

## Cameron's big blue ego trip

By Eric Shapiro

On Fri, Feb 5, 2010

On a visual level, "Avatar", James Cameron's latest epic, is close to perfection. He and his crew have taken computer animation to the next level, crafting a world more realistic, distinctive and downright gorgeous than any other animated film, period. This world will suck viewers in the moment it jumps out of the screen (for once, shelling out a few extra dollars for 3-D glasses is worth it, even essential). For this reason alone, "Avatar" deserves most of the flattering adjectives lobbed its way by critics; it is indeed a groundbreaking.

But is it a classic? Well, that depends on how you define the term. Will Avatar be remembered as the film that opened the door for a whole new level of polish and attention to detail in animation? Certainly.

But will it be taken in, savored and regurgitated an infinite number of times by legions of rabid, slaving fans? Will every movie critic worth his pen (or laptop) fawn over it in the same way as they do films like "Star Wars" and "Blade Runner?" Well, perhaps the former will come to pass; fanboys (and girls) aren't always so discerning. Cinephiles, on the other hand, with time, should recognize "Avatar" for what it is: historically important for its technological breakthroughs, but not a particularly good movie.

Chances are, in the not-so-distant future, films as highly advanced (if not as brilliantly crafted) will be a dime a dozen and, alas, "Avatar" lacks the substance to compete with the inevitably better future films that will make use of the same technology, possibly with even more breathtaking results.

Unlike, say, George Lucas, James Cameron didn't bother coming up with interesting characters and concepts to flesh out his painstakingly crafted world. Instead, he relies on tried-and-true clichés. Indeed, some of the human ships and creatures look like they could have been ripped straight out of other works.

Did anyone else notice the similarity between the human gunships in "Avatar" and those in "Halo"? You know, the ones with the rudders? A little derivativeness doesn't harm a film if its characters are memorable. This is not the case with "Avatar." Cameron falls back on stock characters about as believable as those on a low-end Saturday morning cartoon show.

Occasional attempts at social commentary (he references, what else, the war on terror!) don't go beyond the usual liberal talking points that are so ubiquitous in Hollywood these days. "Lets fight terror

with terror," says the tough-as-nails military brute that heads the equivalent of an intergalactic Blackwater, to the cheers of his redneck soldiers.

Film critics would no doubt be a lot less forgiving of Cameron's juvenile political posturing if he were spouting conservative ideas. Cameron also, perhaps deliberately, botches every opportunity to add any sense of real drama or complexity to his film.

If he had any sense in either department, he would portray the protagonist's fellow humans as a bit more relatable so his choice to join the Native Americans- sorry Na'vi (who, coincidentally, are as pure and innocent as the smurfs they resemble) wouldn't be such a given. This is only one of many opportunities the director/screenwriter bungles to add a real sense of tension and suspense to a narrative that is for the most part utterly predictable.

The Disney version of "Pocahontas" has a lot more to say about culture clash than "Avatar," as do many other movies from which Cameron clearly drew inspiration ("Dances With Wolves" comes to mind).

All criticism aside, film is obviously a visual medium and films that break new visual ground deserve recognition; just not necessarily as all-around classics.

## Get to know a senior: Anthony Ferri

By Suzanna Lourie

On Fri, Feb 5, 2010

Is second semester of senior year really as great as everyone says it is? Does being consistently bombarded with questions about after graduation ever get annoying? As the class of 2010 progresses through its last semester at Skidmore, Skidmore News will ask seniors these questions and more.

*Skidmore News: So, tell us about yourself.*

Anthony Ferri: I'm Anthony Ferri. I'm from Jersey and I'm a senior Business/Economics Double Major.

*SN: So, you're a senior and it's your senior spring semester. How do you feel about that?*

AF: I'm excited. So excited because I have a joke semester. I'm taking Ceramics (so excited), History of Earth and Life pass/fail and three physical activities. I love senior spring. It's awesome.

*SN: What was one of your best experiences at Skidmore?*

AF: Well, I don't know about the best, but I can tell you the most interesting.

*SN: That's fine, go for it.*

AF: I had lunch with Trey Anastasio [lead singer/guitarist of Phish] by accident one time. I was at Quiznos up on Broadway and he was just standing in line so I said, "You're Trey," and we just started talking. We sat together and talked about music, Phish, his being under house arrest in Saratoga [for criminal drug possession charges] and UVM and college in general. He was so nice. Like super uber nice.

Oh, and the best moment is probably when we beat Middlebury in hockey my Sophomore year. That was sick. They were No. 1 in the nation.

*SN: What are three things you hope to accomplish by the time you graduate?*

AF: 1.) Take as many art classes as possible. 2.) Get a job before April 15 ... so I can spend the next month attempting to ruin the job offer I just received. 3.) Whatever I want. That's corny but it's kind of how I live my life anyway. I do what I want and I love what I do.

*SN: Any regrets about the past four years?*



AF: I regret not being an Art major.

*SN: Why's that?*

AF: Because over there at the art building they have more resources than the rest of the school combined. They have, like, seventeen huge ceramics ovens.

*SN: What's your favorite restaurant in Saratoga Springs?*

AF: Cantina for the whole experience but the Local for the best food.

*SN: I have to ask ... You're from Jersey so what do you think about the Jersey Shore?*

AF: I think it sucks that a stupid stereotype had to ruin the entire state. That's not how kids in Jersey are at all.

## Alumna celebrates wearable art

By Gabe Weintraub

On Fri, Feb 5, 2010

Art and intimacy rarely go hand in hand. A painting or a sculpture, though a thing of beauty, cannot be held in the hand, worn around the neck or often even be touched at all.

A piece of jewelry, however, offers a tactile, sensory experience; it allows the aesthetic elements of the art to be experienced on a much more intimate scale.

For Megan Isaacs '07, that proximity was part of what attracted her to the art in the first place. "I can take the elements that I apply to large scale sculpture and reapply them in a piece of jewelry, so that in a way I can make something communal," she said.

Isaacs, 24, discovered her passion for jewelry making as a sophomore while taking Jewelry and Metals with Professor David Peterson at Skidmore. "It was so hard to break in and learn the new skill set. I couldn't get an A in the class," she said. "That made me want to take it even more."

Isaacs says she found herself while studying abroad in Italy, and began to fully understand a piece of advice that Peterson had given her. "David said to me, 'I can't tell you what to do, all I know is if you start constantly thinking about designs and jewelry, then you're meant to be a jeweler,'" Isaacs said. "Now it's not such a challenge; now I can't think of anything else."

Almost three years out of school, Isaacs has a studio in Brooklyn and has found some success in her young career. In December her work was mentioned in Elle's daily style blog.

The month before, one of her necklaces got significant screen-time during the Thanksgiving episode of the CW's "Gossip Girl." "Vanessa's mother wore it. It got maybe half an hour of airtime," said Isaacs.

Her professional work began during the summer before her senior year with an internship at Me & Ro., a well-known New York jewelry studio.

After graduation she moved on to an apprenticeship with Robert Lee Morris, an accomplished designer in the world of fashion jewelry. "I had the summer internship until November," said Isaacs. "They had to let me go because I wasn't even supposed to be there anymore."

Today she works at Flux Work Studio, a Brooklyn-based collective of 12 young jewelry artists who share studio space and tools. She also urges Skidmore jewelers to contact her through her Web site,



www.meganisaacs.com, if they are looking to start a career in New York. "We're always growing. We get more people, we move to a bigger space," said Isaacs.

"It's hard to be an artist and not have something that's sellable. At least you're making something commercial when you're making jewelry. It's more like a product," said Isaacs.

"I saw jewelry as an outlet where I could take elements that I applied to my paintings, to my movie making and to my sculpture, but with jewelry there was something that you could make and sell."

The need for profit does not necessarily need to compromise artistic ambition. "Art jewelry is one of a kind pieces that thrive at being one of a kind pieces. They exist for the fact that they are one of a kind," she said. "I'm trying to set up a production line that takes elements of art jewelry, the boldness of it, and makes them into a limited edition line."

"I take inspiration from all over. I always walk around with a notebook. If I see something I like, I draw it or take a picture with my phone. I'm inspired by the shapes around me," said Isaacs.

"Once you have a signature element you can make a whole line out of it. My latest collection is called Pennies. It was inspired by the current economic situation; it was actually cheaper to just use pennies than buy new metal."

Pieces from her Pop Heart collection are currently on sale at the Tang Museum Store. Additionally, she will be working with the Tang to create pieces connected to Professor Lisa Aronson's African art exhibit that will be opening some time in 2011.

Isaacs, who is of South African lineage, says that her work is often inspired by Africa because of the stones that she incorporates.

"I never have a set idea in my mind. I just combine the materials I want to use and build it like a collage," she said. "Everything that I make has a large scale statement attached to it but it's all really light and really wearable."

Eventually, she points out, she did finally manage to get that A.

## Spa City Comics sells superhero lore

Downtown store offers relaxed atmosphere, distinct selection

By Wyatt Erchak

On Fri, Feb 5, 2010

Just around the corner from Ben & Jerry's, nestled in the cozy block of buildings including such noted cultural centers as Caffé Lena, is Spa City Comics.

Located at 47 Phila Street, this abode of sequential art is instantly recognizable. The superhero cutouts and bold lettering of the shop's name stand out from the restaurant windows around it. Greeted at the door by a painting of Batman's Robin hand-in-hand with Wonder Woman and the Flash, my nerd-sense is definitely tingling (and I mean that in the most proud of ways).

The small store is packed with rows of comics. Along the wall to one side are shelves of new releases, indicating this isn't a simple trade-in operation. However, that isn't to say it doesn't offer trade-ins in abundance.

In between the walls, occupying essentially every free space, are piles upon piles of comic books, used and new, rare and common alike. The store's manager, Shaun Belsito, told me that in addition to new and used comics, Spa City offers graphic novels, action figures, DVDs, collector's supplies and manga, or Japanese comics (which have their own wall in the back).

Belsito made clear that its manga selection is one of the ways Spa City has historically been different from other stores. It was the first comic shop in the area (having been open since the 1980s) to offer manga, pioneering its popularity well before it had caught on with American readers. In addition, he stressed that Spa City has always offered more in the realm of new releases, which have made it a mainstay in the local comic community.

Some may still hold on to the quaint, antiquated notion that comics and graphic novels are pop art, not on the level of traditional literature-- this is most certainly not the case, as the medium has branched out to include every genre. In keeping with that, the range of books offered here is immense. Everything from your typical superhero story to more intellectual fare was on display.

This, Shaun explained, is what makes comics so appealing to so many, including the college-age crowd. Not being simply a distributor of mega-publishers like Marvel or DC was also an important aspect of the



store. "We've always been proud to promote independent press." Belsito said. So, for those readers with reservations about being corporate pawns, no fear, for Spa City Comics is here.

I left the shop feeling like I'd known Belsito for years. The traditional aura of the comic shop, where you hurry off to after class to pick up the latest issue of your favorite series, is not lost here. Readers of comics and graphic novels can come to the store expecting a relaxed, timeless browse, and as one of those readers, I can wholeheartedly recommend it.

*Wyatt Erchak is a sophomore and history major from Upstate New York with his ear to the streets.*



## **‘Beverly’s Best’**

Eatery provides great breakfast at low price

By Robin Krosinsky

On Fri, Feb 5, 2010

Beverly’s modest exterior is quite deceiving, especially in comparison to that of its neighbor, Hatties, one of Saratoga’s most well known eateries. Named for "Beverly’s Best" a cookbook written by Beverly Reedy, the small breakfast and lunch nook is by every definition a whole in the wall.

While the plain entrance and simple interior reminds one of a run of the mill diner, Beverly’s is anything but. From chocolate chip pancakes made with wheat germ to eggs Benedict with fresh lump crab and homemade hollandaise sauce, Beverly’s easily offers the best breakfast around.

If one were to ever find him or herself feeling a little sluggish on a Sunday morning from one too many games of bananagrams on Saturday night, a breakfast at Beverly’s is the cure. Down a cup of its homemade tangerine juice and you will instantly feel your headache melting away. There are so many delicious choices for breakfast, however, that one’s head may continue to spin from looking at the menu.

I have found some of the best dishes to include the chocolate chips pancakes, the smokes salmon eggs Benedict, the California eggs Benedicts, the homefries and any of the frittatas. You can pick from a range of pancakes as well and you won’t be disappointed. I, however, am partial to chocolate chip variety. They are light and fluffy, but also decadent and moist. And they are made with wheat germ, and therefore only slightly healthier than the classic buttermilk version! Never fear though - there isn’t a trace of healthy-food taste in these pancakes.

I also highly suggest the farm bread for a side of toast. Beverly’s serves fresh, local artisan bread and each order comes with blackberry jam and orange marmalade - both of which are insanely delicious. The farm bread is like a whole-grain white bread which is, well, it’s just really, really good bread and that’s all there is to it.

The breakfast menu also features a selection of breakfast burritos, ranging from Brie and mushroom to black bean and cheddar. Each is rolled in a whole wheat tortilla and served with Beverly’s insanely delicious home fries. I’ve been able to taste a few of the options, and I’ve never been disappointed.

It's already considerably difficult to order off the breakfast menu, but to make matters even more of challenge, Beverly's also has an entire lunch menu. One can choose from a large selection of sandwiches and salads, all of which sound as enticing as the breakfast options. I will admit though, I am a die-hard Beverly's breakfast fan so it is hard to deter me from that end of the menu, which is offered until 3 p.m. every day.

It also has wonderful coffee, which, in my book, is a necessity for any great breakfast.

Given that its menu includes such upscale items as fresh smoked salmon, lump crab, homemade hollandaise sauce and wheat germ, one might expect Beverly's to be on the pricey end. This would be false. Great prices make Beverly's already fantastic breakfast that much sweeter. It even offers a dish named after us Skid-kids, called the "skiddie." Rumored to cure any hangover, the "skiddie" includes pancakes, eggs, bacon, home fries and toast. And the whole thing only costs \$9.95.

The service at Beverly's is always friendly and helpful, and the atmosphere is sunny and joyful. I can't rave enough about how fantastic its breakfast is; I highly recommend you give it a try yourself. Happy eating, Skidmore!

*Robin Krosinsky is a sophomore with a passion for food.*

## Band dabs in new pallet

By Andrew Lane-Lawless

On Fri, Feb 5, 2010

Drawing a parallel between Vampire Weekend and President Barack Obama may not be entirely apt, but it is at the very least intriguing. In the same way that Obama is considered one of the most popular politicians of the last 20 or 30 years after energizing the youth base and garnering comparisons to such legendary icons as Lincoln and Kennedy, Vampire Weekend have quickly become the "it" band for a certain segment of the twenty-something crowd. They each had strong support through word-of-mouth and online word of mouth.

"Contra" recently debuted at No. 1 on the billboard charts becoming one of a handful of independent releases to ever to do so. Yet, despite all this, their undeniable appeal, like Obama's, has been called into question as of late. A band's second album is its chance to solidify its reputation, but it can also be the album where some of the goodwill and support from its debut disappears.

Ezra Koenig stated that regardless of what people felt about "Contra," he wanted to be sure that it was a different record than the band's debut. The band half succeeded. Of the 10 tracks on "Contra," about half of them sound like they could have come from 2008's self-titled debut. "Holiday", with its breezy guitar figure and themes of summer leisure sounds very much like "Contra's" version of "Cape Cod Kwassa Kwassa."

"Cousins" is a bigger, brasher version of "A-Punk," with its tightly wound guitars and blitzing pace adding a harsher aspect to their music. These songs, though uniformly solid, don't change Vampire Weekend's established sound or offer many new ideas; an album full of them would indeed have been boring. Luckily, the other batch of songs adds in plenty of new ideas.

Sonically, "Contra" sounds more layered and murky than its predecessor. This is due in part to the fact that many of the songs on the album feature synth sounds and electronic elements as core instrumentation. Songs like "Taxi Cab" feature a mixture of strings, piano and an electronic looped beat, turning the band's typical chamber pop into something more complex. Although in "Taxi Cab" this mixture works, elsewhere it can get in the way.

One prominent feature of the band's sound that seems largely missing is Koenig's sunny guitar. "White Sky," apparently written very soon after the completion of the band's first album, features many of the band's new sounds and Koenig's guitar comes in only briefly in short chirps, sounding oddly restrained.

In fact, of the 10 songs, only "Holiday" and "Cousins" really feature guitar front and center. This is an interesting move, considering that Koenig's clean tone shimmer is one of the more distinctive parts of the band's sound. The approach doesn't always work, but on "Run" which opens with a nifty guitar figure, only to subvert it when the band comes in, the results show a band with strong sense of balance.

"Contra" goes a long way towards fulfilling the promise of Vampire Weekend's debut, but it doesn't quite match that album's breezy pop. Whereas the debut had only strong songs, with the possible exception of "One (Blake's Got A New Face)," "Contra" features a couple of duds. "Giving Up The Gun" finds Vampire Weekend in uncomfortably teen-pop sounding territory and the auto-tune in "California English" is just one of many things that makes that song a cross between mildly pleasant and annoying. However, the album ends on a good note.

Between the swirling atmospheric, subtle strings, hand drum percussion and acoustic guitars, "I Think Ur A Contra" is much more ambitious than anything Vampire Weekend has ever done and other than the first 30 seconds of "I Stand Corrected," it's the only time the band has completely slowed the tempo. In large doses this would probably ruin the band's appeal, but at the end of a fast-paced and slightly unfocused album, it's refreshing.

## **69 Love Songs' not just a 'Whole Lotta Love'**

By Katie Bennett

On Fri, Feb 5, 2010

Before there was mainstream "emo," there was Morrissey, Robert Smith and Stephin Merritt. The last of the lot may be the least well known, but he certainly merits mention among the musical pantheon of gods and generational icons, owing largely to the success of his 3-disc concept album "69 Love Songs," with group The Magnetic Fields.

Last week The Magnetic Fields released their 10th album, "Realism," consisting of 14 songs packed with wit and charm that anyone can appreciate. But before you download the band's latest release, you need to first listen to "69."

Sold separately, the first disc is arguably the most listenable. To fully understand and benefit from the collection, you have to listen to every second with diligence, patience and an open mind. This may not be easy for the new listener, as Merritt's pop songs often tend toward the absurd.

The most infamously unlistenable examples are "Punk Love" and "Love is like Jazz." While some may condemn Merritt for unskilled musicianship, by riskily adding these songs to the collection, he strengthens his concept by demonstrating that love comes in every form, is imperfect, bizarre and sometimes even unbearable.

Other than these two anomalies, many songs have an up-beat, catchy composition. Nevertheless, their arrangement is of a different breed than that of typical love songs. In addition to standard acoustic fare, Merritt also uses dozens of devices from every corner of the globe, including the musical saw, rain stick, Roland harmonizer, lap steel, marxophone, tremeloa, synclavier, moog satellite, ocarina, pennywhistle, hohner melodica, kalimas, chicken shakers, cabasas... whew! Think Brian Eno's low-fi indie pop at its most outrageous and glorious.

As well as manifesting the charm of classic pop acts like Buddy Holly, the core of the album's identity is its diverse musical style. "Chicken With Its Head Cut Off" echoes classic Cash and his country-rock style, while "Fido Your Leash is Too Long" is a synth hit with electronic flourishes, as well as elements of banjo, cello, mandolin, piano, percussion, accordion and flute.

Merritt's intriguing musical eccentricities compliment his poetic lyrics, in which his favorite topics (other than love) are the moon, dancing, rain, eyes, nature, lust, the dead, youth, old age, cities, marriage and drinking. He tackles these subjects with cartoony seriousness, which sounds like a contradiction because

it is. By pairing deceptively light and poppy tunes with serious lyrics, Merritt mocks the typical commercialized love song and creates humor in unexpected yet refreshingly gruesome lyrics that the casual listener may not catch if he or she is simply bobbing his or her head to the beat.

Merritt's undeniable trademark is his unrelenting self-deprecation. Part of this insecurity undoubtedly stems in part from being gay in a homophobic society, yet the majority of his concerns are self-manifested. In the first line of the entire collection he warns: "Don't fall in love with me yet... You might decide I'm a nut." However, Merritt later conveys a deep sense of loneliness and yearning for love, even declaring later, "You're my only home." He needs love because everyone needs love. He is just afraid that lovers will regret him, so he turns himself down first.

Merritt can't help but fall for the wrong guy as he tells him, "I like your twisted point of view." And later when it doesn't work out, he is cruel as he sings, "no one will ever love you." But this cycle of push-and-pull does not belong to Merritt alone. He is not the only one to fall in love with someone who was obviously not right for him. He is not the only one to hurt the one he loves. But he is unique in his ability to capture these mistakes and turn them into something beautiful.

These songs are real, written from real experience. Because we aren't forced to listen to them like the perpetually played Top 40, we feel as if we have discovered the songs ourselves, making them more personal. The bottom line is that these love songs can be enjoyed by anyone who discovers them. I mean, who can't relate: "Let's pretend we're bunny rabbits/ Let's do it all day long."

Lovers come and go, but these songs and emotions are eternal. To echo Camus's famous character, Joseph Grand, "Hats off, gentlemen. Here's a glass of vermouth to eternal youth and freedom."

## Demystifying parking

By Jean-Ann Kubler

On Fri, Feb 5, 2010

Visit the college Web site's Current Students' section and nestled between Information Technology and the Registrar on the sidebar is a link to the campus's parking policy. The rules have not always been so accessible, however, which has led to a lot of confusion over parking policies.

According to Parking Court Chair Andrew Lichtenberg, "Previously, [the parking rules] were buried deep in the Web site." Now, they are easy to find if a student needs information, but the clarity of the rules is still questionable.

The first step of legally parking on campus is registration. At the beginning of each academic year, a registration center is set up in Case Center on the first day of orientation. After that time, registration can be completed by going to Campus Safety in the Jonsson Tower basement or by filling out a form online.

The process is simple, requiring only your Skidmore ID, the vehicles registration information and a \$100 annual fee if you are residing on campus. Students who live off-campus must still register their cars to park on campus during the day, but do not pay any fee. Registered drivers receive a decal for their car.

Registering a vehicle does not allow you to park anywhere on campus, however. Most parking violations are the result of not following the rules of when and where a student can park on campus, not unregistered vehicles.

A common discrepancy is parking in the wrong lot. Lots on campus are divided into two categories: overnight and commuter. Students who live on campus are not allowed to park in commuter lots between the hours of 3 a.m. and 6 a.m. Commuter lots include the Case Center, Jonsson Tower, Sports Center, Dance Theater, North Hall and Palamountain lots, as well as all of the parallel parking spaces on Perimeter road.

Students who live in Northwoods or Scribner Village are only allowed to park in lots designated for their apartment complexes between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. This point of the policy becomes particularly troublesome for Northwoods and Scribner residents who injure themselves and are unable to walk to campus for classes. If this occurs, students should speak to Health Services to receive special permission to park in campus lots during the day.

The parking policy available on the Skidmore Web site does not articulate what should happen if a Northwoods or Scribner resident injures him or herself. "It's one of the least known rules," Lichtenberg said. "And probably the most common reason for tickets [successfully being fought] in Parking Court."

Parking Court is available to students who believe they were unfairly ticketed for a parking violation. The steps for appealing are detailed on the back of each parking ticket. The court is a commonly used resource for students, with around 60 tickets being appealed this past semester. Lichtenberg is one of three Student Government Association senators in charge of parking appeals.

When an appeal is put in using the online form, the court reviews the students claim, the report put in by the ticketing officer, as well as the parking history of the student. In the rare case that a ticket is issued without a violation, the court will hold that the student is not responsible for its payment. Injured Northwoods and Scribner residents are often not held accountable for their parking violations because the rule is not clear.

Clarity of the campus parking policy is a longstanding problem that students frequently complain about. Lichtenberg believes confusion over the parking policy has more to do with a lack of access to the information, not the clarity of the rules. "They're definitely not complicated," he said. "It's just a matter of reading the rules. They're fair."





## On the radar

By Eric Shapiro

On Fri, Feb 5, 2010

### **Don DeLillo - "Point Omega" - Feb. 2**

Don DeLillo, widely regarded as one of the most important novelists of his generation (and who just so happens to have been at Skidmore for a book reading last October), describes the inspiration for his new novel to The Wall Street Journal: "I began to wonder about how we see and what we see, and what we miss seeing when we're looking at things in a more conventional format... So I placed characters in the gallery and began from there." Sounds about right for an author who scholars and critics have described as one of the quintessential post-modernist writers. In a departure from DeLillo's recent, more subdued work, "Point Omega" deals with such weighty topics as Iraq War and the power of media to alter human's perception of the world. Although, as usual, his plot is far from linear and thus difficult to summarize, it revolves around Richard Elster, a military defense planner on the verge of retirement who agrees to be filmed for a documentary in the middle of the desert. Knowing DeLillo, this premise will serve a launching point for philosophical ruminations that are either ingenious or incomprehensible, depending on your capacity (or tolerance) for his kind of writing.

### **Massive Attack - "Heligoland" - Feb. 8**

Critics' reaction to Bristol-based trip-hop pioneers Massive Attack's upcoming album, "Heligoland" is, well, mediocre. BBC Music describes "Heliogland" as "rich, textured and seductive." However, the general consensus is that Massive Attack has delivered a good, if not particularly groundbreaking album. According to "Slant Magazine," the boys - sorry, middle aged men - from Bristol "[reach] to rapidly into the bag of trademarked Massive Attack tricks." Nevertheless, fans should be happy to get their hands on the duo's first non-soundtrack LP of new material since 2003's "100th Window," which is reported to be remarkably consistent, not to mention packed with guest artists such as Blur's Damon Albarn, TV on the Radio's Tunde Adibimpe, Mazzy Star's Hope Sandoval, to name a few.

### **"From Paris with Love" - Starring John Travolta, Jonathan Rhys Meyers, Directed by Pierre Morel - Feb. 5**

The French have been giving the Chinese quite a run for their money lately when it comes to stylized, blood-soaked action movies. Pierre Morel, who (coincidentally?) directed the original version of "District 13," another of this week's film releases, delivers a film in the style of John Woo. The premise: by-the-



books, low-level CIA operative James Reese (Jonathan Rhys Meyers) is paired with experienced maverick Charlie Wax (John Travolta) for a mission that more or less consists of blowing away numerous members of the Parisian underworld. Critics generally agree that, despite a rather thin plot (big surprise!), "From Paris With Love" delivers on its promise as a fast-paced action movie and, at a brisk 95 minutes, doesn't overstay its welcome.

### **Mass Effect 2 - Bioware, Xbox 360 & PC - Jan. 26**

It's rare that the main draw of a video game is its story, but that seems to be the case for Mass Effect 2, the second in a trilogy of sci-fi themed Action-RPGs for the PC and Xbox 360. Developed by Bioware, known for penning deep, engaging narratives that force the player to make ethical decisions that, to an extent, determine the outcome of the game, fans of role playing games will no doubt relish the opportunity to interact, via the games cutting edge conversation system, with the colorful caste of characters that inhabit the incredibly rich Mass Effect universe. However, there is also plenty of satisfying shooting at the player's disposal, as well as an array of crazy powers to dispatch enemies. Critics agree that Bioware has ironed out most of the flaws (lackluster shooting mechanics, occasional slowdown and a confusing interface, to name a few) present in the only slightly less superb first installment of the series. Mass Effect 2 has received a score 96 on Metacritic, a Web site- that averages together reviews from numerous online and print publications, the third best score for an Xbox 360 in the system's four year lifespan.

## **Musicians to perform for Haiti**

By Eric Shapiro

On Fri, Feb 5, 2010

In the wake of the catastrophic 7.0 M earthquake that has devastated Haiti, the Skidmore Community has endeavored to raise money for the island nation's hundreds of thousands of injured, starving and homeless people.

As part of this monumental effort, a plethora of Skidmore musicians are set to perform at a "Harmony for Haiti" concert in Ladd Concert Hall, the newly opened Zankel Music Center on Thursday, Feb. 11, from 8-10 p.m. Performers will include a capella groups The Accents, The Bandersnatchers, Drastic Measures, Dynamics and Soneteers as well as student-faculty bands that wowed audiences at "Beatlemore Skidmania" last semester, including the Rust Brothers.

Admission will be \$5 for Skidmore Students and \$10 for community members. Proceeds will go to Save the Children and Partners in Health.

Additional donations will also be welcomed. To participate in the conversation about the upcoming "Harmony for Haiti" concert or confirm your attendance, check out the Facebook group SkidCare Haiti.



## **The elephant on campus**

### **Filene needs to be used**

On Fri, Feb 5, 2010

Upon returning from winter break, college students were welcomed with the opening of the brand new Arthur Zankel Music Center. With 54,000 square feet of teaching and practice space this \$32.5 million building is sure to provide music students with the facilities they need to perform at their best. With all of the excitement surrounding the Zankel building, though, very little has been said publicly about what the college plans to do with the vacant structure sitting peacefully right next door, the Filene Music Center.

Since the move, Filene is just an empty building. The college has made no public statement on how the facility will be used in future years. It is irresponsible for the college to leave Filene vacant and without a plan when so many departments desperately need extra space for their studies. Although it is impossible to quantify which department most needs the space, it is safe to say that every department at the college would benefit from an expanded work area.

Overcrowding and rapid growth demand expansion but the tough economic times pose financial limitations. Although it is difficult to configure where various departments are going to be placed, the college stands to benefit from the gift of Filene, the abandoned building can serve purpose in housing studios members of the college in some new capacity.

It should be the college's primary goal over the next month to decide what is to be done with the building. They need to make a decision and stick with it. A short-term answer would be for Filene to be cleaned, organized and opened, and then to serve as another available space through which classes can rotate. That would be a fine short-term solution. But what the college needs to focus on is to decide what to do for the long term. It would be a negative mark on the college if there were a building on campus that was left to sit idly for an extended period of time.

Whatever the college decides to do with Filene, it needs to make a decision and stick with it before the building becomes nothing more than just an unhealthy burden, a shabby structure lost in the landscape. Leaving Filene standing empty not only wastes valuable opportunity, but it additionally places an unfavorable view that Skidmore is unable to make use of its resources. Students and faculty should be excited about the Zankel Center. It's a proud day when this college is able to support a music building of that magnitude and expense. Let's not show irresponsibility by letting Filene remain unused.

## Gucci appeals to rap fans

By Wyatt Erchak

On Fri, Feb 5, 2010

Burrr! I'm not saying that because it's winter; rather because the king of ice, Gucci Mane, is out of prison and has finally...wait, scratch that first part (more on that later). Anyway, he has finally released his newest album. Why care? Well, because Gucci Mane has become a Southern rap star, his ad-libs ("burr") becoming omnipresent on the radio and surpassing most others in output and guest appearances.

Gucci Mane, born Radric Davis, began his career by independently releasing debut album *Trap House* in 2005. Its popular street single "Icy" featured fellow Atlanta rapper Young Jeezy. Disputes over rights to the song began a long-lasting feud between the two, not being resolved until recently. Gucci followed up in 2006 with "Hard To Kill," which yielded the successful single "Freaky Gurl." His first studio album, "Back to the Trap House," was released in 2007. Soon after, Gucci began flooding the Southern market with mixtapes and appearing on many other artist's singles, even big names like Mariah Carry and Omarion.

Recording hundreds of songs, he was eventually named "#6 Hottest MC in the Game" by MTV on its 2009 list. Amidst all the hype, Gucci dropped his second studio album, "The State vs. Radric Davis," on Dec. 8, 2009, which became his most successful album to date. But all was not well in Gucci Land. On Nov. 12 he'd been sentenced to a year in prison for violating probation. Nonetheless, the success of the album prompted Gucci to announce from jail that "The State" would be the first in a trilogy of albums to follow in 2010.

"The State" opens with "Classical," an orchestral, piano-driven track. Gucci Mane impresses with a speedy delivery, setting up what he's all about. This is followed by the first of three humorous skits highlighting his prison interactions with an inmate referred to as "Toilet Bowl Shawty." Thankfully, such digressions are few and far between.

In the following track, "Heavy," Gucci spits aggressive rhymes tinged with intriguingly self-conscious musings on the burdens of his ventures over scratchy, frenzied synths. Gucci then goes on to lighten the mood with "Lemonade," a slow drawl tribute to the color yellow (presumably his favorite). The pianos skitter in and out of the relaxed, syrupy bass to create an enjoyably light track. "Bingo" features ascending notes chaotically thrown together into a driving beat as Gucci spits self-indulgent verse. Everyone's favorite toy soldier, Soulja Boy, attempts to do the same. However, his nursery rhymes do

nothing except let you know that he is, in case you haven't heard, "icy as an icicle." Ugh. What should be done with this track? Bingo! Throw it out the window!

"Spotlight," the album's first club track, ticks along over groovy slow synths. Gucci charms with his humorously over-the-top rhymes about the ladies, with Usher lending his pipes to the effort (though he does so with perhaps less shamelessness). The slow, entrancing Zaytoven beat of "I Think I'm In Love" features descending steel drums, with Gucci the playboy again attempting to charm a lady through goofy materialism: "I like your voice, I like your swag/so let nature take its course/Maybe in the future, gorgeous, I can buy you're a\*\* a Porsche."

The trunk-rattling beat of "The Movie" is perfect for Gucci's flamboyant style; the rapper celebrates life in all its excesses, comparing it to a movie (the "Gucci Mane movie," of course). The album's hit single, "Wasted," has Gucci teaming up with super goon Plies to proclaim just how much they love to, well, get wasted. Combined with energetic, winding synths, the song is made for partying.

"Worst Enemy" is the album's best track. The chilling, minor key notes and subdued guitar riffs produce a perfectly somber atmosphere for Gucci. He delves into personal issues, addressing his disputes with other rappers and outlook on his position: "Think about the past and all the many things we talked about/Think of all the people influenced by what comes out our mouths."

"The State vs. Radric Davis" is ultimately a frustrating album. It checks all the boxes of modern rap, yet none are particularly extraordinary. It showcases more of Gucci's personality than ever before, but you're left feeling that, although you've gotten a great idea of just who he is, you'll wish that he showed more of what he's thinking e.g. "Worst Enemy." That doesn't take away from the fact that this is enjoyable, well-produced Southern hip-hop, whose charms will satisfy fans and the casual listener alike. In the case of "The State vs. Radric Davis," the verdict is...burr!

*Wyatt Erchak is a sophomore and history major from upstate New York who knows the stakes are high.*

## Glotzbach devises financial outline for Skidmore

On Fri, Feb 5, 2010

Dear Editors,

The beginning of our new semester represents an appropriate moment to update the Skidmore community regarding our financial situation and address an issue that I know has been very much on all our minds.

As you will recall, last May I announced that we needed to achieve an additional \$3.25 million reduction in continuing expenses, and in September I informed the community that there appeared to be no way to realize this budgetary objective without eliminating from 30 to 70 positions (approximately 5 percent of the College's overall workforce). At the same time, I indicated our determination to explore all possible alternatives for achieving the necessary savings through reductions to the operating budget that did not require the further elimination of positions.

I am very pleased to report that we now are seeing signs of improvement in the College's financial condition relative to our earlier projections. This positive result stems from a number of factors:

- \* While our endowment still has not returned to its level of December 2007 (nearly \$300 million), improvements in the external economic climate have enabled a significant recovery in the College's investment assets - from a low of approximately \$220 million in February 2009 to approximately \$270 million as of December 31. (As always, we have benefited from the superb management of our portfolio by the College's Investment Committee.)
- \* We are seeing hopeful signs of increased financial support by alumni, parents and friends - particularly in the Annual Fund.
- \* The campus community as a whole has done admirable work in reducing and controlling expenses.
- \* We now are planning a smaller increase in the financial aid budget (tuition discounting) in FY '11 than we previously had modeled. (Financial aid remains the College's second largest expenditure category after compensation and benefits.)
- \* Student retention has exceeded predictions, though this situation remains volatile.
- \* The strategic hiring freeze and restrictions in overtime, in place since October 2008, have yielded savings in personnel costs equivalent to approximately 30 positions.

\* The voluntary Early Retirement Incentive Program (ERIP) has yielded savings in personnel costs equivalent to approximately 25 positions, far exceeding our expectations.

These and other factors - most notably the absence of a general salary adjustment (GSA) for the current year with no GSA planned for the following year, and the cost-containment efforts and sacrifices of the entire Skidmore community - have combined to create a stronger financial outlook than could reasonably have been predicted even six months ago.

After reviewing these and other developments with the IPPC and the Budget and Finance Committee of the Board of Trustees, we have determined that it is no longer necessary to seek additional non-voluntary reductions in force (RIF's) from among our full-time employees as part of the FY '11 budget planning process.

We will, however, continue to see changes within our workforce. We will maintain both the strategic hiring freeze and restrictions on overtime for at least one additional year. We also will continue to limit the use of part-time and temporary employees. Furthermore, some positions will be restructured (through reorganizations, work reassignments, changes in positions, union "bumping," etc.), and other positions will have their hours reduced. Those employees who are directly affected will feel these developments acutely, and all of us need to understand that these persons will see reductions in their take-home pay and, in some cases, significant changes in their work. At the same time, these measures will place additional demands on other employees. And the entire community will experience some discomfort as services we came to expect in the past are reduced or eliminated. In short, none of these changes is simple or easy. But we must make them in order to avoid additional cuts to our workforce.

Much work remains to be accomplished as we finalize the FY '11 Operating Budget, which will be presented to the Board of Trustees for approval in May. Some of the challenges we still face include achieving our enrollment targets for fall 2010, while controlling the growth in the financial aid budget and limiting increases to our comprehensive fee in future years in order to bring our "price" and our perceived value into better alignment.

Overall, and I cannot overemphasize this point, we must remain disciplined in continuing to control and reduce expenses across the College. Each of us must understand that we cannot return to a "business-as-usual" mentality. The changes we have made in our operations - and, most importantly, in the way we approach our work - that were prompted by the economic downturn must remain in force, if we are to continue our progress toward reestablishing a sustainable budget that includes appropriate investments in personnel, programs and our physical plant, as well as in financial aid.



Going forward, the time has come to shift our attention from budget reduction to making the strategic choices required to meet the needs of our students while addressing the primary challenge before us: improving our ability to continue recruiting well prepared and diverse entering classes in the face of changing demographics, the economic obstacle represented by our high comprehensive fee and increasing competition for students from schools that are older, better funded and historically more prestigious. I ask for your support as we continue our work to ensure the strength and quality of our academic and co-curricular programs, access for our students and affordability for their families.

We will share additional information about the Operating Budget for FY '11 and answer any questions that you may have at community meetings on Feb. 3 and 4, and at the Faculty Meeting on Feb. 5. But I wanted everyone to have the information presented above immediately.

Finally, let me take this opportunity to thank all members of the Skidmore community for your important contributions throughout this period of adjustment. Our sense of community, our creative problem solving and our understanding that we must place the good of the College ahead of our individual interests and desires truly make us the special institution that we are.

Thank you for your attention and your good work on behalf of Skidmore.

-Philip A. Glotzbach, Skidmore College President

## So a couple fruit flies walk into a bar...

By Alex Brehm,  
On Fri, Feb 5, 2010

So a couple fruit flies walk into a bar...

Not a surprise for bartenders in at least one part of the country.

Biologists at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) have discovered that they can turn fruit flies into alcoholics. The experiment started out simply by setting up two food sources for the flies: one was a tube filled with just sugar and yeast, and one contained sugar and yeast with ethanol, the same alcohol you find in liquor and beer.

At certain periods, the researchers checked the tubes and documented how much flies ate from each tube - the tube with ethanol was always lower. Flies immediately showed a preference for consuming the ethanol-laced food.

The researchers continued their observations for five days. Interestingly, the flies' preferences for alcohol increased over time-every day, flies ate the ethanol food more and more, and ate the regular food less and less, like a freshman pushing the limits of his tolerance every Saturday night.

On the first day of the experiment, each fly ate an average of .7 ML (micro-liters) of ethanol food compared to .5 ML of plain food. But on the fifth day, flies ate 1 ML with ethanol compared to .4 without - like taking two and a half shots with every handful of chips.

Although flies were consuming alcohol in quantities that would actually impair their motor skills (even fruit flies can blackout), the researchers wanted to clearly demonstrate that the flies were addicted to ethanol. They decided to prove this by showing that flies would push through some harmful, negative stimulus to get to the alcohol.

They settled on the simple option of putting a chemical in the alcoholic food that would interact with the flies' antennae and signal danger from eating the food. It didn't matter to the flies; they still ate more alcoholic food than non-alcoholic.

Tally up what the researchers found: flies started out trying ethanol instead of plain food, built up a tolerance, ate it more and more and finally ignored obvious danger in order to get to the ethanol. It's America's classic drunken stereotype.

This is an important discovery for research into human alcoholism and addiction in general. Because fruit flies quickly reproduce and go through several generations in a short time, biologists use them to simulate genetic effects in humans. With the discovery that flies react to alcohol in a manner similar to humans, scientists can use fruit fly families to answer more questions about how people become addicted to drugs and alcohol.

The experiment also brings up questions about the notion of addiction in this country. To the researchers, the critical sign to call the flies "addicted" came when the flies overcame some signal of harm to get to the alcohol. Displaying a habit of preferring alcohol and imbibing until intoxication were other important factors in the experiment.

But does that downplay the nature of addiction in people? When do we say someone is "addicted" to something? And to what kinds of things do we say people can become addicted? The popular idea of addiction is much broader than the definition these scientists have used. The report itself admits, "No animal model will ever be perfect for alcoholism, because it is a human phenomenon influenced by social, cultural, and cognitive factors." Does this represent a breakthrough in medical research, or the beginning of a long distraction?

No matter what happens next, the next time I raise a glass, I'm toasting the fruit fly.

*Alex Brehm is a sophomore economics major with the impetuous notion that he can just become a journalist.*

## Haiti relief efforts inspire the campus

By Kristin Travagline

On Fri, Feb 5, 2010

Imagine if New Orleans didn't just have to deal with Katrina, but two more hurricanes and a magnitude seven earthquake. "It puts the situation in a little more perspective," said Professor Winston Grady-Willis, director for Intercultural Studies.

Skidmore clubs, faculty and individual students have been organizing Haiti crisis relief efforts for the upcoming weeks and setting long-term goals. "There is a pool of volunteers ready and willing to help... and we are finding a way for everyone to do their part," Elana Hazghia '10 said.

The upsurge in interest has led to initial organizational concerns. Efforts are being made to streamline charitable actions, but individuals disagree as to the effectiveness. Professor James Kennelly, director of International Affairs, admitted that while there are "a lot of different initiatives and tracks that students are going down, we are not walking forward like a well oiled machine."

Steps were taken to organize event planning. An interactive calendar was added to the Student Government Association Web site, where students and faculty can log on and publicize their events. "It really helps when we can at least know what others are doing so there is no duplication of efforts," Grady-Willis said.

A Facebook group, SkidCare Haiti, was also started to organize planning and discussion. "It's a good place to advertise Haiti related events and information, and to communicate what's going on," Hazghia said.

To insure that funds are donated to credible associations, SGA has selected three charities that it encourages people to donate to: Partners in Health, American Red Cross and Fonkoze.

Partners in Health was founded by Dr. Paul Farmer in 1987. "Mountains Beyond Mountains," written by Tracy Kidder, is a biographical work that describes Farmer's life and charitable works in Haiti. The members of the class of 2011 read this work during their First Year Experience program.

Fonkoze is Haiti's largest microcredit organization, founded by the Rev. Joseph Philippe. Philippe is a community organizer from Fondwa, a rural village in Haiti. Phillippe will be on campus on Friday, Feb. 5. He will attend the SGA garage sale from 3-4 p.m. The garage sale is being held in conjunction with the

club fair, on the first floor of Case Center. The garage sale continues until 5 p.m. All proceeds will benefit Haiti.

Several relief events have already taken place. A general interest meeting was held on Jan. 25. Those who attended addressed the efforts taking place, the goals on which the college should focus, and the plans the college has for the future. Richard Chrisman, director of Religious and Spiritual Life, estimated that 25-to-30 people attended the meeting and there was a "good mix of students, staff and faculty."

Chrisman emphasized the importance of being in spiritual solidarity with Haiti. "To just observe the moment is very important. It makes the whole impossible thing a little more real. It is so horrible that you suddenly become inert. Prayer activates the soul," he said.

Chrisman plans on eventually designating one hour per week in the chapel for students to informally meditate and pray. The theme for the hour will be "Pray for Haiti, Pray for the World."

On Feb. 1 a Teach-In was held in the Spa. Faculty gave informal speeches on Haitian culture and history. Almost all of the seats in the Spa were filled. In addition to other faculty members, Professor Aldo Vaccs of the Government Department spoke about Haiti's historical relationship with the United States. Professor Lisa Aronson of the Art History Department spoke about Haitian visual culture. Kennelly expressed a hope that the Teach-In will be "the first in a number of lectures, panels and visitors."

Professor Jordana Dym, director of Latin American Studies, recalled, "A student said to me 'I care, but it didn't really affect my daily life.' Our day to day life is the same, so how do we retain the sense of urgency?" By trying to educate about Haiti, instead of focusing solely on fundraising, faculty hope to keep Haiti in the forefront of students' minds. In keeping with these efforts, faculty dedicated five minutes of their class time on Feb. 2 to discuss Haiti. If students wish to learn more about Haiti, a book display is presently available in the library.

Dym expressed the difficulties involved in maintaining an educational stance on Haiti. "There has been a debate in the last two weeks about whether or not you can teach Haiti as part of Latin American history. It has always been important to my curriculum. For me, it's a surprising question.... Sometimes we need to ask what's going on first in order to help," she said.

On-going charity efforts are taking place. Donation jars were dispersed throughout campus, including in Burgess Café. Clubs that wish to collect donations may pick up donation jars from the SGA office or from Michelle Hubbs, director of Community Service Programs. The collected money will go to a general SGA donation fund, focused on the three selected charities. If they wish, clubs may fund a different charity.

A brochure is also circulating that highlights five things to know about Haiti, five ways you can help and five on campus resources. The brochure will be distributed in the near future and made available in the SGA office.

There are several charity events taking place in the near future. Harmony for Haiti will be held on Feb. 11. Tickets are \$5 for students and \$10 for general admission. The starting time was changed from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. The concert will be the first student led performance held in the new Zankel Music Center. Campus a capella groups, student bands and student-faculty bands will perform. "It's going to be huge, enormous," Hazghia said.

Larger scale goals were also suggested for the more distant future. A spring break service trip to Haiti is not presently possible, but is being considered for the future. Also being considered is a telegram expressing condolences, a Haitian food day fundraiser in the Murray-Aikins Dining Hall, a 5K run and a letter writing campaign.

Students and faculty expressed importance in remembering the strength of the Haitian people. Kennelly described Haitians as being "a profoundly hopeful people."

Grady-Willis agreed, "When you look at the shattered nation-state, it is important to remember that Haitian people are incredibly resilient...We have to help Haiti help itself."

## Amherst professor to lecture on MLK, religion

By Bradley Morris  
On Fri, Feb 5, 2010

On Feb. 11, Barbara Love, a professor from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, will deliver the keynote speech for Skidmore's annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. memorial observance.

The Office of Student Diversity Programs and Office of Religious and Spiritual Life are sponsoring the lecture, which will take place at 7 p.m. in the Gannett auditorium.

Skidmore plans an event for Martin Luther King Day, a federal holiday, on a yearly basis.

While Skidmore traditionally celebrates the holiday in January, Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Jan. 18 birthday was one week prior to spring semester this year. In response, Skidmore's Martin Luther King Day planning committee moved the event to early February.

Richard Chrisman, the director of Religious and Spiritual Life, proposed bringing a speaker to campus to lecture on the religious aspect of Martin Luther King's leadership role throughout the Civil Rights Movement.

"We went after her [Love] expressly because our subject is mainly known as Dr. King, not Rev. King, and I was looking for someone who knew the religious side of the Civil Rights Movement and could talk about the Gandhi-King connection," Chrisman said.

The committee agreed with Chrisman's focus and subsequently searched for a scholar who is knowledgeable of King's focus on religion, work as a reverend and Gandhi-influenced commitment to non-violence during the Civil Rights Movement.

Mariel Martin, director of Student Diversity Programs, supported Chrisman's decision to invite Love because she has attended Love's lectures in the past.

"She [Love] is widely sought out as a speaker nationally," Chrisman said.

Love has addressed audiences on King's commitment to religion and Gandhi's peaceful message.

She has discussed social change and empowerment of women of color and has written about internalized racism and black identity development.



Love recently attended a United Nations World Conference to end racism last summer in Durban, South Africa.

When the committee contacted Love she embraced the engagement. "She was very eager to accept the invitation," Martin said.

Martin believes Skidmore students should attend the lecture to become more informed of the influence Gandhi's nonviolent philosophy had on the Civil Rights Movement.

"We [the Skidmore community] forget about his religious view and using Gandhi's strongly in the civil rights movement," she said.

Beyond the religious element of the lecture, Chrisman encourages students to attend the lecture to realize the importance of race relations in America.

"Race is our number one issue in the U.S., and I want students to remain ever hopeful of reconciliation between the races," he said.

"We [the Skidmore Martin Luther King committee] just want people to come away with awareness in the great role of religion in the Civil Rights Movement," Chrisman added.

The lecture was organized as an event to pay homage to King past Martin Luther King Day.

While the national holiday already passed, February is Black History Month.





## Zankel opens doors to community

By Audrey Nelson  
On Fri, Feb 5, 2010

After over 20 years of discussion and 33 months of construction, Skidmore's Arthur Zankel Music Center is complete.

The building is a voluminous 54,000 square-feet, over twice the size of the Therese W. Filene Music Building. Music majors are enthusiastic about the spaciousness of Zankel, which cost \$32.5 million to build.

The initial funding came from the late Arthur Zankel, a Skidmore trustee who donated \$46 million to the college-the largest gift in Skidmore history-\$15 million of the college's was allocated to the music center.

The remainder of his gift has funded numerous other opportunities, including a Zankel scholarship for need-base students from New York City and the establishment of an arts administration program.

Parents, alumni and various donors provided additional financial support, which will be used towards a keyboard lab, in-class pianos, musical staff, white boards and sound systems in the classrooms.

"There's so much more space [in Zankel] and there always seems to be a practice room open," Aaron Wallace '12 said. He is especially grateful to have two lockers in which to store his clarinet and saxophone.

Kim Davie '11 is also pleased with the new facilities. Her favorite changes from Filene are the soundproof classrooms and practice rooms. "Before, you could clearly hear the piano in the room next door during class, which was pretty distracting," Davie said.

The Music Department faculty is delighted by the new music center and pleased with the transition from Filene.

"You never knew when a light fixture would fall on you," said Gordon Thompson, a professor in the Music Department, in reference to Filene in a joking manner. With the additional space he can now teach 40 students in his "1960s British Rock" course compared to the 30 available spots last semester.

The building holds both administrative offices for faculty and classroom space for professors and students. Music students will have exclusive access to the building at night by swiping their Skidmore ID cards. Rehearsal bands, however, will not.

Zankel also features the 600-seat Helen Filene Ladd Concert Hall, a considerable increase from the relatively intimate 235-seat Filene Recital Hall in the Filene Music Building.

The new concert hall features three tiers, including a balcony, and the stage lies before a three-story glass wall.

The hall includes surround sound, a projector and sprung floors that absorb jump impacts during dance performances. "We look forward to talking with the Dance and Theater departments, particularly since it is now possible to have live music during performances," said Thomas Denny, professor and chair of the Music Department.

The apron of the stage descends into an orchestra pit and the platform could rise to add stage space or descend to audience level to create more seating.

Acoustically tunable, the hall can adjust the level of resonance to host a full orchestra, classical guitar performance and other types of shows.

The music center also has a rehearsal room for choruses, bands, jazz ensembles and chamber ensembles, including the 90-seat Elisabeth Luce Moore Hall.

Groups outside of the college community will benefit from the new facilities as well. Ensemble ACJW, a music group from the Capitol District, will perform in the "Carnegie Hall Premiers" series in at 8 p.m. on Feb.5 in Zankel.

The music center will host high-profile events and lectures unrelated to music in the future.

The final portion of the vast new music center stores geothermal heating and cooling systems, which Northwoods and the Murray Atkins Dining Hall also hold. The system creates a 65 percent humidity level favorable to certain wooden instruments.

The system is projected to reduce energy costs and carbon emissions. Zankel also includes other sustainable elements, such as the use of recycled materials and renewable supplies in the lobby and concert hall.

"The stunning facility will provide a gateway not for just the campus, but also for a new era in the college's already rich musical tradition," Denny said.

## Swimmers prepare for home stretch

By Rebecca Orbach & Mara Wood

On Fri, Feb 5, 2010

On Jan. 30, in one of the last home meets of the season, Skidmore's men's and women's swimming and diving teams competed against the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Engineers, a very tough team and a formidable opponent.

The men ended up losing with a score of 78-158, and the women ended up with a final tally of 69-166. Despite the loss, however, their team still enjoyed a number of individual successes during the meet.

On the diving side, sophomore Doug Pilawa had great success, sweeping away the competition with scores of 266.709 for the 3-meter dive and 281.859 for the 1-meter. Pilawa was named Liberty League co-diver of the week for his scores.

Junior Stephen Lento placed second in both the 200 IM and the 500 Free with times of 2:08.23 and 5:13.74 respectively. First year Jesse Adler swam the 100 Back and earned second-place with a time of 59.55 in what was a very close race.

Senior John Tyler Norton, with a time of 1:06.93 came in second in the 100 Breast, while first year Kyle Bessa-McManus represented Skidmore proudly by finishing in second in the 50 Frees (24.73).

The women's team also swam hard. Senior Sonia Segal-Smith had an impressive day, helping the team greatly with her three second-place finishes in the 100 Free (58.71), 100 Breast (1:16.96) and 1000 Free (11:07.30).

Her success was reinforced by those of her teammates, such as first year Carrie Koch, who had two third-place finishes, representing the team in the 200 IM with a time of 2:25.87 and the 500 Free, finishing at 5:41.98.

Sophomore Alena Chubet came in second place in the 100 Back (1:07.00), while Elaine Burns came in third in the 200 Free (2:07.35).

The team spent a grueling two weeks over winter break in constant swim training, usually around two hours a day, almost everyday.

One week was spent on a training trip to Florida. Though undoubtedly exhausting, and a time stealer from a well-earned winter break, the trip was essential to keep up with a busy time in the season.

According to senior Ben Forman, "It's really tough but you come out of it in possibly the best shape of your life. It's painful but at the end of the season it's worth it. It also helps instill team spirit and identity."

Forman continued, "From this point on, people are only going to get better. We will be easing off in our training until the final culmination of the season at States. We have good hope for success there."

The women's team competes again on Saturday, Feb. 6 in the Skidmore Women's Invitational, as part of the college's participation in National Girls and Women in Sports Day.

The men will return to action on Feb. 13, when they travel to Poughkeepsie to compete in the men's invitational at Vassar College.

## **MJ's cold words as a cold reminder**

By Hunter Prichard

On Fri, Feb 5, 2010

If one good thing came out of Michael Jordan's recent Hall of Fame induction speech, it was that it reminded the world who he really was.

Jordan's speech was criticized for the brutalizing, damaging way he spoke about his former teammates, coaches and opponents.

The speech washed away any praise or accommodations that he received over the years. It jogged everyone's memory that the real Jordan was an abusive, egocentric dirt bag who was either hated or feared by nearly everyone he played with or against.

"The Jordan Rules," by journalist Sam Smith, was published in 1993 after Jordan's third straight title and in the midst of his shocking retirement from the sport.

Because it was believed that Jordan was forever done with the game, Smith took advantage of the opportunity by providing readers with every inside story and jab at Jordan in his retelling of his first title in 1991.

The reporting begins at the conclusion of the Bulls '90 season when the team lost in the playoffs against the rival Detroit Pistons. Early MJ was a cultural marketing icon, and although he was winning MVP awards and scoring titles, it was believed around the league that he would never win a championship.

His selfish play and inability to trust his teammates turned the focus onto him; a good team could shut down the Bulls squad by putting several defenders on Jordan and then watch him struggle as he tried to score on his own.

This all changed when Phil Jackson became head coach in 1989. Jackson needed to make a change. He decided to transform the Bulls offense from just relying on the skill of Jordan into a more team-oriented game.

He also started to play Jordan fewer minutes, with the reasoning that he would be healthier and better rested for the playoffs.



Like we know now, the Bulls won its first title in the 1991 season. The team was in first place throughout the entire season, finished with a then franchise best 61 wins and Jordan won his second MVP. Behind the scenes though, things were far from perfect.

Although the Bulls were beating most teams, there were few who believed that the team could win in the playoffs, especially against a powerhouse like Detroit.

Jackson was a young coach in the league with little respect for the inexperienced. His odd, flower child, political activist lifestyle made him an unfamiliar personality to the modern NBA athlete.

Not only did he feud with a young Jordan who wanted the ball in his hands at all times, but he also had to deal with complaints from other members of the team about playing time and their own shot selection.

NBA players learn early that although championships might come from team-ball, All-Star selections and max-contracts come from good personal statistics.

If you were part of the Bulls, and were neither Jordan nor Scottie Pippen, then any sort of pay raise was a foreign concept.

Jordan didn't help the cause much. He treated his teammates like co-workers; he thought they were all worthless players and openly demanded that the Bulls do more work in trying to bring in a championship-caliber supporting cast.

He began to wear out, began to think about an early retirement; basketball became a profession instead of a game.

As the season wore on, the Bulls began fielding offers for him, even seriously contemplating a trade with the Los Angeles Clippers for players and draft picks.

Jordan himself went to his agent to try to finagle a way to opt out of the final year in his contract.

Smith's reporting is informative, even if it's a bit random in its order. There is no withholding of information, but one has to sift through the uninteresting game-by-game statistics in order to grab the most interesting tidbits. Information is sometimes repeated, and Smith often goes on tangents about different players and situations that feel oddly placed together.

It's sometimes difficult to move from some significant detail about Jordan to a different story about Scottie Pippen to Bill Cartwright to John Paxson and back in only a couple pages.



However, for those interested in Michael Jordan and his true persona, this would be a fascinating read.

As someone who has turned into a large-than-life figure, a commercialized brand, it's hard to believe that Jordan went through so many struggles at an early age; that he was so disliked by teammates and others around the league.

Although his Hall of Fame speech might've been a shock to many people, it really shouldn't be when considering his life and career in pro basketball.

## World soccer: European leagues enter second leg

By Stefan Cocorelis

On Fri, Feb 5, 2010

European soccer is back after the winter break with the interest and excitement growing throughout the continent as the teams head into the second and final stage of their respective leagues.

With the first half of the season already done and with the title races so close in certain countries, it will certainly be interesting to see if the challengers will have what it takes to win their respective trophies come late May.

In European soccer, all top-level national leagues are composed of a certain number of teams, all of whom will play each other twice at some point in the season.

The games are divided into two rounds, the first round, taking place in the fall and early winter, and the second round in the late winter and early spring.

At the end of the first round, each team will have had a chance to play each other at least once, and everyone knows more or less who the real title contenders are.

In the second round, however, the drama intensifies, as a single slip-up could cost a team the title. History has shown that the second round of the season is what makes or, in some cases, breaks teams.

Since in Europe the quality of each league increases every year, the drama and the intensity of the second round also increases accordingly, with many title races coming down to the final games in order to determine the champion.

This year, excitement and suspense have not been absent from the European leagues. In many countries, the race is heating up and the team that is ahead has not been there for a long time.

This season, the English Premier League has had one of the most interesting races, with Chelsea, Manchester United and Arsenal leading the table with a very small difference between them. These three teams have all been at the top at some point in the season and it will be very interesting to see which team will eventually finish out the season ahead.

Germany's Bundesliga also has not let any excitement go to waste as it continues a great tradition of a thrilling second round. Last year, the league leaders changed every match day with the title eventually going for the first time to Wolfsburg in a thrilling season. This year does not seem to be any different





with FC Bayern Munich, Bayern Leverkusen and FC Schalke all at the top of their respective tables with no more than a point separating them.

The same applies this year in Portugal with Benfica and FC Braga heading up the title race with the same number of points.

There are always some leagues, however, where the leader is fairly well entrenched at the front of the pack. This can be said about the French Ligue 1 and, more specifically, FC Girondins de Bordeaux. With the second round underway, the team finds itself in a very comfortable pole position with minimal odds for an upset.

The same can be said to some extent in Italy's Serie A where Inter Milan are comfortably in the lead.

There are some leagues, however, where, even though there is a team with a comfortable lead, the team behind them is ready for an upset. This can be said about Spain's La Liga and Super League Greece. In Spain, Real Madrid is keeping its hopes up for arch rivals FC Barcelona to slip up in what could prove to be a very interesting homestretch. In Greece, Olympiakos reduced the difference to 5 points from current leaders Panathinaikos, something which could prove to breath new life into the league.

Overall, the second round of the European Leagues should prove to be interesting and very exciting.

## SGA debates \$340K surplus

By Michael Mandelkern

On Fri, Feb 5, 2010

The college's Student Senate, the legislative body of the Student Government Association (SGA), held the first meeting of its 13th session on Feb. 2.

The Senate discussed potential ways to spend the SGA's \$340,000 budget surplus. SGA currently has an endowment of \$650,000. The budget is generated from Skidmore's Student Activity Fee, which brings the SGA \$319.50 per student enrollment. The money goes toward a club fee, hall dues, classes and an assessment of the Skidmore Pavillion Corporation, a New York State-recognized not-for-profit corporation that paid for Falstaff's operation. Over-enrollment for the past several years and interest rate profits from prior to the Great Recession have generated the excess \$340,000.

With the money still idle, there is pressure to put it to use. "It's our duty as SGA officers to allocate that money appropriately to suit the students' needs," said Raina Bretan '10, SGA president. "We shouldn't have large amounts of money hanging around unallocated," said Barbara Schallehn, assistant director of Leadership Activities.

After Schallehn outlined the status of the SGA's endowment, the Senate debated where the funds should be placed. Senator Jon Schneider '10, vice president for Communication and Outreach, proposed constructing a new building on campus with various purposes. "It could be very flexible," he said.

Schallehn assured him that such an investment is feasible when he expressed skepticism of physically planning such a project.

Senator Andrew Lichtenberg '11, president of Jonsson Tower and treasurer of the Running Club, offered support for Schneider's idea. "It's definitely doable to build another building with our money," Lichtenberg said.

Other senators presented more humble ambitions. Senator Emma Blumer '10, vice president for Diversity Affairs, stressed the importance of funding having a long-term benefit. "It has to be distributed wisely," she said. Blumer also suggested that the money could fund study breaks for an extended period of time.

Some senators emphasized the potential academic benefit the surplus could bring. Wilmarth President Alexis Curry '12 and Senator-at-Large Kate Millar '12 proposed funding for scholarships and

internships. "It should be directly for the students," Millar said. Senator-at-Large Alex Bland '12 agreed with Millar's proposal. "Grants for internships is one of the best things we can do," Bland said. He also voiced fiscal conservatism by suggesting SGA save the money in case the budget reaches a deficit in the future.

SGA has been investing its surplus at a five-percent interest rate until the Great Recession deepened in late-2008, after which the money transferred into a more secure amount. After the forum on SGA's surplus, Claire Solomon '10, vice president for Academic Affairs, presented a resolution proposing a decrease in student membership on the Committee for Educational Policies and Planning (CEPP), a part of Willingness-to-Serve. She expressed that CEPP, the all-college committee that reviews Academic Policies and Planning, has not had the second student position filled.

Thomas Rivera '13, president of the Class of 2013, voiced hesitancy of only having one student chair a CEPP committee. "I do think two minds work better than one," he said. He spoke strongly that SGA should promote the positions more extensively to avoid cutting positions and avoid precedent for reducing membership in other SGA committees. Schneider backed Solomon's approach, citing that on Academic Council one person sitting on represents all other members, not just him or herself.

*In other news:*

- Senator Daniel DeMartini '11, Scribner senator, advocated drafting a condensed description of the student body's leadership role in the Skidmore community. He is collaborating with Michelle Hubbs, director of Community Service Programs.
- The SGA rescheduled its election speech night for new positions to 6 p.m. on Feb. 9 in the Spa. Elections will take place from Feb. 10 to Feb. 12.

*Senate meets at 8 p.m. on Tuesdays in Ladd 307.*

## Faculty granted \$750K

By Rebecca Orbach & Mara Wood

On Fri, Feb 5, 2010

Skidmore has received a \$750,000 grant from the Andrew Mellon Foundation to extend the tenure of anticipated retiring faculty and hire new faculty for the next three years.

The Mellon Foundation has granted funds to various liberal arts colleges, such as Union College, Hamilton College, Colgate University, Hobart and William Smith Colleges and St. Lawrence University.

Skidmore has received grants from the organization in the past to help increase its collaboration with other academic institutions, enhance sabbatical support for professors and assist professor exchanges between schools.

The grant has arrived during a deep national recession that has affected the college and made hiring new faculty financially unfeasible for colleges across the country.

In addition, a significant portion of the college's 135 tenured professors is nearing retirement. The grant provides funding to extend their presence at the college.

Over half of tenured professors will be eligible for retirement within this decade.

"This grant will allow us to invest in the future of Skidmore's faculty and ensure stability and smooth transitions over a period where there may be clusters of retirements," said Susan Kress, VP of Academic Affairs.

To ensure a smooth transition, nine faculty members are in phased retirement in which professors teach part-time for one to five years.

Three new faculty members will be hired in different departments, including the Economics Department. The college will announce the other two departments in which the college plans to hire new staff within the next couple of months.

The hiring process is already underway for the Economics Department, which is expecting campus visits within the next couple of months.

The department received many applicants for the position and is upgrading a non-tenure track position to a tenure-track position.



The Economics Department is looking forward to strengthening its faculty. "It is an exciting opportunity," said Mehmet Odekon, chair of the Economics Department.

The other two grant-funded positions will not be tenured. Kress will not have details on them for several months.

The college is seeking professors who are scholarly, creative and display a high level of quality citizenship.

The college hopes for faculty members who have taken part in committees in previous academic institutions, published articles and essays and shown great interest in joining the Skidmore community.

"Good planning dictates that we hire some people who are closer to the mid-level of their careers, to ensure the overall strength of a department and avoid clusters of faculty at the same level of experience," Kress said, in reference to the grant application.

During the final stage of the hiring process, potential faculty will visit the campus to meet current professors and demonstrate their commitment to joining the community in person.

The college seeks highly dedicated and eager professors.

"We never have as many recourses as we have ambitions," Kress said.

The college has expressed its appreciation for the \$750,000 grant.

"One of the great delights of this grant is that it allows us to build and sustain excellence of faculty. It is an unusual grant to get and it is something to celebrate," Kress said. "We are grateful for this support from the Mellon Foundation, which has been a generous and committed friend of the college, particularly in its support of faculty."

## Flooding evacuate Dining Hall

By Michael Mandelkern

On Fri, Feb 5, 2010

At 8:56 p.m. on Feb. 2 a sprinkler system pipe in the ceiling of the southwestern corner of the Murray-Atkins Dining Hall froze and then collapsed, prompting the alarm system to go off and a student evacuation.

Massive amounts of water spurted out of the pipe, flooding the area around Semolina's pasta station by about two inches. Three Saratoga Springs Fire Department units arrived on the scene three minutes after the incident.

All students and employees were outside of the dining hall once the fire department arrived.

"It wasn't safe to have people in the facility," said William Canney, director of Dining Services.

Once the flooding was controlled, Dining Hall supervisors, Facilities Services staff and Housekeeping staff re-entered to apply cleaning chemicals to the floor, shampoo the rug and extract the water, which spilled throughout a vast portion of the Dining Hall. By 9 p.m. all student employees left.

"It was a smooth evacuation," Canney said.

Rebecca Orbach '13 was present at the Dining Hall during that time but only witnessed people leaving the Dining Hall, not the pipe breakage.

"Everyone slowly walked out, it didn't seem urgent," she said.

A significant factor of the safe transition outside of the Dining Hall was that there was a relatively low turnout of customers that night.

Canney, however, believes that the procedure would have run smoothly at a peak hour in the daytime as well.

"I think it still would've been a smooth evacuation, just a large inconvenience," he said.

At 10:29 p.m. Dan Rodecker, director of Facilities Services, confirmed that the fire alarms and sprinkler system had been reset.

The staff bypassed the broken pipe in order for the system to function again.

"We wouldn't have re-opened with a non-functioning sprinkler system," Canney said.

No food was affected by the accident and the Dining Hall opened for breakfast at 7 a.m. the following day.

Canney contemplated opening the Spa at 7 a.m. Feb. 3 in case the Dining Hall was not ready but that was not necessary.

There were no reports of injuries or students splashed by pipe water, and no belongings were damaged.

The only tables hit had steel tops, so the wood was not warped. The Executive Chef office experienced minor flooding but no technology was damaged.

The ceiling, however, needs repair and the walls nearby the affected area will be re-painted. The new pipe had to be placed in to bypass the broken one.

The pipe rupture was caused by the frigid outside temperature that night.

"It happens from time to time," Canney said. The Dining Hall will continue operations as usual.

Following the unexpected event, hungry customers flocked to the Burgess Café. Simon Grimes, a Dining Services employee, acted as a temporary supervisor at Burgess. His co-workers at the Dining Hall forewarned him about the mass influx of students.

"You are about to get mobbed," Grimes said in reference to his conversation with co-workers.

Pre-packaged meals, chips, milk, baked goods and smoothies were in higher demand than usual. "The food got hit pretty good," Grimes said.

He had to restock milk three times and by 10:30 p.m. there were only two meals left, while by 2 a.m., when Burgess closes, there are usually a few left.

After 9 p.m. there is usually a scant amount of students purchasing goods.

"My shift [9 to 11:15 p.m.] is usually completely empty," said Sam Hoffman '13, a student Dining Services employee.

There was no momentary increase in staff to accommodate the unexpected crowd.

Grimes described the atmosphere at Burgess shortly after the pipe broke in the Dining Hall as overrun.

"I've never seen anything like this before," he said.

Despite the large crowd, by 10:30 p.m. students had a sense of what occurred at the Dining Hall and no one left hungry.

"It's not a huge inconvenience for me," Dan Baker '12 said.

While the disruption was minor, those who evacuated the Dining Hall remained confused.

"People wanted to know what happened," Grimes said.





## Searching for summer work

Career Services encourages students to begin job hunt in winter

By Audrey Nelson

On Fri, Feb 12, 2010

It may still be single digits outside, but applications for summer jobs and internships are already open. An ideal place to start applications, whether or not a student has successfully searched for an internship in the past or is clueless about the process, is Career Services.

The staff offers guidance with resumes, cover letters and applications and also gives advice for interviews. "We will ask students about their interests, where they want to work, and what they hope to get out of the experience, whether its learning about a non-profit or working in a museum gallery," said Penny Loretto, Assistant Director and Internship Coordinator.

Loretto explained that the three best search tactics are networking, prospecting, and internship and job listings. Networking involves a student asking parents, friends, professors or any other potential connection, to be considered for an internship or employment opportunity. Prospecting works best for students who already know of a specific organization they want to work with, or students searching in smaller towns. This approach involves contacting specific organizations for a job or internship, whether they list openings or not.

Searching for job and internship listings is where the links on Career Services' website become most helpful. Loretto strongly encourages students to sign up with Skidmore CareerLink; an account with CareerLink gives students access to multiple search engines that require membership. A preferred link for national and international searches is [www.internships.com](http://www.internships.com), which can search a desired field of interest, as well as a specific location, with options such as paid or unpaid and credit or no credit.

CareerLink also posts local opportunities and jobs offered by Skidmore. Within each account is the Liberal Arts Career Network, a consortium of 30 liberal arts colleges, which all post job and internship listings, so that students can access positions outside of their college's awareness as well. Finally, signing up for this service will give students access to the career service newsletter. If an opportunity is found that matches a student's search criteria, the information is forwarded to the student via email.

For those interested in receiving academic credit with their internship, as many internships require, there is a process that students should begin reviewing now. The online forms offer guidance, however, setting up an hour-long appointment with Career Services should also clear up any questions. During a

for-credit internship, a personal faculty advisor will assign homework and projects throughout the experience. There are two deadlines to apply: the first is by May 21st, and the second is June 25th. To acquire credit, there is a fee of \$600 per credit hour received. Depending on the amount of time devoted to your internship, you can receive between one and nine semester hours.

There is also an opportunity to receive funding for an internship, including the "Summer Internships Awards Program" and "Levine Internship Award." Loretto also explained a new project where the Parents Council will award funds to one student to allow the completion of an internship. Each award is worth \$2500.

"It's best to start early, devote time each week just as you would for studying, and continue applying until you hear back from someone," Loretto advised. Career Services has walk in hours, listed on their website for quick questions, but is also available by appointment for more thorough advice.

For more information, visit the Skidmore Career Services Web site at <http://cms.skidmore.edu/career>.



## Carnegie Hall performance thrills

ACJW concert a fitting premier event for Zankel performance hall

By Andrew Lane-Lawless

On Fri, Feb 12, 2010

On Feb. 5, members of the ACJW ensemble performed at the opening of Helen Filene Ladd performance hall in Zankel. Though not the official opening of the hall, which will take place next October, it was the culmination of many years of planning and construction.

The Arthur Zankel Music Center is still under construction. Days before its debut concert, the hall was still being fine-tuned and the microphones were still being put in. Yet, walking in on the night of the concert, both the sounds and the sights were stunning.

The event functioned as the showcase for the new hall. By the time the pre-concert talk started just after 7 p.m., the majestic and spacious new hall was almost entirely filled and there was a definite air of anticipation.

Commenting on the size and superb sound of the hall, bass player Evan Premo commented, "A lot of it has to do with how quietly you can play in this space...it has an incredible silence." Others affirmed this and if that wasn't testament enough, the sparkle and crispness of the sound when the musicians commenced playing certainly was.

Glotzbach spoke about the coming together of the Carnegie Hall Program and the college, something Arthur Zankel had claimed to be in favor of preceding his death in 2005. The chair of the music department, Professor Tom Denny, spoke of the connection as being an important factor in choosing the ACJW ensemble for the debut concert in the new building that bears his name. As noted, the music department could have gone with any group or artist, within certain limits. The fact that it selected ACJW is a testament to the ensemble's ability.

The two works by older composers, the Prokofiev's Quintet in G Minor and Shostakovich's Piano Trio No. 2 in E Minor, each showcased the skill of the ACJW ensemble cast. The former, one of Prokofiev's typically difficult and thorny compositions, was vibrant and lean, with the swells of chromatic harmonies and intricate interplay between instruments sounding natural and unforced.

The Shostakovich piece, written during World War II and featuring themes taken from Jewish folk songs, was dark and brooding. As pianist Angelina Gadeliya noted, the Shostakovich piece deals largely with



death and, fittingly, parts of it were even played at his funeral. The musicians captured the gloomy sentiment underlying the piece, especially in the third movement, when the music reached its most contemplative and dour moment.

The highlight of the night turned out to be the new piece, Gumboots. Written in 2008 by David Bruce as a commission for Carnegie Hall, it includes many elements of African dance music in string quartet format with clarinet. Part I of the piece built tension between the string quartet that carried through the hall with growing force, but never fully exploded, reaching a peak tension and then slowly fading out behind a repeating arpeggio figure from the viola.

However, during Part II, a group of five dances, took the lingering tension and released it cathartically in a string of buoyant and breezy movements. The highlight of these was the fifth dance, which showcased clarinetist Sarah Beaty's immense talent. Her trills and shrill tone wove in and out, leading each piece. In the fifth dance, these trills came in waves, each one reaffirming the last and giving it a sense of unity, recalling its triumphs in the final moments with just the right sense of nostalgia and without sounding like a retread. The piece received a standing ovation and again at the end of the concert, when all the performers walked back out, it received jubilant applause.

Indeed all of the performers received more than the requisite amount of appreciation from the audience. Often, opening nights can succeed on the back of the initial good feeling for something new and energetic. ACJW's performance would have been a brilliant one whether it was the first or 50th performance in the new hall.

## Ujima lights up Black History Month

By Kariela Almonte and Katherine Garcia

On Fri, Feb 12, 2010

Feb. 6 marked the 19th annual iteration of the Ujima Fashion Show. "Eclat," which means brilliancy of success or effort, glamour and splendor, was the theme of this year's show, which was held in the Janet K. Bernard Theater.

Hosts Randy Abreu '11 and Ronald Solis '11 opened the event, adding their flavor of humor by delivering satirical advertisements of household name brands and inviting the audience to participate in trivia games throughout the show.

On their criteria for choosing models, Directors Taliah Hope-Griffith '12 and Altagracia Montilla '12 said, "We invite anyone who is willing to put in the time and dedication to participate no matter their race or ethnicity. The fashion show is open to everyone. Those who stay committed are those who end up in the show." Ujima, pronounced "oo-JEE-mah," Swahili for collective work and responsibility, is the college's African, African American and Caribbean American Awareness club. Every February, in celebration of Black History Month, the club organizes a series of events to promote a better understanding of these rich cultures.

In past years, however, students and faculty have questioned how the show reflects an awareness of the significance of Black History Month for the college community and beyond. "Some professors complained that past shows have had nothing to do with Black history, so we tried to target this audience. As a result, we tried to focus on making our fashion show connected to Black history as opposed to past years," Hope-Griffith said. Another of the directors' goals was to incorporate various campus organizations and stores in the Saratoga community. The show included performances from a variety of campus clubs including BreakBeats, Sonneteers and Sketchies. The latter performed a parody of the television fashion competition "America's Next Top Model." The primary attraction of the BreakBeats performance was its neon-light choreography, while The Sonneteers sang a rendition of Michael Jackson's "I Want You Back." The Student Government Association helped to finance the show, and Raices, the college's Latino cultural awareness, assisted with promotion.

In addition to the aforementioned performances, this year's show included creative scenes such as "Make a Statement," in which the models showcased their own T-shirt designs of pro-gay, eco-friendly and pro-Obama statements.

The grand finale was the "Caribbean Carnival" scene, in which the stage was transformed into a lively carnival where everyone in the audience was compelled to rise from its seat and join the eccentrically dressed models in dance. "Our goal was to make sure this show was fun, exciting and classy. From the beginning of this process, we kept this goal in mind, and I feel this is what made the show stand out so much," Montilla said.

The performances of the models themselves varied. While some of them strutted down the runway and owned the stage, others seemed to flee from the spotlight. The students wore clothing from a variety of well-known brands such as Banana Republic, Abercrombie and Fitch, Hot Topic, Rue 21, Rockabella and Eighty Twenty.

"In order to get such stores to participate in the fashion show, the directors had to build trust with the manager/owners," Director Jason Pennington '11 said. "We had to ensure them that our models would treat their merchandise with absolute respect. We also emphasized that having their clothing in the show was a great advertising opportunity."

During intermission, the hosts came out with baskets to raise money for Haiti relief. Pennington then made a speech that took the audience on a historical journey through the African-American struggle, articulating what Black History Month should mean to all Americans, himself included.

"We once used to be in the back seat, but today we have come to surpass these many barriers of injustices; we have come a long way to witnessing the first Black president of the United States," Pennington said. "However, there is still a long way to go."

## Composting begins in Northwoods

By Jean-Ann Kubler

On Fri, Feb 12, 2010

Earlier this week, residents of Northwoods were informed of new composting opportunities in the community. The project, led by members of the Environment Action Club, is not the first attempt to bring composting opportunities to campus.

A composting program was in place a few years ago, but momentum faded and the program was discontinued. The current program began in the fall of 2008 with Nate Kraus-Malett ('10) and a group of EAC members interested in bringing composting back to Skidmore. Kraus-Malett graduated a semester early, however, and seniors Dawn Harfmann and Vince Weeks are currently in charge of the program.

An e-mail circulated to Northwoods residents outlined the procedures for proper composting, as well as helpful information about how composting works and why it is beneficial. Composting is a process through which once-living materials are naturally recycled by small organisms and turned into a nutrient-rich soil. Composted materials make excellent natural fertilizers for gardens, reduce waste, and add important nutrients back into the soil.

"There are currently two Environmental Studies majors working on bringing a campus-wide composting program to the campus," explained Dawn Harfmann, "It's not going to be easy, but there are students composting already, and there's certainly interest."

Though expanding composting to the entire school might be a difficult and time consuming task, the EAC is attempting to make composting in Northwoods as easy as possible. The rules were laid out clearly in the e-mail, along with some helpful tips for those who are new to composting.

Composting is a simple process for students. Kitchen scraps should be collected in a bucket or container then brought to the uphill end of 9 Dayton, near the normal Northwoods trash collection site, and placed in the can labeled "compost." The e-mail explains that students who don't have a proper bucket for compost can get one for free: "D-Hall, as well as most restaurants, gets food in plastic buckets that are usually thrown out. Just ask for one of those (with its lid) and reuse it!"

Not all food waste should be composted, however. Materials appropriate for composting include: fruit and vegetable scraps, tea bags and coffee grounds, bread, egg shells, nut shells, grains, tofu, non-treated or printed paper towels and napkins, as well as plain brown grocery bags. Materials that should not be added to compost include fish, meat, eggs, dairy products, bones, or fatty foods.



While the site of compost collection is in Northwoods, residents of Scribner Village and the traditional residence halls are encouraged to compost their kitchen waste as well, until the program is expanded to the entire school.

According to Harfmann, there is already work being done to bring another composting site to Scribner Village. Interested students, as well as the sustainability coordinator Erica Fuller are making progress with the program not only possible, but probable.

The EAC is always looking for people interested in helping expand the composting program. Harfmann encourages interested students to contact her or Vince Weeks with questions, and to attend EAC meetings, Mondays at 9:15pm in Ladd 207.



## **Red Watch Band' training offered on campus**

Peer Health Educators offer information in attempt to avoid alcohol related deaths

By Adam Cohen

On Fri, Feb 12, 2010

At the beginning of each weekend at Skidmore there are a few things to be expected: Scribner-hopping, ventures off campus, Falstaff's dances, and binge drinking.

However, students are much less informed about the dangers that can accompany binge drinking. Alcohol emergency situations are not uncommon at Skidmore, and we've been very fortunate to not have many alcohol related deaths on campus. However, the Red Watch Band has set out to teach that even the few incidents here could have been prevented.

The "Red Watch Band," is a program developed to empower high school and college-aged students in the prevention of alcohol related deaths. The mission of the Red Watch Band is "to provide students with the knowledge, awareness and skills to prevent toxic drinking deaths and to promote a student culture of kindness, responsibility, compassion and respect."

This "comprehensive bystander intervention program" emphasizes the importance of taking action when someone is in need of help, and teaches what responsible alcohol use is, as well as the dangers associated with alcohol consumption. Like other programs implemented on campus, the Red Watch Band campaign is not an underage drinking prevention program, but an awareness campaign to prevent the deaths caused by it.

Started in 2008 at Stony Brook University in Stony Brook, New York, the Red Watch Band was created in response to the death of the son of Dr. Shirley Strum Kenny, the University's President. Strum's son died as a result of alcohol poisoning shortly before completing his freshman year at Northwestern University. To insure that his death, and the death of countless other students (over 1,825 18-24 year olds per year), was not in vain, the Red Watch Band Program was created.

Last semester Skidmore's Health Promotions decided that the Red Watch Band program should be brought to our campus. Kate Child, Skidmore's Health Educator, Kate-Rose Bobseine, Skidmore's Prevention Coordinator, and two Peer Health Educators, Derrin Jarvis and this reporter, went to Stony Brook University to receive the necessary instruction to become certified Red Watch Band trainers for



Skidmore College. This training will hopefully allow Health Promotions to ensure an environment in which students feel a responsibility to look out for and maintain the safety of one another.

In order to be considered a Red Watch Band member, students go through a training session which consists of a CPR class followed by the Red Watch Band alcohol emergency training. Students are given not only a standard alcohol education, but are also taught how to properly handle situations where a life may be in danger as a result of "toxic drinking."

During the training, students participate in numerous activities developed to educate them on alcohol safety and risk, and especially "where and how to get help when every second counts." One such activity is dispelling common myths pertaining to the care and treatment of someone who could be in danger of alcohol poisoning or overdose, and the correct methods of treatment are taught to the soon-to-be Red Watch Band members.

Upon completion of the training, students should be able to use this knowledge to help prevent alcohol related deaths in any situation -- both on campus and at home. Members are also recognized with certificates, and red watches, which will distinguish them from others in a case of an alcohol emergency as someone who is trained to handle the situation.

The Red Watch Band has been spreading to high schools, colleges and universities nationwide, and is a worthwhile training for all students. The first training for the Red Watch Band at Skidmore is on Friday, February 12th from 2 to 6 PM, on the second floor of the Murray-Aikins Dining Hall. Further Red Watch Band trainings this semester will be announced at a later date. Students may register for the training through the Skidmore Health Promotions website.

For more information about the Red Watch Band itself, go to [www.redwatchband.org](http://www.redwatchband.org).

## College celebrates female athletes

By Lauren Sager

On Fri, Feb 12, 2010

On Saturday, Feb. 6, Skidmore hosted its 4th annual National Girls and Women in Sports Day in the Sports and Recreation Center. With 117 girls in grades 3 through 8 participating in the event and 82 Skidmore student-athletes assisting the girls, the celebration was the largest it has been in its four years.

Skidmore strives to raise awareness of women's athletics in both the college campus and local community through this celebration of Title IX. Participants rotated between stations set up by the women's field hockey, softball, tennis, volleyball, soccer and lacrosse teams.

At the stations, student-athletes taught the girls the fundamentals of each sport. The girls also ate lunch with the Thoroughbred athletes in the Murray-Aikins Dining Hall and had an opportunity to watch the Skidmore women's swimming and diving invitational at the end of the day. The student-athletes seemed to enjoy the event just as much as the girls did. First year field hockey player, Molly Gile said, "It was just fun to see [the girls] get excited about playing sports and being involved with all the college athletes. They were all really into learning about the sports and trying new things out."

## Sports round up

### Hoops teams 1st and 2nd

By Lauren Sager

On Fri, Feb 12, 2010

#### Men's Hockey

On Feb. 6, Skidmore's men's ice hockey team tied the University of Southern Maine 3-3 at the Saratoga City Rink. The draw moved the Thoroughbreds to 7-12-2 overall and 6-7-2 in league play.

At the 2:10 mark of the first period, first year Brendan Cottam scored his seventh goal of the season, putting Skidmore up 1-0. Southern Maine came back to tie at 10:05, but Skidmore first year Julian Malakorn netted a power-play goal at 19:45, to regain the lead.

Skidmore maintained its one-goal advantage through the majority of the second period until the Huskies scored their second goal at the 18:18 mark.

During the third period, senior Matt Czerkowicz received a pass from senior forward Tim Daley and beat Southern Maine goalie Tim Gerrish at the 10:16 mark to steal the lead back for Skidmore. At the 14:36 mark, however, Southern Maine's David Nies scored and tied up the game at 3-3. The score held until the end of the period, forcing overtime.

Neither team was able to record a shot on goal for most of the overtime until Skidmore finally managed to get one off in the final seconds of the period. Nonetheless, the game ended as a draw.

While the Thoroughbreds played hard in the first part of the game, first year defenseman Alex Riccio states, "We just need to learn to finish our games stronger."

This weekend, the team will travel to take on St. Michael's College on Feb. 12 and Norwich University on Feb. 13.

#### Women's Basketball

On Feb. 6, the women's basketball team defeated William Smith College 63-50, securing a Liberty League playoff berth.

The Thoroughbreds moved their record to 17-3 overall and 9-1 in the Liberty League.

Senior guards Sharlyn Harper and Amber Kinsey each scored nine points, and senior forward Dana Leonard and junior guard Christine Kemp each contributed 10 points for the Thoroughbreds.

Skidmore started off strong, leading 5-2 within the first four minutes and taking a 13 point lead with 11:29 left in the half. Maintaining their lead, the Thoroughbreds led 38-22 at the end of the first half.

The Herons finally started to fight back once Skidmore opened up its lead to as much as 20. By 5:37 remaining they had cut the deficit to only eight, 54-46.

Skidmore finished off the game by making their free throws, beating William Smith 63-50.

The women's basketball team will play RPI on Friday, Feb. 12 and Vassar College on Saturday, Feb. 13.

#### Men's Basketball

The men's basketball team lost to Hobart College, 85-79, on Feb. 6 in Geneva, New York.

The Hobart Statesmen started the game off strong on a 9-2 run with seven points from Matt Pebole.

Hobart led by as much as 17 points in the second half. After Hobart's Sean Peer brought their lead to 78-66, Skidmore came back, scoring the next nine points, with five from sophomore guard Terron Victoria.

Hobart's Pebole made two free throws, giving the Statesmen a two possession lead. Next, Sakhile Sithole made a layup and made it a three point deficit with just over one minute left, but Hobart countered with a layup from Stefan Thompson.

With 29 seconds left for the Thoroughbreds to redeem themselves, Victoria knocked down a three, but Hobart responded with three more points to close out the victory.

The Skidmore Thoroughbreds stand tied at number two in Liberty League standings, tied with both Hobart and Union. They are 6-4 in conference play and 13-8 overall. The team will compete against fifth-place RPI at home on Feb. 12 and last place Vassar on Feb. 13.

*Compiled by Lauren Sager*

## Loser-lushes and literary luck

By Hunter Prichard

On Fri, Feb 12, 2010

What is it about fiction writing that leads its authors to a life of alcohol abuse? Whether writers use alcohol as a means of channeling their artistic genius, or as a coping mechanism for every-day life, it has definitely been a mystery as to why a major portion of 20th century American writing has been attributed to boozing writers.

Sometimes it seems that it's not only appropriate - it is nearly required - for writers to turn to alcohol. It's almost as if writers can only unleash the original virtuosity that is inside of them if they've had a few drinks. Fitzgerald, Faulkner, Hemmingway, Cheever, Capote, Chandler, Carver, Kerouac, Parker; the list is too great for this to just be an accident. The real question becomes not why these authors drank, but if the alcohol abuse should be accredited to their success and brilliance in their work.

One author who needs to be focused on is Charles Bukowski ("the Buk"), who chronicled his 50 years of womanizing and drinking problems in such frightening detail that it is hard to imagine how he would have had a writing career without his alcohol dependency.

To Bukowski, whiskey and beer were like water. His writing wasn't wild fantasy, like the work of Hunter Thompson or William Burroughs, but near-factual records of dependency and worthlessness. Bukowski was of a rare breed. He was a man who had no qualms about waking up at noon with a glass or two of Jack Daniels.

Without writing, Bukowski would have been nothing more than a drunk. Without his alcohol, Bukowski would've been a good writer, but he wouldn't have gotten nearly the same amount of fame and recognition that he has received. Granted, the Buk's writing style is hard to comprehend and his writing is only for those that can stomach his aggressive, violent and sexually explicit wordplay.

But Bukowski's legacy goes far beyond his writing. Like Thompson, he is often more celebrated for being an American outlaw than for anything he actually wrote. The excess of booze that the man imbibed is absolutely ridiculous considering that he lived into his early 70s. Bukowski began drinking at the age of 13 and continued until his death, even despite a near-fatal bleeding ulcer in his mid-40s.

When reading Buk's prose it's easy to tell that it's the result of a haggard, disillusioned drunk. His sentences lack in punctuation, and there are often unbearable descriptions of violence and sexual escapades that would sound forged if anyone else had written them.

So maybe Bukowski needed his alcohol to become great. But what is one to make of other writers, the ones who are famous as masters of prose: Fitzgerald, Hemingway or Capote. There was a certain grace that appeared in their stories.

Even through alcohol, Capote was still able to exhibit pathos for murderers in his non-fiction novel "In Cold Blood." Hemingway invented the famous minimalist style and won a Pulitzer.

It's hard to imagine even Fitzgerald, a man whose drinking caused his death in his early 40s, stumbling home after a night of gin and tonics and penning: "It eluded us then, but that's no matter - tomorrow we will run faster, stretch out our arms farther... And one fine morning - so we beat on, boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past."

The truth is that it is difficult to really know what is twisting and turning inside the minds of these great writers; whatever they have in there is more advanced and weird than whatever the common man could ever imagine. In order to get at this imagination they need help. Whether that is drugs or alcohol, there must be something that can drive the creative thought-process.

This alcoholism isn't an escape from society; it was a way to fuel their writing, to change it, to develop it. It was a way for the writer to constantly search for new meaning in life, a new outlook on how they and their characters should live in this world.

## Efficient robots provide unlimited capabilities

By Alex Brehm

On Fri, Feb 12, 2010

Imagine R2-D2 with a bazooka.

Researchers for Robotic Technology Inc. (RTI) are developing a robot that will never need to be refueled, controlled or even maintained by a human.

It's a project being funded mostly by the U.S. Armed Force's Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA). The project, called the Energetically Autonomous Tactical Robot, or EATR, has grown out of the wish to create machines that don't need to be refueled by hand-- they don't need to be plugged in, don't need gasoline and don't need their batteries changed.

The idea of self-powering vehicles isn't completely new. NASA and other companies are designing planes such as the Helios Unmanned Air Vehicle that effectively has wings made of solar panels. Such companies intend to produce a plane that can fly for five years without ever having to touch the ground.

The problem with EATR is that the machine is meant to stay on the ground and solar power will not provide enough energy to keep such a thing running. So the scientists at RTI want their machine to run off of biofuels: wood, grass and paper. More than that, the robot won't require any human direction -- no remote control, just a computer program.

To make such a machine, scientists need to develop four different devices. The robot must be able to recognize good organic fuel and tell it apart from things like rock or metal. Then, it needs to be able to pick up the material and put it in a bin on the machine itself. That bin then must lead to an engine capable of burning the material, and that engine needs to power the robot and move it around.

Most of those technologies are already in place-- it's not hard to make a robotic arm that can pick up grass and wood, and we have engines that can shred organic material and burn it for fuel. The most difficult parts of the project involve programming a computer that, with its own camera and no human to guide it, can tell wood from rock or grass from rubble.

Consider again where the researchers would like to market this robot-- the military. A presentation available at [www.robotictechnologyinc.com](http://www.robotictechnologyinc.com) clearly states the robot's military applications. "Provide RSTA [reconnaissance, surveillance, target acquisition], weapons support, casualty extraction, transport," reads the RTI publication. DARPA has agreed to match any other investor dollar-for-dollar,



meaning they're providing at least half of the funds, and commanding most of the researchers' attention.

If the machine finishes testing and is cleared for use, we could see an EATR robot accompanying every platoon we deploy in war. They may be used as mules to carry gear and troops, and scout out battlefields up ahead. But RTI also states the machine may be used for weapons support, in which case EATR will have two identification programs: one to tell fuel apart from junk, and one to tell enemy buildings and bodies apart from civilians.

The risk inherent in such a program often concerns people. There have been similar issues raised before, when news broke that solar-powered planes could be fitted with cannons, a camera and a computer program. The planes would then roam the skies unchecked, bombing whatever their sensors directed them to kill.

Other rumors have plagued the project. Robotic Technology released a statement in 2009 in response to rumors that the robot could eat humans to fuel itself. RTI stated that the desecration of bodies is a violation of the Geneva conventions, and EATR would be "strictly vegetarian."

EATR need not only be for military use. The US Forest Service is also funding the project, and RTI states that its robot could be programmed to identify and eat invasive species, fueling itself while it preserves American biodiversity.

And who knows, a few years after it's on the market, EATR may come with the best artificial intelligence of the day, chatting up soldiers in the mess hall as it eats a bowl of pea soup. If nothing else, this is a good lesson in how humanity draws nearer and nearer to the uncertainties of science fiction.

## FAN flies feminist flag

By Eric Shapiro

On Fri, Feb 12, 2010

Vaginas. They're all over the place (certainly a majority at Skidmore), but it's probably safe to say that they're underrepresented in conversation. For years, the college's branch of the Feminist Action Network, an organization devoted to feminist and gender issues, particularly sexual violence, has made its mission to play a part in ending this genital injustice by staging annual productions of the "Vagina Monologues."

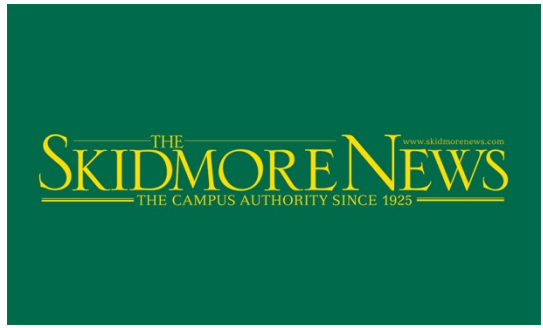
"The Vagina Monologues" consists of a series of anecdotes told by women from various cultures and ethnic backgrounds. The one thing all of their speeches have in common is that they use the vagina as a launching point to discuss issues relating to female sexuality, from pleasure to violence. "The message of the play is that violence against women needs to stop and there needs to be less stigma associated with women's bodies. There needs to be an increase in respect among men and women," said Carly Goldstein '11, one of the play's producers.

The controversial overtones of such an in-your-face exploration of a taboo subject are not lost on FAN. "I definitely do think that this show will offend some people... just that sheer fact is enough to tell us that we need to be doing this show," Goldstein said. FAN's goal in staging the production is to foster an environment where "these topics are able to be discussed much more readily," Goldstein said.

Indeed, FAN's experience of working with the cast, which consists of 14 students with varied backgrounds, interests and personal beliefs, has perhaps provided an indication of how audience members will react to the show. Goldstein acknowledged that a major aspect of the production process was challenging the cast members to get over their embarrassment in confronting the subject matter.

However, they were soon having heated debates over who would get to perform specific orgasms. An oft-discussed part of the show features one of the characters, a dominatrix who revels getting other women off, delivering a diverse array of impressions. In FAN's rendition, orgasm duties are shared among the cast; it would not, after all, be fair for one actress to have all the fun.

In a departure from previous years, the play will be performed in Falstaff's instead of the dance studio. "In the dance theatre, you have a typical stage and then audience members. In Falstaff's, our plan is to hopefully integrate the audience a little more physically into the show," Goldstein said. She declined to specify, as she was reluctant to give away any surprises.



FAN's rendition of "The Vagina Monologues" is set to run at 8 p.m. on Feb. 19 and Feb. 20, and 2 p.m. Feb. 21 in Falstaff's. Tickets will be on sale in Case Center starting this weekend.



## Keep goals in context

### College should be need blind within financial constraints

On Fri, Feb 12, 2010

In his Feb. 1 letter to students and faculty, President Philip Glotzbach outlined recent changes to the college's financial status. After the recession caused it to plunge to as low as \$220 million in February 2009, the college's endowment has recovered most of its losses, now standing at \$270 million.

Additionally, the fear that five percent of the college's work force was going to be eliminated has vanished. Although this is all positive news, the college has still not reached a truly comfortable place; there is always work to be done in order to keep the college running as smoothly as it has in the past.

In the letter, Glotzbach reiterates that the college recruits and accepts students from all backgrounds. However, our admissions process is not need-blind. What this means is that if the college considers Student A and Student B, who are the exact same in academic ability, extra-curricular activities and test scores, but Student A requires more financial aid, the college may be more inclined to admit Student B. This policy limits the potential for diversity in the college's population in terms of financial difference, which is one of the goals outlined in the administration's Strategic Plan.

The question arises as to whether the college should change to a need-blind policy. The ideal answer would be yes, because it would be in keeping with the college's stated goal of increasing diversity. However, there is a reason why there are so few schools, particularly in Skidmore's demographic, that are need-blind: it can cost a lot of money. Becoming truly need-blind requires a financial commitment that the college is not ready to make at the moment. As a school with a relatively small endowment, the college is dependent on tuition fees to fund its operational budget. Even in the best of times, a need-blind policy can put a strain on a school's finances; in economically trying times, such as these, it is quite risky.

This college is a highly regarded institution; the faculty are respected and accomplished. We are all privileged to go to school in an encouraging environment set in a wonderful community. Those factors are all part of what makes Skidmore such an attractive school; every candidate who applies, regardless of financial need, does so because of the resources the college has to offer. Diversity of all forms is a crucial goal, but were a need-blind policy to cut into the programs that make our college what it is, it would be a disservice to everyone.

Nonetheless, it is important that the college continues to pursue the goal of diversity. A completely need-blind system is ideal, but it is not feasible at the present. What the college must do is strike a balance between that ideal and what is fiscally responsible. The college should work toward becoming a need-blind institution; in the pursuit of that goal, we ought to be as as need-blind as feasibly possible. If finances only allow for admissions to fill 90 percent of a class under a need-blind policy, better that last 10 percent be need-aware than the extra financial burden become detrimental to the majority of the student population.

## **Atrium Café expands border**

Dining Services director targets broader student population with new products

By Annie Bruckner

On Fri, Feb 12, 2010

Dining Services has expanded the Atrium Café in an effort to boost sales and offer more variety to students. The Atrium was renovated over winter break and has been in operation since January. Bill Canney, director of Dining Services, has been planning the expansion for the past year.

Dining Services has expanded the Atrium Café in an effort to boost sales and offer more variety to students.

The Atrium was renovated over winter break and has been in operation since January. Bill Canney, director of Dining Services, has been planning the expansion for the past year.

"We were looking at the space and thought we could do more with it," Canney said.

Capital Planning approved the expansion for the 2009-2010 school year but the project was delayed until the 2010 spring semester.

"Other campus projects took priority," Canney said.

The construction of a curved wall, the addition of a display case and extra card-swipe station better confine the new space as a separate section of Dining Services without compromising the Dining Hall's architectural design.

The new structures have made entering the Dining Hall for free more difficult. "There have been significantly less people making unauthorized entry into the D-Hall," he said.

More shelf space and refrigerated cases stock an array of new products. Students have expressed interest in purchasing organic food products and snacks via e-mails, one-on-one meetings and napkin requests posted in the Dining Hall entrance.

"Students wanted more healthy lifestyle cereals, like Kashi, and products like veggie burgers and Amy's entrées," said Sharon Foley, supervisor of Retail Operations.

The Atrium also offers prepared meals that Canney hopes will allure upperclassmen who typically do not have full meal plans.



"We sent out postcards to all students living in Northwoods Apartments and Scribner Village, advertising the new home meal replacement options," he said.

Students can select from a variety of ready-to-eat products, including frozen dinners and meals cooked by Dining Hall chefs.

Frozen dinners range from \$3.99, for Lean Cuisine entrées, to \$5.99 for Amy's entrées. The average price of a home meal replacement is \$3.99. Additional side dishes are also available, ranging from \$1.25 to \$2.50.

The home meal replacements are convenient for students who enjoy eating at home but do not have time to cook. They offer an alternative to ordering delivery.

Local food companies, such as Saratoga Peanut Butter, Saratoga Salsa and Spice and Saratoga Sweets, offer their products in the Atrium. These items can be found on the Pride of New York shelf.

The Atrium also supports student business, including products from KD Energy, a company formed in 2009 by Katie Dalton '10, Evan Godfrey '09, Grace Kitchings '09 and Ellen McQuade '10 for an assignment in their Entrepreneurship and Small Business course.

The company produces KD Energy Bites, an energy bar in bite-size pieces. The snacks are one of several all-natural, gluten-free and vegan products available in the Atrium.

Some local retail locations already carry the snacks. Dalton is excited that the snacks are available in the Atrium.

"We have felt like we've been completely missing out on the most direct way to reach a huge part of a market that we feel particularly passionate about reaching," she said.

On Feb. 17 students can sample the KD Energy Bites in the Atrium. Samplings of different products occur from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. every Wednesday in the Atrium.

"All the samplings are either new products or products we are thinking of bringing into the Atrium," Foley said.

Student feedback on the new Atrium is generally positive. Hanna Tonegawa '11 is impressed with the new layout and vast selection.

"It has somewhat of a convenience store-esque feel, and it feels overall more open and inviting than the old Atrium," she said.

"It looks like there's more stuff, so I would probably shop there more this semester than before," Carly Stokes '13 said.

Meghan Garvey '11 is also pleased with the revamped Atrium. "I am really happy about the practical things the Atrium offers, such as Airborne and Cold-EEZE," she said.

Garvey acknowledged that CVS and Target sell cheaper goods.

"You are paying for the convenience," she said.

Vinay Trivedi-Parmar '12 believes the Atrium has improved and will generate more business. However, he is bothered by the organization of some items.

"I don't like how the windshield wiping fluid and snow brushes are in the main section by the food; I'd prefer if they were more toward the back," he said.

Despite minor complaints, students are generally pleased with the changes.

"They [Dining Services] are really thinking along the lines of student needs," Tonegawa said.

The Atrium Café and Convenience Store are open from 7 a.m. - 11 p.m. Sunday - Thursday and 7 a.m. - 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday.



## Shining a light on job shadowing opportunities

By Kristin Travagline

On Fri, Feb 12, 2010

During the '09-'10 Winter Break, 34 students participated in the Job Shadowing Program, run through Skidmore's Career Services. Job shadowing gives students a brief opportunity to observe and work with professionals in their career field of choice.

The Job Shadowing Program is run by Penny Loretto, Assistant Director of Career Services. Loretto matches interested students with Skidmore alumni, parents of alumni, and volunteer employers according to their area of career interest and geographic location.

"We've developed a pool of alumni interested in participating," said Loretto. Career Services is in touch with over 2,100 alumni and parents interested in assisting students with job shadows, internships, networking, and job opportunities. During the '09-'10 school year 18 Skidmore alumni, one parent, and additional professionals hosted students.

The specific day of the shadow and length of time are arranged by the student and host. Although students generally spend one day with the host, relationships have the potential to become long term. Some students repeat the shadow or even acquire an internship.

Emily Phalen '12 did a job shadow over winter break with Doctor Thomas Morganti at the Avon Veterinary Clinic in Avon, CT. During one day, Phalen shadowed Morganti for a 5 hour period. The clinic is in close vicinity to Phalen's town and she continues to shadow Morganti when she visits home. Phalen also plans on shadowing Morganti during the upcoming Spring Break. Phalen has aspirations of going to veterinary school. "I need a certain amount of hours pertaining to veterinary experience, either shadowing a vet or working in a veterinary clinic. It's good to build a personal relationship with the vet. He can be a reference when I apply to vet school," said Phalen.

Phalen gained practical experience in her career field of interest through the Job Shadowing Program. Phalen sat in on all of Morganti's routine office visits. She also observed dental work done on a dog, 2-3 eye surgeries, and routine neutering and spaying procedures.

Job shadowing also helps students clarify their career goals. "It helps them see what it's really like in the work force and piques their interest. It also helps them establish where they are going or lets them know that the environment is different. We can read about careers, but actually being there is totally different," said Loretto. Loretto emphasized that job shadowing is a learning experience about the

process of career development. "We use the program as a career development tool. It involves thorough self assessment, doing research first hand, and making decisions," said Loretto.

To complete a job shadow the student must first attend an orientation session that explains the expectations of the program. The student then completes an application form that outlines their previous experiences, skills, and careers goals. Before turning in the application, students select the sponsors that they are interested in shadowing. The student then meets with Loretto and discusses their options. Finally, the student is matched with a host. It is the responsibility of the student to contact their host to arrange a date and meeting time. Before meeting their host, the student completes a resume and career research worksheet. "We want students to get the most out of their shadowing by doing research prior to the shadow, students and sponsors tend to enjoy the whole experience more," said Loretto. This year every student who applied was matched with a host, although this does not always happen. "Every year I have challenges when I get down to the last three or four students that I am trying to match," said Loretto.

A list of interested job shadowing hosts is available on the Career Services website. The list is updated every summer. Hosts are available in a wide range of career fields including healthcare, art, education, and many more. During the past break students completed shadows with high profile professional including an English translator for the UN, the Bureau Chief at Trenton News, and the Manager of the Global Education Department of Estee Lauder.

A job shadow can still be arranged even if the college is not already in contact with a host in a student's particular field of interest or location. "Often students want to shadow in one field or location that doesn't have sponsors. Then I look for individual sponsors on my own, trying alumni first and then alumni parents," said Loretto. The Job Shadowing Program is only run once a year, during Winter Break. However, students are able to do a job shadow independent of the program. "If students come and ask us, we will help them do their own shadow. We will give them the resources and a list of alumni that might be interested. We will let them know what they need to do."

Elena Stansky '12 acknowledged the importance of students having experience in their career field of interest. She also admitted the difficulty in acquiring a job shadow without the aid of Career Services. "Medical schools like you to have experience when applying, it's kind of necessary. I don't know how else I would have gotten a job shadow without Career Services. Without inside connections it's hard to get," said Stansky.

The healthcare field was popular amongst job shadow participants during the past Winter Break. 10 shadows were completed with professionals in healthcare. Students shadowed in the fields of cardiology, physical therapy, genetic counseling, and several other healthcare occupations.

Stansky completed a job shadow with Doctor Joshua Boyce, a pediatric pulmonologist at Newton-Wellesley Hospital in MA. Stansky met with Boyce on two separate occasions.

Before doing the shadow Stansky was trying to decide between applying to medical school or physician assistant school after college. Because of her shadowing experience, Stansky is now planning on going to medical school. "I got an inside look at what it would be like to go to medical school. He took the time to talk about both options with me.

"Like Phalen, Stansky received individual attention and hands on experience. Stansky attended all of Boyce's clinical appointments. She observed allergy skin tests, chest x-rays, and lung examinations, among other procedures. "A mother came over and asked me what year in medical school I was. She didn't know why the doctor was keeping me so informed," said Stansky.

"Job shadows have variant levels of success. Anything that helps students clarify their goals is successful. Exploring career options and networking with professionals are two of the most valuable things students take away from the job shadowing experience," said Loretto.



## **'No Exit,' so good you can't leave**

By Joanne Schwartzberg

On Fri, Feb 12, 2010

A hotel room in Hell may conjure images of red, devilish figures and torture devices. While a hotel room in hell may indeed be the setting for John Paul Sartre's "No Exit," the picture created by the playwright is very different. The play begins when Garcin (Tristan Shaffer-Goldman '11) is led into a room by the valet (Brandon O'Sullivan '11). What at first seems like a perfectly average hotel room, however, becomes something more sinister when Garcin inquires as to what happened to all of the torturers and torture devices. When two more women, Inez (Liz DeVito '12) and Estelle (Isabelle Russo '11) are dumped in the room, they discover that they are meant to be their own torturers. Throughout the show, we learn about why each character has been damned and why they have been placed in this room together for all of eternity. The play explores the fragility of the human condition, the subtle ways we can torture each other every day, and how quickly people can tear each other down.

All of the performances in the show were spot on. Several times throughout, I forgot that the actors were playing roles because I was so engrossed in the story.

Café Lena was the perfect setting for the production. The eerie darkness of the room enhanced the creepy, dark mood of the piece. The tone was also enhanced through the use of lighting, which consisted of a single light bulb that served to highlight the precariousness of the situation. The lighting was also used to determine transitions between the events on earth that the audience was not privy to and the characters' interactions in hell.

The director made a clear divide between the two worlds, preventing potential confusion. While the set was simple, the few props present were all essential to the story.

## On The Radar

### Upcoming Releases

By Andrew Lane-Lawless

On Fri, Feb 12, 2010

#### Phantogram "Eyelid Movies"

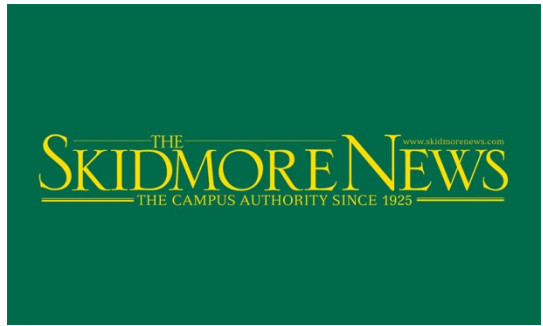
Saratoga's own Phantogram will release its debut, "Eyelid Movies" on Feb. 9 via Barsuk, the former label of indie giants Death Cab for Cutie. Phantogram is a two-piece that plays something akin to glitch techno mixed with the indie dream-pop of a band like Beach House. The band has been getting more and more recognition over the past year, first playing South by Southwest last spring and then CMJ in the fall. Its performance at CMJ got it attention of NPR, which streamed the band's entire new album on its Web site.

#### Joanna Newsom "Have One On Me"

Joanna Newsom's new album, entitled "Have One on Me," will be out on Feb. 23 on Drag City. The folkie harpist will be following up her 2006 fan favorite "Ys," an LP that found her delving into orchestration with the help of Van Dyke Parks, with an even more ambitious triple album. It will be her third album, and will feature a mixture of songs for solo harp and piano, including her first songs to feature an accompanying band, with drums included. A few of the songs off of the new album, "18" and "Good Intentions Paving Company" (one of the songs with drums) are now being streamed on the Drag City Web site.

#### Martin Scorsese's "Shutter Island"

This Martin Scorsese-directed psychological horror-noir will see the director reunite with Leonardo DiCaprio, along with Mark Ruffalo, Ben Kingsley and Michelle Williams, to make yet another movie about Boston that makes it look like the most crime-infested, unpleasant city in the entire world (see "The Departed," "Mystic River," "Boondock Saints," "Gone Baby, Gone" or most any other made in or about Boston). It's also yet another film based off of a book by Dennis Lehane to be turned into a movie. For my money, I can't wait until his 800-page epic novel on the Boston Police Department strike in 1919 gets turned into a 12-part HBO mini-series.



## Kevin Smith's "Cop Out"

The first movie to be directed but not written by Kevin Smith, "Cop Out", featuring Bruce Willis and Tracy Morgan, has an intriguing premise: two cops are sent on an important mission to track down a stolen baseball card. Along the way, they run into all sorts of trouble with gangsters and other unsavory characters. But can we expect it to be good? Certainly Morgan has been on a roll with "30 Rock" and although Willis hasn't been too active recently, he seems to have plenty of these movies in him. Smith has definitely done his fair share of great comedies. Hopefully the film itself will be better than the previews.

## **U.N. ambassadors to visit digitally**

Ambassadors will discuss Copenhagen conference, climate change

By Savannah Grier

On Fri, Feb 12, 2010

As part of the Focus Skidmore series, several of the college's organizations are teaming up to sponsor a teleconference between students and the United Nations Ambassador's Club to discuss climate change. Using an innovative technology unit termed the Tandberg system, students will be able to directly interact with panelists from around the world.

In response to the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference in December, the environmental studies program along with Sustainable Skidmore, the Environmental Action Club and International Affairs are organizing the event, which will take place at 7 p.m. on Feb. 18 in Gannett Auditorium.

Through audience-involved discussion, the event aims to inform students on the outcome of the Copenhagen Conferences.

"We will come up with a few questions to ask the ambassadors to get them started, but if students would like to submit questions earlier, we can make sure those questions are on the docket," Erica Fuller, the college's sustainability coordinator, said.

As a prelude to the event, Lucy Van Hook, an independent carbon consultant, will be hosting "Debriefing Copenhagen from the Ground" at 7 p.m. on Feb. 15 in Davis auditorium.

Hunt Conard, director of Media Services, and Ben Harwood, instructional technologist, are responsible for providing the portable version of the Tandberg system for the teleconference.

"It's strictly portable. It's just a little, gray box that we bring in with a camera and microphone, and hook it into the system," Conard said.

The new unit, called the Tandberg C20, provides direct communicative capabilities, linking two sites together through visual and audible media.

"We've been using it in the regular classes. As long as they have a compatible unit on the other side, we can set it up in the classroom and communicate with other people directly," Conard said.

The system has connected the college with the U.N. two previous times, both of which linked students with the U.N. Ambassador Club, founded by Pakistan's Ambassador Ahmad Kamal.

Kamal will be the keynote speaker at this month's event. "His role is as a facilitator and he pulls in various colleagues depending on what you want to talk about. Because we wanted to talk about Copenhagen, he brought in Jonas Pastor, who was essentially responsible for the Copenhagen Conference, as well as the follow-up," Fuller said.

"Some people were calling it a success, some people were calling it failure, so we're interested to hear what he thought of the outcome."

Harwood believes Kamal's presence will spur debate among participants. "Ambassador Kamal, in particular, helps to organize the different members that will be on the panel. He is quite good at moderating the discussion and setting the issue up, setting an agenda that really favors debate," Harwood said.

"You really do get the impression, in the audience, that these are real issues. I think that's a real attractive feature of this video-conferencing, that it is very engaging and real."

Through the Tandberg system, Kamal and his colleagues will be able to communicate with the audience in real-time, with exceptional technological quality.

"The microphone is sensitive enough where you don't have to walk up to the front," Fuller said.

In addition to removing transportation costs, the system eliminates the by-product of fuel emissions produced by travel.

"We're hoping that this can serve as a model of a way to bring outside speakers to campus in not only a way that saves money but also that is lower in carbon emissions," Fuller said.

The convenience of the system presents more accessibility to a greater range of speakers. "You can have a much better chance of getting an expert in a field to talk to a class if he or she doesn't have to spend the time to come up here," Conard said.

Since the teleconference relies on conversation, student attendance is crucial to the event.

"I think it's a great event to look at what is happening on an international stage but also to help drum up some interest on what is happening on Skidmore's campus as well," Fuller said.



## Science dept. receives \$550K grant

By Rebecca Orbach & Mara Wood

On Fri, Feb 12, 2010

The college has received a \$550,000 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) toward the science departments to purchase modern equipment for the Skidmore Analytical Interdisciplinary Laboratory (SAIL).

The lab program will integrate the biology, chemistry, environmental studies and anthropology departments through collaborative research. The new technology funded by the grant will equally benefit all four of the mentioned departments, further supporting the college's interdisciplinary curriculum.

Prior to this grant, the NSF gave the college \$660,000 to purchase an electron microscope that students and faculty are currently being trained to use.

"It's awesome that such a small school is able to do all the research that it does here," said Sarah Minney '13, a prospective pre-med student.

The most recent grant funds new instruments that will permit more advanced research across the science disciplines.

One piece of equipment is the Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy microscope. The instrument enables students and faculty to view clearer fingerprints of both organic and inorganic compounds and biochemicals. The result is an accurate readout of the makeup of certain chemicals.

Another device is the Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer. The machine employs a liquid chromatography system that improves the precise concentration of metals in various biochemicals.

An additional purchase is a gas chromatography-mass spectrometer. This machine is vital for the identification of numerous chemicals.

These new devices will also help students and faculty within science departments to more thoroughly observe different substances within a test sample, giving students a more accurate perception of the chemical makeup behind these materials.

Exposure to the advanced scientific research equipment can prepare Skidmore graduates when applying for jobs and internships in the professional world.

"Students today have to be well trained to get out there in the real world, and their experiences with our new equipment will give them an advantage over other graduates," David Domozych, professor of biology, said.

The equipment will be ready for students and faculty to conduct projects by this summer.

The new analytical instruments will provide seniors, juniors and some underclassmen with exposure to advanced workings in science.

"The new equipment will be great, I am so glad that Skidmore is putting effort into further enhancing the science department," Becky Bind '13 said.

Skidmore is also employing a full-time technician to train students and faculty to properly use the new equipment.

"We have never seen anything like this current infusion of new technology, it's like Christmas," Domozych said.

## SGA candidates lay out agendas

SEC election contested, opponents propose new focus and policy

By Michael Mandelkern

On Fri, Feb 12, 2010

On Feb. 9 the Student Government Association hosted a speech night in the Spa for SGA Senate candidates, including the Student Entertainment Company president position. All other positions were uncontested.

Melissa Tannenbaum '12 ran against James Lyness '13 in the SEC election. Each candidate told the audience how he or she would govern if elected.

"I want to bring back the old spirit and unity of SEC," Tannenbaum said.

She pledged to reignite student enthusiasm of SEC events and listen to student requests for musicians. Tannenbaum claimed that in recent semesters the SEC has not effectively factored the general student body into its decision-making process.

"Our group can represent a better, wider demographic," she said. Tannenbaum proposed opening up the voting process for keynote SEC events to the entire body.

"It's about losing the reputation of being so-called 'elitist,'" she said.

Lyness placed bringing energetic musicians to campus in high priority. "I would bring somebody who is really in it for the entertainment," he said.

Lyness emphasized his openness to all genres of music, referring to hip-hop as an example. "If that's what everybody's into, I'm totally down with that," he said.

After proposing his vision for SEC president, he acknowledged his short time spent at the college.

"Yes, I am a freshman, I lack some experience, but I promise I will make up for it with my work ethic," he said.

Tannenbaum has internship experience with GBH, a New York City event planning company. She participated in booking acts at New York venues, such as the TriBeCa Grand and Webster Hall.



When asked if they would collaborate with other clubs, such as the Hip-Hop Alliance, to organize events, both candidates were receptive to the idea.

Lyness would invite various clubs to SEC meetings. "Students are all enthusiastic about music," he said.

To raise active student participation, Tannenbaum suggested revamping the SEC website and effectively utilizing social networking Web sites.

Michael Cass-Antony, 2010 class president, urged both candidates to follow through with their promise to allow all students to participate in the voting process for musicians.

"I hope you will actually do it," he said.

Prior to the SEC election, various other candidates addressed the audience.

Lyness, who has acted as treasurer since last semester, also ran for first-year class treasurer. He is planning the Winter Carnival, a first year-centered social event. Lyness organized for DJ Swann, a New York City DJ, to host a party on Feb.12 at Falstaff's.

Alex Bland '12, senator-at-large, ran for vice president for Club Affairs. He has been a member of the SGA Club Affairs Committee since his first year and has been involved in the process of chartering clubs.

"I understand the necessity of clubs," he said.

Raina Bretan '10, SGA president, asked Bland how he would discipline clubs that disobey SGA rules. He proposed freezing the budget of some clubs but said he would develop new ideas for clubs that commit less severe offenses.

"I'll work with my committee to come up with other sanctions," he said.

Also for Executive Committee, Jessica Coons '11 ran for junior class president. Last academic year she was an off-campus senator.

When asked how she would facilitate the reintegration process of juniors returning from abroad, she proposed that juniors share their experiences from abroad with fellow peers.

Coons expressed compassion for returning students. "I was a transfer student [before Skidmore], so I know how hard it is," she said.

To be accessible to her class year, she vowed to hold office hours twice per week. "If there's a concern you want to address, I want you to bring it up," she said.



Ben Vail '11, Nick Ober '12 and Emily Soffa '13 all ran for separate senator-at-large positions. There are eight vacancies in total.

Vail served in the SGA Senate from 2008 - 2009. "I really want to get involved again," he said.

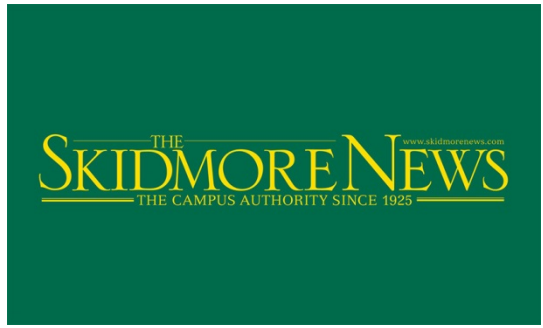
Ober called on students to use SGA as a resource. "We are small enough for everyone to feel they are involved," he said.

Soffa cited her role as head of the school choir in high school, as well as her involvement in Skidmore's Gospel Choir and Sonneteers. "I enjoyed my leadership role in high school," she said.

Other SGA positions:

- Daniel DeMartini '11, Scribner senator, was not present but submitted a written speech running for junior social chair. Jon Schneider '10, vice president for Communications, read DeMartini's speech aloud.
- Kate Millar '12, senator-at-large, was also not present but submitted a written speech running for vice president for Residential Affairs. Schneider orated her speech.
- Anna Chitman '13 ran for First-Year-Senator.

UPDATE: All candidates who ran for uncontested positions won. Melissa Tannenbaum '12 beat James Lyness '13 in the SEC President election.



## Opinion Cartoon

By

On Sat, Feb 13, 2010

## Extreme sports pump hearts

By Annie Bruckner

On Fri, Feb 19, 2010

Chocolates, flowers and romantic comedies are so last decade; this past Valentine's Day, mountains, snow and extreme sports were all the rage. Well, at least they were for the 260 people who spent their evening in Gannet Auditorium watching the latest films from the Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour.

The Banff Mountain Film Festival is an annual film competition sponsored by the Banff Centre in Alberta, Canada. This year, 277 entries from 28 countries flooded the Banff Centre.

The Skidmore Outing Club has hosted a showing of the festival's films for the past eight years. It is one of the club's most popular events and often sells out, and this year was no exception.

"[Tickets] were completely sold out," said Alex Wennberg '10, president of the Outing Club. A waiting list had to be created, and folding chairs were later brought into the auditorium to accommodate more people. Of the 260 festival attendees, most were non-Skidmore students.

"I would say 80 percent at least, of our audience is public," Wennberg said. Tickets were available to the greater Saratoga community for \$13 through local EMS stores and Wennberg. Skidmore students could purchase their tickets for \$2 last week in Case Center. Tickets could also be purchased at the door.

Each year, Outing Club officers choose the films shown at Skidmore. The Banff Centre sends the Outing Club a DVD of two-minute clips of 40 films. This year, the Outing Club officers selected eight films to feature at the event.

"We try to show a variety of films. The audience is diverse, and we want to appeal to a wide group of people," Wennberg said. Audience members ranged from toddlers to senior citizens.

"There was a good mix of films in terms of sports - climbing, skiing, mountain biking - and a cultural film too," she said. "Finding Farley" was the sole cultural film. At 63 minutes, it was the longest film shown. It covered a family of four (mother, father, two-year-old child and dog) traveling across Canada to meet author Farley Mowat. Their journey consisted of six months of canoeing, walking, driving and sailing.



Wennberg mentioned that the Outing Club considered showing another feature-length film about a man tandem biking from North to South America, but the club ultimately decided to cut some films due to of time constraints.

"We could show eight hours of films, but we have to keep in mind that people have other things to do," she said.

The festival showed about two-and-a-half hours of films. Most of the films were less than 20 minutes.

Films ranged from the elegant "Mont Blanc Speed Flying" to adreniline-pumping "First Ascent: Alone on the Wall" to the unbelievable "Project Megawoos."

"Banff is a world tour for a reason: the films are phenomenal," Wennberg said. To learn more about the Banff Mountain Film Festival, visit <http://www.banffcentre.ca/mountainculture/festivals/2009/>.



## Basketball sweeps Big Green Scream

By Gabe Weintraub  
On Fri, Feb 19, 2010

Skidmore basketball celebrated Senior Day on Saturday, Feb. 13 with a sweep of the Vassar Brewers as part of the college's annual Big Green Scream in front of a packed crowd at the Sports & Recreation Center. With the wins, the women's team clinched the regular-season Liberty League title, while the men remained in a three-way first-place tie Union and St. Lawrence.

The women's team, despite being heavily favored over the fifth place Brewers, opened the doubleheader by falling behind 8-2 three minutes into the game. The Thoroughbreds responded, however, with a 17-2 run and never relinquished the lead. Senior Sharlyn Harper added nine of those points, all from beyond the arc. Harper finished with 15 points as Skidmore's leading scorer. The key to the first half was defense, as the Thoroughbreds limited the Brewers to just 7-25 (28 percent) from the floor in the period. The teams went into the break with Skidmore leading 29-20.

The Thoroughbred defense stayed strong to start the second period, allowing Skidmore to build a 14-point lead as they held Vassar scoreless for the first five minutes. Vassar was able to claw back into the game, however, led by Emily Haeuser, who scored a game high 20 points, and Brittany Parks, who added 19 with 14 coming in the second half. Nonetheless, Vassar was never able to cut the lead to less than four, and two free throws by sophomore Christina Gargiso with 16 seconds remaining wrapped up the win for Skidmore, 58-52.

The win brings Skidmore's record to 19-3 overall and 11-1 in conference play. With two games remaining, the team has an opportunity to tie the school record of 21, set during the 1995-96 season. The win was also their seventh consecutive victory, making them 11 of their last 12. Vassar, meanwhile, dropped to 8-13 and 4-7.

The men's team tipped off just after 4 p.m., needing a win to maintain their tie for first place. Despite coming in having lost 19 consecutive games, the last place Brewers open the game strong, holding an eight point lead with only five minutes off the clock. The score was fairly volatile throughout the half, featuring six lead changes and four ties, but Skidmore pulled out to a six-point lead at the break.

The Thoroughbreds managed to extend the lead to 11 off of back-to-back threes from senior John Douglas and sophomore John Mantas. Vassar was resilient, however, and pulled to within one at the

5:07 mark. Skidmore responded by knocking down two from downtown and proceeded to outscore Vassar 14-2 to finish out the game, winning 74-61.

With the win, Skidmore improved to 15-8 overall and 8-4 in conference play, remaining in contention for a possible regular season crown. Vassar's twentieth consecutive loss dropped them to 2-20 overall and 0-11 in the Liberty League, where they remain in last place.

Skidmore's bench outscored Vassar's, 40-5, but the Brewers brought only nine players to the game.

The two games were the centerpiece of the college's Big Green Scream, an annual event for the last home games of the basketball season. Sponsored by the Skidmore Athletic Department, Residential Life, Sustainable Skidmore, Student Athlete Advisory Committee, Environmental Action Club and Friends Of Skidmore Athletics, the event included a multitude of activities, including an inter-hall cheering competition to win a foosball table.

There were giveaways, including T-shirts and reusable bags from the EAC, as well as a raffle to win a flat screen television. Game workers threw T-shirts into the stands after every Skidmore three, with the teams totally 22 between the two games.

The Thoroughbreds will close out their respective regular season when they travel to St. Lawrence and Clarkson on Friday and Saturday. The men's match-up against St. Lawrence will feature two first place teams and could determine the Liberty League title.

## Wireless energy power now a reality

By Alex Brehm

On Fri, Feb 19, 2010

In the 1890s, infamous inventor and noted crazy man Nikola Tesla designed enormous generators that would make huge magnetic fields to power any electric device on the globe, or so was Tesla's plan. Although he ended up sending minor shocks through people nearby and made the ground around his laboratory glow blue with electricity, his plan to power the world didn't come through. It's taken over 100 years to make wireless electric power a reality.

In the past year, companies such as WiTricity and WiPower have announced products that provide wireless electrical power for various devices-cell phones, laptops, cameras or flashlights can be charged without being plugged into the wall. You place them on a charging pad instead of hooking them up to the wall, though the pad itself is plugged in. Such technology is the next no-brainer in a long line of products whose main selling point is their ability to unshackle us from the wall-cell phones, wireless Internet and now this.

Wireless electricity takes advantage of magnets - it's really just like playing with magnets as we did in grade school, but instead of only using bars of metal, we play with electric wires too.

Whenever electric current runs through a wire, a magnetic field begins to run in a circle around it. Then you could bring that wire close to a magnet and make the magnet move. This works backwards, as well. Bringing a magnet close to a wire and moving either one around makes electricity flow through the wire. It's a cycle-electricity makes magnetism and magnetism makes electricity. The behavior is called magnetic induction.

Wireless electricity just makes use of magnetic induction. As long as your cell phone is close enough to be affected, a strong enough magnet will start making current flow through the phone, enough to recharge the battery.

But induction is a ubiquitous technology. The same principle that makes wireless charging possible is what makes electric guitars work. The main pieces of a guitar are the strings and the magnetic pickups. Plucking a string moves electricity through the pickup, to the cord running out of the guitar, to the amp. The amplifier reverses the process. The cord from the guitar ends up near a magnet in the amp, and the electricity in the wire makes a magnetic field. That shakes the magnet in the amplifier.

The amplifier sets up that vibration as though it were at the business end of a megaphone - it makes the vibrations more powerful, enough to turn the small vibrations from your guitar string into something strong enough to make your ears bleed.

Headphones are just small speakers running off the same principle. Mp3 players are computers programmed to send current up the wire into your headphones to make them vibrate in just the same way. And if you've ever walked through the front doors of the college's library with your headphones on, you can hear the effects of induction-the sensors positioned at the front doors create a magnetic field that shakes your headphones and makes that high-pitched whine. Try it out if you haven't noticed the noise before.

Wireless electricity has already been used by the Prius hybrid car to brake. It takes energy to move electricity through a wire and, if you're trying to do it with a magnet, you feel resistance. The wheels in a Prius have magnets. When you tap the brake pedal, the car brings wires close to the wheels. The wheels' magnets move electricity through the wires and recharge the battery, but feel resistance, and the car slows down.

Magnetic induction is so cool because it's everywhere-in headphones, in speakers, in guitars, in cars and soon, anywhere wireless electronics, like laptops, are used. The future of the technology will just be about making the effect possible over bigger and bigger distances, from a few inches to a few miles. Instead of a pad to place devices on, you might buy a special wire running through the walls of your home, powering everything you own. And electrical outlets will go the way of the rotary phone.

## Comedy festival tickles funny bones

By Makenzi Knight

On Fri, Feb 19, 2010

The Janet Kinghorn Bernhard Theater's main stage auditorium was filled to bursting on Friday, Feb. 12, as the 21st annual National College Comedy Festival commenced. With a record of 178 participating members and 20 college comedy troupes, the hilarious occasion went off without a hitch, minus a bent chair leg or two. Due to the large number of participants, the festival was broken up into two showings, with 10 college groups performing each night followed by two professional performances.

The institutions represented were: Williams College ( Combo Za), NYU ( Danger Box and Hammerkatz), Vassar College (Happily Ever Laughter), Cornell University (HumorUs!, The Whistling Shrimp, and Skitz-O-Phrenics) , Harvard (The Immediate Gratification Players), Tufts University (The Institute and Major: Undecided), Trinity College (The Moveable Joints), Yale ( Purple Crayon), George Washington U ( receSs), Boston University (Sons of Liberty), Brown (Starla and Sons), Emerson (This Is Pathetic), Bates (The Strange Bedfellows) and, of course, Skidmore (The Ad-Liberal Artists, Skidomedy and The Sketchies) .

During the first night, the comedy groups covered a wide range of topics from Pokémon to The Stamp Act. Happily Ever Laughter's ingenious scenario of the "Bubble Boy," conceived in a Jacuzzi, who was trying to pick up a girl left viewers with a distinct impression of the disaster that could occur as a result of listening to one's "base conscience," (which he has as a result of being born a "bubble boy.")

This Is Pathetic brought a particularly amusing skit based off of the word, "Jellyfish," in which an 83-year-old jellyfish hunter succeeds in catching the, "End all be all," king of all giant jellyfish, with the help of his assistant and a crewman with a curiously high-pitched voice. Skidomedy brought some entertaining skits to the table, including a Jewish-American Disney Princess impression and a spoof of Akon's "Slap That," entitled "Slap Bag."

On the second night Yodapez wowed audience members with the story of how a girl (who was replayed in multiple guises, including Trini Kwan, the original yellow power ranger) lost her sombrero, cannibals in denial and a version of "Beauty and the Beast" in which the constantly-rehearsing mayor becomes unhinged after the successive failures of his cast and takes his frustrations out on the little farmer boy by literally forcing his pig to bite the bullet, only to have to replace the pig he killed.

The Moveable Joints delivered an acidic vision on the effects of eighth birthday celebrations on kids (because cocaine and sex are so hard to deal with, and "After all, kids grow up so fast these days.") The



members of The Purple Crayon portrayed whacky lawyers and gun-shy combatants. However, the best college performance of the night was without a doubt the Cupid skit, performed by Skidmore's own Ad-Liberal Artists. Who would have thought that the romantic notions of three different couples could be so quickly dispelled by frolicking men in Depends diapers as they decided to brutally attack their targets not just with flimsy arrows but swords, axes and fists?

As for the professional performances, the playful skits from Bleak Comedy! and Upright Citizen's Brigade's wonderful domestic mishaps, as well as the intensely funny antics of the Derrick members left the audience nursing intense, laughter-induced aches and pains.

Mojo the cat firmly established himself as both a tetherball extraordinaire and attentive husband during UCB's performance, and when Bleak Comedy! took the stage, viewers experienced, probably for the first time ever, UFC style fighting in their version of "The Circle of Life." During Bleak's second set of skits, the group mesmerized everyone with the idea of "Catberry! The blackberry for cats!" Derrick Comedy managed to quite realistically re-recreate the college lecture environment, throwing in details from the numerous Iphone Apps, to incessant texting on the part of students.

In the end, Comedy Fest proved to be an uproarious success. "As an event that is unique to Skidmore, it serves as a manifestation of the active and thriving comedy here, as well as galvanizing the national college comedy community. Twenty-one years is a long time for something that is entirely student run to be around. It's an exciting legacy to be a part of," explained Comedy Fest Producer Chris Jacobsen '10. Performers and viewers alike enjoyed the culmination of the effort put forth by both crew and fellow performers.

Jeremy Glissen-Brown '11 of BU thought it was great to see Derrick Comedy and thought that his performance went well, despite the fact that performing on an unfamiliar stage may have made things a little strained. Ruth Morrison, a sophomore member of the Ad-Libs said that "...it was great the way we all came together, and to see Derrick rockin' out! It was fantastic, and I felt privileged to be on stage with such great professionals." Such a wonderful outcome certainly serves to validate Chris's comment that, "After all, these days it looks like everybody could use a little visit from the tickle monster."

## A Marvel-ous disaster

By John Maher

On Fri, Feb 19, 2010

In 1961, Marvel Comics - which had existed in various floundering incarnations since its inception as Timely Publications in 1939 - began publishing the superhero comics that would make it a household name. Led by such luminaries as Stan Lee, Jack Kirby, Steve Ditko and John Romita, Sr., Marvel began churning out character after character and superhero team after superhero team. The lives and adventures of these new heroes, in comparison to those of long-established rival DC Comics, had a decidedly fresh twist: Marvel's writers made their characters real - something completely unheard of in the world of comics at the time.

This is not to say, of course, that Marvel made their characters' abilities or backgrounds entirely "realistic," per se, nor that these abilities or backgrounds were particularly novel. Case in point: the scientist-messes-up-in-laboratory cliché in particular was beaten into the ground in this era, as was the already popular super-strength ability.

However, Marvel was the first company to imbue its characters with personalities that were not those of archetypical do-gooders. An example? The Hulk, whose superstrength and invulnerability match those of Superman, but who, despite the best intentions, is controlled by a furious rage that leaves him completely unable to control himself - a rage that has often led to spars with some of his closest friends.

But now, according to its Web site's news section, Marvel is poised to head in what it calls an "exciting new direction," a direction that any true Marvel fan has to be a bit skeptical of.

According to a statement made by Marvel's Editor-In-Chief Joe Quesada, Marvel's heroes "have experienced some of their greatest trials and tribulations recently, but now there's going to be a renewed hope among their ranks. As our heroes emerge from the darkness, the Marvel Universe is going to be a more optimistic place than we've seen in a quite a while. But that doesn't mean we're making things easy for our characters!"

With this change, Mr. Quesada and his clearly misguided staff risk alienating legions of dedicated fans, most of whom have come to love the company for the tortured psyches and sheer grit of its characters. By abandoning the edginess that has given readers such brilliant and powerful pieces as "God Loves, Man Kills" and "Civil War," Marvel seems to be pointing toward a return to the chintzy charm and hackneyed optimism that its Silver Age artists and writers moved beyond almost 50 years ago.

Under Quesada's questionable leadership, the Marvel Universe has fallen prey to the same problem that the DC Universe has been struggling with for almost 30 years now: there always has to be a new "Direction." Although a sense of overall direction does generally help to provide a more cohesive universe (with the exception of DC's various "Crisis" story-arcs), it too often ends in a sweeping gesture that leaves a disastrous, muddled succession of hashed-together stories in its wake. This failure is illustrated perhaps most effectively in Quesada's atrocious collaboration with writer J. Michael Straczynski, the "Spider-Man: One More Day" storyline, in which Spider-Man literally makes a deal with the devil to save his Aunt May.

These stories are plagued by what those in the comics industry call "retroactive continuity," or "retcon," which is the altering of the history of a comic book character or universe in order to allow the author more creative liberty in his or her own story. Although retconning has worked very effectively for certain limited series in the past - in many of Batman's most famous story arcs, for example, especially Frank Miller's "Year One" - it has rarely, if ever, worked for redesigning an entire universe.

Marvel's newest retcon attempt, in the context of the company's trailblazing history, looks to be particularly doomed. I, for one, can't even begin to envision how Marvel will fit some of its beloved dark characters into this new universe, which Marvel has named, somewhat dully, the "Heroic Age." Wolverine, Punisher, Daredevil - none of these characters will fit into Marvel's new daisy-picking universe.

And nor should they. The reason Marvel has been so great for so long is because it has remained absolutely committed to exploring very powerful and realistic ideas and issues, despite doing so in such a traditionally fantastic medium. For the past 50 years, Marvel's writers have almost unanimously refused to compromise and refused to make life look prettier than it actually is.

Like DC's top-notch Vertigo imprint, Marvel made its name by weaving an overwhelming horror into its stories, a horror that served to make the tiny, beautiful glimmers of honor and nobility and hopefulness in its characters all the more poignant.

Mr. Quesada has to learn that he cannot erase his past mistakes, nor can he simply hit the "reset" button and watch Marvel magically morph into the great engine of comics it once was. By tearing down the company's time-honored tradition of instilling a sense of realism in its characters and stories, Quesada and his staff are making a big mistake. The outcome that fans such as I have been dreading ever since Disney announced its purchase of Marvel in August of 2009 has come to pass: Marvel Comics has replaced "R" with "PG."





This strategy effectively destroys everything that the name "Marvel" has represented to its fans for the past 50 years.

All we fans can do is hope that the company will abandon its plans, though its recent track record would suggest that our heartfelt prayers will be in vain. As for Quesada, he should be praying, too. Because if this new direction fails, he will have a lot of angry fans on his hands at New York City's Comic Con in October, and the last thing he needs is to have some 300-pound weightlifter dressed as Hulk running at him, enraged, screaming, "Hulk SMASH" at the top of his lungs.

## Reviving goth rock

Twin Shadow haunts with dark melodies and lyrics

By Katie Bennett

On Fri, Feb 19, 2010

It's 1981 and I'm chain-smoking in the back of an abandoned-warehouse-turned-dingy-bar, floor to ceiling painted black. Leaning against the concrete wall, I have a full range view of my peers: lonely young artists covered in different forms of dark fabric and silver spikes to protect themselves against plebs.

It's so dark I can't distinguish the features of the man who hands me a shot of something. My red lipstick stains its edge as the liquid sears my throat. I push past him toward the makeshift stage, where the musical act is about to perform its set. I can only make out slight movements of shadows as the musician sets off a hypnotizing loop that sounds like a slow-paced heartbeat about to die off. A series of small lights turn on and the stage alights in a starry glow that reveals a scraggly man with sienna skin, hunched over a microphone that he clutches to his chest. He lifts it to his cracked lips as he sings "you're my favorite daydream/ I'm your famous nightmare," the two phrases separated by a tight moan.

In another dimension, Brooklyn-native Twin Shadow (aka George Lewis Jr.) is that act. With a sound driven by crystallized keys, a heavy bass line and anchored by synths and loops, Twin Shadow could have drunk red wine and shot lines off a vocoder in the Hotel Chelsea with goth-rock legends Depeche Mode, Siouxsie & the Banshees and David Bowie. He admits he was heavily influenced by these artists' legacies during his recent year-long escape to Berlin, the city where anything goes. With his single, "Castles in the Snow," Lewis revives the spirit of the city's goth rock scene of the late '70s, and pushes the sound further into futuristic realms. This is an unbelievable accomplishment for a man without so much as a wikipedia page.

His sound is dark, dirty, cold and addicting. Through the heavy bass in his verses, I can only discern certain words and phrases: "wounded," "here's all I know," "now we are old," "we walk alone," and "moonlit," enticing me to listen to the song again and again in order to comprehend his lyrics. The chorus is clear, and I hear his voice in my ear as I dream: "Everything you see looks like gold/ Everything I touch goes cold," exposing my naïveté compared to his calloused perspective. I immediately think vampire, and not the harmless hero like Edward Cullen from "Twilight," but a 17th century villain who uses his mystique and untamable sex appeal to seduce women and tear their humanity from them after sex.

## Putting a spin on our sexuality

By Olivia Morrow & Sarah Rosenblatt

On Fri, Feb 19, 2010

Eyes scanning across a circle quickly become the spinning eye of an old wine bottle. The rotating bottle slows down and lands on an eager face, which triggers the screaming of the crowd. Without any hesitation an equally eager body meets its counterpart in the middle. They share an uninhibited moment of intimacy then retreat back to their respective places. During these titillating moments, it is hard to say how other college students are celebrating Valentine's Day - black light raving at Arabella, glassy-eyed grinding at Peabody's or sharing a strawberry and Nutella crepe at Ravenous.

Squinting at the intruding Sunday light, we pick up the empty bottles strewn about the house, wondering how each one served its owner the night before.

The Yellowtail bottle sat in the spotlight coming through the window, illuminating its importance as a lubricator for sexual fluidity. Instead of the usual shudder at an artifact of the night before, we embrace the bottle, not only as a reminder of a Valentine's Day well spent, but also as a model for a kind of utopian sexuality.

We realize that most games of spin the bottle are either riddled with middle-school braces and humiliation or accompanied with the soundtrack of chanting boys, begging for girls to kiss.

In fact, spin the bottle can be a site for social and emotional disaster. We have all engaged in games of spin the bottle during which one or more parties felt rejected, used, embarrassed, dirty or left chock-full of herpes. But the ideal game of spin the bottle can give us a glimpse of a world without socially constructed rules about sexuality in three ways.

First, everyone knows the rules. Think about the last hookup you've had at Skidmore. It was probably either in the depths of Mare or "watching a movie" with a friend. Feeling a combination of excitement and fear, you probably didn't know if you should text, and if so, after how long, or even what to wear to D-Hall the next day in the hope/dread that you might see the other person.

All of these questions, where the boundaries lie unknown, can make a person want to bag the whole thing! In our "spin-the-bottle-model" of sex, the rules are clear. Spin, kiss, gleam and repeat. Ironically, you don't have to play games in this game.

Second, gender inequality begins to fade. The power dynamic of the knight in shining armor trailing the damsel in distress does not apply. The bottle takes care of the pursuit and erases any constructs of female passivity and male forwardness. At some point in the game every person plays both the roles of the pursuer and the pursued. Instead of waiting for permission from an enticing text message, a girl can just grab the bottle and spin.

Third, there is no discrimination against, well, anything. The walls built by the social constructions of attraction, be them gender, sexuality or music taste, fall. The bottle does not favor any player for their height, curves, holes, rolls or sexual orientation. Any breathing individual is a potential partner for intimacy. Non-breathers aren't.

But you gotta draw the line somewhere. In other words, we're not saying that every Skiddie should feel the pressure to engage in indiscriminate, pansexual, multiple-partner orgies, but we are saying that every person should be a candidate for respect. Under a set of highly regarded rules of equality, everyone has something to offer, whether it be a sexual relationship, platonic friendship or respected acquaintanceship, regardless of their socialized identities.

We hope that you don't take this metaphor literally; we acknowledge that spin the bottle doesn't necessarily have revolutionary power, it simply bottles values that we can look to for inspiration and knowledge in our sexual endeavors.

## Questioning our unity

On Fri, Feb 19, 2010

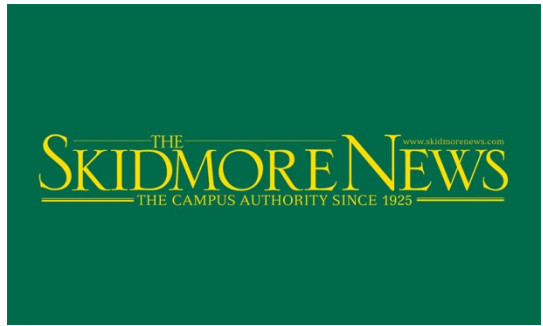
Despite the college's small student population, there is an alarming lack of unity on our small campus. Even as a small school, there seems to be a divide between students; we seem to be unable to form a interrelated community. We have low attendance at our sporting events, lectures, and low turnouts for the Student Government elections. Last semester we saw a clear demonstration of our disturbing level of apathy as we struggled to get enough votes to dissolve Pavilion Corp.

Our student body is full of incredibly motivated individuals, each with their own goals and ambitions. That can be wonderful in the classroom, but the division between students is more apparent at every empty lecture or basketball game. Our student athletes are consistently under appreciated and under supported by the rest of the student body. Admittedly, we do not have a strong sports culture at the college, but that does not mean we should not show support for our classmates. Athletics should not need to be our top priority in order for us to come together as a community.

It is difficult to compare the college to a large university but, on weekend game days, those schools all gather together - either inside or outside the stadium - to watch their teams. Most of the time it is not even about caring if the team wins or loses. Instead, it's about being in a collective community.

Sports are not the only solution, but where is our community? We should be able pride ourselves on being well read, educated and worldly, but there is a general ambivalence towards lectures and other speakers that the college's many clubs and organizations bring to campus. The college usually brings in a lecturer per week; often the assembly halls are largely empty. Besides even lectures, there are fashion shows, concerts and plays every week that are typically sparingly attended. These events are all the product of hard work by student-run organizations. The lack of attendance reflects negatively on our reputation here at the college; it appears we are unwilling to come together in support of one another.

Every so often, the college will hold a large event like the Big Green Scream or the National College Comedy Fest, which attract large crowds from both the college and the broader community. Nearly the entire student body will attend college traditions like Moorebid Ball and Fun Day. Obviously these are special events that occur only once a year, but if we are able to come together for those, we should for other events as well, even if to a lesser degree. Our goal should be to make more of an effort to attend game, lecture and performance - not just a few throughout the year. A closer atmosphere would make the college experience much more exciting. There is a reason why Fun Day is one of the best days on



campus. In essence, it is no different than any other spring semester Saturday when the weather is nice, but the fact that everyone on campus is involved makes the experience that much more fulfilling.

## Styles P drops scattershot LP

By Wyatt Erchak

On Fri, Feb 19, 2010

In hip-hop, there has always been a thin line drawn between street credibility and exaggeration. Perhaps Fat Joe put it best in "Pendemic" when he asked of the listener "don't you know all of us rappers are great liars?" Even the concept of "street cred" is amorphous: does it mean one has lived what you rap about, or is it a distinction one earns from being present in the scene for a substantial amount of time? The answer is different depending on who you ask.

Styles P the "Ghost" is yet another of the myriad hardcore MC's who bases his entire image on maintaining street-cred. Born David Styles in Queens and raised in Yonkers, N.Y., Styles first achieved fame through The LOX, a group composed of himself and fellow Yonkers rappers Jadakiss and Sheek Louch. After featuring on Notorious B.I.G.'s "Life After Death," their first album on Bad Boy Records, "Money, Power & Respect" was released in 1998 and subsequently went platinum.

Seeking to preserve its hardcore image, the group signed with Ruff Ryders after a dispute with Bad Boy over the release of its contract. The group went on to release "We Are The Streets" in 2000, this time going gold, after which The LOX embarked on a roughly 10-year hiatus to allow for the member's solo careers, though a new album is planned for this year.

During that time, Styles P. released three successful solo albums, the most recent being 2007's "Super Gangster (Extraordinary Gentleman)." For his latest outing, Styles has teamed up with Rochester native DJ Green Lantern to release "The Green Ghost Project," a mixtape described by Styles as being "not for the rap fan; [it's] for the hip-hop fan." The mixtape was officially released on Feb. 2.

"Green Ghost" begins with "Nothing To Lose," a booming track showcasing the hardcore theme of the record, thanks in no small part to Styles gritty lyrics: "I'm the real deal/n\*\*\*\*a, feel me or you can feel steel." He jettisons his momentum in the repetitive and uninteresting "Callin' Me" and corny singing of "Send A Kite." Styles performs fine on these, as well as on "Make Millions From Entertainment," where mediocre beats are the main issue. The latter Alchemist-produced track sounds downright sloppy, as if he just picked random keys and effects on his keyboard and started pounding.

Fortunately, the grimness returns with the ominous and molasses-thick bass of "Invasion." Jadakiss teams up with Styles to portray a home invasion by the police, with Junior Reid adding a cool dancehall flavor. A second dose of thick bass is served on "Pablo Doe," which features an extra-violent Noreaga:

"Wake up in the morning/four-fifth to your face...shoot you in the stomach/give that a\*\* noodle legs."  
Ouch.

The mood switches to introspective in the next set of tracks beginning with soulful and stuttered singing on the lush "Pretty Little Thing," with the Ghost rhyming about a certain special lady in his life. The orchestral and melancholy strings of "Shadows" flutter behind dusty drums and piano as Styles spits paranoia-themed street rhymes tinged with mysticism: "Something in the shadows/maybe it's the pharaohs/coming to spread the light, cause the vision's so narrow."

The celebratory "Legal Money" sees Styles rejoicing at achieving success having "come from a place where everybody is ice cold." The sparse drums and bouncy pianos seamlessly transition through successive choruses into more club-worthy fare, with synths at first going off here and there, and later tinkling all over the tight beat.

The record ends on the reflective "Born In These Streets." The song's '80s style beat is filled to the brim with subdued horns and minor key synths, and Styles delivers a personal, inspiring verse, providing a very fitting close. "The Green Ghost Project" sounds like a Styles P album; his assertive N.Y. delivery comes through loud and clear, the subject matter dealing with everything from the most gutter street rap to more philosophical musings. The beats, however, are all over the place, ranging from less than mediocre to phenomenal. This is perfectly fine, though, since this is not an album, but a mixtape. As such, "Green Ghost" is a great example of how hardcore rap should be.



## Eat your heart out

### Food for the Heart and Soul' sends love to Haiti

By Jean-Ann Kubler

On Fri, Feb 19, 2010

Falstaff's was covered in love-themed decorations to celebrate Ujima's 'Food for the Heart and Soul' dinner this Valentine's Day. The dinner is a Ujima tradition open to the entire Skidmore community. "Basically we're just celebrating love. Black love, and love of all kinds," explained Ujima vice-president Linda Leandre '10 in her welcoming message to the guests.

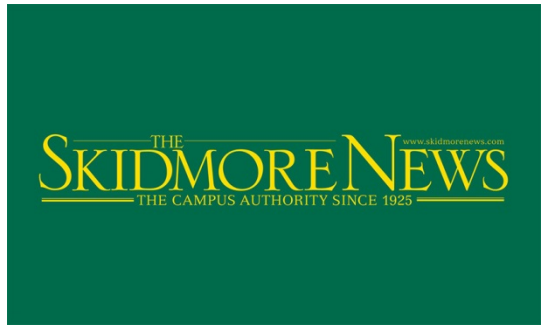
The first twenty attendees at this year's dinner were greeted with red roses, but everyone in attendance was welcomed with smiles, love-themed music and an array of pink and red streamers, balloons and place-settings. The real treat of the night, however, was the traditional black cuisine that has become a staple of Heart and Soul dinners. As people trickled into Falstaff's between 5:30 and 6:00, Leandre and Ujima president Tiara Wilcox '10 proudly observed the event they had organized. Conversation flowed easily between the guests, most of whom were Skidmore students and Ujima members. Entertainment was provided not only through the well-picked musical selection, but love-themed games as well.

A game entitled "If You Don't Know Me By Now," based off of the Newlywed Game, asked close friends and people in relationships to remember key details of how they met, as well as their partner's likes and dislikes. Wilcox and Leandre made one major change to the dinner this year. "Every year, Food for the Heart and Soul focuses on a different aspect of relationships in the black community," said Wilcox. "Usually, it's something about gender roles, but this year we're focusing on Haiti."

In addition to the usual dinner, socializing, and games that have become expectation at these Ujima dinners, this year included a brief presentation about the crisis in Haiti.

"We think it's important to focus on romantic love, but it's just as important to focus on sending our love to those in need right now," added Wilcox. Though the tone of the dinner may have been more serious than in previous years, Ujima's guests still enjoyed themselves. Student's who had attended last year's Heart and Soul dinner were open to the change in focus. Mike Forbes '12 said, "It's definitely important to discuss Haiti right now. 200,000 people are dead and the country is in turmoil. They need our love."

D-Juan Gilmore '12 echoed Forbes' and Wilcox's sentiment, "It's Valentine's Day, and we should spend money on [the victims of the earthquake] rather than flowers, balloons and candy."



"It doesn't matter what day of the week it is," added Forbes.

Ujima meets on Thursday nights at 9 pm in the ICC

## Musicians raise \$3,500 for Haiti

Benefit concert 'Harmony for Haiti' rocks sold-out show in Zankel

By Sarah Barry

On Fri, Feb 19, 2010

Skidmore's Harmony for Haiti benefit concert, which took place on Feb. 11, was more than just the first student performance in the new Helen Filene Ladd Performance Hall.

It was an unmitigated success that provided a stunning example of the Skidmore music community's ability to direct its vast stores of creative energy towards a humanitarian goal, while also putting on a great show.

When the dust cleared, Skidmore's student and faculty performers had succeeded in both satisfying their audience and raising \$3,500 to provide relief for Haiti's decimated populace in the aftermath of the earthquake that struck the island nation on Jan. 12.

At 8:30 p.m., a half-hour before the sold-out concert started, the Zankel lobby was already packed. When the doors opened at 9 p.m., attendees spilled into the auditorium, climbing over benches and shoving each other out of the way in a mad struggle to claim good seats.

When the chaos died down, Anni Satinover '11, the organizer of Harmony for Haiti and a member of Accents, welcomed students and guests. She expressed appreciation for support and donations before proceeding to introduce the first act, Accents, of which she was a member. Accents encouraged the audience to "get on board" and their upbeat numbers started off the show with an appropriate bang.

The Dynamics took the stage next and played "Bridge Over Troubled Waters," setting a somber, yet hopeful mood. The next performers, the Verbs, were of a different genre. The band had an electronic sound and an upbeat and unique feel that added something different to the show.

The Gospel Choir followed with two powerful songs that involved the audience in a bout of clapping. The group was vivacious to say the least. An acoustic group of four including two guitars, a violin and banjo followed, the group had an alternative folk vibe and calmed the atmosphere of the hall.

The Bandersnatchers sang one upbeat number, followed by a rendition of Bon Iver's gloomy "For Emma Forever Ago." The performers took a short break for some words from Claire Solomon of the SGA, who stressed Skidmore's opportunity to work together to aid Haiti. Concluding her speech, she urged the

audience to bring donations to the second floor of Case Center. The money raised in the event will be sent to provide shelter and simple necessities like food and water to earthquake victims.

Sweet Talk performed next, lighting up the stage with a soulful R & B feel. Sweet Talk's songs, belted out with great enthusiasm by the band's exuberant lead singer, were original works from the group. Next, Treble Makers, Skidmore's newest a capella group, took the stage for its first performance, a lullaby.

The following band played a cover of an Elliot Smith song, complete with grand piano. They then performed with three guest musicians who gave the number a big band sound. The Drastic Measures followed with an uplifting rendition of "Here Comes the Sun," and then followed up with a stage-stealing cover of Darby Slick's "Somebody to Love," featuring a rocking solo.

Sonneteers took the stage next to deliver a sobering version of Imogen Heap's "Hide and Seek" before ceding the stage to E.J Russel's Bad Mothers, who played a Haitian folk song, serving to remind the audience of the night's purpose. The Rest Brothers, who were quite popular at Beatlemore Skidmania in the Fall, pleased the crowd with some old classics.

The concert concluded with John Lennon's "Imagine," performed by all the preceding performers of the night. The audience showed its appreciation for the rousing finale with a standing ovation.

Response to the show was overwhelmingly positive. "Stunning," "heartwarming," "terrific" and "eargasmic" were some of adjectives spilling from attendees' mouths. "It was great to see how the Skidmore community came together and a good way to present Zenkel," Jon Wan '12 said.

## Sports wrap: Hockey ices St. Mike's

By Lauren Sager

On Fri, Feb 19, 2010

### Men's Hockey

On Feb. 12, the men's ice hockey team defeated St. Michael's College 5-2 in South Burlington, Vt.

In the first period, sophomore Tyler Doremus scored the first goal of the night at the eight-minute mark. Junior Alex Mykolenko and first year Zack Menard assisted Doremus. Two minutes later, the Purple Knight's defensemen Tim Geverd netted a goal on a breakout play.

Early on in the second period, senior Matt Czerkowicz connected with Nick Dupuis and put Skidmore ahead of St. Michael's. But then, the Purple Knight's Reave MacKinnon contributed another point for St. Michaels. For the remainder of the second period, St. Michael's was caught in the defensive zone but unable to stop Skidmore from taking the lead.

At the start of the third period, Menard increased the advantage with an assist from sophomore Alex Essaris. Senior Tim Daley, assisted by senior Chris Webb and sophomore Jonathan Watanabe, then scored another goal for Skidmore, putting the opponent at a two-point deficit.

Next, Czerkowicz netted the final goal, putting the final score to 5-2. The team also took on Norwich University this past Saturday, Feb. 13. At the 14:18 mark of the first period, Norwich opened the scoring when a wrist shot went past the Thoroughbred's goaltender Andrew Ross.

With 10.9 seconds remaining in, Czerkowicz tied the score when he received pass from Dupuis and beat out Norwich on a breakaway. At the 4:24 mark of the second period, Norwich's stole back the lead.

Midway through the second period, Skidmore moved the score to 3-2. At the 6:30 mark, Doremus tallied the equalizer with mark off passes from Hunter Thayer and Brendan Cottam. Then, at the 10:32 mark Essaris put the Thoroughbreds ahead of the Cadets. Two minutes after later, Norwich tied the score.

The scored was tied into the third period until Norwich stole the lead for good at the 8:05 mark. The Cadets scored again at the 11:43 mark, putting the final score at 5-3. The team will play Middlebury on Feb.19 and Williams on Feb.20 at the Saratoga City Rink.

## Men's Basketball

On Feb. 12, the Skidmore men's basketball team defeated Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute 92-80.

The first half was tight with the Engineers leading 41-40 at the end. There were 10 lead changes and four ties, but Skidmore snatched the lead in the second half.

With 13:47 left in the second half, Skidmore broke out a 15-4 run to give them a 10 point lead at 55-45. In the last 10 minutes, RPI was unable to make a comeback, and Skidmore took at least a 17-point lead.

During the 15-4 run, sophomore Terron Victoria, sophomore John Mantas, and junior Jeff Altimar each shot three pointers. The Thoroughbreds scored 26 points off of 15 RPI turnovers.

Sophomore Brian Lowry contributed 16 points. Jeff Altimar earned 13 points for Skidmore, and John Douglas scored 10. The men's basketball team will play St. Lawrence in Canton on Feb. 19 and Clarkson on Feb. 20 in Postdam.

## Women's Basketball

The women's basketball team took its 18th victory on Feb. 12 with a 59-53 Liberty League win over Rensselaer. The Thoroughbreds are now 18-3 overall and 10-1 in the Liberty League.

At the 16:25 mark of the first period, Skidmore was up 5-4. But then, RPI took a 10 point lead when they went on a 13-2 run. Determined, the Thoroughbreds came back with a 15-5 run, and the first half ended with the score tied at 22-22.

In the second half, Skidmore took the lead when senior guard Amber Kinsey hit three at the 18:12 mark.

After Skidmore stole the lead, the RPI decreased the deficit to one. The home team pushed their lead nine points with a 10-2 run and a pair of free throws from senior Kelly Bischoff with 4:22 remaining.

During the remainder of the game, Skidmore did not let RPI to come within three points. Over the last 2:11, the Thoroughbreds went 7-for-10 from the free throw line, giving them the 6 point victory.

## Women's Tennis

On Feb. 16, the women's tennis team opened their season with a loss to the University of Albany.

Doubles team of sophomore Tory Engros and senior Laura Attley defeated the opponent 8-3. First year Brittany Trimble also won when she beat Melissa Coughlin in three sets.

Albany's Laine Mackey beat junior Rachel Loeb in a three set match 4-6, 6-4, 4-6. Doubles team Danika Robinson and Nataly Mendoza lost a close match, 5-8. The team returns to action when they host RPI on Feb. 27.

#### Men's Swimming & Diving

The men's swimming and diving team placed second in the Vassar Invitational on Feb. 13.

Sophomore Doug Pilawa came second on 1-meter diving with an NCAA qualifying score and new six-dive record of 308.47. Pilawa also won the 3-meter with an NCAA qualifying score and new six-dive record of 337.35A 200 medley team consisting of first year Jesse Adler, senior John Tyler Norton, senior Tom Saglimbeni, and junior Stephen Lento placed second with the fastest time of the season.

Adler came second in the 100 Back, missing first place by only .05. He additionally placed second in the 50 Back and third in the 100 IM.

Norton placed second in the 50 Breast and 100 Breast, and he came fourth in the 50 Free.

Lento came second in the 400 IM and was fourth in the 100 Free and 100 IM. First year Greg Amoresano finished fourth in the 500 Free and third in the 200 Free. Saglimbeni and sophomore Sam Leibenhaut finished 2-3 in the 100 Fly.

## Professor Profile: John Anzalone

By Sarah Barry

On Fri, Feb 19, 2010

The newly built Zankel Music Center was filled to capacity as the Rust Brothers performed the final song of the Harmony for Haiti fund raiser on February 11. The band's talented bassist is not a professional musician, or even a music professor at Skidmore.

John Anzalone is, however, a well regarded professor of French, and active member of the Skidmore community for the past 25 years. Though his contributions to the college are numerous, Anzalone is also incredibly grateful to be able to teach, work with students, and further his education at Skidmore every day.

Anzalone has worked with what was once the liberal studies department, and, more recently, with the Scribner seminars. Working with the interdisciplinary Scribner seminars allows Anzalone to explore his academic interests, which span far beyond French, with students. Skidmore, he says, provides him an opportunity to work with both professors and students he wouldn't meet if he was limited to his position in the French Department.

In addition to the range of the curriculum in French, Professor Anzalone has taught classes on American detective fictions, the cinema, various theater topics and Fantastic literature. He has performed on the main stage and in the black box, and guest taught in the theater, philosophy and classics departments. He administered the Paris foreign program out of his office in the early years of the program's existence. One of his original interests was history, and he has been the Mosley lecture speaker on graphic arts and book illustration during the World War I. He's currently working on research involving the influence of the graphic arts on the general public during World War I.

For students who have not had a class with Anzalone, he is recognizable as the bassist for the Rust Brothers. Anzalone saw the Beatles in Boston in 1966 and has been interested in psychedelic music since the late 60s. Last year he co-taught a Scribner ID 151 courses on the Grateful Dead with Professor Arnush . He first saw the Grateful Dead live in 1970, and he explains that the Dead's music was rooted in a philosophy that was about more than the shows they played. The performances were purposeful and had sociological ramifications that the course explored.

Anzalone has played in bands ever since his undergraduate days, and he now enjoys the community shows that the Rust Brothers have performed. While music is important to Anzalone, it seems that his



passion is truly for teaching. He discovered his desire to teach at the University of Massachusetts at Boston after it first opened, and later at Tufts, where he received his masters degree and Ph.D. in French. He describes the teaching that inspired him as "off the charts." He explained that while some students are lucky to have one genuine mentor, he had three such supportive figures.

Anzalone's philosophy on teaching developed from the teachings of his professors. He explains that his own advisors taught him that "teaching is personal, vital--not abstract." His teachers were engaged, passionate, and exciting, and it resonated with him. He now tries to create the kind of supportive and enriching experience for his own students.

Professor Anzalone continues to branch out into different parts of the Skidmore community. His passion and thirst to learn is clear in his many interests, excitement for teaching, and desire to collaborate with as many members of the community as possible.

## Skidmore joins 'Her Campus'

By Annie Bruckner

On Fri, Feb 19, 2010

On January 26th, Adriana Vetrano '11 launched the Skidmore College branch of "Her Campus", an online magazine targeted at college-aged women.

"Her Campus" was founded in 2009 by three Harvard undergraduates - Windsor Hanger '10, Stephanie Kaplan '10 and Annie Wang '11. Vetrano heard about "Her Campus" from her sister, a Harvard alumna, who had worked on freshman peer advising with one of the founders.

"She got a link on Facebook one day and forwarded it to me; I noticed that ['Her Campus'] had several branches, and my sister said, 'You should start the Skidmore one.' I thought it'd be a great project," said Vetrano.

Over winter break, Vetrano applied to start a Skidmore branch of "Her Campus." Her petition was approved in January, and she became the campus correspondent for the Skidmore branch. Her role as campus correspondent entails organizing, managing and editing for Skidmore's "Her Campus" page.

"I'm supposed to work on publicity, write articles, come up with ideas, edit what other people do and put it up on the Internet," she said. Vetrano has had previous journalism experience. She wrote for Skidmore News during her freshman and sophomore years and worked for a web design firm last summer where she edited websites and wrote articles.

Vetrano hopes that "Her Campus" will give Skidmore women a place to express their ideas. "There's so much out there on the Internet - blogging, Facebook, Twitter - that people use to put out their opinions or photos or just write about things that interest them. I hope that 'Her Campus' will be a more organized outlet for those people who want to post their ideas in a more legitimate space," she said.

Vetrano thinks that "Her Campus" will attract student writers not currently involved with other publications on campus. "I want to make a good alternative for people [...] who want to put their own spin on their topics," she said. "The newspaper is more formal. The tone [of 'Her Campus'] is more conversational; it's more intimate than a newspaper. Also, it has the benefit of being more immediate; I get the articles and can get them [posted] quickly."

Students can contribute to "Her Campus" in many ways. "People can participate in any way, whether it's submitting photographs, working on publicity, or, of course, writing the articles," she said. Articles may

cover any of the main subjects - Style, Life, Health, Dorm Life, Career and World - but are not limited to these. "There is always room to add more; [Internet publishing] has no limits," Vetrano said.

Vetrano realizes that gossip threatens any online publications focusing on college issues, but she asserts that this is not the purpose of "Her Campus." "I don't want it to be a gossip column or site, but I do think there are a lot of things that girls want and need to discuss in college. I hope that 'Her Campus' can be a home base for those people. It's a good site, and you can go to any school's page; the resources are endless on those pages," she said.

Vetrano also hopes that "Her Campus" will help her give back to the community. "It's about creating more of a community here; sharing ideas with others is really important," she said. Despite being geared toward college women, "Her Campus" is not produced exclusively by women. "Anyone can write for 'Her Campus'; I welcome anyone. In fact, I would love to get a male's perspective on anything girls care about," Vetrano said.

The first general interest meeting was February 3rd. "There was a decent turnout [at the first general interest meeting], and I had a lot of people e-mail me after the fact, asking if they could still write. I hope the team just builds and builds; such a big part of [making Skidmore's branch of 'Her Campus' successful] is having people come together and brainstorm ideas," said Vetrano.

Visit the Skidmore chapter of Her Campus at <http://hercampus.com/school/skidmore>



## Lyrical Ballad: A labyrinth of literature

By Wyatt Erchak

On Fri, Feb 19, 2010

Books; you can't live with them, you can't live without them. For college students this sentiment rings truer than most. If you're a bibliophile, though, what does it matter? The magical world of the book offers an escape only available within its pages. For those with an itch to explore those worlds beyond what is required for courses, an unassuming downtown Saratoga book shop is the key.

Lyrical Ballad, located at 7 Phila Street, is a literary labyrinth. Upon entering, you may think you've stumbled into book heaven. Shelves tower to the ceiling, filled with books; there are so many books that in some rooms they have to be piled onto the floor due to lack of space. The sheer number of volumes to be found here is astonishing, not to mention the variety of genres.

One employee, Jason Zerrillo, emphasizes the vastness of its collection. The store sells new, used and antiquarian books, paperbacks, and first editions of all genres, with the owner of the store buying collections in and outside of the store. The enormous stock, he said, allows one to buy a "Tom Sawyer" for two bucks, or a more expensive coveted rarity."

The store, which opened in the early 1970's, originally consisted of just the front room. Soon enough, as is evident from any casual browse, it needed more room, so it expanded into the back and side. The result is something of a mesmerizing maze of successive rooms, all offering different assortments of books. There is even a large locked vault protecting the more precious volumes.

Lyrical Ballad is a fun place to browse, as Zerrillo put it, but that is a severe understatement. It is an incredible place for bookworms to dig into, with inexpensive books concerning everything from existential philosophy to dinosaurs to "The Little Engine That Could." If books suck you in, then don't be surprised if you end up spending an entire day hunkered down in a corner of the store, reading.

And if the literary allures described herein aren't enough to cause you to set off running to the store at a brisk pace, then perhaps the added bonus of Skidmore students getting 10% off will. Even if such a discount wasn't offered, Lyrical Ballad is a virtual utopia for lovers of words, bound pages, and prose. Lyrical Ballad is open Monday 10 am - 5 pm, closed on Tuesday, open Wednesday 10 - 6, Thursday 12 -6, Friday and Saturday 10 - 6, and Sunday 11 - 5.



## Glotzbach hosts fireside chat

Talks about diversity, school spirit, the college's future

By Michael Mandelkern

On Fri, Feb 19, 2010

On Feb. 17 President Philip Glotzbach hosted a fireside chat with students in the Murray-Aikins Atrium. The purpose of the event was to discuss topics of interest with students. The previous day he delivered a presentation to the Student Government Association Senate where he discussed the college's financial status and the value of a liberal arts education.

"I think they [senators and other attendees] were very attentive and had good questions," Glotzbach said. He believes the audience was receptive of his speech about the importance of creative thought and responsible citizenship.

"People seemed to think I got it right," he said.

He then discussed balancing the school's budget. Glotzbach emphasized that spending in one area means less money for another aspect of campus life.

"I think everything we do in the budget is a compromise," he said. "It's always a balancing act.

He noted that because of the college's decision to avoid laying-off student and union employees, there is not enough funding to invest in a significant amount of new technology.

"It's a compromise," Glotzbach said. Glotzbach then highlighted the significant role the college's financial aid budget plays into increasing diversity on campus. Since he became president in 2003, the college has increased funding for financial aid every year, although this year the gain was not as substantial as he first envisioned prior to the recession.

"We have put more effort into diversity," Glotzbach said.

Over the past seven years, there have been notable increases in Higher Education Opportunity Program students, funding for new scholarship programs or percentage of students of color.

In 2003, 13 percent of students were minorities; it is now 20 percent. Glotzbach, however, does not confine diversity exclusively to race and religion. He also categorizes geographic background, both national and international, as diversity.

Glotzbach seeks to bring in more students from the Midwestern and Southern regions of the U.S.

He has also made an effort to attract students who are interested in specific aspects of the liberal arts, such as the sciences. The college hosts a "Science Weekend" for prospective students who have strong interests in the subject. "There's a lot of targeted recruiting," he said.

In 2003, 12 percent of students were science majors. That figure has been steadily rising. According to one of Glotzbach's goals in his Strategic Plan, an outline of future plans for the college, that figure is set to double in five years. The college emphasizes its improving diversity statistics in handouts given to prospective students.

Glotzbach believes that having students from all over the world participate in class discussions is a unique learning experience. "You learn from one another," he said. As an example, he pointed out that if a class is talking about Middle Eastern affairs, having a pupil who is from that region adds more perspective to the discussion.

"When you graduate from here you are in a multicultural environment," Glotzbach said. "You need to be comfortable dealing with people from different life experiences." When asked if he believes the college fosters school spirit, he stressed the institution's intimate size.

"We are a community of communities," he said. "People seldom do just one thing." Although the college does not have a facility that is large enough to hold the entire student body at one time, he believes that students share a passion for their academic and curricular interests that unites them all.

"Those commitments overlap, they are not discreet," Glotzbach said. "They are interested in what others are doing." He emphasized that even though not all students conduct activities together they acknowledge each other's achievements.

"I think pride is the key here," he said. "They all reflect Skidmore in some way." Glotzbach concluded his fireside chat by discussing the future of the college's national standing. He believes that the present and future success of alumni will help to establish the school's prestige outside of the Northeast.

"We are providing the highest academic and co-curricular experience here," he said. The college has climbed in national ranking this past decade. In 2008, the college made Newsweek's "25 New Ivies" list. But Glotzbach aims higher.

"I believe we will be in an even better place in years to come," he said.

## Professor explains EU in new book

By Sarah Barry

On Fri, Feb 19, 2010

On Feb. 5, Roy Ginsberg, professor of government and international affairs at the college, published "Demystifying the European Union: The enduring Logic of Regional Integration," his ninth book. He published the first edition of the book in 2007, which sold approximately 3,500 copies. Rowman and Littlefield released the second edition.

"The second edition is a more streamlined version of the original text; it was improved as the result of feedback from both readers and critics," Ginsberg said.

The book was inspired by student work from Ginsberg's courses on European integration, particularly in his Political Economy government course.

Using his students as critics, he compiled his previous work and study into one integrated text.

The content is geared toward undergraduate students but Ginsberg believes the general public will also find the book approachable. "The text was primarily created for undergraduates, but it is accessible to the general public," he said.

The book discusses the Treaty of Lisbon and new European Union developments, such as its response to the global financial crisis and new contributions to peacekeeping.

"I didn't want to write a dry text. I wanted to write a story about how the European Union developed after World War II and evolved into becoming what it is today," Ginsberg said.

He describes the EU as a group of cooperating states that strive for reconciliation through economic and political integration. Ginsberg dissects individual aspects of the EU, primarily its history, law, economics, governance and policies.

"In the book I examine all the individual parts of the European Union separately and then repack them to demonstrate how the Union works," he said.

Ginsberg stresses that the EU can only be fully understood through an interdisciplinary approach.

"No field or discipline has a monopoly of knowledge on something as complex as the EU," he said.

Ginsberg's interest in European relations sparked when he was a student. His honors, masters and doctorate theses were all based on the subject of European integration. He then worked in the federal government where he consulted officials on European affairs. Ginsberg began teaching at Skidmore in 1986.

He praises his student assistants for their contributions. "The book is not the work of one individual, but a product of faculty-student collaboration," Ginsberg said. He exudes passion for his study of the EU and encourages all students to find their academic niche. "If you find something you love to study, grab it and run with it, find what it is you love to learn and study and then make a career out of it," he said.



## Environmentalist delivers lecture

Discusses her experience in Copenhagen, carbon reduction initiative

By Michael Mandelkern & Bradley Morris

On Fri, Feb 19, 2010

On Feb. 15, Lucy Van Hook, an independent carbon consultant, delivered a lecture on energy efficiency and the 2009 U.N. Climate Change Conference.

Hook has managed the Carbon Quantification Project at the Maine Housing Authority since January 2008. The environmental studies department and Sustainable Skidmore sponsored the lecture, held in Davis Auditorium.

She organizes various programs that seek to improve energy efficiency and reduce the carbon emissions of households. The main objectives of the project are to save homeowners money on fuel costs and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Her objective is to make homes warmer and save homeowners money on energy bills through the process of weatherizing. She seeks to make in-home electronics more energy efficient and increase the percentage of homes that weatherize.

"The Carbon Quantification Project looks to run lots of programs to weatherize homes," Hook said.

She added that some colleges and universities across the nation have made strides towards becoming carbon neutral campuses.

In 2008 the U.S. saved \$126 billion. Hook suggested that the U.S. could have saved more through weatherization.

"If the U.S. implements a carbon marker, we can make \$300 billion a year," Hook said.

She then discussed the Kyoto Protocol, an international environmental agreement drafted in 1997 that sought to reduce greenhouse gases emitted into the atmosphere.

The initiative was introduced to the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change. Heavily industrialized countries were called upon to adopt the protocol. The U.S. did not sign the international agreement.

Hook urged the U.S. to implement the protocol to give the country incentive to strive for lower greenhouse gas levels. "Allowances would be awarded by the government to allow companies to emit [a predetermined amount of] carbon," she said.

She then outlined the environmental policy differences between Denmark and the U.S. Hook emphasized how citizens of Copenhagen use bicycles for transportation enough to positively impact the environment and how Denmark uses wind energy significantly. After seeing how encouraged the citizens in Denmark were to reduce emissions, she decided to visit Copenhagen during the conference last December.

Although Hook was unable to attend the conference, she displayed her support outside of the event with approximately 45,000 environmental enthusiasts.

"I wasn't able to get in, but I know people that were at the actual meeting," he said.

To show her support for worldwide environmental reform, Hook displayed various motivational signs, such as a billboard reading, "Bring Climate Justice."

Hook and other supporters demonstrated their enthusiasm for the Copenhagen Accord. She described how crowded the streets were.

"Almost all public transportation to the Bella Center [location of the conference] was stopped," she said.

She highlighted the diversity of attendees in terms of age and location.

"I found it so moving that there were so many people that wanted a treaty," Hook said.

Hook emphasized, however, that the agreement was not legally binding. She noted that some of the world's most industrialized countries, such as the U.S. and China, did not agree to the accord.

"Copenhagen was not successful," Hook said. She acknowledged that although Copenhagen could be considered a failure, there were notable factors, such as increased awareness about climate issues and countries vowing to reduce carbon emissions that made the Copenhagen Summit successful.

"I think education about energy consumption is a big piece of starting emission reduction worldwide," Hook said.

## Health Services receives H1N1 vaccines

Faculty and staff get priority, students still have access to new supply

By Audrey Nelson

On Fri, Feb 19, 2010

Health Services received a shipment of H1N1 vaccines with first priority to faculty and staff this month. The past two clinics were exclusive to students.

"College students are one of the CDC [Center for Diseases Control and Prevention] priority groups, so they wanted to provide vaccinations to the priority groups before anyone else," said Patty Bosen, nurse practitioner and clinical director at Health Services.

Despite being the first clinic available to faculty and staff, some employees are still reserved in their decisions to get the swine flu vaccine. Martha Wiseman, professor of English, wants to find out if the pandemic is still a threat before considering vaccination.

"I haven't done enough research to know if it's virulent, or a threat. I still want to do some poking around," she said. Other employees, however, have been eager for the new clinic. Joey Cavalier, senior cook, plans to use the resource.

"I've been waiting for this batch to come in, because I know they were giving vaccines to kids first. I'm definitely planning to get one," he said.

High priority groups for the swine flue vaccine include people ages 6 months to 24 years old, pregnant women and health care workers, according to the CDC.

Vaccines that are already in stock, however, are still available to students for free during walk-ins or by appointment.

The clinic was held on Feb. 12. The online sign-up functioned in the same fashion as a blood drive.

"It works much better with crowds to have a clinic; it lets us gauge supply and prepare to have enough staff," said Pam Houle, administrative director of Health Services. Faculty and staff will receive the vaccine at no charge because the government pays for all supplies.

Health Services offers the vaccine in nasal intake and injectable form.

The nasal vaccine is as effective as its counterpart for those between ages 2 and 49. The difference is that the nasal form is a live virus, whereas the injectable vaccine is inactive.

Health Services prefers to reserve the shots for those who are most susceptible to swine flu, particularly those who are over the age of 49, already ill or have preexisting conditions.

"Our best advertising for the nasal vaccine is students who walk out into the lobby and say, 'That was the easiest thing ever!'" Bosen said.

Earlier in the academic term, 20 percent of the student population got vaccinated. But only about half of the available appointment slots were filled for the most recent clinic.

"If [this clinic] was in November, the slots would fill up like that. Hype has died down; people are not as concerned," Bosen said. There have been an unprecedented number of seasonal flu vaccinations among students this year. On average, the student body takes approximately 50 to 60 seasonal flu vaccines compared to this year, where students requested 450 doses of the vaccine.

"Now it backfired because companies who made seasonal flu vaccines started to make H1N1 vaccines, which are in comparatively less demand," Bosen said.

Despite the remaining presence of swine flu, some still refuse to take the vaccine. "I have a very strong immune system," Darnell Sessoms '10 said.

"I have some government paranoia about the vaccine, and I also may have been sick with swine flu already," Mary Thompson '11 said. Many institutions, including hospitals, do not determine whether a patient's illness is swine flu or the seasonal flu because treatment prompts the same procedure. The vaccines have the same medicine but with different strains.

Both Houle and Bosen are grateful, however, that the pandemic is not as dangerous as other possible diseases.

"Thank heaven it wasn't as severe as the avian flu," Houle said.

According to the CDC, swine flu virus activity peaked in October 2009 and quickly dropped in January. Flu activity can arrive and depart in waves, meaning a sudden spike in activity may return.

"H1N1 is still a possibility, though there is now a much lower level of activity," Houle said.

## Outlining the college's financial future

By Kristin Travagline

On Mon, Feb 22, 2010

On Friday, Feb. 16 Skidmore College President Philip Glotzbach gave a presentation to the Student Government Association Senate concerning college costs, financial aid, and the value of a Skidmore College education.

"We were trying to help people understand some of the issues regarding the cost of college, the cost of your college, and the cost of other expensive colleges and universities today," Glotzbach said.

This meeting was a version of a presentation that the college has given at town hall meetings across the country, in addition to some on campus. The presentation has been made eight times and approximately 350 people have attended.

The presentation to the senate began by addressing the gradual improvements that the college has made. Until last year, application numbers had been increasing. Glotzbach described application numbers as being indicative of the way that the external world views the college. Last year there was a 14 percent decrease in application numbers because of the recession and high cost of attendance.

The strength of applicant pools and entering classes have continued to improve, however. The Admissions Office uses a standard called the Academic Quality Rating to evaluate applications. "There has been a stronger admissions profile and significant increase in academic achievement," Glotzbach said.

"We have increased financial aid, first, to make Skidmore affordable even given its relatively high price. Second, our increased need-based financial aid has helped us increase the strength of the student body. And third, it has helped us increase the diversity of the student body (with 'diversity' understood broadly as encompassing, race, ethnicity, geographical diversity (including foreign students), and of course socio-economic diversity," Glotzbach said. Over the past 10 years there has been a 175 percent increase in financial aid at the college. The financial aid budget is \$31 million and is estimated to be \$33 million next year.

The majority of financial aid is need based; the college gives very little merit aid. On average, less than 10 merit scholarships are given each year. Glotzbach explained how some colleges use merit aid to attract students to come to their school, referring to it as being like "a bribe." "Skidmore has a more rational scheme," Glotzbach said. "Every dollar you give to merit aid you can't give to need based aid."

About 43 percent of students receive some financial aid, amounting to about 1,000 students. Every student receives a discount, however. The actual cost of attending the college is about \$63,000 a year, but students only pay a yearly tuition of \$51,000. The average student loan indebtedness at graduation does not generally exceed \$16,000. This number represents the average total debt taken on by students who have borrowed to support their education at Skidmore. This figure does not include additional debt that families may have taken on.

Glotzbach admitted, however, that higher education institutions have been hit hard economically. Even Harvard University lost one-third of the market value of its endowment last year. One-third of adults in the U.S. describe being seriously affected by the recession.

Glotzbach compared the cost of the colleges most similar to Skidmore to put these statistics into perspective. Of the 50 most expensive schools in the country Cornell University is No. 50. It costs \$1,300 more to attend Skidmore than Cornell. "Schools similar to us are at a comparative price," Glotzbach said.

"The difference between the amount we as students pay here and the amount that students pay at Vassar, Union, Cornell etc pay is so minimal. That suggests that Skidmore is on the right track, doing what it can financially to deliver such high value opportunities for us," said SGA President Raina Bretan '10.

Glotzbach posed the question of whether an expensive college education is worth the tuition. Financially, there is estimated to be a \$1 million difference over the course of a lifetime between people who graduate with a Bachelor of Arts degree and those who only graduate from high school. With a graduate degree the gap gets bigger. A similar gap exists with the likelihood of job retention.

He also compared the value of public versus private college education in terms of the cost and the average amount of time required to graduate. A public college education is generally cheaper, but, on average, it takes students 57 months to graduate from a 4-year public college. On average, it takes students 51 months to graduate from a 4-year private college. "It is a substantial difference that people sometimes do not account for. That is a year that you are not working and a year off of your income," Glotzbach said.

Attending a more selective, expensive school generally leads to higher earnings. These effects are largest for lower income students. "Similar students are more likely to graduate if they go to more selective institutions. It is even greater with students with less prepared backgrounds. We encourage and help you to finish here while challenging you," Glotzbach said.

The presentation emphasized that the value of a college education is not only measured financially. "A Skidmore education prepares you for a life of change. You will have 10-14 jobs by the time you are 38,



on average. You will have 9 different careers in the span of your working life. The most sought after jobs in the economy didn't even exist 10 years ago. You have to learn on your own and be able to connect things that seem disconnected," Glotzbach said.

Skidmore student senator Haoran Ma '12 agreed with Glotzbach. "A Skidmore education changes your personal values and makes you a better person. It's not just a degree and it's not only the name of the college. The value combined together is like a backpack. You carry it with you," Ma said.

Glotzbach then expressed the advantages of being a Skidmore student. Among these advantages is that there is no one way to be a Skidmore student. "I don't think there's one student that's the Skidmore model student. Skidmore students are eclectic."

The presentation also made note of the broad curriculum that the college offers. Glotzbach emphasized that Skidmore is interested in "mind and hand" education that focuses not just on theoretical knowledge, but also the ability to connect that knowledge to the real world.

The presentation concluded by asking students to continue to be informed advocates for the value of the college. "If creative thought doesn't matter today, I don't know what matters," Glotzbach said.

## Private Dining Experience

Seniors cook up connection between college and community

By Jean-Ann Kubler

On Fri, Feb 26, 2010

Twice a month, 12 lucky members of the Saratoga Springs community have the chance to join seniors Molly Baz and Mikaela Bloomberg for a completely unique culinary outing.

Private Dining Experience is a supper club operated out of Baz and Bloomberg's home on Lincoln Avenue. It is designed to foster a stronger sense of community between residents of Saratoga Springs and members of the Skidmore community.

"The idea is that we're bringing together a random group of people that wouldn't otherwise interact or know each other. The only thing they have in common is a love for food," Baz said.

The menu is unique at every individual dinner and the 12 diners sit at one large table, regardless of their relationship to each other.

Unlike the environment of a typical restaurant, this communal dining experience encourages those present to engage in conversation.

Private Dining Experience began serving the Saratoga community in September 2009, but the idea has its roots in Baz's experience studying abroad during her sophomore year.

"I lived with a 76-year-old widow in Florence. She spent all day shopping at the market and cooking for us, and it was some of the most amazing food I'd ever tasted," Baz said.

Baz added that she had always loved good food, but had no experience preparing food before her time in Florence. She learned from her host, and continued to dabble in cooking when she returned home.

Bloomberg said that living in an apartment in Scribner Village helped them develop a mutual love for cooking.

"We made the most of our Scribner kitchen. We would invited people over for 16-person dinner parties all the time. We cooked outrageous amounts of food."

During their junior years, Baz went abroad again, this time to Paris, and Bloomberg spent time in Argentina. Both were introduced to new culinary worlds.



"I lived in a home-stay and was once again introduced to some of the world's most amazing food. It really cultivated my interest," Baz said.

During the summer of 2009, Baz once again traveled to Paris. During her stay, she worked as an apprentice in a restaurant called Spring.

Baz worked under Chef Daniel Rose, who is becoming well-known in the Parisian culinary world.

"The idea in his restaurant was really similar to what we do at Private Dining now. He had only one seating a night, with a pre-fixed menu that was different every week," Baz said.

When she returned from her summer in Paris, Baz approached Bloomberg about starting their own single-sitting culinary experience.

"Molly called me over the summer and said, 'I have an idea for you!'" Bloomberg said.

"We both love to cook and we love food. The idea seemed so feasible for us," Baz added.

Transplanting the idea of Rose's restaurant to their Saratoga home proved to be fairly simply.

"It was natural for us and it all sort of fell into place. When we moved in we had 12 place settings, and we immediately went out and bought an extension for our dining room table," Bloomberg said.

The ingredients for the exquisite four-course meals come from a Community Supported Agriculture share with Kilpatrick Family Farms.

A CSA share is a contract with a supplier in which an annual fee is paid toward helping support the upkeep of a farm. In exchange, members are give a share of the harvest. The CSA share allows Baz and Bloomberg access to fresh, seasonal crops for their meals.

"Using whatever is local and seasonally available is a big part of our cooking," Baz said.

Baz and Bloomberg said they enjoy rich and often fatty foods.

"We eat more bacon than anyone on campus," Bloomberg said.

"At any given time we have three or four types of cured meat in our fridge," Baz added.

Perhaps the most unique asset of Private Dining Experience is the use of a French instrument called a sous-vide cooker.

A sous-vide cooker is used to prepare foods at very low temperatures over a long period of time. This technique produces evenly cooked meats and vegetables that retain their flavors and juices without any risk of being overcooked.

"As far as I know, we're the only culinary establishment using a sous-vide cooker in Saratoga Springs," Baz said.

Cultivating relationships with the community was a huge part of starting Private Dining. Working with members of the Saratoga culinary-arts community was fundamental to getting Private Dining off the ground.

"Tim [Meaney] from Beekman Bistro was instrumental in helping us find ingredients that aren't easily accessible in Saratoga Springs," Baz said.

John Ireland at The Wine Bar and Cathy Hamilton at Putnam Market were also resources for Private Dining.

The majority of advertising prior to the first Private Dining dinner was communication through word-of-mouth.

"We started the blog right away, as well, but we really depended on friends and Skidmore students and faculty to tell people about what we were doing," Bloomberg said.

The word-of-mouth publicity was successful, but a real surge in interest followed a Saratogian article about Private Dining Experience published on Feb. 8.

"We were downtown studying for finals and there was a Chamber of Commerce holiday party going on. We somehow got to talking with a photographer who was there, and we gave him our card. It took a little while for them to contact us, so we were worried it wasn't going to happen," Baz said.

It was a few weeks before the article came together completely, but the success was worth the wait.

"We didn't expect it to be a big article, but we woke up to an influx of requests for reservations," Bloomberg said.

"That first morning was madness," Baz said. "And we've had a really steady stream of interest since then."

Baz and Bloomberg plan to keep Private Dining Experience running for the rest of this semester, and possibly into the summer. They are also discussing a possible move to Boston, and Baz is interested in attending culinary school.

"So much of our success with [Private Dining Experience] has been because of our self-motivation. It seems like it would be a waste to not see where this could take us," said Baz.

## It's just like breathing, sort of

By Alex Brehm

On Fri, Feb 26, 2010

An upstart company in Silicon Valley, Bloom Energy ([www.bloomenergy.com](http://www.bloomenergy.com)), announced a product on Wednesday that it claims will revolutionize American energy production.

A so-called "Bloom Box" is a large fuel cell designed to power a home or business.

A fuel cell is often likened to a battery. This comparison works well enough if you want to think of the two as small mechanical boxes that make energy. The main difference is that batteries rely on strong acids to make electricity, but fuel cells use oxygen and work something like breathing.

When you breathe, oxygen enters your bloodstream and moves to every cell in your body. The cells convert sugar to energy, but leave leftover chemicals. Oxygen collects the byproducts, pulling them in like a sponge.

For as long as you live, your cells split up sugars and recombine them in lengthy processes to make cellular energy. When sugar is split, the reaction releases hydrogen.

Oxygen pulls hydrogen molecules in, forming water, eventually breathed back out of your body. Oxygen is also a magnet for electrons, and pulls them out of your cells as well.

A fuel cell uses oxygen in the same way.

A fuel cell is built in three layers - there's a top layer receiving oxygen from the air around, a middle layer storing more oxygen, and a bottom layer. A wire connects the top and bottom.

The bottom layer takes in hydrogen from a fuel that is pumped in, usually methane gas. The hydrogen combines with oxygen from the middle layer, forming water and giving off leftover electrons.

The oxygen from the air at the top layer pulls those electrons in across the wire. And that's all electricity is in this case - electrons moving across a wire.

Fuel cells can be made very thin, and usually the term gets ambiguous - what is referred to as a "fuel cell" is, in fact, a stack of fuel cells, each one generating electrons and using oxygen, that are all stacked together to generate a stronger pull through the wire and a stronger electrical current.

Because fuel cells are light and run off of a simple chemical reaction, they have been used in cars, boats and submarines. What Bloom has done (what it claims is so special) is to make fuel cells out of simpler materials than before.

Usually, fuel cells need precious metals like platinum to make the reaction work. If platinum isn't available, then hydrogen and oxygen will still combine to make water, but only if heated to 1,000 degrees.

Bloom's devices rely on a powder compressed in the center of the cell to make oxygen and hydrogen into water. Thanks to the company's design, the reaction works at lower temperatures than past fuel cell designs.

Bloom's owners have been courting the press all week to get the word out about its "Boxes," and it is doing its best to keep up the hype.

The environmentally aware should be advised that fuel cells still are often powered with methane, which releases carbon dioxide, our main greenhouse gas.

The company does not say what its "powder" is made of, and it doesn't mention how much of it is available on the planet. That could be a big problem.

Bloom has predicted that its fuel cells, in a box the size of a bread loaf, can power a house.

If Bloom wants to power American homes and businesses, and buildings around the world, that would take a lot of loaves.

And, if Bloom Boxes become popular, very soon we might see a shortage of Bloom's powder, instead of our looming shortage of oil.

And that would be downright nutty.

*Alex Brehm is sophomore economics major with the impetuous notion that he can just become a journalist.*

## Make way for Gung Ho

Fun-loving party band kicks out the jams

By Andrew Lane-Lawless

On Fri, Feb 26, 2010

"We were born from a grizzly bear and nanny goat in 1840..." So begins the interview with Gung Ho, Skidmore's premiere Saturday night rock band. They've been playing their unique blend of Blonde on Blonde era Bob Dylan, electric blues and punk influenced pub-rock for over three years now, and soon their debut album, currently being recorded with John Nazarenko at The Creek Studio, will be out.

The five members of Gung Ho met freshman year in Wait Hall. Three of them, lead singer Matt Awai '10, guitarist Dave Susman '10 and drummer Eddie Meek '10 were roommates and the other two, keyboardist Cory Zorn '10 and bassist Jake Considine '10, met the others soon after.

At first the fledgling group played wherever they could with whatever instruments they had available, throwing spur-of-the-moment shows in their dorm room to the chagrin of some and the pleasure of a few.

After a few lineup changes and countless hours of practicing the band began to create an identity for itself.

"We came into our own," Matt Awai said, and as Dave Susman put it, "we stopped sucking."

By their sophomore year, they were using Awai's double room in Scribner as a converted practice space.

"We got away with a lot of practicing there, 'cause the instruments were all in the bedroom," noted Matt Awai, in reference to the unfortunate rule that bands are prohibited from practicing in Scribner Village.

Gung Ho has played plenty of shows at Skidmore and in Saratoga. Speaking about some of the highlights, the band recalled a string of gigs they played at Bruno's Pizzeria in early 2008. It was the first time they had the opportunity to play off-campus without getting broken up, and that, coupled with the fact that the bartender kept the whiskeys coming, was an exhilarating time for them.

Matt Awai recalled being paid for the gig and then losing the money in the snow on the way home. They reminisced about other epic gigs in which they played in Scribner and Northwoods apartments until the



early hours of the morning, delving into their extensive catalogue of both originals and covers. At one point, Awai mentioned that the band has perhaps four or five hours' worth of material.

The Gung Ho live show is very distinctive, with less of a clear band and spectator dichotomy, and more of a collective sense of a carefree dancing spirit; the band acts almost like a DJ, dictating the pulse and energy of the party.

Many of the songs, such as "Girls in Skirts," "Razorback," and "A Few More Shots of Whiskey," are meant to be sung or screamed by the whole crowd.

Gung Ho's writing style matches the diversity of their sound. Some songs are written in only a few hours, with each member adding on to a basic chord progression or melody. In other cases, a song may take months to complete, as was the case for the crowd pleaser "Razorback," as they jam certain parts over and over again, or as Awai agonizes over lyrics. "I'm kind of a perfectionist when it comes to lyrics, I think about them for months," Awai Said.

Cory Zorn and Jake Considine also contribute lyrics, and although the band usually writes collectively, a member will occasionally bring a fully formed song to the band and teach the others how to play it.

Despite all of this, Gung Ho keeps things low key and tries not to take themselves too seriously, with humor being a key part of the band's style and identity. They also enjoy reinventing and changing themselves in to avoid boredom.

"We challenge ourselves to make fools of ourselves," Zorn said. He also admitted that they like to parody themselves from time to time.

"There's no goal," Matt Awai said. "Well that's not true, there is a goal: world domination," he added, smiling.

## **Basketball second in league**

Men's hoops team defeats Clarkson

By Andrew Lane-Lawless

On Fri, Feb 26, 2010

Entering the weekend of Feb. 20, the Skidmore men's basketball team held an impressive 15-8 overall record and was tied for first in Liberty League with an 8-4 league record.

The team had surpassed many of their water marks: winning their first game, passing the 10 win plateau and securing an above .500 season. In fact, the team even stood within striking distance of Skidmore's single season record of 16 wins. All of this came on the back of just eight wins the year before and two wins three years ago.

The team's success seems to have had little effect on Skidmore's head coach Luke Flockerzi. Before the weekend's games he said, "We have a lot to play for," stating that the team could win-out and host the Liberty League tournament or miss the tournament entirely.

In Flockerzi's three seasons at Skidmore, the team has improved tremendously. This year, 11 of the 15 players are underclassmen and a stunning 10 players are averaging between 5 and 12 points a game. Such balance and depth have allowed the team to play an up-tempo attack, subbing often and keeping the pressure up in the form of presses and a fast-paced half-court set that is three-point heavy. This is a big reason why Skidmore currently holds the league mark for the most number of points scored.

Flockerzi is quick to point out that this fits with the personnel of the team and is as much a credit to their hard work as his particular game plan. "We don't set forth to have a specific style," he said. "If we had two 6'8" studs next year we would be quick to pound it inside. Year in and year out we play to the strengths of [our] personnel."

He mulled over the team's season so far and admitted that while they have accomplished a great deal, many goals still remain for the team to achieve. "A couple big wins early built a lot of confidence in the team," Flockerzi said.

Confidence has risen since then, as the team has avoided any major losing streaks and stayed consistent throughout the season; they have similar road and home records as well as league and non-league records.



The team went on to split this past weekend's games, losing a tough one to St. Lawrence on Friday night and rebounding to win 71-57 at Clarkson the following night. During the game at St. Lawrence, despite a disappointing 20-point loss, senior forward Jon Douglas cracked the 1,000-point mark for his career. In addition, the team tied the college record for wins as well as the conference record. At the end of the weekend, Skidmore had landed a spot in the Liberty League tournament as the second seed. The tournament will be hosted by St. Lawrence this weekend. The Thoroughbreds will face Hobart in the first game and will then take on the winner of the St. Lawrence-Union game.

If Skidmore wins out this weekend, the Thoroughbreds will land a berth in the Division III NCAA tournament. Even if the team does not make it into the tournament, it has still been an undeniably successful season. Considering that four of the team's top five scorers will return next year, this triumphant type of season could very well turn into a trend.

## **Sports Wrap: Men's tennis starts spring season strong**

By Lauren Sager

On Fri, Feb 26, 2010

### *Men's hockey*

On Feb. 19, the Skidmore ice hockey team fell to No. 6-ranked Middlebury, 3-1. The Thoroughbreds are now 8-14-2 overall and 7-9-2 in the ECAC.

The scoring began in the first period at the 16:01 mark with a power play goal from first year Alex Riccio. The score was tied soon after when Middlebury netted a goal at the 17:33 mark.

Throughout the second period, the score remained tied.

The Panthers broke the tie at the 1:58 mark of the third period, taking on a 2-1 lead. Late in the final period, the Thoroughbreds were then able to get five shots on goal but were not able to score.

Middlebury put the final score at 3-1 with an empty net goal.

On Feb. 20 the hockey team lost to No. 8-ranked Williams 4-1. The game put the Thoroughbreds 8-15-2 overall and 7-10-2 in the league.

In the first period, neither team was able to score. The Ephs outscored the Thoroughbreds 10-3.

The first goal was scored at the 9:14 mark of the second period. Williams upped their score 2-0 on a wrist shot less than three minutes after the first goal was scored.

The Ephs proceeded to take a three-goal lead 59 seconds into the last period.

At the 14:13 mark, first year Brendan Cottam scored his eighth goal of the season, putting the score at 3-1.

Williams came back 24 seconds later when Ben Contini scored on a delayed penalty.

The Ephs outshot the Thoroughbreds 35-22.

Before the start of the game, the Thoroughbreds honored seniors Charlie Moroni, Tim Daley, Matt Czerkowicz and Chris Webb.



### *Men's tennis*

The men's tennis team defeated Union 9-0 on Feb. 20.

Sophomore Luke Granger beat Dan Nault in singles 6-0, 6-1. In doubles, Granger and junior Spencer Cheng won over Dan Nault and Sam Ringel 8-4. Cheng also won his No. 2 singles match 6-1, 6-2 over Alex Katz.

The men's tennis team will take on Feb. 27 at Vassar.

### *Women's basketball*

On Feb. 19 the Skidmore women's basketball team fell to St. Lawrence 49-45 in Canton.

The Thoroughbred's record drops to 19-4 overall and 11-2 in the Liberty League. Although Skidmore lost, the team has clinched the regular season Liberty League title.

In the first 14 minutes of the second half, Skidmore maintained its advantage before the Saint's tied the score 40-40.

Senior Sharlyn Harper put the Thoroughbreds back ahead with a three, but St. Lawrence followed up with flawless free throws to tie the score once again.

Skidmore took the lead again with only five minutes remaining when junior Christine Kemp nailed a jumper. The score was then 45-43.

With slightly less than two minutes left, Edgeton hit a pair of free throws, tying the score at 45.

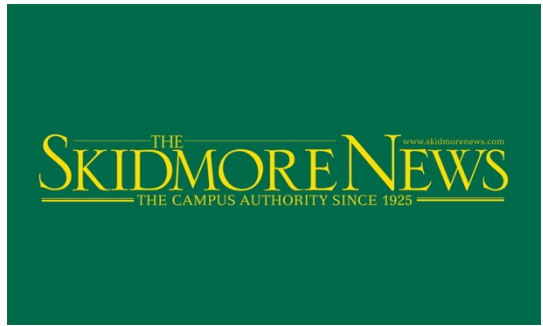
The game ended with the Saints making a basket after Skidmore committed a turnover.

### *Women's swimming and diving*

The Skidmore women's swimming and diving team finished in 11th place in the UNYSCA Swimming and Diving championship. The championship was hosted by LeMoyne College at Nottingham High School in Syracuse.

LeMoyne College hosted 17 teams, with Ithaca coming in first.

On the first day, senior Sonia Segal-Smith came in eighth in the 500-yard freestyle with a time of 5:20.16. Alena Chubet, Sonia Segal-Smith, Kelsey Carson and Heather Freidman finished 11th in the 400 medley relay.



On day two, Skidmore maintained its 11th place standing.

Finishing ninth in the 400 IM, Segal Smith broke the record she set in the morning with a time of 4:47.02. Carson came in 11th with a 4:49.80 time, and Koch came in 19th place with a 4:59.38 time.

On the last day, Carson came in 12th in 200-yard butterfly. This race lowered her record to 2:15.17. Burns came in 23rd in the race with a time of 2:26.56.



## **Beyond incriminating photos**

College encourages professional and scholastic use of social networking sites

By Sarah Barry

On Fri, Feb 26, 2010

The media platform known as social networking is no longer just a tool for procrastination or a collection of embarrassing pictures. Social networking sites are now important resources for job information and potential employers.

Nearly every college student is a member of one of the popular social networking sites, such as Facebook or Twitter. However, networking sites are also being used by staff members seeking to create stronger professional connections for themselves and students.

Many social Web sites include professional and scholastic tools that help people of any age create valuable connections for future opportunities.

Michael Profita, director of Career Services, explained the variety of new media resources available to students. While sites like Twitter and Facebook are useful, there are more efficient professional options.

"One of our most viable resources is the Skidmore group in LinkedIn ... LinkedIn is the preferred networking site for professionals," he said.

LinkedIn is a media site focused on the professional world.

Students can access and create a LinkedIn account from the Skidmore Web site.

"We encourage people to join the group. It is quite large-- there's around 2,000 members in it right now," Profita said.

LinkedIn allows users to post resumes and recommendations, meet potential employers or find available connections.

"LinkedIn is really useful for students and alums as a mechanism to meet or educate people about themselves and connect them to opportunities," Profita said.

While sites like Facebook contain endless personal information, professional information is scarce.



"LinkedIn gives more detailed information, it's not easy to find people by career field on Facebook," Profita said.

The job searching process is difficult for any student or graduate, but new tools can improve an applicant's chance of success.

"If you can find someone on the inside who will work for you, you're going to have a better chance to get that internship," Profita said.

Graduates today need as many connections as possible and Career Services views LinkedIn as one viable way to create these contacts.

While the more mainstream social networking sites are not being used much by Career Services, they are still a valuable resource for the college.

The college's Strategic Office of Communications has branched out into the realm of social media. The Office focuses on both the student centered Facebook and other professional media sites.

Dan Forbush, executive director of Communications, explained some of the new ventures the Office is currently working on.

"We are currently developing a social networking tool that will be targeted towards alumni communications. Imodules.com is a content management platform. It's a sophisticated tool being used by many colleges and universities," Forbush said.

This new tool is integrated with Facebook and will be available to alumni and also to seniors when they graduate.

Forbush explained that they are working with several different types of social media such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and others. Magnify.net, created by Steve Rosenbaum '83, is another site used on campus.

"The great thing about social media over conventional Web sites is that social media is engaging, it allows us to communicate with an audience in new ways," he said.

When the class of 2012 was accepted, the Facebook group created to connect the future classmates allowed students to meet each other and ask questions.

While administration was not involved in this group they were determined to be more prepared for the class of 2013.



Joe Yanks '11 was so influential in the 2012 group that the office hired him as an administrator to answer questions for students.

"The Skidmore group has become a great resource; you can post a question and the answer benefits everyone, one answer can reach hundreds instead of just one," Forbush said.

Both Career Services and the Office of Strategic Communications are primarily trying to benefit students and the Skidmore institution.

"We would like to explore and tap into the creativity of Skidmore students, we want to pull more student work onto the Web site and make it available for the public. We still have a lot of questions on how to use new media and we would like student input," Forbush said.

Profita, Forbush and a large body of alums encourage students who are not yet utilizing social networking to do so. "We get many alums who come back to us who say they wish they would have utilized our resources and done more to promote their careers," Profita said.

## RecycleMania hypes waste reduction

North Quad, Northwoods pull ahead of competition based on volume

By Audrey Nelson

On Fri, Feb 26, 2010

The campus is in the full swing of RecycleMania, a nationwide competition that promotes waste reduction across campuses.

The college has two inter-campus competitions, which began Feb. 1 and end on Mar. 27, between Northwoods and Scribner and North Quad and South Quad.

As of Feb. 24, North Quad and Northwoods are in the lead within their respective competitions.

Throughout the country, 607 colleges and universities are registered for this year's contest, which began Jan. 17 and will end on Mar. 27. Some participating schools include Vassar College, Connecticut College, and Bowdoin College, Brown University and Harvard University.

"RecycleMania is a friendly competition between hundreds of Colleges and Universities. I thought it would be fun to get involved and a good way to remind the community about the recycling guidelines. By creating our own competition on campus, my hope is that it will bring greater awareness to the larger RecycleMania initiative," Erica Fuller, Campus Sustainability Coordinator, said.

The victors will have a communal party with food and be awarded a RecycleMania trophy.

The champions are determined by the amount of recycled material per capita of students living in the respective areas. The four recycling containers for each quad or apartment complex are located in the North Woods parking lot.

The main objectives of RecycleMania are to increase waste management awareness in colleges and universities and to promote further waste reduction programs.

"As students, we generate so much waste and it's important to be aware of what we can recycle to reduce our collective amount of waste on campus," Martha Waterman '13, Environmental Action Club (EAC) member, said during the Feb. 22 EAC meeting

An item's SPI resin identification code, which is labeled by 1 and 2, determines which plastics can be recycled.





There are numbers inside of a recycling symbol, which is typically located on the bottom of plastic materials, such as water bottles, detergent containers and peanut butter jars. If the number is not a 1 or 2 the item cannot be recycled. Non-recyclable items include pie pans, light bulbs, drinking glasses and plastic wrap.

The EAC also addressed upcoming events during their meeting.

Eli Dibner-Dunlap '10, EAC member, discussed an upcoming event that will fuse art and environmentalism. The event features Beehive Collective, a collaboration of volunteer artists and educators who display anti-pollution imagery to the public as environmental education tools.

"Beehive Collective collaborated with researchers who explored justice issues in the coal mining areas of West Virginia and Tennessee. They examined stories of the environmental impacts that coal mining creates as well as the human social impacts," Dibner-Dunlap said.

Each year Beehive Collective presents narrative picture-lectures across the country. This March they will visit Skidmore to showcase their campaign, entitled "True Cost of Coal," where sketches and photographs highlight the environmental effects that Mountain Top Removal Coal Mining operations cause.

Inspired by the informal lecture style of the college's Haiti Teach-In on Feb. 1, the EAC will be hosting a Community Dinner and Dialogue on at Feb. 27 at 6 p.m. in the Spa.

The open mic event will be centered on the theme of food, family and friends, and is free of admission for all students, faculty, and staff. The aim of the dinner is to provide a venue for Skidmore community members to have a voice in environmental issues pertaining to campus.

The EAC hopes through this event, to reach out beyond its club's boundaries and to the rest of the community to hear their concerns, interests and ideas.

"Students last semester wanted to create a space for the community to talk about new ideas relative to sustainability in and around campus," Dawn Harfmann, '10, EAC member, said.

Other Updates:

- The Political Action Subcommittee, a branch of the EAC, is brainstorming a long-term plan for the installation of a low coal or coal free main energy source on campus. Their main goal is to communicate with New York Senators about passing a strong climate bill in the U.S. Senate.

## **Applicant pool drains for class of '14**

College sees five percent drop in applicants amidst recession

By Bradley Morris

On Fri, Feb 26, 2010

Skidmore College is in the process of reviewing roughly 5,600 regular decision applications, narrowing down the most qualified candidates and having Mary Lou Bates, Dean of Admissions, sign each acceptance letter.

At 5 a.m. on March 26 the college will send out acceptance letters to prospective students in the college's Class of 2014.

This year, the number of applicants has decreased by about 5 percent from last year.

One reason Bates believes there has been a drop in applicants is the national recession, prompting high school students to apply to fewer colleges this year.

"There are fewer students applying [to colleges], especially in the Northeast," Bates said.

Other colleges have also suffered a drop in applicants while others have seen a slight increase.

Bates believes that institutions receiving more applications can attribute the increase to priority application programs, which allow to fill out a shorter version of an application without an essay.

"Other colleges are down this semester and others are up slightly. Some other colleges are encouraging students to apply with preprinted, priority application programs. That's something we don't have," she said.

Even without offering priority applications, the college is still attracting prospective students. As done in other years, representatives from the college are visiting high schools all over the nation.

"We traveled to over 850 high schools in 33 different states and 17 foreign countries high schools last fall," Bates said.

Numbers of students showing interest in Skidmore due to the outreach of a college representative has increased this year.

The improved figure balances out the slight dip in the number of students visiting campus throughout the year. However, the decrease is primarily attributed to fewer visiting juniors in high school.

"The numbers are pretty consistent this year with last year; students visiting now are already for the Class of 2015," Bates said.

The amount of interviewees from the Class of 2014 has held up to last year's numbers.

The questions asked during interviews have remained unique to each individual. They are based on the resumé of the individual and why the student wants to attend Skidmore.

"We like to make every interview unique to an individual," she said.

One of the most frequent questions asked in an interview is what the potential student is looking for in the college.

Each question, however, is derived from the individual's history rather than questions asked to every prospective student.

Bates considers the interview, although not mandatory, an important factor in the admissions process.

When reviewing the applications for the Class of 2014, she believes the most important criteria are the students' academic record, extracurricular activities and high school guidance counselor and teacher recommendations.

Another significant factor is the high school's graduation rate and number of colleges applied to per student.

Above all, however, grades are the most important.

"The centerpiece is the academic record," Bates said.

SAT scores hold weight but are not as important as other aspects of the application process.

"Testing is part of it, but other things are weighted more heavily. We like to see that students stretched themselves; that's the best indicator of the student," Bates said.

The number of Advanced Placement (AP) courses a prospective student took in high school is another factor.

Overall, the applicants come from diverse geographical backgrounds. Students from nearly every state, with the exception of North Dakota and Arkansas, and a wide array of international students have applied for Skidmore this fall.

"In the applicant pool for the Class of 2014, we have applications from 48 states plus DC and the Virgin Islands and applications from 96 countries," Bates said.

The number of applicants for financial aid has increased as well. Over 60 percent of the entering class has applied for financial aid.

Although Skidmore's endowment fund has fallen from \$296 million in Dec. 2007 to \$260 million in Sept. 2009, there has not been a drop in the amount of financial aid offered.

"The College has made financial aid a priority. I don't see the college backing away from the commitment," Bates said.

Prospective students must confirm whether they will attend Skidmore by May 1.

Within the next few weeks, all of the applications of students who hope to join the Class of 2014 will be reviewed.

By March 12 members of the Class of 2014 will be chosen, and on March 26 the letters will be sent out to future students.

## Astronomer lectures

By Rebecca Orbach

On Fri, Feb 26, 2010

On March 2 Vera Rubin, an award-winning astronomer, will deliver a lecture on her research on dark matter.

She will open with a brief historical introduction and discuss evidence that most of the matter in the Universe is dark and alternatives to this explanation, some of which she chooses to support.

Born on July 23 1928, Rubin is known for her work on galaxy rotation rates.

She is given credit for discovering the variance between the predicted angular motion of galaxies and its observed motion by studying galactic rotational curves.

While the theory of dark matter is the most commonly accepted explanation for this discrepancy, Rubin also acknowledges the Modified Newtonian Dynamics theory as a possible candidate to explain the discrepancy.

"If I could have my pick, I would like to learn that Newton's laws must be modified in order to correctly describe gravitational interactions at large distances," Rubin said to New Scientist magazine.

"That's more appealing than a universe filled with a new kind of sub-nuclear particle."

In 1965 Rubin began working for the Department of Terrestrial Magnetism, which is part of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, where she is an astronomer examining the spectra, or light signatures, of galaxies.

After earning her B.A. from Vassar College in 1948, she attempted to enroll into Princeton University but was prohibited because women were not allowed into the graduate astronomy program until 1975.

She ultimately attended Cornell University where she studied physics and earned her M.A. in 1951.

In 1954 she earned her Ph. D. from Georgetown University and went on to receive honorary Doctors of Science degrees from various universities, such as Harvard and Yale.

In the early 1970s Rubin discovered information that drastically changed the science community's understanding of the universe.

Despite prior scientific knowledge, Rubin's research concludes that stars orbiting the outside of a spiral galaxy travel as fast as those orbiting closer to the center.

Based on these findings, the vast majority of scientists now believe there is colossal, invisible mass exerting the necessary gravitational force on the spiral galaxy for the outer stars to remain in orbit.

Rubin's research suggests that at least ninety percent of the universe is made of dark matter, a substance that scientists today struggle to identify.

Her work has shown that astronomers still know little about the composition of the universe.

"In a spiral galaxy, the ratio of dark-to-light matter is about a factor of ten. That's probably a good number for the ratio of our ignorance-to-knowledge," Rubin said in "Cosmic Horizons: Astronomy at the Cutting Edge," a book on modern astrophysics.

" We're out of kindergarten, but only in about third grade."

In recognition of her achievements, she was elected to the National Academy of Sciences, and in 1993 she was awarded the National Medal of Science.

Throughout her career, Rubin has not sought fame; rather, her goal has been the personal gratification of scientific discovery.

"We have peered into a new world, and have seen that it is more mysterious and more complex than we had imagined. Still more mysteries of the universe remain hidden," Rubin wrote in her book "Bright Galaxies, Dark Matter."

"Their discovery awaits the adventurous scientists of the future. I like it this way."

The event will take place at 5:30 p.m. on March 2 in Davis Auditorium.

## **Bruno spends in haste**

Indicted alum, former senator aids college, town

By Michael Mandelkern

On Fri, Feb 26, 2010

Joseph Bruno, former New York State Senate Majority Leader, Skidmore alumnus and convicted felon, scrambled to shell out over \$75 million in last-minute grants at the end of his office in July 2008, including money for the college and Saratoga Springs.

Bruno, 80, who graduated in 1952, attempted to fund various projects in the Capital Region shortly before he resigned from his position as State Senator, most of which failed to process.

Amongst the unsuccessful grants were \$42 million for a proposed Biomedical Education and Research at the University of Albany's East Campus.

He also allocated \$500,000 to nearby Troy to transfer a mass of rock salt out of a new research institute.

Most of these projects were drafted at the last minute and, therefore, did not formulate into a tangible grant.

Allotments for Saratoga Springs and the campus community, however, were ready before Bruno stepped down from office.

His \$6 million for the City Center, a complex on North Broadway that holds the Conference Center and adjoins the Saratoga Hilton Hotel, was successfully distributed.

The Center hosts various corporate meetings, mainly those of New York State associations and Northeast regional organizations.

He also allocated \$6 million to the Center in 2008, which is currently undergoing an expansion.

The former State Senator also granted \$4 million to the Arthur Zankel Music Center. Bruno appeared alongside President Philip Glotzbach and Martin Zankel, the late Arthur Zankel's brother, on May 16 2008 to commemorate the donation.

"With the addition of the new Zankel Music Center, visitors will be able to experience and enjoy a broad range of arts and events while providing a positive economic impact to the local economy," Bruno, 80, said at the event.

"[Skidmore College is] one of the pillars of the Saratoga community, recognized as one of the leading liberal arts higher education institutions in the nation and host to numerous cultural and arts events every year."

Glotzbach accepted the grant two months before Bruno stepped down from his Senate Majority Leader position. Bruno was not formally indicted for mail and wire fraud until Jan. 2009.

On Dec. 7 2009 Bruno was found guilty of two of the eight felony counts against him, which found that he illegally failed to disclosed private payments from New York businesses that he once supported.

The other five counts have not yet been settled and a verdict could not be reached on the other indictment.

He is being charged with spending taxpayer money with a conflict of interest from 1993 to 2006.

The Skidmore alumnus faces 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine on each felony count.

Bruno became embroiled in controversy in 2007 when New York State Attorney General Andrew Cuomo publicly criticized former New York Governor Eliot Spitzer for ordering state police to conduct a secret surveillance of Bruno's travels.

Bruno was first elected to the senate in 1976. He represented the counties of Rensselaer and Saratoga.

He rose to Majority Leader in 1994 and served that position until he resigned in 2008.

Bruno earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration from Skidmore College in 1952.



## Window to psychedelic wonder

By Audrey Nelson

On Fri, Feb 26, 2010

Fred Tomaselli's works lie somewhere between precision and chaos, imitation and reality; geometry and nature. He creates a partnership between psychedelia and a universe of ambiguity. "I really would like people to have transcendental experiences with the works, so in that regard I think of these works as both a window into another world and a mirror to the world that we live in," Tomaselli said in a video from the James Cohan Gallery. The layers in his art are composed of plants, pills, and images—often anatomical and biological—to create a kaleidoscopic bevy of visual information.

The artist's often clashing interests, experiences, and inspirations produce more questions than answers, a trait that Malloy Curator Ian Berry appreciates in art.

"Fred's artistic inspirations are eccentric, meaning they come from Renaissance painters, comic books, punk rock musicians; they're omnivorous in terms of images," Berry said.

Tomaselli has an archive arranged according to the species, genus, size, and color of images from anatomical textbooks and field guides, including drawings or photographs of birds, flowers, and human body parts, which he incorporates into his art.

"Each one of these illustrations was photographed or laboriously drawn by someone else, and I take these little bits, often removing them from their original context, and use just an infinitesimal amount, and put them in my work. So I feel like there's this sort of buzz of the collective world that I live in," Tomaselli said.

Growing up in Southern California, he grasped the idea of an alternate reality from visiting Disney Land so often.

"He started questioning things, being critical, thinking about the toxicity in our world. Is this real nature in the desert? Is the nature in my back yard real? Is a tomato in a grocery store natural anymore?" Berry said.

Though Tomaselli was popularized by his use of illegal drugs in his paintings, his art urges viewers to recognize the effects of everyday toxins they ingest, like pain relievers, caffeine, or fuel emissions.

He hopes that the pharmacology in his art will function as metaphoric surrealism, guiding viewers into an altered state of mind.

"A lot of the objects in my work, the pills, the pot, maybe the shape of psychedelia... they sort of reawaken maybe a sense memory of when [the viewers'] minds were once scrambled," Tomaselli said.

Through his art, he wants to communicate to the viewer a feeling of complete immersion in his or her surrounding environment.

After the artist places his image, he adds a layer of epoxy resin. Sometimes by painting over the dried resin, Tomaselli creates a 3D effect, which serves to amplify the layered, trippy, and technicolor experience he wants to convey.

His work, he described, is meant to transport the viewer to another place. The combination of materials, both organic and representational, paint and glossy resin, amounts to a saturated hybrid of artistic styles, inspired by the works of painter Giuseppe Arcimboldo, whose portraits mimic faces in fruits and vegetables.

"I do consider myself a sort of maximalist artist, in that I try to throw as much information as [the work] can physically handle," Tomaselli said.

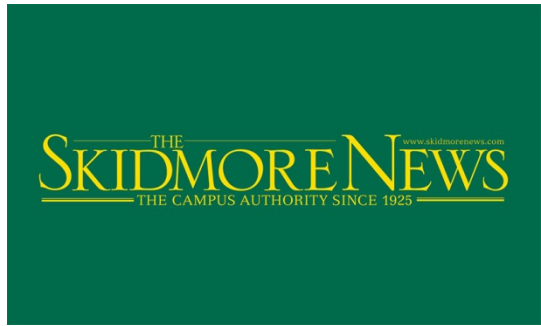
The amount of visual information in Tomaselli's art parallels the abundance of meaning enclosed in each piece.

The cryptic painting, "Airborne Event," poses several questions: is the woman depicted in the painting a container of ecstasy, experiencing all these prisms of nature and toxins simultaneously?

Is the work a modern interpretation of Bernini's "Ecstasy of Saint Theresa?" Or does it depict a cathartic end of life with her head exploding from a sensory overload, Berry questions. "Fred doesn't say. It's up to us to decide," he said.

In works such as "Fungi and Flowers," what is the artist trying to say by composing bodies with multitudinous body parts, insects and plants?

"I would say for me, it means we are fragmented. We're made up of many bones and images. We are complex, multi-layered beings created by a lot of stimuli," Barry said. But this is only one of many potential interpretations.



"Maybe it's saying we're a little more porous than we imagine, and that it's better not to be so contained. You could make a philosophical belief that we're one with the environment," Barry suggested as an alternative.

Yet another take is that the bodies represented in Tomaselli's work are personified utopian communities, where each image's relationship to that body creates a carnivalesque population within that human figure.

Interpretations are as innumerable as the stimuli that Tomaselli packs into his work

The Fred Tomaselli exhibition will be on display from Feb. 6 to June 6 in the Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery.

## Splicing disciplines

### Flip Phillips gives Honors Forum lecture

By David Schlessinger

On Fri, Feb 26, 2010

Annually, the Honors Forum selects a distinguished Skidmore faculty member to deliver the Ramsey Honors Forum Lecture. Flip Phillips, chair of the neuroscience department and a professor of cognitive psychology, received the honor this year. Phillips gave his lecture, which centered around his diverse range of interests and professions, on Monday, Feb. 22 in Gannett Auditorium.

Phillips described his early life in Portsmouth, Ohio, his initial ambitions as a musician, and his early studies at Ohio State University to become an architect. It was from these studies of mathematics, physics, and artistic design that Phillips was exposed to and inspired by the then-emerging field of computer graphics. He later became involved with the computer graphics department at Skidmore, which actively integrated both science and art into its conceptualizations.

He then went on to work at a hospital where he developed computer images of bodies for medical analysis. Through a series of contacts, he joined a small time animation company called Pixar as their first-ever "Animation Scientist," utilizing some of the same imaging equipment he used working in the hospital.

Phillips, along with a team of animators and designers, worked on several computer-animated films, including "Knick Knack," a short that details the efforts of a snowman to woo a mermaid while trapped in his snow globe. "Knick Knack" gained mainstream exposure when it was included in the bonus features of "Toy Story."

Phillips left his career at Pixar to return to Ohio State University for graduate studies. Once again, although he initially studied architecture, he found himself more fascinated with psychophysics, the study of how the brain maps out physical spaces. He subsequently earned a doctorate in psychology and became a professor at Skidmore College, where he not only teaches, but also carries out research in vision, the mental representation of three-dimensional space, and, most recently, cognitive rhythm perception.

Phillips' professional life, characterized by changes and adaptive, creative responses to those changes, is emblematic of our turbulent, fast-paced times. The motif of his lecture was that regardless of the discipline one is associated with, one should follow one's own creative and intellectual impulses rather



than conform to labels. This approach, Phillips stressed, is personally fulfilling and facilitates the cross-pollination of ideas between fields.

Phillips' own career reflects this. He has worked in architecture, computer graphics design, medical imaging, animation, cognitive psychology, and teaching. Phillips has not only left his mark on each of these fields, but also synthesized them in new, innovative ways. He cautioned against overspecializing in any single area, as to do so limits oneself in a world with a virtually infinite number of options.

## About to drop

By Eric Shapiro

On Fri, Feb 26, 2010

*About to drop is a weekly feature that takes a look at what is upcoming in the world of entertainment.*

Pavement - "Quarantine the Past" - March 29

What better time for Pavement to release a greatest hits album than a few short months before their eagerly anticipated reunion? Granted, anyone who cares enough about the 1990's indie rock darlings to buy tickets to one of their summer shows probably owns all their albums anyway, but since when has something like that stopped a record company from skimming a little bit more green off of fans who either have fat wallets or haven't yet discovered or approved of bittorent? Them CDs only cost a few pennies to manufacture these days, so why not? On the bright side, quite an interesting title.

"God of War III" - Santa Monica Studio - March 29

At long last, Kratos, every gamer's favorite Spartan warrior is poised to make his transition into the current generation of game systems. Far more devastating than any Greek tragedy is the fact that "God of War 3" will only be released on the Playstation 3, but that's not a hug surprise. The latest entry in the series has everything that fans could possibly want: brutal weapons, stunning stylized graphic and epic boss battles. One new addition to Kratos' arsenal is the Cestus, a pair of lion-shaped gauntlets that are far deadlier than the animal they resemble. "God of War III" goes a long way toward proving wrong all those naysayers who were so quick to count Sony out of the console war early on.

Gorillaz - "Plastic Beach" - March 9

Grumble grumble grumble. Why can't Damon Albarn devote more time to Blur and less time to side projects and guest appearances? As a former 1990s Brit Pop super star with an enormous cult following, I guess he's earned the right to do what he wants. This time around, Albarn has called in a few favors. An eclectic group of guest stars have lent their talents to "Plastic Beach," including Lou Reed, Snoop Dogg, Paul Simonon, De La Soul, Mos Def and the Lebanese National Orchestra for Oriental Arabic Music. Albarn calls the upcoming Gorillaz LP his most poppy album so far. Given his proven ability to write insanely catchy pop songs, this is a hopeful sign.

Paul Greengrass' "Green Zone"

The director of the critically acclaimed 2006 film "United 93" is once again dipping his toe into topical waters with "Green Zone." This time, he's tackling the Iraq War, drawing heavy inspiration from Rajiv Chandrasekarans' award-winning non-fiction book "Imperial Life in the Emerald City: Life in Iraq's Green," which focuses on events in Iraq after the fall of Saddam Hussein and before the surge that seemingly brought stability to the country. Matt Damon stars as a warrant officer assisting the CIA in finding weapons of mass destruction.

## **Editorial: Keeping safety in check**

On Fri, Feb 26, 2010

On Tuesday, Feb. 23, the college community received notice of three reported on-campus burglaries. The outburst comes as a shock since such occurrences are rare at the college.

We are fortunate to live in a very safe area. We study during the week and celebrate on the weekends without much conflict. The college is located in a quiet, peaceful town. We live near a beautiful racetrack and a main street lined with beautiful mansions. Our community on campus is rarely forced to deal with crime or violence.

Unlike our peers at Vassar or Union, our college is not fenced off from the outside community. There are no security checkpoints before entering the campus, an academic building or the library. At night, several buildings around campus are left unlocked.

Even though dorms are only supposed to be accessible to residents, a stranger waiting outside the door will typically be let in, no questions asked. Most of the time, that stranger is a member of the college community, however he or she could just as easily be an outsider with no business being there.

We do not wish to instill a sense of fear on campus, but the recent thefts mitigate that we take a closer look at our security practices. We are fortunate that there has been no serious violence on this campus, but that does not mean there never will be. In the awful case that something did happen, will we be able to look back and say that we did enough to prevent it?

We should not be afraid, but we should not become too comfortable either. Our open relationship with the rest of Saratoga Springs is important, so isolating ourselves behind a wall is the wrong thing to do. We can still take more responsibility for our safety by concerning ourselves with more basic steps. Locking your door when you leave the room or keeping track of your key is not that much of a burden. Pay attention to whom you are letting into a building. If you see someone around who should not be, call campus safety.

We want to be attentive and smart here on campus; when things do go wrong - and sometimes they unfortunately do - the last thing that we want to say is that we were unprepared.



## Good guys speak their minds

By Hunter Prichard

On Fri, Feb 26, 2010

Why are people always sorry? In this new politically correct world, everybody is way too scared of hurting feeling, roughing up feathers... whatever figure of speech works for you.

For instance, in the past few days, ESPN suspended analyst Tony Kornheiser from his weekday show "Pardon the Interruption" for two weeks. This made me angry for two reasons. One, "PTI" is the only good reason to watch the network and leaving Kornheiser off makes my life that much duller; and two, the guy didn't really do anything wrong.

He got in trouble a few days prior to comments he made about the body and clothing of fellow commentator Hannah Storm. He said that her skirt was too short for a 40-year-old woman and compared her clothing to deli meat (by the way, the comments were warranted).

Not really the worst thing one can possibly say about a person. Even if the comments had nothing to do with sports, Kornheiser prides himself on that sort of low-brown, childlike humor. Kornheiser gave a "heartfelt" apology and ESPN suspended him for a couple weeks to teach him a lesson.

His comments were no worse than his ridiculous appearance on a "Monday Night Football" game last year when he made an odd comment about a Hispanic player. The actual line being: "I took high school Spanish; either he said he's not going to be caught, or please pick up my dry cleaning tomorrow."

In the context of a football game, the comment made absolutely no sense. Most people just passed over it.

When he made his tongue-tied apology a few minutes later the response was mostly a lot of strange looks. It's funny to apologize for something, and then to have people wondering who you're actually apologizing to.

Sometimes, apologies are necessary. If one plays it off right it can be humanizing. When David Letterman apologized to his audience after his affair with a co-worker, he was able to turn it around so that he was the victim. It was a well-written speech; Letterman admitted his mistakes, and then blamed the circumstances on the guy who was blackmailing him. A guy cheats on his child's mother and America feels sort of sorry for him? That scenario rarely occurs.

Not only did Kornheiser's apology confuse his audience, it made him look weak-minded. It was pathetic, like watching a politician backtracking through a speech after a flub.

There is a certain audacity that people on television should have that makes people want to listen to them, to trust what they're saying. Most heads on television play it safe; these are boring people reading the same old things off a script. There is no longer any fire, and no more free speech.

There is a reason why certain television personalities have become so memorable over the previous years. There is something to be said of show hosts like Bill O'Reilly or Bill Maher - two guys on complete opposite sides of the political and social spectrums who still pull in much higher ratings than the kinder, old-fashioned pundits on CNN or MSNBC.

O'Reilly, although having a show on a conservative network, has political views that seem to wander between the two sides. He's entertaining and energetic, even when you disagree with him.

Maher's liberal viewpoint is well-known; he was kicked off of ABC after saying that the 9/11 terrorists were not cowards (in case you were wondering, he stood behind the comment).

I personally like Maher the best. He gives his monologue and then delivers a nice "screw you" to anybody who disagrees. There is something rather refreshing about watching that.

Especially since when I flip back to CNN, Anderson Cooper is still giving his boring even-handed report.

There is a clear understanding on TV that nobody's feelings should ever get hurt. It's one thing to go on the attack, but cutting everybody's microphones and forcing them into this tiny little box of what to say and what not to say makes for boring television. The politically correct dialogue is suffocating.

There shouldn't be a penalty for just being honest.

*Hunter Prichard enjoys the comedic talents of Eddie Murphy.*

## Zankel: A love story

The public receives the multi-million dollar music building with open arms

By Kristin Travagline

On Fri, Feb 26, 2010

The Arthur Zankel Music Center has been in use for five weeks. "Within weeks the building has been put to the test and passed with flying colors," said choral Director Janet McGhee.

The building is 54,000 square-feet and cost \$32.5 million to build. The funding came from the late Arthur Zankel, a Skidmore trustee who donated \$46 million to the college, \$15 million being allocated to the music center. Parents, alumni and various donors provided additional financial support.

Several events have already been held in Zankel. The opening performance featured Carnegie Hall Premieres on Feb. 5. A senior student flute recital featuring Rebecca Rawling was held on Feb. 20. A Brazilian Guitar Quartet performed on Feb. 21. The Klezmatics also performed on Feb. 25.

Harmony for Haiti was the first student-directed performance in Zankel. It was held on Feb. 11 and organized by Anni Satinove '11. "The new space in Zankel is absolutely amazing, I was really happy to see how many students came out for the show. I think it was a great reason to have the first student concert there and I thought it was really successful," Satinove said.

More events are planned for the near future. "It's going to be a very busy semester for concerts," said music professor Gordon Thompson. The Ying Quartet is scheduled to perform at 8 p.m. on Feb. 27 as part of the Skidmore College String Festival. General admission is \$12, \$10 for senior citizens and \$3 for students and faculty. Student ensembles will also perform with the Ying Quartet at 1:30 p.m. on Feb. 28.

The Skidmore College Orchestra will be performing at 8 p.m. on March 6 with a guest director, Charles Schneider. Schneider has conducted the Catskill Symphony Orchestra and the Utica Symphony Orchestra. He was the founding music director of the Glimmerglass Opera and co-founder of the Catskill Conservatory of Music.

The Skidmore Orchestra will be performing Aaron Copland's piece "Lincoln Portrait." Quotations from President Abraham Lincoln, spoken by student narrators, are incorporated into the piece.

For their First Year Experience summer assignment, the members of the class of 2013 watched a DVD from the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company that examines the life of Lincoln through

choreography. They also read "Our Lincoln: New Perspectives on Lincoln and His World," edited by Columbia University historian Eric Foner.

Aside from performances, Zankel has been put to the test by classes. Sophomore music major Lauren Gradowski is taking four classes in Zankel. "I use the practice rooms quite frequently and they're very nice. They have windows in them, which is a new feature. They're a little more spacious. They feel more open. And, there are a lot more of them than there used to be. There's at least double. It feels a little more professional. It feels like the first step in really building the music program up from what it is now," Gradowski said.

Many of the practice rooms have pianos in them, but the music department is still acquiring pianos to fill the rest. Every practice room is soundproof. The practice rooms are primarily intended for the use of students who are enrolled in music courses. "There are way more students than music majors and minors however. That includes the 200 students who take private lessons, the roughly 100 students who are involved in an instrumental ensemble, the 100 members of the chorus, etc," said music department chairman, professor Thomas Denny.

Jaruda Ithisuphalap '13 is not a music major but takes two classes in Zankel. "I feel lucky to use the new music building. It lets you take a break from the academic atmosphere," Ithisuphalap said.

Both students and faculty are still amazed by the new technology in Zankel. "One of the fabulous things about the building is that there are three simulcast stations in the building. There are 600 seats and we can accommodate several 100 more though the technology," McGhee said.

Elise Babigian '12 works as a technical assistant in Zankel. "The technology is top notch. If you press one button you can turn on everything in the theater," Babigian said.

Aside from the technology, the increase in space is still appreciated. "I know this sounds mundane, but we went from the oldest, most decrepit classrooms on campus to the newest and most high-tech. Everyone looks at the concert hall, it's just fabulous, but for me the day-to-day experience for the students and teachers in this building, the classrooms are the great addition," Thompson said.

But, as classes take place, adjustments are still being made to Zankel. "In some ways the building isn't completely done because they're still working out some of the details. There are still things like getting door locks right and getting rooms settled away. When there's a new building there's always things to tweak and get ready, so it will be an ongoing process," Thompson said.

The effects of the new Zankel building are already being seen on campus. "The facilities have already changed how students are able to interact and learn in the classroom. There's just so much that we are



able to do now. When you've got a room that's designed for teaching music, suddenly things go smoothly. You just want to be able to go in and concentrate on the material you're teaching," Thompson said.

Plans for the future of Zankel are already being considered. "One thing we're going to have to pay attention to, I think we've already seen, is that with improved facilities more students want to take music classes. We've got to watch how big our classes get, how many instructors we have and what kinds of classes we offer," Thompson said. This semester Thompson expanded his class from 30 to 40 students because of the increased amount of space.

McGhee hopes that eventually Zankel will allow the music department to collaborate with other areas of the college. The stage floor is designed in a way that dancers can use it. Collaboration with the art department might also be possible.

Thompson speculates that in the next few years the college will host more high-profile concerts. "We're really going to have to change how we think about concerts. In fact, that's already started," Thompson said.

The Skidmore Community Chorus spring concert on May 1 will be the final concert of the semester in the hall. During this concert the Skidmore Community Chorus will collaborate with the Saratoga Children's Chorus and the Battenkill Chorale.



## **RecycleMania hypes waste reduction**

North Quad, Northwoods pull ahead of competition based on volume

By Audrey Nelson

On Fri, Feb 26, 2010

The campus is in the full swing of RecycleMania, a nationwide competition that promotes waste reduction across campuses.

The college has two inter-campus competitions, which began Feb. 1 and end on Mar. 27, between Northwoods and Scribner and North Quad and South Quad.

As of Feb. 24, North Quad and Northwoods are in the lead within their respective competitions.

Throughout the country, 607 colleges and universities are registered for this year's contest, which began Jan. 17 and will end on Mar. 27. Some participating schools include Vassar College, Connecticut College, and Bowdoin College, Brown University and Harvard University.

"RecycleMania is a friendly competition between hundreds of Colleges and Universities. I thought it would be fun to get involved and a good way to remind the community about the recycling guidelines. By creating our own competition on campus, my hope is that it will bring greater awareness to the larger RecycleMania initiative," Erica Fuller, Campus Sustainability Coordinator, said.

The victors will have a communal party with food and be awarded a RecycleMania trophy.

The champions are determined by the amount of recycled material per capita of students living in the respective areas. The four recycling containers for each quad or apartment complex are located in the North Woods parking lot.

The main objectives of RecycleMania are to increase waste management awareness in colleges and universities and to promote further waste reduction programs.

"As students, we generate so much waste and it's important to be aware of what we can recycle to reduce our collective amount of waste on campus," Martha Waterman '13, Environmental Action Club (EAC) member, said during the Feb. 22 EAC meeting

An item's SPI resin identification code, which is labeled by 1 and 2, determines which plastics can be recycled.

There are numbers inside of a recycling symbol, which is typically located on the bottom of plastic materials, such as water bottles, detergent containers and peanut butter jars. If the number is not a 1 or 2 the item cannot be recycled. Non-recyclable items include pie pans, light bulbs, drinking glasses and plastic wrap.

The EAC also addressed upcoming events during their meeting.

Eli Dibner-Dunlap '10, EAC member, discussed an upcoming event that will fuse art and environmentalism. The event features Beehive Collective, a collaboration of volunteer artists and educators who display anti-pollution imagery to the public as environmental education tools.

"Beehive Collective collaborated with researchers who explored justice issues in the coal mining areas of West Virginia and Tennessee. They examined stories of the environmental impacts that coal mining creates as well as the human social impacts," Dibner-Dunlap said.

Each year Beehive Collective presents narrative picture-lectures across the country. This March they will visit Skidmore to showcase their campaign, entitled "True Cost of Coal," where sketches and photographs highlight the environmental effects that Mountain Top Removal Coal Mining operations cause.

Inspired by the informal lecture style of the college's Haiti Teach-In on Feb. 1, the EAC will be hosting a Community Dinner and Dialogue on at Feb. 27 at 6 p.m. in the Spa.

The open mic event will be centered on the theme of food, family and friends, and is free of admission for all students, faculty, and staff. The aim of the dinner is to provide a venue for Skidmore community members to have a voice in environmental issues pertaining to campus.

The EAC hopes through this event, to reach out beyond its club's boundaries and to the rest of the community to hear their concerns, interests and ideas.

"Students last semester wanted to create a space for the community to talk about new ideas relative to sustainability in and around campus," Dawn Harfmann, '10, EAC member, said.

Other Updates:

- The Political Action Subcommittee, a branch of the EAC, is brainstorming a long-term plan for the installation of a low coal or coal free main energy source on campus. Their main goal is to communicate with New York Senators about passing a strong climate bill in the U.S. Senate.

## **From Dayquil to daiquiris: it's all about the measurements**

By Adam Cohen

On Fri, Feb 26, 2010

As we are now well settled back into college life after a long break at home, the inevitable sicknesses of the winter months are beginning to hit all college students.

Being in close proximity to everyone on campus tends to lead to illness. This brings about a serious question: are college students able to correctly dose themselves with liquid medicines such as Dayquil, Nyquil and Robitussin?

These unpleasant-tasting liquids are sometimes the best defenses against winter colds and the flu, but it is also important to know how to appropriately measure and take these medicines.

And, while on the topic of measurements, it's important to discuss how we dose ourselves with another potentially dangerous liquid - alcohol.

Recently, The New York Times published an article regarding a study conducted by Brian Wansink, director of the Food and Brand Lab at Cornell University. This study was to analyze the measuring skills of 195 college students in pouring liquid medicine.

The results were quite surprising - when students were given a larger spoon to pour the dose into, most students overdosed themselves, with an average of 11.6 percent more medicine than the recommended dose.

While this small amount may not affect us with one dose, it adds up when taking the medicine multiple times daily for a few days.

It is very important for college students to measure correctly. In order to do so, make sure you don't lose any measuring cups that come with medicines and, if you do, make sure you don't overdose - find or buy a permanent measuring cup for medicines or, when in doubt, try to use a small spoon, as a lower dose is safer than an overdose of medicine.

Now that we've covered the proper precautions for how to safely consume the proper doses of liquid medicines, we can move on to how to safely and appropriately consume proper servings of alcohol.

The above medicinal study is actually very similar to an activity that the Peer Health Educators use at various alcohol awareness programs.



During these programs, students are asked to pour out what they believe is the appropriate measure of a shot, a glass of wine, a beer and other common measurements, using water to fill the appropriate glasses.

This exercise is an important one for any student who is consuming alcohol, regardless of age. Students are almost always surprised at the results of their pouring, which are more often over the average serving size than under.

This tells peer mentors that on any given weekend, if someone is trying to measure the amount of alcohol he or she drank, he or she could potentially be drinking more than one standard drink size per drink.

To avoid overconsumption, there are a few precautions one can take. When making mixed drinks, be sure to measure out each shot in a shot glass, rather than pouring liquor directly into a glass.

Another precaution when drinking beer, specifically from a tap, is that one solo cup (18 oz) holds more than a standard serving size of beer (12 oz), so when filling up a cup, keep this in mind.

As students, we tend to think that we're always in a safe position, but the reality is that we should be looking out for ourselves and preventing bodily harm as much as possible.

Whether it is pouring a helpful liquid such as medicine, or a potentially harmful substance like alcohol, know the correct serving sizes and stay safe.