room, such as the Chinese New Year celebration. Campus Center Cafe is also open for special Wok Night (stir-fry) and Pasta Night.

Click here for more information on the Campus Center Cafe: http://www.smith.edu/diningservices/cafe_events.php

5:30 PM - 8:30 PM



Time for Homework! Or...

After the busy day, students come back to their houses or go to the library to study together. Many students hang around in the Campus Center or the house living room to watch TV or to socialize. Who can blame them? Smith provides the best environment to meet awesome people and to spend time with them!

To see the various houses on Smith's Campus, click here: <http://www.smith.edu/reslife/houses.php>

8:30 PM - 11:00 PM

Best Part of the Day

Time to sleep! Or, sometimes, we want to have a snack with friends and spend time with them. There are multiple options for delivery and ordering food late night! Some houses also have kitchens and supplies that you can use to pop some popcorn with your buddy and watch a movie!

Many restaurants in Northampton such as Pizza Amore, India House, Filos Greek Taverna, or services such as Delivery Express can deliver food right to your house!

10:00 PM - 7:00 AM



On Weekends

Mmmm, Brunch!

Smith brunch is everyone's favorite part of the weekend. Brunch is offered from 11 AM to 1 PM and on Sundays, Chapin dining hall has late lunch from 2 PM to 4 PM.

Click here to check out dining hours:
<http://www.smith.edu/diningservices/hours.php>

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM



Relaxed Afternoon

The afternoon is very relaxed. Libraries are open for you to get some work done, the gym is open for you to go work out. Other facilities such as the art museum or the campus center are also open for the students.

Discover more about Smith Museum of Art here: <http://www.smith.edu/artmuseum/>

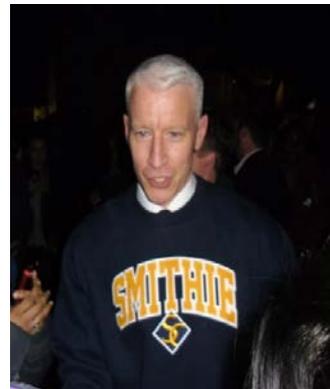
1:00 PM - 5:30 PM

Time to Have Some Fun!

There are parties, concerts, and shows everywhere! This is one of the many advantages of being in a moderately large college town. From DJs such as Avicii, rappers such as Macklemore, and TV personality Anderson Cooper, various celebrities and artists have visited the Five College Area. It's very exciting!

See what events are held around the Five College Area:
<http://calendar.fivecolleges.edu/FiveCol/calendrome.cgi>

7:00 PM - 1:00 AM





**Again, congratulations and
we are excited to meet you!**