Welcome to the 2015-2016 year for the Smith College Club of Washington! We are busy planning activities to engage you with Smith College and with fellow Smithies in the DC area. Please join us and support our club in a variety of programs, the recruitment of students, our local elementary school partnership program, and by contributing to our fundraisers.

Please pay your dues. Please submit your Smith College Club of Washington dues. SCCW dues are used to pay for the operating expenses of the club. They support our student recruitment and admissions activities, our programs and events, our elementary school partnership, our club newsletters and other forms of communication, and our office staffer. They are crucial to keeping the club running. Another bonus - they are tax deductible. Membership dues include: Sustaining - $100; Contributing - $60; Regular - $40; Associate (classes of '10-'15, '65 and earlier, parents of current students) - $20. Dues can be paid through the SCCW website through Paypal or feel free to send a check to our SCCW office. Thank you for paying your SCCW dues and supporting our club!

Send your email address to the Smith College Club of Washington. The SCCW sends our newsletters and other club announcements via email. If you are not receiving these emails, please send your email address to dcsmithclub@yahoo.com so that you receive these notices and remain well-informed about club activities.

Caroline Solelia Carbaugh ’66 and Suzanne Doud Galli ’87 Co-Presidents, SCCW

Featured Smithie
Mandy Smithberger ’08
The new Director of the Project on Government Oversight (POGO)’s Straus Military Reform Project discusses her start as an intern at POGO through the Picker Program—“It was very cool how a group like POGO could work with the Senate and the Washington Post to not only make a change but to also hold people accountable.”

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Please visit dcsmithclub.com under “Events” for more information on the following activities and/or to RSVP. Please direct your inquiries to the SCCW Programs Committee by emailing scwwprograms@gmail.com.

First Meeting of the SCCW Book Club
Sunday, September 13, 2015, 2:00–3:30 p.m.
We are excited to announce the relaunch of the SCCW Book Club for the 2015-2016 year. If you’re already a member of the Book Club or are interested in joining, join us at the inaugural meeting at Busboys and Poets (the 5th and K location) to help decide on books for the Fall.

Seven Sisters Trivia Throwdown
Wednesday, September 30, 2015, 8:00 p.m.
Alums from Smith, Barnard, Bryn Mawr, Mount Holyoke, Wellesley, and Vassar will face-off in an epic trivia night at Penn Social in Penn Quarter.

Alumnae Speakers Panel: How to be Politically Effective in Washington—Alumnae Views from Across the Spectrum
Wednesday, October 7, 2015, 6:30-8:00 p.m.
A dynamic alumnae panel from all across the D.C. political sphere will share their testimonies about establishing meaningful and effective careers as public servants —independent of one’s party affiliations. The event will take place at the offices of the Project On Government Oversight near the Metro Center Station.

Professor Justin Cammy: Peace in Our Time?
Reflections of the Israel-Palestine Conflict
Thursday, October 29, 2015, 7:00-8:30 p.m.
We welcome Justin Cammy, Associate Professor of Jewish Studies and Comparative Literature, for a discussion at the offices of the Council for Advancement and Support of Education. Cost is $5 person and light refreshments will be available.

[Fundraiser] Erma Bombeck’s “At Wit’s End” at Arena Stage
Wednesday, November 4, 2015, 7:30 p.m.
At Arena Stage, discover the story behind the award-winning humorist who championed women’s lives with wit. Part of the Women’s Voices Theater Festival. A special talk for Smithies with the playwright will follow the performance.
On Being a Watchdog and the Appeal of a ‘Silent Disco’

By Elena Farrar ’10

Mandy Smithberger ’08 is the newly appointed Director of the Project on Government Oversight (POGO)’s Straus Military Reform Project—one of the organization’s most exciting initiatives, which seeks to secure more effective military policies.

In the POGO offices right across from the Metro Center Station, I had the pleasure of meeting Mandy where she began as an intern during her junior year of college through Smith’s Picker Program. As an intern at POGO, she learned about the behind-the-scenes work of policy reform for the first time.

As she looked through the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) filings, she discovered that the same person who was in charge of purchasing weapons systems for multiple years was also the president of a sub-contractor for the same weapons system. POGO’s leadership brought this conflict of interest to the attention of the Senate, who followed up with a hearing, which led to the party-in-conflict immediately resigning.

“It was very cool how a group like POGO could work with the Senate and the Washington Post to not only make a change, but to also hold people accountable,” said Mandy. Upon graduating from Smith, Mandy’s efforts as an intern came full circle when she was hired by POGO as a Fellow, and she helped to permanently end this weapons program.

While soft-spoken, Mandy is quick-witted and dynamic about many political issues. From the start, her parents and history teachers challenged her to ask tough questions and encouraged her to partake in “rabble-rousing.” At age 30, Mandy has certainly done plenty of that, and she’s quite accomplished at it too. Before her latest return to POGO, she received a Masters in Strategic Studies and International Economics from Johns Hopkins, School of Advanced International Studies and spent several years as a national security policy advisor to U.S. Congresswoman Jackie Speier (D-CA).

She credits several female mentors with helping her get to where she is in her career—even citing a fellow Smithie, Danielle Brian, Class of ’85 and Executive Director of POGO, as a mentor who has given her countless challenging opportunities.

Every morning, Mandy likes to begin her work at Straus Reform by asking her staff and herself: “How are we going to cause trouble today?” And outside of the office, Mandy takes advantage of D.C.’s non-political side. When I asked her about her plans for the weekend, she said she was rallying friends to attend a “silent disco,” a dancing venue that provides you with headphones, which allow you to personally select from several channels between multiple DJ’s spinning different tunes at the venue. She describes the experience as an interesting mixture of simultaneously being in a crowded nightclub while dancing alone in your bedroom.

You can meet both Mandy and Danielle Brian at the upcoming SCCW event on Wednesday evening, October 7th, for the alumnae panel at POGO. Visit dcsmithclub.com for details.

Revival of the SCCW Book Club!

Have you thought about joining a book club? What if you were able to help in the decisions about what to read, where to meet, as well as suggest other options? If any of this sounds interesting to you, please join us on Sunday, September 13, 2:00 p.m., at Busboys & Poets in City Vista--located at 1025 5th St NW--for a brainstorming session at our inaugural meeting. Bring your suggestions, questions, and ideas. Please email: sccwbookclub@gmail.com if you are interested in joining and/or you are planning to attend.

Our New Logo

SCCW thanks James Earle, the talented digital artist behind our club’s new logo.

Although James never attended Smith, he is no stranger to the Pioneer Valley. He’s both an alum of UMass Amherst, Class of 2014, and a long-time boyfriend of a Smithie. If you are looking to hire someone to put together a logo or you are seeking a digital artist, James comes highly recommended from us. You can reach him at james123.earle@gmail.com.

SCCW’s 2015 Annual Garden Party at the home of Anne Brown ’59. We had a blast—join us next year!
Why Smith: Perspective from an Incoming First-Year
By Miranda Catsambas ’19

Social media was a large part of the reason why I ended up choosing Smith. When I was deciding which schools to apply to, the college’s YouTube channels and Tumblr pages were both things I regularly checked up on. After I'd received all my acceptance letters, I joined those college’s Class of 2019 Facebook groups. Smith's was one of the few that was completely student-run—a student had created the groups as opposed to the group being run by administrators. These Facebook groups mostly represented what type of people would be in my class. Ultimately, they were the reason why I chose Smith. Out of all the various colleges and their social media presences, I saw that Smith had the biggest variety of personalities and interests. And I liked that.

Professor Cammy on the Israel-Palestine Conflict

The SCCW welcomes Justin Cammy, Associate Professor of Jewish Studies and Comparative Literature, and a member of the Program in Middle East Studies at Smith College, for a presentation on Thursday, October 29, 2015.

We’ll meet at the offices of the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) located at 1307 New York Ave NW at 7:00 pm. Light refreshments will be available. The cost is $5 per person. Please visit dcsmithclub.com for details on both RSVP-ing and purchasing a ticket to this event.

At the 2015 Commencement lectures at Smith College, Professor Cammy, in front of an overflowing crowd, presented the topic "Peace in Our Time? Reflections of the Israel-Palestine Conflict." He will continue this discussion in Washington, D.C. in light of recent events.

Professor Cammy's scholarly interests in the intersection of history, politics, religion, and culture are reflected in his teachings, which includes the courses: "Perspectives on the Arab-Israel Conflict," "Israel: Texts and Contexts," and "Jerusalem." He holds a PhD from the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at Harvard University.

Professor Cammy believes in the importance of branching out beyond the classroom to share his learning. He has led two Smith alumnae trips to Israel; three Global Engagement Seminars for Smith undergraduates to Jerusalem; and has spoken both to alumnae groups in Sarasota and Paris on the contemporary cultural-political issues facing the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In addition to more than two dozen separate research trips to Israel over his career (including six weeks this past summer), he has served as visiting scholar at both the Hebrew University and Tel Aviv University. In 2006, Justin Cammy was awarded Smith's Sherrerd Prize for Distinguished Teaching.

We look forward to meeting with him on October 29.