

New director plans to relaunch Career Services

Focus to shift to students early in their college careers

By Adrian Appleman, Contributing Writer

On Tue, Nov 1, 2011

Deborah Loffredo has served as the new director of Career Services since Sept. 26, bringing a wealth of career development experience and ambition along with her and already working to render changes in what may be renamed the Career Development Center.

As reported by Scope, Loffredo is a "career-development professional" who has had extensive experience in the professional realm, including working as a manager of campus recruiting for the Pepsi Bottling Group, a human performance consultant at global consulting firm Accenture and a senior staffing specialist at Thermo Electron.

"We are looking to relaunch and rebrand Career Services to become the Career Development Center," Loffredo said, "with a focus on developing and engaging students earlier in their Skidmore careers through a variety of programming, including offering trained senior peer career coaches. We also plan to improve our support for students and alumni pursuing graduate education, international students pursuing careers in the U.S. and alumni looking to make career transitions."

Penny Loretto, who served as interim director of Career Services from December 2010 to this September, met with Loffredo as part of the screening process.

"Ms. Loffredo was by far the best candidate for the position," Loretto said in an email. "Her expertise, vision and past experience made her the perfect candidate for the job."

Most recently, Loffredo worked at the NYU Stern School of Business, where she served in a variety of roles, including employer relations, career development and counseling for MBA students and alumni and leadership development.

"The skills I developed in these roles gave me a great foundation to come to Skidmore and add value in Career Services," Loffredo said.

Loffredo oversees the development and delivery of programs and services that help students and alumni set and achieve their short and long-term career goals. She collaborates with faculty, alumni, parents, students and administration to expand the Career Services offerings, which includes cultivating relationships with prospective employers.



"Ms. Loffredo has already made presentations to the Alumni Association, Parents Council and SGA, discussing some of the new initiatives Career Services hopes to make in the next couple of years," Loretto said, "along with asking for feedback and suggestions on ways Career Services can improve on the services it offers to students and alumni."

Since arriving in September, Loffredo has met with students, faculty, alumni and various associations within the College community. "It seems as if everyone at Skidmore wants a piece of her," said Shelly Bouchard, staff assistant and recruiting coordinator for Career Services.

Loffredo has also overseen several projects, including the coordination of the third annual Career Jam on Oct. 14 in conjunction with the Alumni Association and Parents Council. She, along with the rest of Career Services, is overseeing the placement of approximately 100 students with sponsors who work in career fields and locations of interest to students during winter break, as well as orchestrating internship workshops and "Living the Liberal Arts" presentations throughout the remainder of the semester.

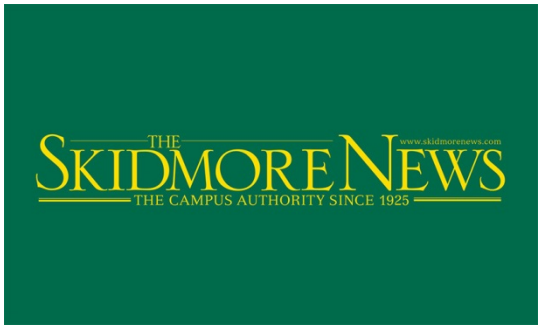
"The liberal arts curriculum prepares students with critical thinking and problem solving skills, communication and interpersonal skills, the ability to take risks and embrace change, leadership skills, etc.," Loffredo said. "I attended a small liberal arts school similar to Skidmore and I loved the diverse learning platform provided by the liberal arts curriculum. Skidmore graduates go into so many unique careers with this foundation, which makes my job as a Career Services professional extremely interesting and fun. Skidmore is a very special place and a welcoming community; I am thrilled to be here."

The next Internship Workshop will be held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov, 8 in Bolton Hall, Room 280. "Living the Liberal Arts in Biology" will take place at 2:30 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 11, at the Murray Aikins Dining Hall.

#1.2678958:3000999381.jpg Loffredo Photo

Deborah Loffredo, new director of Career Services.

Courtesy of Communications



Upcoming events this week sponsored by the EAC

Events include the Washington, D.C., protests this weekend; now with a transportation fee

By Ani Lordkipandize, Staff Writer

On Tue, Nov 1, 2011

As a result of Halloween festivities, the Environmental Action Club cut this week's meeting short, but listed the upcoming sponsored events this week, including the trip to join the protests in Washington, D.C., against the Keystone XL project.

Students will travel via bus to the protest on Sunday, Nov. 6. Though initially free, students who wish to attend must now sign up with club leaders and pay \$20 for the round trip, a recent change the EAC made after switching bus companies. More information on the event can be found <http://www.skidmorenews.com/news/eac-plans-trip-to-join-washington-d-c-protests-against-keystone-xl-1.2661893#.TrCpQXaQdbw> here.

Other EAC-sponsored events this week include the public lecture, "Media, Civic Engagement and Sustainability" by Josh Stearns at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 2 in Davis Auditorium. Stearns is the associate program director at Free Press and SaveTheNews, and will speak about the current state of the media in relation to civic engagement and sustainability.

The Mountain Top Removal Action Roadshow, a presentation by Dave Cooper, will take place at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 3 in Emerson Hall. Cooper is a member of Mountain Justice, which is a direct action environmental group that works to fight against mountaintop removal in Appalachia.

The EAC meets at 9 p.m. on Mondays in Ladd 207.

#1.2678960:1020718276.jpg EAC meeting photo

Margot Reisner '14, club president, talks about upcoming events.

Ani Lordkipandize/The Skidmore News



Review: 'Roots, Dub, Reggae' - John Brown's Body at Putnam Den

By Dale Obbie, Staff Writer

On Wed, Nov 2, 2011

Last Thursday night, Boston-based reggae band John Brown's Body performed a dub-heavy set at Putnam Den. The New Hampshire-based band Roots of Creation opened for them, drawing a dreadlocked crowd for a fun start to the Halloween weekend.

John Brown's Body's music often receives the label "contemporary roots reggae," and with a sound reminiscent of '70s-era reggae legends such as Burning Spear and Lee Perry, the band definitely earn the "roots" distinction. But there's more to the band than that. The band members play just as much dub - an instrumental, effect-laden, drum and bass-driven twist on reggae - as they do traditional reggae. What's more, they play dub at live shows, despite the fact that the style lends itself more to studio recordings than to the live setting.

The show on Thursday was no exception. They opened with a slow-burning dub song full of echoing horn bursts and wah-wahing rhythm guitar scratches. With his eyes closed, vocalist Elliott Martin shook a tambourine, nodding his head while his waist-length dreads swung back and forth in rhythm to the slack drumbeat and the Den-shaking bass line.

During the sunshiny tune "Be At Peace," trombone player Scott Flynn and keyboardist Matt Goodwin joined Martin in a beautiful vocal harmony that reverberated throughout the bar and into the street. The three voices urged the audience to "be at peace and perceive deeper love," ending with a warning to not "put your life in the hands of those who terrorize by taking life away from the song that we sing everyday."

The energetic "Zion Triad" snapped the audience members out of their trance and got them dancing with a drum and bass breakdown. Bassist Nate Edgar played deep-reaching riddims over the echoing snare drum, ending his groove with fast-fingered flourishes. Meanwhile, the smiling horn section danced in unison while Goodwin sipped a beer. The lively song ended with jazzy horn solos alternating between Flynn, trumpet player Sam Dechenne and saxophonist Drew Sayers.

The heavy-hitting righteousness of "Speak of the Devil" turned Martin from a happy-go-lucky reggae singer into a heated political spokesman, red-faced and shouting for the audience to "speak only truth and let your words be clear to defeat all those who seek to rule with fire and fear." Pounding his



clavinet, Goodwin synchronized with Edgar, playing a thunderous bass line under the high-reaching horn shrieks.

After a couple of heady dub songs, the band slid into the mellow "Blazing Love," which ended with a smooth trumpet solo from Dechenne. In response to explosive applause from the crowd of dedicated fans, the band played two encores, ending the night with "The Gold" from its 2008 album "Amplify."

It was without a doubt one of this year's best Putnam Den shows. Despite the fact that the bar wasn't entirely full of people, John Brown's Body nevertheless delivered its authentic reggae in full force, evidently enjoying the experience as much as the enthusiastic audience.



Editorial: Inter-Hall Board and administration dropped the Ball

By the Editorial Board

On Wed, Nov 2, 2011

By 12:30 a.m. on Sunday Moorebid Ball - increasingly the most inauspicious event on the Skidmore calendar - had been shut down early for the second consecutive year.

Last year, after nine individuals were sent to the hospital during the ball, the College spent the first week of November dealing with unwanted media attention and questions about the character and responsibility of its students. This year, the administration and Student Government Association both promised, would be different. This year's Moorebid Ball certainly was different, but the end result was startlingly familiar.

Campus Safety elected to shut down the ball early again this year, not on account of dangerous overconsumption but rather due to safety concerns resulting from significant overcrowding. Conditions in the Williamson Sports and Recreation Center, particularly in the corridor outside of the Recreation Gym on the building's lower floor, devolved into mob-like conditions that required EMTs, <http://www.skidmorenews.com/news/post-mooretem-what-really-happened-this-time-1.2677570> according to Campus Safety.

Hundreds of students found themselves jammed together from wall-to-wall in a narrow hallway, with the only path of egress coming through a single average-sized door already tasked with supporting two-way traffic. The dangerous congestion reached its peak when two fights broke out in the crowd, causing further disruption.

Thankfully, Campus Safety director Lt. Larry Britt's call to shut down the event came before anyone was seriously injured - no significant injuries have been confirmed - but that stroke of luck does not absolve the organizers of Moorebid from creating such an opportunity for disaster.

Put bluntly, the organizers of the Ball - primarily the Inter-Hall Board (IHB) and members of the administration - systemically put Skidmore students at risk of serious harm. There is no way to ignore the potential for serious injury that night. Had a student been hospitalized, a lawsuit against the college would have been a foregone conclusion.

To understand how IHB and the administration could have committed such an egregious error in planning it is impossible not to reference the embarrassment and damage control that followed last October's terminated ball.

In response to the first failed ball, cancelled due to overconsumption, the administration changed a number of policies, most notably disallowing reentry and moving the venue from the Case Student Center to the Sports Center. Some of these policies have been implemented successfully at events since last fall, though none with the same volume of attendance as Moorebid Ball - Campus Safety estimates some 1,400 students in total.

In attempting to make this year's Moorebid wholly different from last year's, however, the planners gravely overlooked significant issues concerning the new venue.

In subsequent interviews with The Skidmore News, IHB members and school administrators have stressed that planning included multiple walkthroughs of the facilities with Campus Safety officers. These statements dissolve rather than instill confidence: how could such a risk be overlooked? How did this not disqualify the venue from serving Skidmore's highest-attended social event, or at least alter the organization of the ball in light of its new location?

Interim Director of Leadership Activities Robin Adams, the liaison between student planners and the administration, admitted, "I don't really know how to respond. It probably could have been anticipated." Lt. Britt echoed that response, saying "Looking back it seems pretty obvious, but in planning everyone simply figured students would stay in the gyms where the music was."

Adams further ascribed blame again to intoxicated students. "There's got to be some personal responsibility. We can't plan for an event where students aren't in their right mind," he said. But IHB's job is to take account of precisely that issue. That an event such as Moorebid will see its share of inebriated students is a given, no matter how many resources are devoted to preventing overconsumption by attendees. It is the purpose of the event organizers to anticipate and accommodate for this brute fact.

Furthermore, although intoxication certainly did not help matters, it was the facility itself at issue, not the behavior of students. Lt. Britt was unambiguous on this point. "The reason [Moorebid] was closed," he said, "was because of safety concerns, not behavioral issues - we had some of those too, but that was not the reason the dance had to end."

After two failed dances in a row, it is reasonable to question whether Moorebid itself is the problem. Does our campus have a venue large enough to hold an event with such high attendance?

If the administration is wedded to the no-reentry policy and wants to keep the event as controlled as possible, the Sports Center's Big Gym is easily the most accommodating venue available. The Big Gym hosts the Big Show concert each semester and Junior Ring in the fall. While none of these events have comparable attendance to Moorebid, they have gone off smoothly in recent years. The hallway leading

to the Big Gym, unlike the corridors leading to the Rec and Dance gyms, is wide enough to support two-way traffic without overcrowding, and the size of the gym itself would allow for Campus Safety to concentrate on a single area rather than dividing their resources between two gymnasiums.

Of course it is understandable that this single space, so often in use by the athletic teams, is difficult to book, but this year has shown that splitting the dance up poses serious problems of its own.

The other possibility is to collectively take a deep breath and reconsider Case Center as a reasonable venue. The multiple floors and entrances make it a harder building to police, but it does afford facilities that a large gymnasium does not. "We tend to think of Moorebid Ball as a dance, but it's also a broader social event," SGA President Jonathan Zeidan said. "So in the gyms, unlike in Case Center, apart from the dancing you had a lot of overcrowding in these hallways where people were supposed to be able to talk."

Allowing students to go outside without being barred from reentry likely facilitated the socialization Zeidan mentioned. Surely it would not be impossible to account for that need while adequately monitoring attendees, perhaps through a sectioned-off area of Case walkway. Similarly, despite Case Center's numerous entrances, it is not impossible to prevent students from entering while still allowing for proper egress, whether by locking doors from the outside or by placing officers at each entrance.

Whatever the future of Moorebid Ball, we cannot accept the structural chaos brought on by this year's preparations for the dance. Our indignation concerning this failure should match our gratitude that no tragedy occurred on yet another dark and cold October night.



Josh Stearns speaks on the role of media in the community

Associate Program Director of Free Press expresses the importance of maintaining media relationships

By Andy Shi, Staff Writer

On Thu, Nov 3, 2011

Josh Stearns visited campus to share his views on the world's changing relations to media, addressing this topic in his lecture titled "Media, Civil Engagement and Sustainability" at 7 p.m. Nov. 2 in Davis Auditorium.

Stearns is the associate program director of Free Press, which, according to its website, "is a national, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization working to reform the media," and manages its journalism, public media and media consolidation campaigns.

Media's been this sort of undercurrent to what I've done, Stearns said. "I'm excited to do what I do."

Stearns said he first became interested in the media in his work as the literary magazine editor at St. Lawrence University, which is also the university he graduated from in 2000. He received his master's degree at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, and joined Save the News, a project of Free Press, in 2009.

Stearns said Free Press contends with issues dealing with the First Amendment, specifically those involving violations of freedom of the press. Stearns pointed to one example that detailed Comcast's policy of blocking sites to customers and ending file sharing to monitor Internet traffic. After citizens discovered this, they publicly protested against Comcast, which forced the company to revise its policies.

This situation underlines Free Press's support of network neutrality, which Stearns defined as a policy that states "Internet service providers may not discriminate between different kinds of content and applications online." Large, powerful corporations often ignore this policy and frequently lobby for Congress to support their stances, Stearns said.

In 2006, Sen. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, at the urging of service company lobbyists, advocated for a bill that would curtail network neutrality. One observer videotaped Stevens's argument, which included an analogy of the Internet to "a series of tubes." The comparison revealed Stevens's ignorance of the



Internet and the lack of knowledge that the politicians had concerning the bill. The video went viral and the Republicans dropped the bill.

Stearns said citizens can stand up to big corporations and political pressure by publicizing their injustices. He referenced Reel Grrls, an organization devoted to empowering women, which tweeted about the January 2011 merger that was approved by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) between one of its sponsors, Comcast, and NBC. The tweet expressed concern that FCC Commissioner Meredith Baker left her job for one as a Comcast head lobbyist following the merger.

Comcast pulled its sponsorship for Reel Grrls, which then turned to the public for support, and, receiving an overwhelming response, raised more than \$24,000 in funds.

Comcast attempted to reconcile with Reel Grrls later on, but Reel Grrls rejected its advances.

Stearns said that media is a life and death situation, and that people must keep the government and large media corporations from violating their rights.

"In a participating culture, no one is fully literate unless we are creating, not just consuming," Stearns said.

Stearns spoke about local radio and television broadcasting and its ever-growing importance, adding that local broadcasters provide the local news that large corporation news broadcasters do not address.

He shared a story of local broadcasters in Florida who warned citizens to seek shelter during a hurricane in multiple languages, which the larger broadcasters failed to do, saving hundreds of lives.

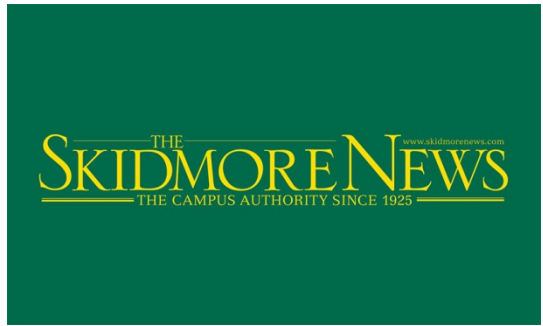
Stearns passed around a petition that he hopes will be sent to Congress, demanding that local broadcasters, net neutrality and the prevention of corporation consolidation be upheld to protect the rights of the American citizens.

"We must put our money where our mouth is," Stearns said. "To protect democracy we must defend the media."

Riley Neugebauer, campus sustainability coordinator, who sponsored the lecture, shared her vision of connecting the College to Saratoga Springs to promote the general welfare of the community.

"If sustainability, the environment and justice is No. 1, then media is No. 2. We have to tell our story," Neugebauer said.

For further information on Josh Stearns and Free Press, visit Freepress.net and Savethenews.org.



#1.2683537:1508752612.jpg Josh Stearns photo

Josh Stearns, associate program director of Free Press

Courtesy of Communications



Caroline Busta '01 addresses the past and present of contemporary art criticism

Assistant editor of Artforum discusses the discourse behind contemporary art

By Sandy Zhang, A&E Editor

On Thu, Nov 3, 2011

Last Thursday, Caroline Busta, class of 2001 and assistant editor at Artforum magazine, gave a lecture in the Tang Teaching Museum on the past and present roles Artforum magazine has played in the contemporary art world.

Appropriately, Art History Department Chair Katie Hauser, who was Busta's advisor, introduced Busta. Professor Hauser said that in Busta's senior year, Busta curated a well-received art show in her apartment.

Busta started the lecture with a brief history of the magazine's early years, chronicling its founding in San Francisco in 1962 and its subsequent moves to Los Angeles and New York. In light of Artforum's looming 50th anniversary, Busta painted a picture of the magazine's founding purpose by reading the mission statement of its conception. She explained that in 1962, a surge in consumption of fine modern art necessitated a community that objectively dialogued about art. Discourse about fine art in a circulating object form was needed to establish value for artists and consumers alike. Artforum sought to be this nexus point where artists, critics, art dealers and galleries co-existed.

Busta went on to reveal that Artforum continues to act as a host to the relationships between its editorial board, galleries, artists and art dealers, which often become twisted and convoluted.

In 1974, the magazine wanted to publish a naked photo of artist Lynda Benglis holding a double-sided dildo. Busta explains that the work interrupts the normative hetero fantasies that pornography encourages because she is shown as an object of male desire and the prop signals that she is sexually self-sufficient. Because of its explicit nature, the magazine refused to publish the photo. The solution was for the artist to ask the Paula Cooper Gallery, which was representing Benglis at the time, to purchase advertisement space so the photo could run as an ad instead.

However, the spread (a full two pages, as a centerfold photo would appear) was not taken out to advertise a forthcoming show, but rather, to present this photo. For Benglis the work wasn't just the photo, "but the photo-as-circulated was part of the magazine," Busta said.



The lecture addressed more current issues when Busta declared that the Occupy Wall Street movement is creating and circulating quirky dialogue, art and criticism. She presented examples of the spontaneous art the movement has spurred. For example, Joie de Vivre, a 70-foot red steel sculpture by Mark di Suvero that resides in Zuccotti Park, has been altered to resemble a bulletin board - sporting an anarchy sign, stickers and notices.

Showing Joie de Vivre was intended to demonstrate how, like the pages of a magazine, a physical site could also be a vital place for discursive exchange. "And what better than a site that is also the very art object that is being contested," Busta said.

Busta also showed a photo of two hand-written posters on top of each other. One reads "TAX DAT ASS," and the other, "ASS DAT TAX." The poster represents a more straightforward form of discourse. "This demonstrates another form of direct criticism, one that doesn't need further mediation via a publishing vehicle, such as a magazine, to exist." Busta said.

In her discussion of the art that surrounds the movement, Busta acknowledged that blogs and micro-blogs like Twitter are attaining increasingly influential roles in the continuing dialogues of the contemporary art world.

Before ending the lecture with a 20-minute question and answer session, Busta briefly outlined the magazine's standard editorial operations and procedures. "To make sure that a plurality of voices is represented, no artist can be reviewed by the same writer twice in a row," Busta said.

During the question and answer session, Busta spoke more specifically on her role and duties at the magazine. She also walked the audience through her own career, describing the trajectory to her position at Artforum.

After graduating from the College in 2001, Busta moved to New York, where she worked as an assistant to former Skidmore Professor Rob Linrothe at the Rubin Museum of Art, received an MA degree in Art History from Columbia University, and began freelance writing. Busta also served as a co-director of Miguel Abreu Gallery and co-curated an exhibition at Orchard, galleries located in Manhattan's Lower East Side. She joined Artforum as a full time staff member in July of 2008.

Dylan Lustrin '13, an art history major, was pleased with the lecture. "It was refreshing to hear someone speak who not long ago was also a Skidmore student. Having attended the Living the Liberal Arts panel just a few weeks before her lecture, hearing about her career experience fit nicely with the Art History department's valid questioning of the real-world utility of an Art History degree," Lustrin said.

The Alfred Z. Solomon Residency, which has also brought artist Nicolas Guagnini and writer Jessica Lott to campus, sponsored Busta's visit to the College.

#1.2683461:3638022754.jpg Benglis

Artforum ad featuring Lynda Benglis

Courtesy of Caroline Busta

#1.2683510:3672874142.jpg Joie

Marks on Mark di Suvero's Joie de Vivre

Courtesy of Caroline Busta

#1.2683484:669810713.jpg Marks on Mark di Suvero's Joie de Vivre

Marks on Mark di Suvero's Joie de Vivre

Courtesy of Caroline Busta

#1.2683513:3295617668.jpg Ass dat tax

Hand written poster voicing support for Occupy Wall Street

Courtesy of Caroline Busta









Alcohol and Other Drugs policy forum addresses controversy

By Max Siegelbaum, Contributing Writer

On Thu, Nov 3, 2011

Approximately 50 students and 10 administration board members met at 7 p.m. on Nov. 1 in Gannett Auditorium to discuss the highly contested revision of the Alcohol and Other Drugs Policy instated at the beginning of this semester.

Controversial changes to this policy include a "point system" and the "in the presence of" clause, which dictates that underage students in the presence of alcohol or other substances will be punished, regardless of whether or not they themselves are consuming them.

Don Hastings, director of Residential Life, discussed the creation and necessity of the policy. He reassured students "the policy has always been grounded in health, safety and the welfare of the student, but also under the constraints of New York State law."

Hastings said that in 2004, a litany of incidents required a new policy to be instated, including the hospitalization of 12 students on "Diva Night," a DVD player being thrown out of a window and the portrayal of the college on the Princeton Review as a drug addled mess.

Due to these events, the administration decided to reconsider the existing policy, resulting in the grid system. Offenses were divided into a grid, with the most serious infractions on the third tier, and the most benign on the first.

Hastings said he noticed a change two years ago, when the college began to suffer similar bouts of malicious drunken debauchery. Hastings referred to several hospitalizations, abuse of Campus Safety officers and staff and three DWI's that resulted in serious injury, two of which required helicopter evacuations.

Hastings said he believed at that point that the staff of Residential Life and several other administrative groups, including Health Promotions and the Student Assessment and Intervention Group, had no choice but to address the situation.

In order to formulate this new policy, the administration looked at the colleges in the New York Six Liberal Arts Consortium, comprised of Colgate University, Hamilton College, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, St. Lawrence University and Union College.

A prevalent topic of the Nov. 1 discussion was the highly debated "in the presence of" clause. As it now stands, the policy states that any underage student in the presence of alcohol more than once will be subject to parental notification and a \$25 fine. The fines increase after repeat offenses and can eventually result in an Integrity Board hearing.

"We have always done [the 'in the presence of' clause]. This is the first time it has been put in writing," said Hastings, adding that the Residential Life staff tries to put a student's history into perspective. "The first couple of [incidents], you get a pass." After repeat offenses, students will start to accrue points and face real consequences.

In a prior interview, Rochelle Calhoun, dean of student affairs, said she had heard a great amount of feedback from students on this clause. "I was really quite moved by the students who identified as non-drinkers, and really talked to me about the fact that they provided a kind of measure to the behavior, just because of their presence."

Several students presented questions and suggestions to Residential Life staff. William Moseley '12 brought up the discrepancy between the policy and the repeated emphasis on student safety. "I don't know how it makes this a safer campus," he said. "If students are afraid about getting in trouble around peers that are drinking, then how can we still have safety measures, like designated drivers?"

Hastings stressed the Amnesty Clause, which states that any student who contacts Campus Safety in an attempt to help another incapacitated student will face no consequences.

Laura Meli '12 recalled an incident in which she attempted to help a sick student the night of Moorebid Ball, but faced a late response time by Campus Safety officers, who, when they finally reached the student, turned her down because the girl she was attempting to help wasn't sick enough.

Another female student proposed the idea of "restorative measures, a way to participate in an event, like community service, that would reduce points."

The discussion ended with Navaratnam '12 addressing the "Parental Notification" clause. "Sometimes parents don't always understand American culture," she said, stressing that notification might bring unwanted and unwarranted conflict at home. "We're adults and we need to be treated like adults."

Calhoun stressed the concern for student safety and responsibility and promised reconsideration of certain aspects of the policy. "The 'In the Presence of' will be delved into. Restorative measures will also be highly considered," she said.



"It's a challenge for us institutionally," she said in the interview on Oct. 26, "but I think what we're trying to create a balance around is absolutely adhering and working within the laws of the state of New York."

Several students were left unsatisfied by the responses from the staff and the student turnout. They expressed concern that these issues were highly opposed by the student body, yet only around 50 students attended the review.

"It seems like nothing was really accomplished," said one student, who wished to remain anonymous.

However, Chris Lord '12 and Sam Leibenhaut '12, organizers of the meeting and co-presidents of the Conflict Resolution Group, otherwise dubbed "Fight Club," felt that the meeting was successful in some degree.

"The goal was to give students a voice and be heard," said Lord, stressing the importance of establishing a dialogue with the administration.

Field hockey off to Liberty League Championship

By Skidmore Athletics

On Thu, Nov 3, 2011

SARATOGA SPRINGS - The No. 5 ranked Skidmore College field hockey team used a six-goal outburst in the second half to defeat St. Lawrence 8-1 and advance to the Liberty League Championship.

The Thoroughbreds improve to 17-1, extending their home winning streak to 28 games, and will host the winner of Friday night's William Smith-RPI match-up. The Saints end their season with a 9-8 record.

St. Lawrence got the scoring started early as Courtney Cartier deflected Erika Swits' shot from the top of the circle past Skidmore goalie Haley McDougall '15 for her fifth of the season.

Ceilidh MacNeill '13 tied it up at 20:46 when she redirected Hilary Cranston's '13 pass from outside the circle past Nicole Matos. Lauren Tobias '12 gave Skidmore the lead in the 30th minute, taking a pass from Annie Rosencrans '12 and sending it home for her 14th of the season.

After leading 2-1 at the half, the Thoroughbred offense came alive in the second half. Kelly Blackhurst '14 blasted a shot from the top of the circle to make it 3-1 and then assisted of MacNeill's second goal of the game at the 43:14 mark. Blackhurst tallied her second of the game and 24th of the season in the 48th minute to make it 5-1. Skidmore went on a run late as MacNeill, Caylyn Sullivan '12 and Sam Skott '15 all scored in a 2:10 span to close it out and give the Thoroughbreds an 8-1 win.

McDougall finished with three saves to earn the win and Annie Weis '14 added a defensive save for Skidmore. For the Saints, Matos stopped 14 shots, while Ali Ferenczy and Julia Croyle each had a defensive save.

The Thoroughbreds outshot St. Lawrence 30-5 and held a 14-7 advantage in penalty corners.

Women's soccer makes it to Liberty League Championship

By Skidmore Athletics

On Thu, Nov 3, 2011

SARATOGA SPRINGS - It's off to the Liberty League championship for the Skidmore College women's soccer team after a 2-0 shutout of RIT in a Liberty League semifinal, Wednesday at Wachenheim Field.

The second-seeded Thoroughbreds will travel to top-seed William Smith for Saturday's 1 p.m. championship game. The Herons beat St. Lawrence 4-0 in their semifinal.

Skidmore is 13-5, while the Tigers, playing in their first Liberty League season, end the year at 8-10.

Abby Benton '12 scored the first goal at 22:26. Kelsey Yam '13 made a long cross to Christine Bellotti '14 who passed on the shot and tapped the ball to Benton who eased it past RIT goalie Ashley Valenti.

Bellotti set-up the second goal with a long ball in the air that Yam headed home from 10 yards out for her team-high sixth goal of the season.

Thoroughbred goalie Meghan Sleezer '12 had seven saves to earn her ninth shutout of the season. It was Skidmore's 12th shutout in 18 games. Sleezer's biggest save came in the 40th minute when she stopped a Rachael Bromson breakaway. She was also tough on several RIT restarts.

Skidmore had a slight 13-11 shot advantage. The Tigers had an 8-6 edge in penalty corners.

Playing in its seventh straight Liberty League tournament, this will be Skidmore's second appearance in the Liberty League championship game. The previous time was a penalty-kick loss to William Smith after a 0-0 tie in 2008. This will also be the fifth time in six seasons the two teams have faced each other in the league tournament.

Extra Credit: Getting involved

Reconsidering the benefits of community service

By Siena Tugendrajch, Columnist

On Thu, Nov 3, 2011

It's easy to forget that there's a world outside of our little liberal arts bubble. We may all set our homepages to the New York Times, but that usually means we just skim the headlines before moving on to more pressing matters, like Facebook or Tumblr. We barely make time to watch "The Daily Show." And, while Skidmore encourages community involvement, we are not required to complete any volunteer work or community service during our time here. This policy is not out of the ordinary - most schools do not have a community service requirement - but can engender a sense of apathy toward volunteer work.

Though we're busy with schoolwork, teams and clubs, most Skidmore students could handle an hour or an afternoon each week, or even each month, volunteering. Maybe to some, community service was just padding for the Common App, another chore we have left behind us now that our college counselors leave us alone. People don't realize that now that we've made it to college, service work can be strictly recreational.

Many of us participated in some form of community service before we got here. My high school had countless clubs with vague but intriguing names like Girls Learn International and the Breakfast Club. Our faculty constantly reminded us how privileged we are and how that should affect our interactions with people who have fewer advantages in life. I believe this philosophy should not apply to the Skidmore community and should not be the driving force behind your decision to participate in service work. We can do better than that, Kipling.

In our extracurricular lives, we should constantly be searching for enjoyable activities. The philosophy that work should have greater meaning than a paycheck is part of what the liberal arts are all about. There's no reason this notion shouldn't hold true to our lives right now. For example, four years working as a summer camp counselor has taught me that I love working with kids. Therefore, during the school year, I seek out tutoring opportunities because I know I'll get as much out of the experience as the children with whom I work. If you can find any kind of service work that makes you happy, whether it's finger-painting in Skidmore's own Early Childhood Center or spending an hour playing checkers at a nursing home, there's no reason not to make it part of your routine.

It's also not difficult to get involved. There are tons of volunteer opportunities, all with varying levels of commitment, available in our fair city of Saratoga Springs. Nearby hospitals, nursing homes and

homeless shelters appreciate your time. We're adults now, and have real skills and talents to offer. Saratoga Springs alone has six elementary schools, one middle school and one high school, all of which need and seek out tutors and volunteers. There's no need to feel shy about sending emails of inquiry.

Despite these opportunities, some students who want to get involved still don't. Benefaction, our community service club, is one of the largest organizations on campus, but many students outside of the club only hear about volunteer projects in our area through the emailed Student Announcements Digest. It's time to stop thinking of community service as a burden. An hour of tutoring should be as satisfying as an hour of any other extracurricular activity, from physical exercise to guest lectures.

Volunteer work can be educational, rewarding and, if done correctly, extremely fun. It's an opportunity to find work you enjoy, and begin living the ideals we celebrate here at Skidmore. Take a page out of Cher Horowitz's book and start volunteering today.

Restaurant Review: The Local

By Tegan O'Neill, Columnist

On Thu, Nov 3, 2011

The next time you have a hankering for a nice, unpretentious midday meal, give The Local a try. Nestled in the quaint Beekman Street Arts District, The Local doubles as a pub and teahouse serving up traditional English and Irish fare. The Local does not put on airs. Instead, Bob Marley plays in the background and customers get cozy at their booths and plank tables. When we went, the place was decked out in Halloween knickknacks and, although eating alongside cobwebs was slightly disturbing, I could still appreciate the festive touch.

The establishment's dimensions are suggestive of a boxcar. Throughout the meal, I had the sensation that we might start rumbling along at any moment. Luckily though, with all of the beer mugs hanging above the bar and the teacups on tables, The Local is planted on firm ground. At our table, we shared a pot of honey chai tea poured from a little teapot short and stout.

To begin with, we had the day's soup special: pumpkin - and it truly was a special soup. The savory flavor of pumpkin glowed with the sweet and simple taste of brown sugar. I was tempted to ask for the recipe, but decided I would rather remain in a state of wonder.

It seemed like the right place and time to order a tea sandwich, as we were sitting in a teahouse drinking tea. I was in the mood for a sandwich of goat cheese and almonds. My eyeballs bulged upon seeing the hardly petite tea sandwich placed in front of me. The fluffy snow pile of goat cheese wedged between two slices of bread with the crusts cut off made my dreams come true. To add to my contentment, a dainty roof of almond slivers was crunched above the chèvre cloud.

I was pleasantly surprised by the veggie burger which, in actuality, was not a burger but a slab of grilled eggplant between roasted red peppers and mozzarella. I delighted in biting into the cushiony bakery roll, feeling my teeth cut through the chewy eggplant, slice through the soft mozzarella and sever into the slippery red peppers. Admittedly, that sounds like a tale of treacherous textures, but have no fear. The veggie burger is pudgy and kind like the Pillsbury dough boy. The best element of the sandwich's construction is actually not a part of the sandwich but sits on the side in a little thimble of a cup. According to the menu it is balsamic vinaigrette, but I believe this is too modest of a description. More mayonnaise than vinaigrette, it was tasty and I loved dipping and re-dipping the veggie burger for more.

The Local also does breakfast (technically it's brunch) on the weekends. If you are planning on logging trees for the remainder of the day, breakfast there will suit your needs quite well. The hefty breakfast



portions are fit for lumberjacks and those pining for heart attacks. Eggs, potatoes and meat dominate the menu. Ordinarily, that would suffice, but what was so bothersome was the poor quality of those breakfast basics. The homefries were clearly not made in house and the grilled tomato was grainy and a very sad shade of pink. When the farmers' market down the street is selling fresh tomatoes it seems like a sin to put what The Local did on a plate. If The Local truly took its name seriously, maybe it would buy its produce locally, too.

Where I had been happy with the soup and sandwiches at lunch, I was thoroughly unimpressed and borderline disgusted with what I ate for breakfast. I can hardly bring myself to recount the ingredient list for the Eye Opener: poutine fries (i.e. frenchfries drowned in gravy and cheese), two eggs, bacon and sour cream. Never have I seen such a hideous mountain of glop. It looked like a soggy mess and tasted like one, too.

The Irish Breakfast was just your basic eggs, bacon, sausage, homefries and toast with a grilled tomato added to the mix. The mild and mushy sausage was disappointing and neither the eggs nor the bacon stood out. I already griped about the homefries, and I can't help myself from lamenting about the problems with the toast. Packages of Smucker's jam were thrown haphazardly onto the plate on top of the food. Seeing plastic packets lying on meat and eggs really rubbed me the wrong way. At least they could have put the jam packets to the side.

The omelet we ordered was a take on the classic lox, cream cheese and capers except, rather than on a bagel, it was all slipped into an omelet. Despite an excess of capers, which pushed the omelet past acceptable saltiness, I enjoyed it. The refreshing taste of salmon was a much welcome relief amid the mess of the heaviest of breakfasts.

Part teahouse, part pub, The Local's offerings span quite the range. To be satisfied, it all depends on what you are looking for. If a huge, hearty, hulking breakfast is what you're after, then you will not be disappointed. If that type of thing is not your cup of tea, I say skip the breakfast and instead wait until lunch. It is then that creativity peeks through, details are attended to and unique eats appear.

Read More of TeganO'Neill's outings at her <http://tegan-and-sarah.blogspot.com/> blog

#1.2684323:466004536.JPG the local tea cup

The Local's honey chai tea

Sarah Weitzman/The Skidmore News

#1.2684335:1259027339.JPG local's veggie burger

The Local's veggie burger: grilled eggplant, roasted red peppers and mozzarella

Sarah Weitzman/The Skidmore New







Swimming and diving hosts Vassar

By Skidmore Athletics

On Sun, Nov 6, 2011

SARATOGA SPRINGS - The Skidmore College men's and women's swimming & diving teams hosted Liberty League rival Vassar, Saturday afternoon at the Williamson Sports Center.

Both teams suffered tough losses with the women falling 166-131 and the men dropping a 167-128 decision.

On the men's side, Doug Pilawa '12 won both the 1-meter (347.80) and 3-meter (329.90) dives with NCAA qualifying scores, including breaking his own college record in the 1-meter dive for the second straight week.

Jesse Adler '13 took second in the 200 back (2:06.66) and 200 free (1:55.63), while Nick Sauerbrunn '15 finished second in the 500 Free (5:21.09). Logan Jones '15 had a pair of second place finishes in both the 50 free (23.33) and 100 free (51.72), while Tim Brodsky '14 took third in the 50 free (23.44) and 100 free (52.33).

For the women, Katherine Kelloway '14 won three individual events, taking first in the 100 back (1:04.43), 200 back (2:18.12) and 200 IM (2:18.90). Freshman Catherine King '15 was a double winner, finishing first in the 50 free (25.84) and 100 free (56.30).

Kristin Stearns '13 won the 3-meter dive (220.10) and finished second on the 1-meter board (202.05). Captain Carrie Koch '13 earned a pair of runner-ups, taking second in the 200 free (2:03.12) and the 500 free (5:38.12), while Sarah Shaw '14 took second in the 100 fly (1:05.97).

Both teams host St. Rose at 1 p.m. next Saturday.

#1.2686564:3410043003.JPG pilawa

Doug Pilawa '12 impresses the judges

Savannah Grier/The Skidmore News



Liberty League loss for Women's soccer

By Skidmore Athletics

On Sun, Nov 6, 2011

GENEVA - The No. 2 William Smith soccer team won its fifth straight Liberty League tournament championship title, defeating Skidmore 3-0 in a match played on Cozzens Field this afternoon.

William Smith improves to 16-0-1 and picked up its 13th straight victory. Skidmore's overall record is now 13-6-0.

Just 1:21 into the game the Tarantino sisters put William Smith up 1-0. After a corner kick taken by junior Renee Jensen, senior Sarah Tarantino settled the ball, and pushed a pass to senior Jessie Tarantino who was waiting on the left post. Jessie knocked the ball right into the left corner of the goal for her first tally this season.

In the 57th minute, Jensen scored a goal of her own to make it 2-0. Jensen took a corner kick that was deflected by Skidmore's goalie Meghan Sleezer '12, but found its way into the back of the net. It was Jensen's third goal this fall.

Skidmore had its best scoring chance in the 65th minute. Abby Benton '12 carried the ball into the box, as she dribbled ahead it deflected off a Heron defender. Senior goalie Amanda Davis dove out to grab the ball, but could not keep control of it. Benton was there to take it back and fire a shot on goal, but Alyse DiCenzo, the tournament MVP, was alone in front of the goal and knocked it away to preserve the William Smith shutout.

In the 79th minute the Herons again capitalized on a corner kick opportunity. Jensen put the ball in play. Brenna Kincaid collected it at the top of the box and placed a shot into the top right corner of the goal just out of Sleezer's reach.

The Herons held a 20-1 advantage in shots and a 9-1 lead in corner kicks. Davis played the opening 84:48 in goal for William Smith, and sophomore Chelsea Dunay came in to play the final 5:12. Sleezer finished with seven saves, including a few diving stops, in all 90 minutes in goal for the Thoroughbreds.

The 2011 NCAA Tournament brackets will be announced on Monday, Nov. 7.

Field Hockey wins Liberty League, headed to the big dance

By Skidmore Athletics

On Sun, Nov 6, 2011

SARATOGA SPRINGS - The Skidmore College field hockey team won its fourth consecutive Liberty League Championship, defeating William Smith in a thrilling 2-1 game, Saturday afternoon at Thoroughbred Field.

With the win, the 5th-ranked Thoroughbreds improve to 18-1 and clinch a spot in the 2011 NCAA Tournament, earning their fifth consecutive appearance and extending their home winning streak to 29 games. The 13th-ranked Herons fall to 15-4 on the season.

The teams battled back and forth through the first 20 minutes, but Liberty League Player of the Year Kelly Blackhurst '14 broke the scoreless tie at the 24:38 mark. Blackhurst took a pass from Molly Gile '13 in the center of the circle and beat William Smith goalie Taryn Little for her 25th goal of the season.

After holding a 1-0 lead at the half, Skidmore made it a 2-0 game at the 44:05 mark when Lauren Tobias '12 took a pass from Blackhurst and put it home for her 15th of the season.

The Herons battled back late in the second half and made it a one-goal game at the 58:22 mark. Annie Kietzman picked up a loose ball in front of the goal and found Melanie O'Connor who converted for her fifth goal of the season, making it a 2-1 game.

William Smith continued to put on pressure late in the game and received a penalty corner with no time remaining for a chance to send it to overtime, but Kiersten Hamilton's shot from the top of the circle went wide and the Thoroughbreds hung on for a 2-1 victory.

Tournament MVP Haley McDougall '15 finished with eight saves, including five in the second half for Skidmore. Little allowed two goals on five shots, playing the first 44:05, before Catherine Hare closed out the game, stopping two shots in 25:55.

The Herons held a slight 12-11 advantage in shots and both teams finished with six corners.

Joining McDougall on the All-Tournament team was Blackhurst, Ceilidh MacNeill '13, Caylyn Sullivan '12, Jackie Slocombe '12, Annie Weis '14 and Jess Dankner '12 from Skidmore. For William Smith, O'Connor, Kietzman, Sarah Tompson and Taylor Cappello were selected.

The NCAA Tournament bracket will be released on Monday. It will be the 11th appearance for the Thoroughbreds

#1.2686552:330628546.JPG tobias

Lauren Tobias '12 surrounded by Heron defenders

Savannah Grier/The Skidmore News



Opening night loss for Skidmore hockey

By Skidmore Athletics

On Sun, Nov 6, 2011

SARATOGA SPRINGS - The Skidmore College hockey team opened its season with a tough 5-4 loss to the University of Southern Maine, Friday night at the Saratoga Springs City Rink.

Huskie goalie Braely Torris made 14 of his 28 saves in the third period to preserve the win.

Southern Maine got on the board early when Brad McGovern scored from Troy Thibodeau at 1:37 of the first. Alex Essaris '12 tied it when he intercepted a clearing pass and beat Torris for a power-play goal at 4:01. The Huskies went back in front at 10:02 on Dan Rautenberg's first goal of the game, a power-play tally from David Nies.

Skating four-on-four, Southern Maine opened a 3-1 lead at 9:42 of the second period on a goal by Angelo Vrachnas with assists from Chris LaCount and Kevin Smith. The Thoroughbreds hung in with consecutive markers to tie it 3-3. Aaron Beck '14 scored on a breakaway from Nick Dupuis '12 at 14:17 and Zach Menard '13 tied it with a power-play goal from Tony Giacini '14 and Brendan Cottam '13 at 15:30.

The Huskies got another quick start in the third when Rautenberg scored an unassisted goal 32 seconds in for a 4-3 lead. Ryan Seward made it 5-3 at 15:26, setting-up a wild final four minutes. The Thoroughbreds fought to within one, as Erik Nilsson '15 scored his first collegiate goal on a rebound from Essaris and Jack Walsh '12 at 16:48. Skidmore continued to put pressure on the Huskies, but Torris turned back the final shots to preserve the win.

Colin Bessey '12 had 22 saves for the Thoroughbreds.

Skidmore Hockey picks up first win

By Skidmore Athletics

On Sun, Nov 6, 2011

SARATOGA SPRINGS - Tony Giacini '14 scored broke a 2-2 tie with 12:19 to play in the third to give the Skidmore College hockey team a 3-2 ECAC East win over the University of New England, Saturday night at the Saratoga City Rink.

The Thoroughbreds even their record at 1-1, while the Nor'Easters fall to 0-2.

Skidmore grabbed a quick 2-0 lead on consecutive goals by David Limoges '15 at 1:12 and 1:56 of the first period. Zach Menard '13 sent Limoges in on a breakaway for the first goal and then set-up the second goal with a perfect pass, chasing UNE goalie Craig Ryan.

The Nor'Easters patiently worked their way back into the game. Scott McManaman converted a penalty shot at 16:25 of the first to cut the lead to 2-1 at the end of one.

UNE had the only goal of the second period, a power-play tally by Tyler Fleurant at 7:04 that tied it 2-2.

Skidmore came out strong in the third period, but struggled to get one past back-up goalie Ian Edwards. Giacini broke through, battling in front to finally getting on past back-up Edwards, who had stopped all 37 shots he had seen up to that point. Alex Essaris '12 and Aaron Beck '14 were credited with the assists.

The Thoroughbreds out shot UNE 42-26, including 17-4 in the third period. Colin Bessey '12 had 24 saves in net for the win.

Skidmore is at St. Anselm at 7 p.m. on Nov. 11.

Skidmore volleyball upsets Clarkson, wins Liberty League Championship

By Skidmore Athletics

On Sun, Nov 6, 2011

POTSDAM - Skidmore won the Liberty League Championship this weekend, beating St. Lawrence on Friday, Nov. 4, and top-seeded Clarkson on Saturday, Nov. 5. It was the program's fourth league championship and first since 2000.

On Friday, in the Liberty League Semifinals, Kelley Vershbow '12 struck for 20 kills and had just three errors in 44 swings to lead a Skidmore College attack that hit .417 overall as the second-seeded Thoroughbreds beat third-seed St. Lawrence in three straight sets, 25-14, 25-22, 25-21.

Skidmore's victory pushed the Thoroughbreds to 26-8 overall, while St. Lawrence dropped to 19-17 this year.

The Thoroughbreds came out strong, hitting .412 in the first set with 17 kills and not allowing the Saints to get much going offensively. In the final two sets, St. Lawrence took early leads and forced Skidmore to take timeouts to pull things together. Each time the Thoroughbreds changed pace to regain the lead, winning each by small margins.

Vershbow had 20 kills and seven digs, while Corrine Palmer '14 added 11 kills and four blocks for the Thoroughbreds. Elise Finnerty '14 had 10 kills and just one error in 15 swings (.600 hitting percentage) to help a Skidmore offense that had 50 kills overall and just seven errors. Mallory Mendelsohn '13 led the offense with 38 assists and also added in 10 digs. Sam Friedman '13 produced a team-best 11 digs and also had three aces.

For St. Lawrence, Nyasha Miller hit .382 for the match with 15 kills and just two errors in 34 swings, and Liz Grogan was nearly as good with 10 kills and three errors in 20 attempts. Anna Kassab had 35 assists for the Saints and Katie Prue led the team with nine digs.

The Skidmore College volleyball team beat top-seed Clarkson 3-2 (25-16, 25-23, 20-25, 20-25, 15-8) to win the Liberty League championship, Saturday.

The Thoroughbreds finish the regular season with a 27-8 record, winning their last 12 matches, including two over Clarkson (28-8), the region's top-ranked team.

Both teams will now await the NCAA Tournament committee to find out if they will be selected to participate in this year's championship tournament. The Liberty League does not have an automatic bid for its conference tournament until 2013.

Saturday's championship match was an odd one at times, as Clarkson came out with a solid advantage in the first set, 16-12. However, Elise Finnerty '14 was able to get a kill for Skidmore to pull the Thoroughbreds back within three, and then Mallory Mendelsohn '13 amazingly served out the set for a 25-16 victory as the Knights searched for answers at the break.

In the second set, Clarkson had a small advantage midway through the game, but Skidmore once again rallied to take a 25-23 victory off a block from Corrine Palmer '14 and Mendelsohn. However, Clarkson had found its rhythm on offense and started to take control, winning a pair of sets back-to-back by the score of 25-20, highlighted by a .432 hitting percentage in the fourth set (19-3-37). That momentum could not be carried into the fifth and deciding set, though, as Clarkson hit -.158 with eight errors.

For Skidmore, Kelley Vershbow '12 was selected as the tournament's MVP with 19 kills (and 39 total in the two-day event). Also making the All-Tournament team were Corrine Palmer '14, who had 15 kills against only a single error in 29 attempts to go along with five total blocks, and Mendelsohn, who produced 45 assists and four aces on Saturday. Finnerty also added 14 kills and four blocks for the Thoroughbreds. Sam Friedman '13 topped Skidmore with 16 digs.

Bias Response Group holds community discussions

Members invite people to share their questions and concerns regarding the group

By Julia Leef

On Sun, Nov 6, 2011

Members of the Bias Response Group met students and faculty members in the Intercultural Center on Nov. 3 to discuss questions regarding bias incidents and the role of the Bias Response Group in one of two discussions held this week.

“The main purpose of the discussions is to give students and faculty the chance to learn more about the Bias Response Group, as well as to offer feedback and suggestions regarding future dealings with bias incidents,” said Rochelle Calhoun, dean of student affairs.

“People were not very clear who the Bias Response Group is and what we do,” said Calhoun in a previous interview. “So the goal of the community meetings is one, to be known, and two, to create a space for people to have the opportunity to talk to the group of us who have some institutional responsibility for the overall climate and community.”

Calhoun said many of the events and discussions hosted by the Bias Response Group this year are the result of a survey conducted last April, which gave students an opportunity to express their concerns and demonstrate their knowledge of bias incidents.

Mariel Martin, director of student diversity programs, said the survey was distributed to the entire student body, and that 312 of those students responded. Thirteen percent said they had personally been targets of a bias incident, while twenty-nine percent said they had witnessed a bias incident at some point. Eighty-eight percent stated that they had a high or moderate awareness of incidents on campus.

“We were able to do some planning based on this survey to shape what we were doing this year in particular,” Martin said. Some of the events that have taken place so far are the “Everyday Leadership Training” program before the start of the semester and the Dr. Frances Kendall lecture hosted on Sept. 26.

Such efforts have gained the attention of other colleges. Teshika Hatch ‘11, who is now the assistant director of admissions, said that Colby College has been inspired by the College, and is mirroring its own Bias Response Group after Skidmore’s.



One topic that members discussed was the subject of incident reports, which the group receives from students throughout the semester. These incidents are most commonly reported on bias in regards to gender, sexual orientation and race and ethnicity.

Martin provided the numbers of incident reports over the past three years, reporting 21 incidents from 2008 to 2009, 11 from 2009-2010 and 22 from 2010-2011. This academic year, there have been only two reports since September, one of which occurred before the start of the semester.

Don Hastings, director of residential life, explained that students may submit incident reports online, and will receive an acknowledgement email and an invitation to speak at the next Bias Response Group meeting in reply. A general report later goes out to the student body.

However, several students at the meeting expressed concerns that the Bias Response Group ceased to inform of the status of their cases after this initial email, leading to an overall feeling that submitting a report would not do anything.

Another issue was brought up by Jonathan Zeidan '12, president of SGA, who said that at times the exact definition of a bias incident could be unclear, leading to uncertainty in students as to whether to submit a report or not.

"You can get in a very circular discussion about bias unless you are saying exactly what bias is," said Calhoun, adding that bias incidents are targeted at groups or individuals based on their identities that result in harm to the target. "What we often hear from folks who have felt targeted by incidents is that they're unsure. There is a hesitance to name it. I'm struck and moved by some things that we have heard that are horrific, that student are still asking us [if it's considered a bias incident]."

The Bias Response Group members emphasized the importance of their liaisons with the Office of Residential Life, as most bias incidents take place in the residential halls, and Campus Safety, who often works in conjunction with the Bias Response Group, joining its members on their annual retreat in January.

"It really became clear to us that for this community, we all need to be in communication together to be able to respond effectively," Calhoun said.

Members also emphasized the importance of dispersing information to the College community, and discussed various ways in which this could be better accomplished. Some of the suggestions students brought up include additional dialogues and discussions, awareness programs, guest speakers and open forums.



Students also expressed their desire for first-years to be informed about the Bias Response Group early on in their academic careers. Several of them cited their past involvement in leadership training and Inter-Group Relations dialogues, and encouraged more opportunities for those programs for First-Years.

“Students try to justify these incidents so as not to make a big deal out of them,” said Jovany Andujar, vice president for diversity affairs on SGA. “We have to keep giving voice to and presence to these issues because they’re so silencing.”

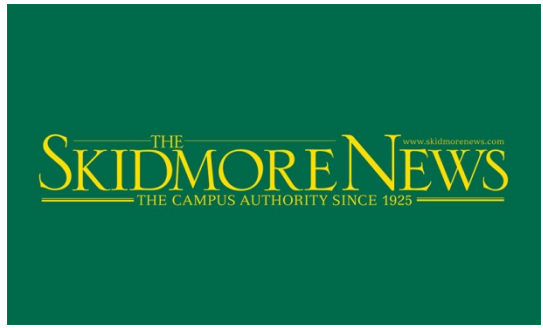
Riley Neugebauer, campus sustainability coordinator, as a relatively new member to the College, suggested that information on the Bias Response Group be offered to faculty as well.

There will be a second public discussion at 11:30 a.m. on Nov. 4, in the Intercultural Center in Case Center.

#1.2685616:3531666876.JPGBGR Photo

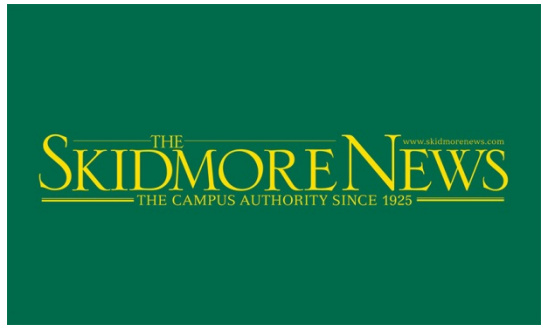
Community gathers to discuss role of the Bias Response Group.





SGA Senate Live Blog

By Joanne Schwartzberg, Communications Director
On Mon, Nov 7, 2011



Comic: Pulp Rage

By Maxx Salat, Pulp Editor

On Mon, Nov 7, 2011



Skidmore literati assemble new magazine

“Palimpsest” promises another forum for student poetry and prose

By Brendan James, Editor-in-Chief

On Mon, Nov 7, 2011

At a college where the study of English reigns supreme among the humanities, two students have set out to fill the gaps in Skidmore’s literary scene with a new journal dedicated to students’ creative writing.

English majors Anne-Louise Korallus-Shapiro ‘12 and Margo Shickmanter ‘12 have spearheaded a new student literary journal to exhibit the talents of their peers. The journal, [Palimpsest](http://www.skidmorepalimpsest.com), will be an online-only publication dedicated to student fiction, poetry and creative non-fiction.

“We want to showcase the English department’s amazing work for the entire college, the way that the Art department displays their work in galleries,” says Korallus-Shapiro.

Creative non-fiction in particular is largely absent from Skidmore’s other publications, such as Folio or the literary sex magazine Bare. Korallus-Shapiro and Shickmanter seek to highlight the neglected category in Palimpsest.

“We think that the body of creative writing, and particularly non-fiction, kind of gets short-shrift right now,” says Shickmanter. “It’s sort of crowded out by the literary analysis and theory.”

The project began with the help of a student opportunity grant from the Office of Academic Advising. Next Korallus-Shapiro and Shickmanter enlisted their peers from workshops in the English department and began to form an editorial staff.

At the moment that staff is full of upperclassmen, but with the magazine launching soon the editors are eager to reach out to underclassmen who hold a creative and literary impulse.

“As seniors, this is something we obviously want to see continue after we leave, so we are very interested in getting underclassmen involved as soon as possible,” Korallus-Shapiro says.

The decision to hold off on a print edition and produce an online-only magazine, she adds, was chiefly due to costs. However, it will also allow the editors of Palimpsest to accept and publish submissions on a



rolling basis. She hopes that this online format, designed by Matt Rothenberg '12, will allow for an even greater amount of content than a printed journal could contain.

The editors are hoping to publish selected submissions by students, as they come, by this December. Unique to the submission process is the editors' plan to turn each submission into a kind of workshop.

"In reviewing a student's work, rather than simply accepting it or turning it down, we want to create a workshop environment where applicants can see the creative process and understand the way this all works," says Korallus-Shapiro.

The pair invite any students interested in the magazine to submit fiction, creative non-fiction, and poetry to the editors' [email](http://skidmorepalimpsest@gmail.com) and stay tuned for the impending launch of the website.

"For those on campus who live and breathe [literature], we are looking to create this space that doesn't quite exist yet," says Korallus-Shapiro.

Having borrowed the term "palimpsest" for the title of his first memoir, Gore Vidal described the technique as "erasing some but not all of the original while writing something new over the first layer of text." In this vein, Korallus-Shapiro and Shickmanter say they are ready to redefine the College's literary landscape while preserving the core of creativity that attracted them to Skidmore in the first place.

#1.2688631:213955542.jpg pen

Skidmore's men and women of letters will have a new forum for their literary pursuits this winter.

#1.2688619:1267615254.jpg palimpsest



SUBMIT OR DIE (unpublished)

GET PUBLISHED in Palimpsest
- Skidmore's new online literary
journal!

pal·imp·sest

- Noun: 1. A manuscript or piece of writing material on which the original writing has been effaced to make room for later writing.
2. Something reused or altered but still bearing visible traces of its earlier form.

We are accepting submissions of
creative non-fiction, fiction and
poetry under 20 pages to:
skidmorepalimpsest@gmail.com

Opinion: Standing up for teachers

Responding to blame and deceit in the midst of our public education crisis

By Daniel Pforte, Columnist

On Mon, Nov 7, 2011

As state and federal government attempts to save money and target social spending such as public education, teachers have increasingly found themselves under scrutiny.

Corporate powers are continuing their war on the underclass, working class and, most recently, the middle class. With the private sector almost completely disorganized and powerless, the elimination of public sector workers is next on the agenda to maximize profits. Teachers are some of the first on the chopping block.

Vulnerable children of color stuck in failing schools are told it is their teachers, rather than racism and poverty, causing their plight. Many emphasize corporate charter schools and merit-based teaching as a solution, methods which result in huge numbers of laid-off teachers and closed public schools-the same schools in which most children, especially poor children of color, attend. How can we break this circle?

The first thing is to assign blame where it belongs. Teachers have been blamed, wrongly, for the plight of public schools and the dismal state of our national public education. This irresponsible and vicious claim not only masks larger inequalities within the system of education, and in society at large, but also attacks the wrong people.

Elites across the spectrum, from Fox News personalities to political pundits and "liberal" documentary artists (see "Waiting for Superman"), have placed the problem of education on the shoulders of bad teachers. In their eyes, teachers have been lazy, failed the children and turned schools into dropout factories. While these teachers may exist in some districts and schools, there is no mention of the larger issues that plague children, especially children of color.

Such pundits have decided to ignore the most lopsided distribution of wealth in our country's history, a rising poverty rate, racially segregated districts and tracking systems that disproportionately target poor black and brown youth to the advantage of the white upper classes. Of course, a focus on these problems would mean that the interests of the ruling class would be threatened, so the responsibility must fall on the individual teachers.

Teachers may be good or bad, but the lack of success that poor and working class children experience in schools has more to do with the debilitating effects of poverty and racism than the possibility that a teacher is intentionally wasting their time. Broader social ills also make it more likely teachers will have neither the resources nor the adequate class size to actively engage with all student needs. To look at this situation and say only that teaching must improve is turning a blind eye to the real problems we face in this country.

Ignoring these problems is, of course, what a system of power must do to maintain itself. Partnerships between the ruling class and the government are keeping power under the ideological auspice of neo-liberalism that stresses the need to cut social services - in this case the teachers of our public schools.

And the solutions that the ruling class suggests are not as effective as they advertise. Cutting teacher salaries and benefits does not provide incentive to teach better in under-funded schools, and privatizing the school system through charters increases race and class segregation while having the same poor test results across the board as traditional public schools, with a few exceptions. However, a few exceptions also exist in the public school system, making it clear that there can be a solution beyond simply privatizing the system at the expense of children.

These problems are daunting, and the solutions must take the form of large-scale changes. First, however, we must stand in solidarity with the teachers that have shaped our characters and our lives. We must challenge the deeper issues of poverty, class inequality and racism that lie at the roots of educational inequality. We must stand up for teachers, if we are to stand up for future generations.

Healthful Hints: Nutrition facts

Making and keeping healthy habits at the dinner table

By Zoe Silver, Columnist

On Mon, Nov 7, 2011

Halloween has come and gone and left us with a massive pile of candy staring down from our top shelf. This time of year, eating well is a really difficult goal to maintain. D-hall cookies and candy apples call our name, the cold weather sends some of us into a period of laziness and we begin to let ourselves indulge a little too much. But it is never too late to start fresh - literally.

We are blessed with an amazing variety of fresh foods here at Skidmore, and if we take the time to learn a little bit about nutrition, we can all find appetizing, healthy alternatives to our less-healthy dietary habits.

Let's start with the basics: serving size. Given the buffet-style set-up of D-hall, it is really easy to blow things out of proportion.

Try using your hand as a measuring tool next time you fill up your plate. You should aim for a piece of protein (meat, chicken, fish) the size of your palm, which equates to about three ounces. You can use your fist to measure one cup; you should have about five servings of fruits and vegetables of approximately this size every day.

As an overall rule of thumb, always wait about 20 minutes before you go back for seconds; it takes this long for your body to begin to digest and to send your brain the signal that you are full.

Whole grain options like brown rice, whole-wheat bread and pasta, etc., are tricky to find in the dining hall, but keep an eye out for them. In contrast with starchy, white grains, whole-grains are much more nutritious and high in fiber than refined or white grains. If you feel passionately about the fact that the dining hall should provide these more regularly, speak up. Fill out a napkin (our special version of a comment card) and let D'hall staff know by pinning it to the cork board by the entrance. The fuel they provide us is all we have to work with, so it is important that they give us healthy options.

Unfortunately, however, there won't always be an obvious healthy option when you survey the dinner menu. But, if you take a little bit more time to pick foods from different stations, you can always find a nutritious and hearty meal. Hit up Emily's Garden first and check out the option there. But remember, just because it is vegetarian does not mean it is healthy.

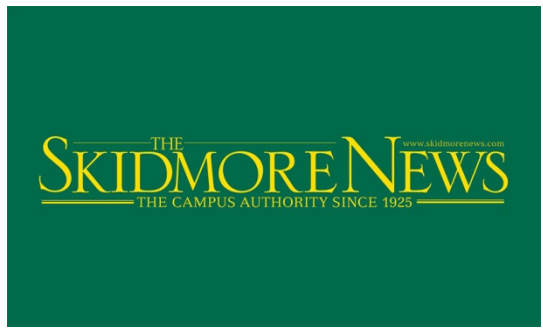
Watch out for fried foods and avoid them when you can. If nothing is catching your eye at Emily's, check out the Diner. This is usually where non-vegetarians will find their main source of protein for the meal. Mixing and matching between stations is a good idea; a protein from the Diner, a serving of vegetables from Emily's and maybe a whole grain side dish from Global Café, like brown rice.

The food doesn't go away when we leave the dining hall, though. Friday nights present us with many opportunities to indulge in a treat, and it is OK to do so once in awhile. Allow yourself to occasionally eat your favorite unhealthy foods, but choose them sparingly and only those that you really love. Also, learn to say "no." Just because someone offers you a slice of pizza at 1 a.m., and just because it is there, doesn't mean you have to take it. Chances are, there will be a time when someone offers you a slice and you also really want it, which would be a more appropriate time to indulge.

In between the healthy eating, find time to drink as much water as possible. An impressively large percentage of our body is composed of water. It is rejuvenating and can improve our overall quality of life by reducing headaches, aiding the immune system and more. Aim for six eight-ounce glasses a day. A few good ways to start this habit include: carrying around a water bottle wherever you go, drinking one glass with each meal, drinking one glass immediately when you wake up in the morning and flavoring your water with a lemon or lime wedge.

Like any habit, it will take a couple of weeks to form, but after a while you will find yourself naturally reaching for the glass, and you will undoubtedly see positive changes in your overall health.

Until next time, eat healthy, stay happy and don't forget your H₂O.



Women's Soccer headed to NAAs

By Skidmore Athletics

On Tue, Nov 8, 2011

The Skidmore College women's soccer team is on it's way to the NCAA Division III Championships for the fifth time in program history and the third time in the past four years.

The Thoroughbreds (13-6) will travel to Messiah College in Grantham, Pa. to take on MIT (14-3) in the first round at a time to be announced on Saturday, Nov. 12. The winner of that game will play the winner of Messiah (17-0) and Elms (10-5) in the regional final at 5 p.m. on Nov. 13.

Skidmore received an at-large bid to the 64-team tournament after finishing second in the Liberty League.



Skidmore to host NCAA Field Hockey Regional

By Skidmore Athletics

On Tue, Nov 8, 2011

For the second straight year, the Skidmore College field hockey team will host one of four NCAA Division III Field Hockey regionals, Nov. 12-13 at Thoroughbred Field. Tickets are priced at \$3 students and \$5 general admission.

Skidmore (18-1) is seeded fourth in the 24-team event and will play the winner of Wednesday's first-round match-up of Gwynedd-Mercy (16-4) and Amherst (13-3) on Saturday, Nov. 12, at 10 a.m. The other half of the Skidmore Regional features the winner of Franklin & Marshall (16-3) vs. Cortland (12-6) playing Middlebury (14-3) at 1 p.m. The regional championship is at 1 p.m. on Nov. 13.

Middlebury is the only team to defeat the Thoroughbreds this season.

Bowdoin is the defending NCAA Division III champion and the 2011 top seed. The Polar Bears will host a regional along with The College of New Jersey and Salisbury.

Skidmore will be playing in its fifth straight and 11th overall NCAA tournament. The Thoroughbreds advanced to the 2010 NCAA Final Four.



Volleyball headed to NCAAs

By Skidmore Athletics

On Tue, Nov 8, 2011

The Skidmore College volleyball team received its seventh NCAA Division III tournament bid Monday morning.

The 27-8 Thoroughbreds will face Rivier College (22-13) in a 12:30 p.m. match on Friday, Nov 11 at Clarkson University. The winner will play the winner of the Middlebury (21-8) and Colby-Sawyer (20-14) on Saturday in the regional semifinal. The regional championship is Sunday.

The other half of the regional bracket has Cortland (39-1) playing Southern Vermont (30-2) and Nazareth (26-12) playing host Clarkson (28-8).

Skidmore received an at-large bid after beating Clarkson to win the Liberty League tournament.

Rants of the Keyboard Buttons of My Macbook Pro

By Sandy Zhang, A&E Editor

On Tue, Nov 8, 2011

Q: Finally! A hit! I look so similar to "O," but it gets significantly more attention than me. Those damn vowels. Sometimes I think of myself as a deformed twin of "O". Deformities make such a big difference. Appearances shouldn't matter so much - the superficiality of the society we live in makes me sick. I mean, it's just a tail really. I can hide it! What's worst is that I'm to the immediate right of tab and underneath 1 and 2. Their popularity makes me sick.

J: I get a surprising amount of touch for someone like me. It's only because my owner online shops at J. Crew like a WASP wanna-be. It might also be because she won't get up in the morning if there weren't any packages waiting for her at the post office.

X: "Xanax" is my favorite word. "Xerox" is the runner-up, but only because "Xanax" is profusely more popular.

F4: Who doesn't love using Exposé? It's so much classier than Dashboard. What a stupid name, this isn't a racecar.

F5: Let me put it this way: Dashboard serves enormously more functions than Exposé. It's a dictionary, calculator, calendar, weather channel and Post-It note all in one. And more. Just press that plus sign on the bottom left corner and voila! ESPN scores and Flight Tracker. How many functions does Exposé have?

F10 & F11: My owner is fidgety and picky and will never stop adjusting how loud her music is. That being said, we certainly don't mind the attention from her!

F1 & F12: She never knows how bright she wants her screen to be either. We have the same problem as F11 and F12. In fact, the four of us sometimes go on double dates and laugh at her indecisiveness.

Spacebar: I'M THE KING OF THE WORLD!!! (It bothers me when one half of my body receives more attention than the other, but what can you do? Thumbs are weird.)

Command: I am probably the most important key on this keyboard. Want to cut and paste quickly? You'll need me. Want to undo, redo and double-space? Me again. In fact, I am so significant, there are two of me.

Enter: This gig is not what I signed up for. Shift gets a bigger slice of the keyboard but bears less hits. Every time my owner starts a new paragraph or sends a Facebook Chat message or AOL Instant Message, she overworks me. (Who still uses AIM?) These conversations always last longer than they need to. How many times does she need to say "LMAO" and then follow it with "ROFL"? We get it, you are laughing.

What's more, ever since she became a writer for SkidNews, I have worked tirelessly. How many paragraphs does a news article need to have? I get ravished and left hanging, receiving nary a gentle touch from her.

Page up & Page down: We don't get used because one can drag two fingers up and down the silver trackpad to scroll. Multi-touch technology is the worst thing that ever happened. We wish Apple didn't buy-out FingerWorks.

T, H, E, G, R, E, A, T: We are burnt out because we form her password. What's worst is that she uses the same password for everything - from Gmail to World of Warcraft to PlentyofFish to HSBC Internet Banking.

S, A, N, D, Y, Z, H, A, N, G: Our owner is self-absorbed and a narcissist, which is why she uses us excessively every time she writes an email or a post on LiveJournal.

0-9: We can be either numbers or symbols. We are such busy sons of bitches that we don't even have the time or energy to rant.

#1.2689288:3510413673.JPG Keyboard

Keyboard

Savannah Grier/The Skidmore News



Occupy Saratoga brings Wall Street protests to Saratoga Springs

Members encourage student participation from the College

By Julia Leef

On Tue, Nov 8, 2011

For the past three weeks, the recently formed Occupy Saratoga group has protested on Saturdays in solidarity with Occupy Wall Street, this week in front of Bank of America in downtown Saratoga Springs.

"The first meeting for Occupy Saratoga was held on Oct. 18 at the Saratoga Springs library, which about 30 people attended," said Kathleen Bartholomay, a member of the group and a volunteer for the Outreach Working Group, an organization that works to increase awareness among the Web community.

"It was a mixed group politically," Bartholomay said. "We took turns speaking and listening to each other. It is a sort of community-building, really."

These protests are part of the larger movement inspired by the actions of protesters at Occupy Wall Street, a protest against "the corrosive power of major banks and multinational corporation over the democratic process" that began on Sept. 17 in Manhattan's Financial District and has since spread to more than 100 cities in the U.S., according to its [website](http://occupywallst.org/).

"There's no one demand or anything, but I think the corporate takeover of the country has changed what people think about in our country," Bartholomay said. "Things haven't changed enough where we feel confident that things are going to go in a way that makes our society a happier place to live in."

Occupy Saratoga works with other protest groups, including Veterans for Peace and the Saratoga Peace Alliance, and in conjunction with the local MoveOn group, which is dedicated to bringing the American people back into the political process. The Saratoga Peace Alliance has protested outside of the U.S. Post Office in downtown Saratoga Springs for years, and Occupy Saratoga joined the members at this location in its first two weeks.

Bartholomay said that much of what the group protests against is applicable to the lives of students, especially after college. "We're really looking for some Skidmore students to come in and participate," she said, adding that two students looking to find more information on Occupy Saratoga came to a MoveOn meeting at the Saratoga Springs library.



"I'm sure there are kids who are going to have trouble getting jobs and have a lot of loans and issues involving those things," she said. "It's just really dangerous for students, there's no way out from under those loans."

Members of Occupy Saratoga ask people to close their checking and savings accounts at Bank of America and at other corporate mega-banks because such corporations, Bartholomay said, do not pay taxes to the U.S. Treasury but benefit from the people's taxpayer bail out.

"We are asking people to move their money to local banks and/or credit unions," Bartholomay said. "Students in particular might get involved on the basis of future employment concerns and future student loan debt concerns. These are very real and very serious concerns for at least some of Skidmore's students."

Bartholomay also suggested that students shop locally to support local businesses, especially for the upcoming holidays.

"We have been doing outreach into other areas of the town to elicit more support, such as marching to Skidmore and contacting local business owners," Bartholomay said, in reference to a peace march on Oct. 22. "Our protests have been well-attended with about 25 to 50 people of all ages."

Occupy Saratoga also collects winter clothing at its weekly protests for members of Occupy Albany who sleep outdoors in the winter, and delivers these items on Saturday afternoons, following the General Assembly meetings.

Students and community members can learn more at the group's General Assembly meetings at the Saratoga Springs library, the times of which can be found on the group's Facebook page. Occupy Saratoga also provides additional information through handouts at its protests and its pro-board.

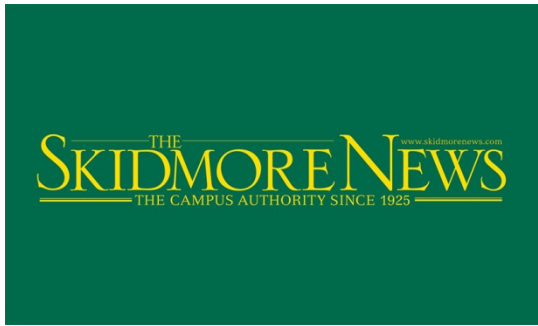
"We like to live in a place where we're doing constructive things, working for ourselves and working for society at the same time," Bartholomay said. "We take this stuff very seriously. It can ruin lives at a young stage, and there's no need for that."

#1.2689722:1573879458.JPG OccupySaratoga

Protestors object to bailouts of mega-banks like Bank of America.

Julia Leef/The Skidmore News

#1.2689764:2823805026.JPG OccupySaratoga3



OccupySaratoga holds a protest outside of Bank of America.

Julia Leef/The Skidmore News

#1.2689745:1622103826.JPG OccupySaratoga2

Members of OccupySaratoga protest while remembering the 5th of November.

Julia Leef/The Skidmore News







"A Gate at the Stairs" with Lorrie Moore

First-Year summer reading author talks about her latest novel

By Julia Leef, Reporting by Sophie Stewart

On Tue, Nov 8, 2011

Author Lorrie Moore spoke on Nov. 3 to students, faculty and community members about her novel "A Gate at the Stairs", which was assigned as summer reading for the Class of 2015, much to the author's surprise.

Although last year's summer reading-based event was a lecture by Neil Shubin on the scientific views and discoveries expressed in his novel "Your Inner Fish," this year's was a question-and-answer session moderated by Linda Hall, associate professor of English. The audience was not involved in this discussion.

"I feel so sorry for all of you having to read this book," Moore said, adding that she didn't like summer reading and didn't feel her book was a good choice because she thinks it is difficult for people under age 20 to read, although she is grateful that the college chose her book.

Moore teaches literature and writing at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She won a fiction contest for Seventeen Magazine at age 19, and, for two years after graduating from St. Lawrence University, she worked as a paralegal in New York City, summarizing testimonies for lawyers. She published her first novel, "Anagrams," at age 28.

"Fiction is not really in the business of finding solutions," Moore said, explaining that it is more an organization of questions and problems that interests the author.

Moore has family history with the College as the granddaughter of a former president, although this was her first visit to the campus.

After we announced this year's selection, Mary Lynn, professor of American Studies, called our office to let us know that Moore is related to Henry T. Moore, Skidmore's second president, said Marla Melito, interim director of First-Year Experience. "We also found out that she is originally from Glens Falls, NY."

When Hall asked Moore if people who are not very good readers might have trouble understanding the book's politics, Moore answered with an anecdote about people who wanted to toilet paper her house because they believed that her characters' political views reflected upon her own. "This is not the case, however, and readers must make that distinction between the author and her characters," she said.

Recommendations for summer reading material come from a variety of resources, including students, faculty, alumni, administrators and parents. The First-Year Experience narrows these choices down based on the topics that are considered priorities for the campus community by other offices and departments.

Melito said the two main goals of the summer reading program are to celebrate the ongoing educational experience and to provide first-year students with a common intellectual experience. "A Gate at the Stairs" was chosen because it fulfills these requirements, she said.

"It highlights several of the College's institutional and intellectual priorities - the book looks at issues of race, inclusion, class, religion and identity," Melito said. "While we know that assigning one book cannot fulfill the college's goal of a more inclusive and tolerant community, our hope was that this book would become common ground for first-year students to start talking about these issues."



Faculty discusses diversity and inclusivity at monthly meeting

Professors recommend ways to increase diversity among faculty

By Alexander Brehm, Contributing Writer

On Tue, Nov 8, 2011

The College faculty convened for the third faculty meeting of the semester on Friday, Nov. 5 to discuss the Office of Special Programs and its mission, the College Strategic Action Agenda and diversity and inclusion within the College.

The Office of the Dean of Special Programs (ODSP) recently welcomed Paul Calhoun, who was previously the harder chairman in business and management, as its new dean.

Calhoun said the mission of the ODSP has changed over time, and that members of the office were reviewing and reshaping its mission and objectives, though he did not specify what these changes would involve.

The seventh Strategic Action Agenda is now available on the College website. Every year, administrators and faculty review the College's current 10-year plan, now in its seventh year.

Every year, the new agenda gives an assessment of the College's progress toward achieving its goals and a set of high-priority, shorter-term objectives. The new agenda lists diversity and inclusion, science and the Civic Engagement and Transition and Transformation initiatives as themes on which to focus.

The faculty spent the majority of the meeting discussing diversity and inclusion. In May 2011, the Committee on Intercultural and Global Understanding (CIGU) sent a letter of recommendation to the Institutional Policy and Planning Committee (IPPC), the major authority on the College's mission and strategy.

Professors gave their recommendations on how to increase diversity among the faculty. Their names have been kept private so that they may speak freely. Some encouraged using existing tenure lines to hire people of color or to find faculty born in foreign nations.

Others suggested using "target of opportunity" hiring, in which a candidate is selected based on outstanding reputation, and the institutional benefits to retaining such a professor are considered justification to create a position for that candidate.

Other faculty members pressed for better specification of the concept of diversity. One professor observed that when each faculty member spoke to his or her own ideas of diversity, their specific not necessarily intertwine. She argued that the dialogue on diversity suffered for lack of definition.

Another professor appealed directly to the college administration on how increased diversity might be measured and what criteria would be established for determining success or failure in the College's diversity goals. Phil Glotzbach, president of the College, gave some examples of data points to use - for instance, the fact that recorded bias incidents against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) people outweigh racially motivated incidents. He also cited that depression rates among students of color are substantially higher than those among white students.

One faculty member suggested a resolution to express the sense of loss the College felt at Winston Grady-Willis's decision to leave the college at the end of last year. Grady-Willis, former director of intercultural studies, was highly involved in diversity issues on campus, working as a chairman on the CIGU and a member of IPPC, and developing the Intergroup Relations curriculum. Ultimately, the resolution was laid over to improve its wording.

Skidmore Students join protestors to surround the White House

By Katherine Cavanaugh, Contributing Writer

On Wed, Nov 9, 2011

As I stood with over 60 other Skidmore students at the bus stop in front of Case Center on Saturday morning, I got the feeling that none of us were making the typical trip down North Broadway. Some waited with sleeping bag and pillow in hand. Others passed bags of bagels from Uncommon Grounds - I took two. It was going to be a long ride, but the energy level was palpably high.

By noon, we had all boarded a coach bus bound for Washington, D.C. We were off to participate in a protest against the proposed Keystone XL Pipeline on Sunday, Nov. 6, exactly one year before the next presidential election. This controversial pipeline would stretch for 1,700 miles and carry crude oil from the tar sands of Alberta, Canada through the US. to oil refineries in Texas. The concerns surrounding the proposed pipeline are many, but the various environmental threats that it poses are the driving force behind much of the opposition to its construction.

The intention of the rally in D.C. was to place President Barack Obama under "house arrest" by fully encircling the White House grounds in order to hold him to his campaign commitment to tackle the issue of climate change.

Obama can grant or deny the permit for this pipeline, but he has been inundated with pressure from TransCanada, an energy corporation that would be running the pipeline, along with other supporters of the project. Skidmore students were inspired to travel to the White House on Sunday in order to push back against Keystone XL supporters with just as much force.

After nearly eight hours on the bus, we were dropped off outside of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, which opened its doors to people traveling to D.C. for the rally.

All tourist activities were suspended by 1 p.m. on Sunday: it was time to congregate for what we had come to do. We donned orange "stop-the-pipeline" vests and acquired pre-made posters with quotes from Obama's 2008 campaign. His own phrases, such as "Let's be the generation that finally frees America from the tyranny of oil" and "This was the moment when the rise of the oceans began to slow and our planet began to heal," appeared on thousands of posters held high, creating a sea of unfulfilled and unforgotten promises for the president to view from his window.

Protesters met in Lafayette Park across from the White House at 2 p.m. to hear both the American and Canadian national anthems and to listen to speakers articulate their concerns about the Keystone XL Pipeline. Speakers included Nobel Laureate Jodi Williams, writer and activist Naomi Klein, President and CEO of the National Wildlife Federation Larry Schweiger, Maryland State Delegate Heather Mizeur, renowned climatologist and NASA scientist James Hansen, Tom Poor Bear of the Lakota Tribe, Freedom Medal recipient John Adams, actor Mark Ruffalo, Hip Hop Caucus President Lennox Yearwood and others.

The audience constantly erupted in applause and cheers as speech after speech reiterated the need to terminate the progress of the proposed pipeline.

Courtney Hyde, the coordinator of Obama's 2008 youth campaign in Florida, said of the president: "I want to remind him of the hope that he gave me, and he gave us."

Other speeches were more sobering. Williams declared bluntly that if the pipeline is built, "we're screwed." Hansen described the tar sands as "the turning point in our fossil fuel addiction." Transit Workers Union member Roger Touissant spoke to the Executive Branch directly when he said: "President Obama, we want jobs, but not jobs as gravediggers for the planet."

Bill McKibben, master of ceremonies of the rally and founder of both 350.org and Tar Sands Action addressed the protestors from the stage of Lafayette park. He, brought an unmatched ardor to the podium. He said, "No more with this stunt double in the Oval Office," which reiterated Obama's critical role in determining whether or not this pipeline cuts through US soil.

Gabby Stern '13 felt that the most powerful part of the day for her was when speakers began to use the "mic check" technique of saying one sentence, and having the audience repeat it back. That way, the message rippled through the crowd and reached even the people farthest from the stage. Amidst the throngs of civilians, there were many college students and young people concerned with the future of the planet.

The demographic was not entirely limited to the 20-something crowd. There were families pushing strollers, businesspeople in suits on their lunch break and people with graying hair who brandished homemade signs that read: "Old Fart Against Big Oil" and "You Promised My Granddaughter a Cleaner Future." There were farmers from Nebraska, people dressed in polar bear suits and constituents from all over the country who together carried an enormous mock pipeline through the streets.

When McKibben gave the word, the crowd members broke up into three teams based on where they were standing in relation to the speakers' stage: the brown team, the orange team and the red team. Each team walked in a different direction, and between 10 and 12,000 protesters began to line up and

link arms. We sang and chanted as we organized. "Hey, Obama, we don't want no climate drama" and "Yes we can... stop the pipeline" echoed all around me. The audible determination in those words was invigorating.

Finally, we got the mass text message that the White House had been fully surrounded. The lines were anywhere from three to 10 people deep. The crowd buzzed enthusiastically, particularly the Skidmore contingent, empowered by the realization that our message could not be easily ignored. Ian Van Nest '14 felt most inspired when he found himself chanting "I believe that we will win" over and over again with other demonstrators around him. "I got to see how passionate people were about it," he said.

Our bus left from Pennsylvania Avenue at 6 p.m. on Sunday. Saratoga bound, students slept soundly, studied feverishly or alternated between the two. Margot Reisner '14, EAC president, both congratulated and reminded us that our work was not yet finished. The completion of a successful rally and a persistent sense of looming responsibility left me feeling somehow simultaneously satisfied and restless.

That same combination of calmness and conviction pervaded the entire bus. "I felt tired," Tim Robinson '14 said of the trip home. He added, though, "I felt like I was a part of something. We made five rings around the White House." Though exhausted and perhaps unprepared for the week ahead, we had shown up to participate in something larger than ourselves. The full effect of our collective effort has yet to be seen, but we will continue to believe that we can win.

Information Technology Department addresses wireless outages

Chief of Technology explains bandwidth and other network issues

By Andy Shi, Staff Writer

On Wed, Nov 9, 2011

At 2:55 p.m. on Nov. 7 students received an email from the Information Technology Department describing a temporary Wi-Fi outage that occurred in the academic and administrative buildings.

Monday's outage is the latest in a wave of Wi-Fi problems this semester, and students have experienced problems with connecting to the provided networks. Unbeknownst to most students, however, is that the College employs two separate data networks to provide wireless to the campus.

Aruba Networks is responsible for the administrative and academic buildings and Time Warner Cable for the residence halls. It is the latter network that most students consider unstable and to which IT is allocating much of its effort.

"The issues with access from the main campus network to the Internet on Monday resulted from a problem with the DNS (Domain Name System) on campus," said Justin Sipher, the College's chief technology officer. "DNS is the system that translates the words you type into a browser, such as www.google.com, into numbers that the Internet uses to route to the appropriate servers."

Sipher said IT is speaking with the vendor that supplies the wireless to the administrative and academic buildings, and he assures students that matters are stabilized.

Sipher described multiple issues with the network that IT is addressing, such as the increased use of wireless, new Internet patterns that clog up the bandwidth and the use of personal Wi-Fi systems. Sipher compared bandwidth to lanes on a highway. The more lanes, the faster the traffic, and, in the case of the Internet, the better and faster the wireless connection.

Sipher said the wireless network in the residence halls is a relatively new addition, conceived of two years ago and spearheaded by Mark Bauer, assistant director and network administrator. IT partnered up with Time Warner Cable for this project, a company IT had previously hired as a vendor for residence hall cable and landline services.



Since then IT has installed an expansive wireless system around campus consisting of about 100 access points that Sipher compares to signal towers for cell phones.

Sipher said that one of the major issues with the wireless system was the unforeseen proliferation in use of wireless. "The original design of the wireless system in the residence halls was to provide supplemental coverage to the wired network in your rooms," said Sipher, adding that because wireless has become a primary medium for connection to the Internet and due to advances in technology, the bandwidth of the access points become strained.

Bill Duffy, director of IT strategic planning and communication, points to the increased usage of online video and movie streaming through websites such as Netflix and YouTube for increasing the needed bandwidth.

A second issue that relates to the increased usage patterns is the increasing quantity of WiFi-connected devices, particularly smartphones and tablets. Sipher recalls several students he has polled admitted to having four or five devices connected at a time.

Unreliable wireless can further be attributed to students setting up their own wireless routers in their dorms. In a cause and effect scenario, students who have decided the College's wireless is unreliable set up their own wireless systems, which then further weakens its wireless bandwidth.

Sipher said although a personal wireless router will assure great connection for that one person, it disturbs the College's connection with other students. He said IT is researching innovative methods for improving the connection, and, for now, is augmenting the amount of access points around campus.

He advises students to seek out the IT department, located on the first floor of Harder Hall, for personal assistance, as he says many times students just rebuke the wireless because of its poor reputation, when sometimes there is an easy and reliable solution to connecting the Wi-Fi to the student's device.

"Still, the Internet is a moving target," Duffy said. With the Internet constantly changing and technology always advancing, the campus's wireless system will never be perfect.

For a better connection, Sipher recommends to use a landline whenever possible, as it frees up the Wi-Fi bandwidth for other users. As for the wireless system, Sipher said IT is optimistic that the system will constantly be improving for the students.

#1.2693185:1899158208.jpg Justin Sipher

Justin Sipher, chief technology officer of the IT Department.

Courtesy of Alumna Emma Dodge Hanson



Steven Barnes speaks about his unjust imprisonment

An innocent man, he spent more than 19 years of his life in prison

By Ani Lordkipanidze, Staff Writer

On Wed, Nov 9, 2011

There was standing room only in Gannett Auditorium on Nov. 8 when Steven Barnes, an innocent man who spent 19 years of his life in prison, told his story to the College community.

In 1989, Barnes was charged with First Degree Rape, First Degree Sodomy and Second Degree Murder. He was accused of raping and killing 16-year-old Kimberly Simon, whose body was found near the Mohawk River in Whitestown, New York. Evidence included eyewitnesses, but no serious forensic documents. He was given a 25-year sentence.

"If New York state supported the death penalty, I would have been executed," Barnes said.

Kimberly Frederick, professor of chemistry, who teaches the Forensic Science and Criminal (In)justice seminar that hosted the event, was able to arrange the meeting with Steven Barnes. When she applied for a speaker the "Innocence Project" suggested Barnes, who has been telling his story in different universities and communities in the three years since he was released.

In 1993, Barnes's younger brother discovered the "Innocence Project", a public policy organization, founded by Barry C. Scheck and Peter J. Neufeld in 1992, that helps exonerate wrongfully convicted individuals through DNA testing post-trial.

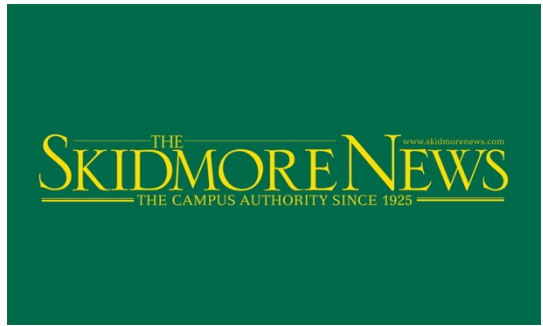
Although the "Innocence Project" represented Barnes starting in 1993, it was not until 2007 that proper technology involving short tandem repeat tests on the Y-chromosome (Y-STR) for DNA testing became available for his case.

In November 2008, based on DNA evidence, Barnes was found not guilty and was freed after serving 19 1/2 in prison. Barnes said that every day in prison was a hell for him.

"When freedom is gone, life is gone," he said. "Prison is like a war; it's not easy. You have to be strong."

After his release, Barnes was given compensation in the form of \$3.5 million. He said Simon's family released a statement wishing him all the best. However, the real murderer has not yet been found.

"To realize that the wrong person was in jail wasn't fair to anybody, and it took a long time to come to terms with the fact that Steven was wrongfully convicted," said Cheryl Simon, Kim's mother, in The



Observer-Dispatch, the newspaper of Mohawk Valley, where the Simon family lives. "Now, we certainly understand what his mother has gone through, too, and we just hope they can be at peace now."

#1.2692464:442530508.JPG Steven Barnes2

Steven Barnes speaks about his 19 year imprisonment.

Savannah Grier/The Skidmore News



Skidmore students join thousands in Washington, D.C. protest

Protestors express objections to Keystone XL and hydrofracking

By Max Siegelbaum and Ani Lordkipanidze

On Thu, Nov 10, 2011

On Nov. 6, 65 students traveled to Washington, D.C., to join 12,000 people protesting against the proposed Keystone XL Pipeline project as part of a committee the Environmental Action Club organized.

TransCanada, a Canadian oil and gas conglomerate, proposed this \$7 billion project to transport Tar Sands Oil over 1,500 miles from Alberta, Canada to the Gulf Coast. This would involve sending highly toxic materials over most of America's heartland, including the Ogallala Aquifer, the largest aquifer in the country, and through the fields that supply most of the country's wheat.

Once in Washington, D.C., students stayed in St. Stephen's Church overnight, as per the original schedule, which was briefly changed to a one-day trip before the EAC reverted it back to its original format. On Sunday, organizers of the occupation addressed people against the issues of the Keystone XL Pipeline and hydrofracking, a drilling process that threatens to contaminate public drinking water.

"We want to act, to put our bodies on the line to show Obama that this was something that really impacted us," said Eliza Sherpa '14, vice president of the Environmental Action Club, "We want to show him that his constituents feel really strongly about this, and are willing to take action."

At 3 p.m. protesters encircled the White House with posters, t-shirts and costumes, including polar bear costumes from members of the Alaska Wilderness League, a group working to preserve Alaska's wilderness.

Slogans included, "Hey Obama, we don't need no pipeline drama" and "Tell me what democracy looks like?" The protests ended at 5 p.m. without any arrests.

Margot Reisner '14, president of the EAC, organized the trip along with Sherpa in order to combat a problem that at its base, she said, represents many core problems found throughout American politics today.

"[Keystone XL] touches on a lot of different issues that we have in our country from government corruption to hydrofracking to issues of transportation," Reisner said. "All these issues are coming together in one form -- the pipeline, which we really just need to stop. "

"The protest was held one year before the next election to remind President Barack Obama of his agency in this issue," Sherpa and Reisner said. "The pipeline isn't something that has to go through Congress or any government body. Obama is the sole decider," Sherpa said.

TransCanada says Keystone XL has the potential to be a large future source of employment but, however, both Sherpa and Reisner disagree with its projected numbers.

Most of the jobs will be outsourced, Reisner said. "At most, 5,000 jobs will be created."

Among the damage created from the pipeline, Reisner and Sherpa said, the process of Tar Sands Extraction is extremely water heavy, with an average of three barrels of water to a barrel of oil. This leads to a massive amount of stagnant, polluted and unusable water that is left to sit in collecting pools, where chemicals like Ammonia and Cyanide can leech into the local water supply.

They added that TransCanada's previous Keystone pipeline has a history of seven leaks in the first year of its existence. Sherpa and Reisner described the future potential oil spill as having the capability to equal the Deepwater Horizon disaster of 2010, when approximately 4.9 million barrels of crude oil spilled into the Gulf of Mexico over the course of three months.

No decisions have been made about the pipeline, and the Obama administration announced this week that it is putting off the decision until after the 2012 elections. Reisner and Sherpa said they hope President Obama will make a final decision in support of the protesters.

"A lot of the people who care about these issues and who were at these rallies really worked hard to get Obama into office because we thought he represented change and hope and all these things," Reisner said. "Now we're holding him accountable to all these promises that he made to us when we got him into office. He said all those things in his campaign and now he forgot all of that and let the tyranny of oil take away his backbone."

Sherpa and Reisner said they were pleased with the success of the event. "We brought 65 students to this rally, which is a really big thing for Skidmore," Sherpa said. "Skidmore students are active, are civically engaged and really do care about these issues of moving our world away from fossil fuels, and that's something we're willing to fight for and need to be working for on our campus, in our state and in our country."

Keystone XL protests will continue throughout the year and the EAC will continue to promote protests and rallies.

Editor's Note: An account of the protest by Katherine Cavanaugh '14 can be found in <http://www.skidmorenews.com/features/skidmore-students-join-protestors-to-surround-the-white-house-1.2691971#.Tryumns9bw>>Features.

#1.2694846:4264964380.jpg D.C. Protest photo

Thousands travel to D.C. to protest against the Keystone XL Pipeline.

Ani Lordkipanidze/The Skidmore News





Shades of Gray: A look at diversity on campus

A panel of faculty and students answer questions regarding diversity

By Eleazer Amarteyfio, Contributing Writer

On Thu, Nov 10, 2011

On Tuesday, The Pohndorff Room in the Lucy Scribner Library held the first half of "Shades of Gray", an annual two-night panel discussion organized by the Honors Forum revolving around this year's theme, "Where do we find diversity at Skidmore?"

About 20 people attended the discussion, which focused on the effects of socio-economic profile on students' college experiences, particularly for students from low-income backgrounds and issues of race relations.

"The point is to have a conversation in a pseudo-intellectual format," said Vinay Trimesi-Parmer '12, president of the Honors Forum. "It's not necessarily a committee that's focused on problem-solving, although that may come out of it."

The panel featured Janet Casey and Holly Jackson, both professors in the English department, Jamin Totino, interim director of the Opportunity Program, Hale Hall '14 and Mariel Bazil '12.

The Executive Council of the Honors Forum asked the panelists to identify the sources of diversity at the College. Bazil suggested that the Office of Student Diversity Programs offered an accurate representation of the diverse make-up of the community, while Hall noted a difference between 'diverse' and 'diversity' and suggested that having a diverse community does not necessarily lead to more diversity in the community.

"Diversity requires more active engagement," she said.

Casey said people attend college to gain the tools to improve their socio-economic standing, and that perhaps as a consequence, they are mostly unwilling to talk about their less-privileged socio-economic backgrounds. She noted that this phenomenon extends even to professors who have successfully completed this transition.

Jackson said diversity issues tie to issues of social justice, and that an unwillingness of members of society to lose their social advantages contributes to silence on diversity issues.



Totino suggested that in the discussion on diversity, disabled students and their unique contributions to campus life are often overlooked. A member of the audience suggested that religious diversity was another overlooked aspect of diversity issues.

Bazil said she worried some faculty and staff make assumptions about economic affluence, citing a professor's casual question to students on where they had gone on vacation for spring break, forgetting that some students had remained on campus.

Another member of the audience lamented the fact that not very many affluent white students attend school-sponsored discussions of diversity issues, and felt that their perspectives were missing.

Some students voiced concerns over Celebration Weekend and Convocation, suggesting that the traditions associated with these made them unfriendly to families that were not economically well off.

A major issue identified was a general lack of knowledge about official college programs set up to help less privileged students. One member of the audience described her effort to gain access to disability funds as a "maze." Another audience member cited his frustration at finding out about some of these opportunities only as senior, during a preparatory program for peer mentorship.

Shades of Gray will continue from 7 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday in the Pohndorff Room and will deal with "diversity policy." The discussion will feature Jennifer Delton, professor of history, Jovany Andujar '13, Herb Crossman, assistant director for EEO and Workforce Diversity in Human Resources and Christine Hintze '14, a student representative on the Committee of Intercultural Global Understanding (CIGU).

#1.2696597:173230824.jpg Shades of Gray photo

Students and faculty gather for the Honors Forums-sponsored Shades of Gray.

Courtesy of Michael Marx





Editorial: Making the most of the Writing Center

By the Editorial Board

On Fri, Nov 11, 2011

Command of the English language is something all Skidmore graduates should have within their grasp. Every department here requires solid writing abilities, and those who cannot write fluently will, and should, find themselves frustrated no matter their field of study.

While introductory English classes aim to teach remedial skills, and grammar workshops improve our campus-wide comma and colon use, true proficiency is achieved only through constant and deliberative effort. For students interested in putting in this effort, the Writing Center offers a promising, if potentially frustrating, avenue to lucid prose.

As part of the general renovations of Scribner Library, the Writing Center moved to the fourth floor in a new, larger space replete with computers, desks, and an office for ESL Specialist Thaddeus Niles, hired last year as part of an attempt to make Skidmore more friendly to non-native English speakers. In addition, the Writing Center has online appointments with specific tutors, whose specialties are listed, giving students a greater degree of control over their sessions.

These changes come at a time when the Center is seeing consistent growth in attendance. In the 2010-2011 academic year, the Center posted 2,623 tutoring sessions, an increase of more than 20% over the previous year, perhaps as a result of its growing visibility on campus.

The Writing Center plays an imperative role here. Students uninterested in pursuing English beyond their single semester of expository writing may not know how to improve their composition. As the expectations of professors creeps upward each year, students may find themselves overwhelmed. The Writing Center should be the first place these students turn for help.

Rather than editing or marking up papers, tutors sit with students and attempt to help them grow as writers, whatever their level of proficiency may be. Tutors will not simply correct your grammatical and syntactic mistakes, and thus will not be of much help to unmotivated students only attending to appease their professor. These more basic and tedious services are better supplied by the workshops and introductory English classes.

But students looking to improve their writing ability for the long-term will find a good deal of assistance without the performance anxiety that comes from working personally with a professor. This makes the Writing Center the ideal destination for students who lack confidence in their writing abilities.

However, some changes must still be made. First, a simple yet persistent miscommunication must be addressed. Far too often, students come hours before a paper is due, looking for help ironing out the last grammatical errors, and find themselves stuck in an hour-long conversation about organization, clarity and flow. Tutors are not editors, experts, or encyclopedias, but students still arrive with such expectations. It should be the goal of the Writing Center staff going forward to better communicate their purpose to the student body.

Aside from more effective communication, the Writing Center should aim to improve the breadth and customization of its services. The addition of Niles to the staff was definitely an important first step, giving ESL students the chance to participate in the tutoring process.

But there are several ways in which the center could go further: creative writing, for example, is handled no differently than analytical work, without specialized tutors. The addition of one or two students able to specifically evaluate such creative work would give creative writers a sorely needed audience to approach with rougher writing.

While Student Academic Services offers tutors trained to help students with their science or mathematics work, longer papers and lab reports could still benefit from a specialized Writing Center tutor, if such a tutor had been trained in the discipline. Increasing the number of specialized tutors would not only increase the number of students who could use the Center affectively, it might also eliminate the kind of failed session that students complain about - one in which the tutor and tutee are simply on different wavelengths. Opening earlier and increasing the number of tutoring hours offered during exam weeks would also strengthen the dependability of the Writing Center, making its services available even (and especially) at those times when they are most needed.

For Skidmore to produce graduates who think critically - the College's stated mission - students must graduate with a proficiency in the English language. Few skills picked up in college so firmly bridge the gap between the liberal arts and the professional world. By renovating the Writing Center, and continuing its improvement, the administration has shown a dedication to this objective. While some nuts and bolts remain to be tightened up in the Center, students should not hesitate to improve their writing skills, so crucial to success in their studies and beyond.

Daydreams: Work hard, play hard

Rejecting a lifestyle of exhaustion and excess

By Richard Chrisman, Director of Religious and Spiritual Life

On Sat, Nov 12, 2011

The dominant college ethic in my day was "work hard, play hard," and, from what I hear, it still is. For some reason, I never bought it. I thought the claim rationalized and romanticized college excesses. The work habits were extreme (e.g., last minute papers, all-nighters, panic cramming), and play was defined as heavy drinking.

Even though we were studying to improve our minds, the "work hard, play hard" ethic had the contrary effect - it boiled our brains. We were presented with high intellectual ideals, but campus party culture trumped them. What's more, the "play" as practiced never actually made the "work" any easier to bear. Students were left worse off academically and physically - we now know all about the permanent damage alcohol and drugs do to the brain. The hurtfulness of this escape into oblivion is pretty obvious, but with the passage of the years, I have come to understand from where the student need for it comes. And it's not due to the work.

After all, is studying really such hard work? Compared to what? By the time I was halfway through college, I had put in three summers on a cattle farm and two more on the assembly line in a factory. Many students today work hard summers, too, and I'll bet they would agree with me that, in comparison to physical labor, studying is in itself not that difficult. To be sure, solving equations, learning foreign languages and grasping the expanses of history or literature - all at once - can be exhausting, but enough to require the kind of anesthesia that is so often self-prescribed?

On the other hand, I do know that it is hard work to live under constant judgment, and being under intellectual scrutiny in particular feels painfully personal. In some way or other escaping it is imperative. Getting graded on everything you do, as occurs in college, makes any endeavor seem much harder than it actually is. When your work is constantly under scrutiny, when you are competing with your peers and when classroom participation feels like self-exposure, by the end of the week the self wants out. How to get away from it all? No surprise that when I was under these conditions, a good stiff drink was always welcome, and getting drunk was a regular necessity. But the cause is not the work; it's the personal judgment we feel in having our work graded.

If that is true, is "playing hard" the only remedy available? After all, what students seek is a zone in which we are just fine, even great, preferably invincible, as we are. But it is clear that the operative

definition of "play" in college means "party," and, when under the influence, we do feel happily free of the judgment that steals us from ourselves.

However, if you consider a happy child, another definition of play suggests itself - an activity that has no other goal than to explore the moment. In the adult world, many activities qualify: sports, exercise, walking, artistic endeavor, dancing, cooking, conversation and daydreaming, among many others. Play of this kind leads us outside of time onto a path of discovery free of judgment - and there is no hangover (or brain damage).

It's true that adults need to be rid of adult inhibitions, sometimes, to get into a playful mood, and a drink can perform that function. How many drinks, though, does it take for play to become unhinged? After that point, all discovery is thwarted, except for the discovery the next morning of all the funny (and not so funny) things done the night before. This applies dangerously in cases where sexual activity may be involved.

Work hard, play hard - what is so wrong about this realistic, almost heroic, way of life? Nothing, if the terms are redefined a little. "Work in spite of judgment, play to free yourself from judgment." Under such conditions, we can wakefully experience the marvelous stories in which we are participating daily in college. So when you play, really play. Don't miss your life.

Richard Chrisman is the Director of Religious and Spiritual Life on campus. He enjoys looking out Skidmore through his office window.

Enamelist Jamie Bennett offers insight into his work and career

By Olivia Powers, Staff Writer
On Sun, Nov 13, 2011

On Tuesday, Nov. 1, enamelist and jeweler Jamie Bennett presented the annual Rosanne Brody Raab Lecture. Bennett led the audience through the stages in his career, described his process of innovation and discussed his wide variety of influences.

Rosanne Raab, sponsor of the annual lecture and a member of the class of 1955, introduced Bennett in the Tang Teaching Museum's Payne Room.

In his work, Bennett departs from the traditional concepts of jewelry, rejecting the symmetrical framing of jewels. He experiments with the juxtaposition between the public and private aspects of jewelry, often incorporating artwork into the backs of his pieces.

"We tend to memorize [the traditional] system and I think that allowing other methodologies into that system can be very beneficial," Bennett said.

Bennett is very conscious of the responsibility that comes with creating wearable artwork. His recognition of jewelry as "ornamentation applied to enhance" a person's natural demonstrated the respect that he holds for his pieces.

"I really wanted to be reverent to the idea of objects as witnesses," Bennett said.

The artist draws from a variety of influences in his work. Bennett garners inspiration from everything from cell structures, to architecture, to the 1981 film "My Dinner with Andre." Foremost among these influences is his interest in the relationships that other cultures foster with imagery, most notably in Islamic art. As a student, Bennett took a four-and-a-half month leave from school and traveled to Turkey. He has taken two residencies abroad in the past decade: at Istanbul Technical University in 2005 and at Hsinchu University in Taiwan in 2010. His artwork displays his broad perspectives.

"I think that [Bennett] is a very vigorous artist; you can really tell that he has done his research and that he does his art for himself," Reed Fagan '12 said.

Bennett offered wisdom to the aspiring artists in attendance. He presented pictures of his studio and his tools and stressed the importance of discipline in the creative process. His lecture was targeted at art students and the audience was appreciative.



“As an upcoming artist applying to graduate school, [Bennett’s lecture] made me think about my future,” Fagan said.

Bennett, a professor of art in the metals program at the State University of New York at New Paltz, has received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the New York Foundation for the Arts, and is the Eileen Webb Fellow of the American Crafts Council.

Bennett has exhibited his work both in the U.S. and abroad, with permanent collections featured in over 20 museums around the world. These include the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Smithsonian Institution, the Kunst Museum in Osio, the Victoria and Albert Museum in London and the Gallery of Western Australia in Perth.

#1.2704361:1518523630.jpg:JB

Courtesy of Jamie Bennett

#1.2704363:488812094.jpg:Jb

Courtesy of Jamie Bennett

#1.2704365:541230990.jpg:JB

Courtesy of Jamie Bennett







Professor explores changes in the Namib Desert

By Sarah Barry, Features Editor

On Sun, Nov 13, 2011

Kyle Nichols of the Geosciences Department with colleague Paul Bierman of the University of Vermont traveled to Namibia this summer to study the effects of the 'flood of record' in Namibia's desert.

Nichols' specialty within geoscience is geomorphology. "I study the rate of the earth's surface changes - the way that the earth naturally changes due to floods, landslides and earthquakes, but also how quickly it changes due to humans," Nichols said.

Nichols has studied these changes in parts of the world including Panama, the Grand Canyon and Australia's Great Barrier Reef. The goal for each location is to compile the background rates of change in the landscape.

Namibia, a country in southern Africa is one of the driest places on earth, and the Namib Desert is the oldest desert on earth at tens of millions years old. Nichols has been traveling and studying the area for over 10 years. "I was originally interested in quantifying how quickly the earth is eroding. There are large rivers hundreds of miles long with no water - they're just dry channels," Nichols said. In April and May 2011 Namibia experienced its flood of record, the largest recorded flood in modern human history. The rivers flowed all the way to the ocean for the first time in about 50 years.

Nichols and Bierman's previous research worked to establish the rate at which the landscape was changing by collecting sediment samples. On the most recent trip, they recollected every sample from previous research, around 80 samples in total. "We test the samples to see if we reproduce the same results we found before and find out where the sediment is traveling from" Nichols said.

The research explores the implications of the changes to Namibia's landscapes. "You can imagine that people living in desert environments are living on the edge and in fragile environments. If more sediment is eroded it may tip the balance for the areas that are the most sensitive to these floods and make the area uninhabitable," Nichols said.

There are also larger implications to these types of weather changes. "The bigger question is how these intense floods change the sensitivity of the landscape and how people live on it," Nichols said.

Nichols was in Namibia when Hurricane Irene hit the east coast. "These events 'seem' to be happening more frequently. We experienced these events simultaneously on opposite ends of the world," Nichols said.

Nichols and Bierman were awarded a RAPID grant from the National Science Foundation because of their preexisting research. "Since we had background data when these events happened we were able to return and collect what are called temporal replicates. There's not another data set of this size that has been collected over the decade," Nichols said.

"What we have is an estimate of how the landscape is behaving. Using the newly collected samples we will check to see if the results reproduce themselves after the flood of record. If they do it's good for science, if not, we have to deal with the messy reality of the flood and try to understand our methodology better to see what is really happening and what's just noise," Nichols said.

It will take anywhere from six months to a year to analyze the body of samples collected. The research measures isotopes in the sand, specifically radiogenic isotopes. Some of the lab work is done at the University of Vermont, some at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California and some of the isotopes are measured here on Skidmore's campus. "When we finish we'll have more questions than answers, but that's science," Nichols said.

Nichols cannot yet say where the research will go in the future. Further work hinges on the results of the current study. "We'll have to see what our results show, what questions they produce and how we can address them. Then, it depends on if we get the funding to do more research. The questions have to be interesting enough that people want to find out more," Nichols said.

Nichols is also interested in the relationship between media and science. "Namibia's story has been picked up by some media," Nichols said. However, Nichols is also working on another project in Australia that he feels is potentially easier to understand, is interesting and is more tangible. "I think more people can understand that pollution and sediment traveling to the Great Barrier Reef is bad. It's a question of what do the media and what do people find interesting," Nichols said.

Nichols recognizes that there is a disconnect between scientific research and the general public. "Potentially, the most interesting or important research isn't highlighted. As a whole, scientists do not always do a good enough job relating scientific research to the public, in large part because it's hard," Nichols said.

For Skidmore, Nichols explained how students have ample opportunity to do research on campus. "A lot of my colleagues are doing interesting research specifically with students. A lot of painstaking work happens in labs that no one sees," Nichols said.

Nichols, who attended the University of Washington, worked as a field assistant as an undergraduate, but found fewer opportunities for research. "My students actually do the research process and some students are co-authors on publications. It's not surprising that the vast majority of people who go on to do doctoral work attend schools like SkidmorE," Nichols said.

#1.2696837:39734794.jpg:Kyle Nichols

Professor Kyle Nichols



Messiah beats Skidmore Women's Soccer in second round of NCAAs

By Skidmore Athletics
On Mon, Nov 14, 2011

GRANTHAM P.A. - The Skidmore College women's soccer team had its record-setting NCAA run end at the hands of No. 1 Messiah College, Sunday, Nov. 13, at Messiah, after beating MIT in penalty kicks in the first round on Saturday, Nov. 12.

On Saturday, when Rebecca Russo's '13 penalty kick offering hit the back of the net, her teammates rushed onto the field in celebration of the Thoroughbreds' NCAA Division III Women's Soccer Championships First Round victory.

The score, Skidmore's third in four attempts, propelled Skidmore into the Second Round via a shootout victory as MIT went 0-3 on their penalty kick attempts.

The win dropped MIT (14-3-4) out of the NCAA Championships.

After 110 minutes of soccer on Saturday, neither team held an advantage on the scoreboard. Skidmore (14-6) held a 20-15 edge in shots taken throughout the regulation and overtime periods, with MIT keeper Meghan Wright and Skidmore keeper Meghan Sleezer '12 making nine and eight saves, respectively. Each keeper made a save on her opponent's first shot in the shootout.

With the win, Skidmore moved on to face No.1 ranked Messiah in the second round the following day.

Messiah followed up a 10-0 win on Saturday to oust the Thoroughbreds 3-0. The Falcons outshot Skidmore 15-2 in Sunday's game. Skidmore, coming off its dramatic 0-0 tie and 3-0 win in penalty kicks against MIT from Saturday, ended the season 13-7-1.

In the 13th minute of play, Messiah got on the board courtesy of junior Rachel Scheibeler. Senior Jess Shirk attacked inside the left wing, cutting along the end line on the left side before firing a shot on Sleezer. Sleezer would collect a save, but could not hold possession as the rebound bounced high into the air in front of the goal. Scheibeler, crashing in from the right side, put her head onto the ball and past Sleezer's outstretched arms for the score.

The score would remain unchanged for much of the remainder of the first half, with Messiah working to break through the physical Skidmore defense.

In the 39th minute, Messiah took a 2-0 lead on a goal by freshman Lauren Federline. Senior Erin Hench, coming off a three-goal performance in Saturday's win for the Falcons, took the ball deep into the left side of the Skidmore box before finding classmate Leah Sipe in the middle of the box. With the defense collapsing around her, Sipe slotted the ball through to the right side for Federline and a quick strike past Sleezer.

The score gave the Falcons a 2-0 lead they would take into halftime.

Messiah's third and final goal would be scored just 15 minutes into the second half.

The win moves Messiah to 19-0-1 on the season, with their lone blemish being to No. 2 William Smith - the same William Smith that defeated Skidmore in the Liberty League Championship just eight days ago.

Tough loss for Skidmore Hockey

By Skidmore Athletics
On Mon, Nov 14, 2011

HENNIKER N.H. - New England College men's ice hockey would hold off a late Thoroughbred run topping visiting Skidmore College 5-4 in ECAC East action Saturday afternoon.

With the win the Pilgrims improve to 4-1-0 overall and 3-1-0 in ECAC East play. The loss drops the Thoroughbreds to 1-3-0 overall and in the ECAC East.

NEC would open the scoring just 2:18 into the opening period, as Matt Abbott would score his first goal of the season rebounding in a shot from defender Andre Stalberg. The two teams would battle through the remainder of the opening period scoreless as the Pilgrims would hold the 12-7 advantage in shots.

Skidmore would knot the game at 1-1 just 1:02 into the second period as Tony Giacini '14 would score assisted Aaron Beck '14. NEC would regain the lead just seconds later as Ed Dwyer put in a pass from Niko Uola 43 seconds later.

The Pilgrims closed out the period with three unanswered power-play goals, including one from Uola and another from Jacob Andersson, giving NEC the 5-1 lead heading into the final period.

Skidmore would not go down without a fight as the Thoroughbreds cut the lead to 5-2 four minutes into the third as Tim Colvin '15 recorded his first collegiate goal assisted by Nick Dupuis '12 and Vlad Gavrik '14. Skidmore would tack on two more goals late in the game, including a second goal from Giacini and a score by Eric Nilsson '15, as the Thoroughbreds would trail just 5-4 with 1:10 remaining in regulation.

Skidmore pulled its goalie late but the NEC defense closed out the game, keeping the Thoroughbreds off the board in the final minute to solidify the 5-4 victory.

Skidmore finished the game with the slight 40-34 advantage in shots.

Picking up the win in goal for NEC was Shawn Sirman who recorded 36 saves. In goal for Skidmore was Colin Bessey '12 who stopped 29 Pilgrim shots.

NEC returns to action on Friday, Nov. 18 when they travel to take on ECAC East rival Norwich University. Skidmore College will hit the ice on Friday, Nov. 18 when they host ECAC East opponent UMass-Boston.

End of successful season for Volleyball

By Skidmore Athletics

On Mon, Nov 14, 2011

POTSDAM - Skidmore Volleyball saw its magic season come to a close this weekend after making it to the second round of NCAA's. After winning on Friday, Nov. 11, Skidmore lost to Middlebury on Saturday, Nov. 12.

Thanks to 27 kills from Kelley Vershbow '12, the Thoroughbreds rallied from a 2-0 deficit to claim a five-set victory over Rivier College, 20-25, 20-25, 25-10, 25-22, 15-9, in the opening round of the Division III NCAA New York Regional held at Clarkson University. However, Saturday's game did not have the same result.

With a strong attack coming from all angles, Middlebury College hit .297 in its NCAA New York Regional Semifinal match against Skidmore College, and swept the Thoroughbreds in three sets, 25-21, 25-16, 25-23, Saturday afternoon at Clarkson University's Alumni Gymnasium.

Middlebury improved to 23-8 overall and advanced to the NCAA New York Regional Final at 4 p.m. on Sunday against the winner of Cortland and Clarkson. Skidmore saw its 13-match win streak come to an end and concluded its season with a record of 28-9.

In the first set, the two teams essentially traded points through the first half of the game, with neither gaining much of a foothold for a significant advantage. Finally, Middlebury broke out late and took a three-point edge, 18-15, to force a Skidmore timeout. However, the Thoroughbreds could not complete a comeback and fell 25-21 in the first set.

The second set saw Middlebury at its most potent offensively, as the Panthers struck for 16 kills and only four errors in 31 swings (.387) including an impressive stretch from Megan Jarchow and Jane Handel that changed the shape of the set as the Panthers cruised to a nine-point win. A topsy-turvy third set made it appear as if the match would need to go beyond the minimum, but late in the set a block of Vershbow on the outside dropped to the floor and ended the match as Skidmore tried to push to extra points.

Megan Jarchow led Middlebury with 15 kills and just three errors in 28 swings, hitting .429. She was bested by Amy Hart, who had 13 kills in comparison, but hit .455 overall. Jane Handel was comparatively pedestrian, though she had 14 kills and only three errors in 34 attempts. Julia Gibbs delivered 38 assists and also added four block assists. Handel and Caitlin Barrett each had 10 digs for the Panthers.

Middlebury had 10 total blocks in the game, led by Madeline Firestone, who had five block assists, and Elissa Goeke, who contributed one solo block and four assists.

For Skidmore, Vershbow led the team with nine kills, while middle hitter Corrine Palmer '14 struck for eight kills and added five total blocks. Mallory Mendelsohn '13 guided the offense with 29 assists and also added three block assists and seven digs. Sam Friedman '13 led the Thoroughbreds with 16 digs

St Anselm downs Skidmore Hockey

By Skidmore Athletics
On Mon, Nov 14, 2011

MANCHESTER N.H. - After allowing the game's first goal, St. Anselm scored three straight for a 3-1 ECAC East win over the Skidmore College Hockey team, Friday night, Nov 11.

The Thoroughbreds are 1-2, while the Hawks move to 2-1. Skidmore continues its road trip Saturday at New England College.

Following a scoreless first period, David Limoges '15 gave Skidmore a 1-0 lead fro Vlad Gavrik '14 at 1:37 of the second. It was his team-leading third goal of the season.

That was it for the scoring for the Thoroughbreds. St. Anselm battled back to tie it at 4:15 of the second and then scored power-play goals at 18:08 of the second and 9:58 of the third for the 3-1 win.

Colin Bessey '12 had 30 saves for Skidmore. The Hawks had a 33-30 shot advantage.

St. Rose beats Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving

By Skidmore Athletics
On Mon, Nov 14, 2011

SARATOGA SPRINGS - The Skidmore College men's and women's swimming & diving teams hosted St. Rose, Saturday afternoon, Nov. 12, at the Williamson Sports Center.

Both teams suffered losses to the Division II school with the women suffering a 131-89 loss and the men falling 141-95.

Kristin Stearns '13 and Doug Pilawa '12 each won the 1-meter and 3-meter dives. Stearns set a new college record in the 1-meter six dive with a 235.30 and won the 3-meter with a score of 230.35. Pilawa remained unbeaten on the season, taking the 1-meter (311.10) and 3-meter (343.28) with NCAA qualifying scores.

For the women, Catherine King '15 was a double-winner; taking first in the 50 free (28.25) and 100 free (55.89). Sarah Shaw '14 earned second in the 1650 free (19:20.22), while Carrie Koch '13 was second in the 200 free (2:02.79) and Kathering Kelloway '14 came in second in the 400 IM (4:54.73). Katie Kuklewicz '15 and Elaine Burns '12 also had second place finishes as Kuklewicz took second in the 100 fly (1:08.85) and Burns in the 500 free (5:31.07).

On the men's side, Jesse Adler '13 had a pair of second place finishes in the 100 free (51.62) and 200 free (1:55.18). Peter Quattromani '14 took second in the 1650 free (18:19.47).

The teams return to action on Saturday, Nov. 19, at Utica.

Tragic loss for Skidmore Field Hockey

By Skidmore Athletics

On Mon, Nov 14, 2011

SARATOGA SPRINGS - The Skidmore College field hockey team's season came to an end Saturday as Amherst defeated the Thoroughbreds 2-0 in the second round of the NCAA Division III Tournament, after receiving a bye past the first round.

The Lord Jeffs improve to 15-3, advancing to the quarterfinals, where they will face the winner of the game on Saturday, Nov. 19, between Middlebury and Franklin & Marshall. Skidmore ends its season at 18-2.

The teams battled back and forth for the early part of the first half before Amherst broke through with the game's first goal at 19:15. Off a penalty corner, Katie McMahon sent an insert to Carly Dudzik who sent right back to McMahon at the near post for her 17th goal of the season and a 1-0 lead.

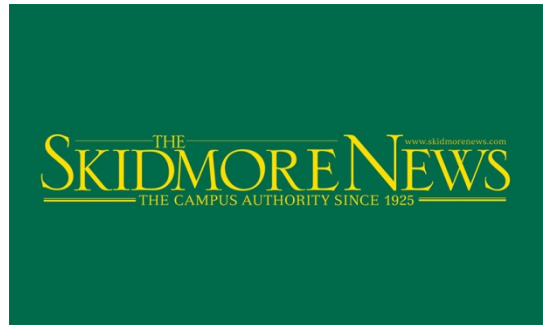
The Thoroughbred's best chance came at the end of the first half on a pair of corners with no time left. Skidmore got three shots on goal, but Amherst goalie Rachel Tannenbaum denied two of them and Stephanie Clegg came up with a defensive save on the other, preserving the 1-0 lead at the break.

In the second half, the Thoroughbreds came out aggressively but were unable to break through the tough Amherst defense. At the 49:08 mark, the Lord Jeffs made it a 2-0 game on Sarah McCarrick's seventh goal of the season. McCarrick took a pass from McMahon on a corner and blasted it from the wing to cap the scoring for the game.

Amherst outshot Skidmore 15-8 and held a 10-7 advantage in penalty corners.

Tannenbaum, who leads the nation with a .894 save percentage, finished with six saves for her eighth shutout of the season. Haley McDougall '15 had eight saves in net for Skidmore.

The loss snapped a 10-game overall and 29-game home win streak for the Thoroughbreds.



The Skidmore Market's second installment this Friday

By MichaelDuPré, Staff Writer

On Mon, Nov 14, 2011

WSPN and Pro-Arts are again sponsoring the Skidmore Market this Friday November 18 from 10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Student entrepreneurs will be vending vintage clothing, handmade jewelry, original artwork and fresh biscotti from Cait's Cookies. The Skidmore Market is open to all students. For more information about the event or becoming a vendor, contact khumphre@skidmore.edu.

#1.2698585:2041506215.png skidmore student market poster

This Friday's Student Market will feature a variety of student entrepreneurs

Michael DuPré/The Skidmore News



SKIDMORE MARKET



‘Passion Play’ by Sarah Ruhl premieres this weekend in the JKB Theater

By Sandy Zhang, A&E Editor

On Tue, Nov 15, 2011

Passion Play, written by award-winning contemporary writer Sarah Ruhl, will premiere in the Janet Kinghorn Bernhard Theater on Nov. 18. The play takes the audience to three communities, each living in different places and time periods, which attempt to stage the death of Jesus Christ.

Passion Play, written by award-winning contemporary writer Sarah Ruhl, will premiere in the Janet Kinghorn Bernhard Theater on Nov. 18. The play takes the audience to three communities, each living in different places and time periods, which attempt to stage the death of Jesus Christ.

Passion Play explores themes of spirituality and questions the values inherent in political systems and religion. The play features three acts, each in a different place in the world in a different era of time. The first act features villagers living in Elizabethan England. The second act depicts Germans living under Adolf Hitler’s new regime and the third, South Dakotans visited by a campaigning Ronald Reagan.

“I am drawn to this work because of Sarah Ruhl’s unique poetic voice and her ability to plunge into complex and controversial issues with simplicity, biting humor and poignancy. The actors have embraced the complexity of this epic work with a commitment to an ongoing exploration of the vast landscape Sarah Ruhl puts before us,” Director Carolyn Anderson said.

Performances are Nov. 18, 19 and 20 and Dec. 1, 2, 3 and 4. All shows are in the Janet Kinghorn Bernhard Theater at 7:30 p.m. except Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$12 general admission and \$8 for students and senior citizens. For reservations, call the Skidmore Theater Box Office at (518) 580-5439 or email boxoffice@skidmore.edu.

#1.2700900:1712455248.jpg Passion Play

David Brummer ‘14, Zac Uslianer ‘14, Christine Pardos ‘14, Liz Devito ‘12 perform in "Passion Play"

Courtesy of Matthew Cohen

#1.2700908:565281920.jpg Passion Play

Alex Greaves ‘12 and Christine Pardos ‘14 perform in "Passion Play"

Courtesy of Matthew Cohen







Moscow correspondents share notes from the underground

Pulitzer Prize-Winning journalist visits campus with Washington Post bureau chief

By Julia Leef, News Editor

On Tue, Nov 15, 2011

On Monday evening Pulitzer Prize-winner Will Englund and his wife and fellow journalist Kathy Lally took a long-awaited break from their desks in Moscow to speak to Skidmore students about their careers, the world of foreign correspondence and television drama "The Wire."

The discussion was moderated by Brendan James '12 and Sarah Goodwin, professor of English and faculty assessment coordinator.

Englund and Lally serve as The Washington Post's correspondents in Moscow. Englund originally wrote from Russia as a correspondent for The Baltimore Sun in the 1990s, and joined The Washington Post in October 2010. Meanwhile, Lally was an editor of The Washington Post until she became Moscow bureau chief in September 2010. She also worked in Moscow for The Baltimore Sun, witnessing the coup and fall of the Soviet Union.

The two addressed questions about the essentials of journalism and their reasons for staying in the field. "Being a journalist gives you the opportunity to experience all kinds of amazing moments and the obligation to cover them," Lally said.

In February Englund and Lally both reported on the events in Cairo during Egypt's revolution, although they each had different experiences. While Englund, kept inside his hotel by the regime's curfew, shared drinks with other correspondents from the Sun, Lally found herself facing a roadblock of men with machine guns.

Lally used the story as an example of the flexibility required of a writer abroad. "If you don't find the story you were sent for," she said, "find the story that's there."

When asked about their favorite stories they had ever worked on, Englund spoke of the article that won him his Pulitzer Prize in 1998. His three-part series exposed the dangers of a shipbreaking in India, which resulted in 400 worker deaths per year.

Although Englund at first worried his article would lead to the shut down of the shipyard, resulting in massive job loss, his article helped to improve the workers' situations, bringing the fatality rate down to an average of 40 deaths per year.

Lally, on the other hand, spoke about her time in Moscow in 1991, during the attempted coup on Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. On Aug. 19 of that year, thousands of unarmed people gathered around the Russian White House for three days, to demand a new era of a free society in Russia.

Lally said seeing these people take an active stand against an oppressive regime was incredible and remains in her memory during contemporary events such as the Arab Spring.

Segueing into a discussion about journalism in the digital age, Englund and Lally expressed the difficulties inherent in keeping up with flow of information, much of it spurious.

Lally said there is now a great pressure for immediacy, but stressed the need for a balance between deadlines and quality reporting. She also stressed the importance of a writer knowing his or her audience.

“It always helps to know for whom you’re writing as you choose which stories to cover,” said Lally, adding that the rise of the Internet has expanded readers to a global scale.

Englund addressed the increasing popularity of online blogs, which in his opinion blur the lines between news and opinion, something that has happened before and is most likely to happen again, he said.

Both emphasized that journalistic objectivity is an important goal to strive for. Objectivity, Englund said, adds to the quality and credibility of these sources, as opposed to a personal blog.

“The effort to approach objectivity is a worthwhile effort,” Englund said. He also said that what objectivity ultimately means is fairness, which he later defined the effort to portray an honest picture of the situation and the views of contending sides.

This, Englund and Lally said, can be applied to the ethics of a college newspaper, which should examine the administration and address areas of improvement in reporting on the community.

They encouraged audience members involved or interested in journalism to dedicate themselves to a fair, objective representation of events and circumstances, putting aside any pre-conceived notions in favor of an informative and evaluative article.

Before the evening came to a close, Professor Goodwin revealed to the audience members - many of who nodded in agreement with her praise of Baltimore-based TV drama "The Wire" - that Kathy Lally had made an appearance as a journalist in the show's fifth season.

Both Englund and Lally stated that they are familiar with the show's creator David Simon from their days at The Baltimore Sun, placing a good word for him and the series in general. After applauding Lally for



her performance in the show, students left the event with one more reason to aspire to a career in journalism.

#1.2701629:2800523384.JPG Journalists photo

Kathy Lally and Will Englund address students on their experiences in the field of journalism.

Savannah Grier/The Skidmore News



Skidmore Organizes Candlelight Vigil for the Homeless

Office of Community Service collaborates with Saratoga organizations for week events

By Andy Shi, Staff Writer

On Tue, Nov 15, 2011

On Wednesday, Nov. 16, the College will host a candlelight vigil and a showing of the documentary "Homeless-The Motel Kids of Orange County" to promote National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week.

Jennifer Au, program coordinator of the Office of Community Service, will coordinate these events in collaboration with Saratoga County Housing Alliance and Shelters of Saratoga, the only adult homeless shelter in Saratoga, Washington or Warren counties.

"The students wanted to put together [a fundraiser] for the National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, but by the time we returned from the conference we had a week to pull everything together," said Au, referring to the Resolve to Fight Poverty National Conference from Nov. 4 to 6 at the University of Maryland.

"The candlelight vigil will consist of a welcome from the Housing Alliance and testimonials and short speeches by community members," Au said. The documentary, directed by Alexandra Pelosi, focuses on children who live in expensive hotel rooms with bedbugs and poverty in Orange County, while their parents struggle to make a living.

"The true reason we have been able to continue expanding upon the services we've provided for the past 20 years is a direct result of the generosity and commitment of individuals and businesses in our community who care about the well-being of others," said Cindy Harrington, director of Marketing and Development for Shelters of Saratoga.

Although Au said there is no fundraiser or charity associated with this event, Cindy Phillips, co-chair and community developer coordinator of the Saratoga County Housing Alliance, said students have teamed up with the Saratoga County Housing Alliance to sponsor "Helping the Homeless Makes Cents Initiative," a community coin drive to benefit the homeless. Cans to collect coins will be placed in participating downtown Saratoga businesses.

“SOS [Shelters of Saratoga] will be launching its second annual appeal in the coming week with hopes of meeting or exceeding the funds raised last year, which are used to support operational expenses,” Harrington said.

In spirit of the National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, Au said she will set up collection cans on campus at Burgess Cafe and the Atrium in the Murray-Aikins Dining Hall.

The Candlelight Vigil will start on the Case Walkway at 6 p.m. and the film "Homeless-The Motel Kids of Orange County" will be shown in Gannett Auditorium at 7 p.m.

For further information on the Saratoga County Housing Alliance, visit its website at saratogacountyhousingalliance.org, and for addition information on Shelters of Saratoga and the week-long series of events on- and off-campus, visit sheltersofsaratoga.org.

Skidmore Men's Basketball win home opener

By Skidmore Athletic

On Wed, Nov 16, 2011

SARATOGA SPRINGS - The Skidmore College men's basketball team jumped out to a 10-0 lead and never looked back on the way to a 77-42 win over Cobleskill in the season opener for both teams Tuesday night at the Williamson Sports Center.

Melvis Langyintuo '12 led a balanced Thoroughbred offense with 16 points in only 15 minutes. Skidmore had 12 players score in the contest. Langyintuo was 6-8 from the floor, including 2-3 from three-point range. Terron Victoria '12 hit for 10 points to go along with four steals. Gerard O'Shea '12 added six points, five assists and three steals, while Nanribet Yiljep '15 came off the bench to score seven points and pull down four rebounds in his first collegiate game.

Jessie Allen scored 13 points off the bench as the lone Fighting Tiger in double figures.

The Thoroughbreds kept Cobleskill off the board until Brendan Davis hit a three with 15:29 to play to make it 10-3. That was a close as the Fighter Tigers would get in the contest, with the home team leading by as many as 23 in the first half.

Skidmore hit 12 threes in the contest, shooting 12-31 (.387) from beyond the arc. Cobleskill struggled from long range, going 4-20 (.200) from three-point range.

The Thoroughbreds return to action at home at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 22, against Southern Vermont College.

Solid opener for Women's Basketball

By Skidmore Athletics
On Wed, Nov 16, 2011

SARATOGA SPRINGS - Megan Gaugler '12 had 22 points and 19 rebounds to lead the Skidmore College women's basketball team to a 68-37 win in its season opener against Sage, Tuesday night, Nov. 15.

It was the first game of the season for both teams.

After taking a 25-14 lead into the break, the Thoroughbreds heated up in the second half, shooting 16-of-33 (48.5 percent) from the floor and 7-of-16 (43.8 percent) from beyond the arc. Skidmore opened the half with a 15-2 run, highlighted by 10 points from Gaugler and never looked back. The Thoroughbreds led comfortably throughout the second half and capped the scoring late with a three-pointer from Christina Gargiso '12, giving Skidmore its largest lead of the game.

Gaugler added three steals and two blocks, while Gargiso was the only other player in double-digits with 18 points. Jordyn Wartts '14 chipped in with five points, five rebounds, five assists and three steals.

For Sage, Chelsea Martin had seven points to go with four rebounds and two blocks. Kara Hackett had six points and seven rebounds, while Carly Vallee and Nicole Lanteri each finished with six points and four rebounds.

The Thoroughbreds held a 55-36 advantage on the glass and went 9-of-14 at the free throw line compared to 2-of-4 for theGators.

Skidmore hosts the annual Skidmore Invitational this weekend, as they host Ursinus at 8 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 18.

Saratoga County elections fail to draw in voters

Voting apathy may have factored into Republican defeats

By Max Siegelbaum, Contributing Writer

On Wed, Nov 16, 2011

Democrats regained control over the Saratoga Springs City Council after the Nov. 8 elections, a defeat Republicans are attributing to low voter turnout, according to <http://saratogian.com/articles/2011/11/12/news/doc4ebf309785588468623525.txt#openwidget> s">The Saratogian.

Of the five positions, Republican Anthony Scirocco and Democrat John Franck ran uncontested. Christian Mathiesen and Michele Madigan took the other seats on the five-person City Council, giving the Saratoga Democratic Party the majority in City Hall. Democrat Brent Wilkes lost to incumbent Republican Scott Johnson by 230 votes in the mayoral race.

Out of the 18,200 registered voters in Saratoga Springs, only 6,373 residents voted in the elections. Of these, approximately 40 were Skidmore students.

Bryn Schockmel '12, president of the Skidmore Democrats, said she was disappointed in the lack of student political involvement.

"We did all this build up leading to the election," she said. "On Election Day, we had some of the candidates come. We were really promoting it and trying to get people to vote. It was really discouraging because we have hundreds of students registered on campus and it doesn't take a lot time to vote."

Schockmel attributed this to a general apathetic view of local town politics, saying some students believe Saratoga policy has little effect on their daily lives, which he disagrees on.

"Policy in Saratoga Springs really does affect you for the four years that you are here. Things about safety, downtown and transportation, that's all important and [low student participation is] just discouraging," Schockmel said.

This lack of student participation in local politics is not a recent occurrence. The Skidmore Democrats have had trouble motivating students in prior county elections.

“It was the same thing two years ago. We didn’t have a very good turnout. That was a major election because our governor and two senators were up for election last year. It just seems like students aren’t too interested,” Schockmel said.

However, this is not to say that there is a complete lack of political motivation on campus. The presidential elections of 2008 brought extremely high levels of student participation. The same holds true for the rest of the nation, as off-year elections often result in lower voter participation than the presidential race.

“In addition, for most students, Saratoga Springs is a temporary residence, and many students are registered in their home states. But for the more than 100 students that are registered on campus, issues that directly affect the College and the campus’s relationship with the town can be decided and changed,” Schockmel said.

“A person running for mayor is nowhere near as exciting as a person running for president, I understand that,” she said. “It’s still important and maybe even affects you more directly because it involves making decisions about where you live specifically.”

Dining Services takes steps to reduce food waste

By Bradley Morris, Staff Writer

On Thu, Nov 17, 2011

This semester, Skidmore's Dining Services has made great efforts to reduce the amount of food wasted by students. As those who frequent the Dining Hall this semester may have noticed, the staff has been putting meals with preset portions on six-inch plates, rather than the full-size 9-inch plates used during previous academic years.

Director of Dining Services, Bill Canney explained the main reason why Dining Services reduced portion sizes and switched to smaller plates.

"It's to reduce waste. It's that simple," Canney said.

This method is not unique to Skidmore's Dining Hall, however.

"The national trend is to do exactly that. A lot of colleges and universities are doing this to reduce waste. Even restaurants are going with smaller portions," Canney said.

This was a popular decision in the Dining Hall, and it was approved by all of the staff when addressed this summer.

Several stations in the dining hall use the smaller plates, but the change is not universal for all stations.

"A lot of people don't understand what they should take in terms of portions, but I think changes in portion sizes need to be done everywhere in the dining hall," said Eric Ness who works in Dining Services.

Ness pointed to some aesthetic drawbacks with the smaller plates. "I don't think the small plates present well. The smaller size is a dessert plate. It doesn't look appealing. You eat with your eyes first," Ness said.

Ben Niese, also of Dining Services, felt the answer might be in a median plate size. "The small plate is 6 inches; the big plate is 9. I think if they could get a plate that was 7.5 inches that would be perfect," Niese said.

"I would draw your attention to the food waste survey that was done last year. There were easily five hundred plus pounds of food waste over breakfast, lunch and dinner. That's people electing to take food they are not going to eat, whether consciously or unconsciously," Niese said.



"I think it's good, but I don't think we've ironed all the kinks out," Niese said.

Canney brought up secondary reasons for the change in plate sizes aside from reducing food waste. The change to smaller plates was also due to the rising costs of food and the increased awareness and attempts at eating healthier portions of food.

In past years, The Environmental Action Club, with support from Dining Services, has conducted a weeklong study to see how much food the College wastes. According to Canney, during the three studies during the last three years, food waste has not reduced at all.

Dining Services hopes that, when the study is completed this year, the changes will reduce the Dining Hall's food waste. At this point, according to Canney, "It is too early to say."

"I think that it can be effective in cutting down food waste just because if you use big plates, then students will frequently fill of the entire plate and not eat all the food," Chris Tripoli '13 said.

Not every student thought the idea was implemented the right way. "I like the idea, [but] they put so much food on the plates that it feels like it will fall off the plate," Emily Paull '13 said.

Thus far, Dining Services has been able to maintain the new policy and has kept the portion sizes reduced.

#1.2705328:1994767893.JPG d hall chefs

Ben Niese and Eric Ness in Murray-Aikins Dining Hall

Sarah Barry '12/ The Skidmore News

#1.2705343:4188359605.JPG salad

pre-plated salads at the pasta station

Sarah Barry '12/ The Skidmore News

#1.2705345:3301270021.JPG chicken

pre-plated portions at global café

Sarah Barry '12/ The Skidmore News







Restaurant Review: Four Seasons

By Tegan O'Neill, Columnist

On Thu, Nov 17, 2011

Four Seasons makes Ronald MacDonald's Happy Meal look sad -- very sad. Amid the vegetarian menu of tofu and kale, you'd be hard-pressed to find any food substance resembling a french fry, but I promise that what you will find at Four Seasons will make you happier than any potato drowned in oil ever possibly could.

Take, for instance, the mashed sweet potatoes. A menagerie of spices mingling in the smooth orange puree captures the flavor of autumn passing into winter. As I ate, I tried to draw out each bite for as long as possible, coaxing the sweet and the spice out of each morsel.

The noodles with peanut sauce were dizzyingly good. I recommend lathering the noodles liberally in the rich, creamy sauce until they slip and slide around the plate.

The hummus was smooth like a silk kimono. I am sure that it would jive well with just about anything else, but I was fine enjoying it au naturale.

The tofu encrusted with sesame seeds proved itself to be a textural wonder. The contrast of spongy tofu soaked in a sweet (possibly) soy sauce with crunchy little sesame seeds was a genius idea on the part of the kitchen.

Another tofu dish, this one a vegetable/tofu medley, was equally brilliant. The natural flavors of the ingredients were left untouched and, respected on their own, which is too often not done.

Also left untainted was the aforementioned seaweed salad. It tasted as though it had washed up on my palate seconds before - Nothing but the flavor of the sea could be detected.

The vegan cornbread is good enough to merit making a deal with the devil. The recipe gets all of the pieces of the puzzle to fit together just right. It is grainy, moist, sweet, and hearty. It makes me think of red mesas and black cast iron skillet. Amid a desert of bad cornbread attempts, the cornbread at Four Seasons is an oasis to parched travelers like myself.

The icy, aromatic rice pudding pops and prickles in the mouth and is the perfect to ending the meal.

If the buffet-style format makes choosing one dessert too hard, try the stewed fruit. The warm and cozy medley feels undeniably familiar. Yet, it is not something ordinarily available, so take advantage of the occasion.



I was less fond of the sweet potato pie with granola crust as it reminded me of a large Fig Newton.

Sweet potato pie in my system and all, dinner at Four Seasons made me feel like a happy buddha. My belly was satisfied, my heart contented, and my mind enlightened. Isn't this the ideal effect that food should have? And the entire meal was approximately \$8. For an all-around excellent meal, it's an unbeatable deal. The pricing system is simple: you pay by however much your plate weighs.

It's up to you what your plate will look like. You go down the buffet line and craft your own mosaic of foods, picking and choosing the which gems you are most excited to try. It makes you think hard about what you want to put into your body (and how much of it). There are many different possible combinations. In one meal, food from all around the globe has the opportunity to meet and greet. On my plate, seaweed sat next to sweet potatoes next to hummus next to cornbread next to tofu next to rice pudding. My kaleidoscope plate reminded me of home in one bite and took me a million miles away in the next.

A sign with the message "Eat Good Food" dangles from the ceiling over the open kitchen. I could not agree more. As I sat basking in the café light, swirling beet juice around my plate, I felt that I had fulfilled that decree. The color of the food alone at Four Seasons is enough to signify that it is good food. My plate became a canvas for the magenta beets to bleed their luxuriously earthy blood into the deep black paint of seaweed salad -- mesmerizing to the eye as well as to the tongue.

I urge you to weave through the aisles of herbal tea and granola and find the treasure chest of food that awaits.

Read more of Tegan O'Neills outings at her [blog](http://tegan-and-sarah.blogspot.com/)

#1.2715629:1893274332.jpg four seasons

The buffet at Four Seasons

Sarah Weitzman/ The Skidmore News

#1.2715640:3864539835.jpg Four Seasons

Four Seasons' vegan corn bread

Sarah Weitzman/ The Skidmore News

#1.2715641:4217176579.jpg plate

Four Seasons prices its buffet by the weight of the plate

Sarah Weitzman/ The Skidmore News







EAC plans conference trip and community projects

Members advocate for environmental concerns in a variety of fields

By Ani Lordkipanidze, Staff Writer

On Thu, Nov 17, 2011

Following their trip to the Washington, D.C., protests on the first weekend in November, members of the Environmental Action Club remain active with plans for future trips and community projects.

One of these trips includes a brief excursion to the Northeast Organic Farming Association conference, which will take place Jan. 20 to 22 in downtown Saratoga Springs. NOFA is a community of gardeners, landscapers and consumers trying to educate the public about environmental issues. The EAC attended the conference last year.

“It was a great opportunity for people interested in food issues to get to know farmers, participate in workshops on sustainable agriculture, eat delicious food and support local businesses,” said Margot Reisner ‘14, president of the EAC.

Reisner said farming is a dwindling profession, and that students will be able to learn more about farmers’ lives and what it takes to follow this career path through this conference.

“You meet lots of cool people, hear incredible speakers and leave with all kinds of fun stuff like stickers and books. I even got a rosemary plant last year,” Reisner said.

Only 15 students will be able to attend this conference, and those interested should email Eliza Sherpa ‘14, vice president of the EAC at esherpa@skidmore.edu.

In addition to the conference, the EAC will undertake two community projects headed by its subcommittees to raise awareness on environmental issues.

The waste group subcommittee will construct an enormous water bottle made of chicken wire filled many smaller water bottles as part of the "Take Back the Tap" campaign. The ultimate objective is to eliminate the use of plastic water bottles on campus in favor of free tap water.

“Hopefully the art project will help raise awareness about our use of plastic and especially around the unnecessary use of plastic water bottles when you can always get water for free,” Reisner said.

Collection boxes for used plastic water bottles will be placed in the atrium of the Murray-Aikins Dining Hall. The EAC also will be collecting at 3 p.m. Friday in Case Center. The construction of the giant water



bottle will happen at 2 p.m. Saturday on the Weiking Green. Students who wish to learn more should contact Ceanna Vangelder '14 at cvangeld@skidmore.edu.

For the second project, the food group subcommittee is collaborating with children in the community to make a recipe book to raise awareness about local and organic food and how they are used. Profits from the books will fund the Student Garden. Students who wish to contribute should contact Juliana O'Brien '15 at jobrien@skidmore.edu or Gabby Stern '13 at gstern@skidmore.edu.

The EAC meets at 9 p.m. every Monday in Ladd 207.

#1.2705513:4159792532.jpg Giant Water Bottle

This water bottle, in front of the Bear Valley Visitor's Center in Point Reyes, Calif., is an example of the structure the EAC wishes to create on Saturday.

Courtesy of Ceanna Vangelder



Skidmore's Fight Club and mediation course offer new methods to resolve conflict

By Matthew Camuso, Contributing Writer

On Thu, Nov 17, 2011

Skidmore's Fight Club may not include Brad Pitt and Edward Norton among its members, but it offers something more useful to the College's campus than a great movie. Fight Club, or the College's "Conflict Resolution group" promotes an environment where any individual or party can dispute issues and work to resolve conflicts.

Although recently establishment in fall 2010, Fight Club practices the classic method of mediation to solve issues.

Although few of us may go searching for conflict with others, such incidents do occur. Fight Club is prepared to mediate both conflicts between groups and personal conflict.

The club is open to anyone, but to become a certified mediator, mediation training is required. Skidmore offers a one-credit course on campus taught by Dean of Student Affairs David Karp and New York State Certified Mediation Trainer Duke Fisher.

The mediation course (ID 141) is offered in the fall and spring semesters and is 30 hours long. Participants practice "a set of facilitation skills that differ from the typical strategies people use when helping others resolve their disputes. For example, through specific methods of listening and strategic reflection, mediators uncover underlying issues without giving advice," Karp said.

The mediation course is certified by the state of New York. "[It] enables participants to become mediators with community mediation centers like Mediation Matters. Every county in New York has a non-profit community mediation center that works closely with the courts, and students have volunteered in their hometowns. Many states have reciprocity with New York, so our students have become mediators in their home states," Karp said.

Fight Club offers two types of mediation, the first of which is One Party Mediation or "Conflict Coaching," which refers to one-on-one meetings with a mediator.

The second type is Two+ Party Mediation. Fight Club's pamphlet states that Two+ Party Mediation is when "two or more conflicting parties as well as two trained, impartial and confidential mediators," meet in order to resolve a conflict.

Fight Club recognizes that it can be difficult to remain open-minded and solution-oriented in situations of conflict. The mediators are instrumental in guiding the process by staying impartial and helping the parties to understand each other's perspectives. "Once the need is clearly identified, the mediator helps the parties brainstorm a variety of potential solutions to the problem in a way that meets both parties' needs," Karp said.

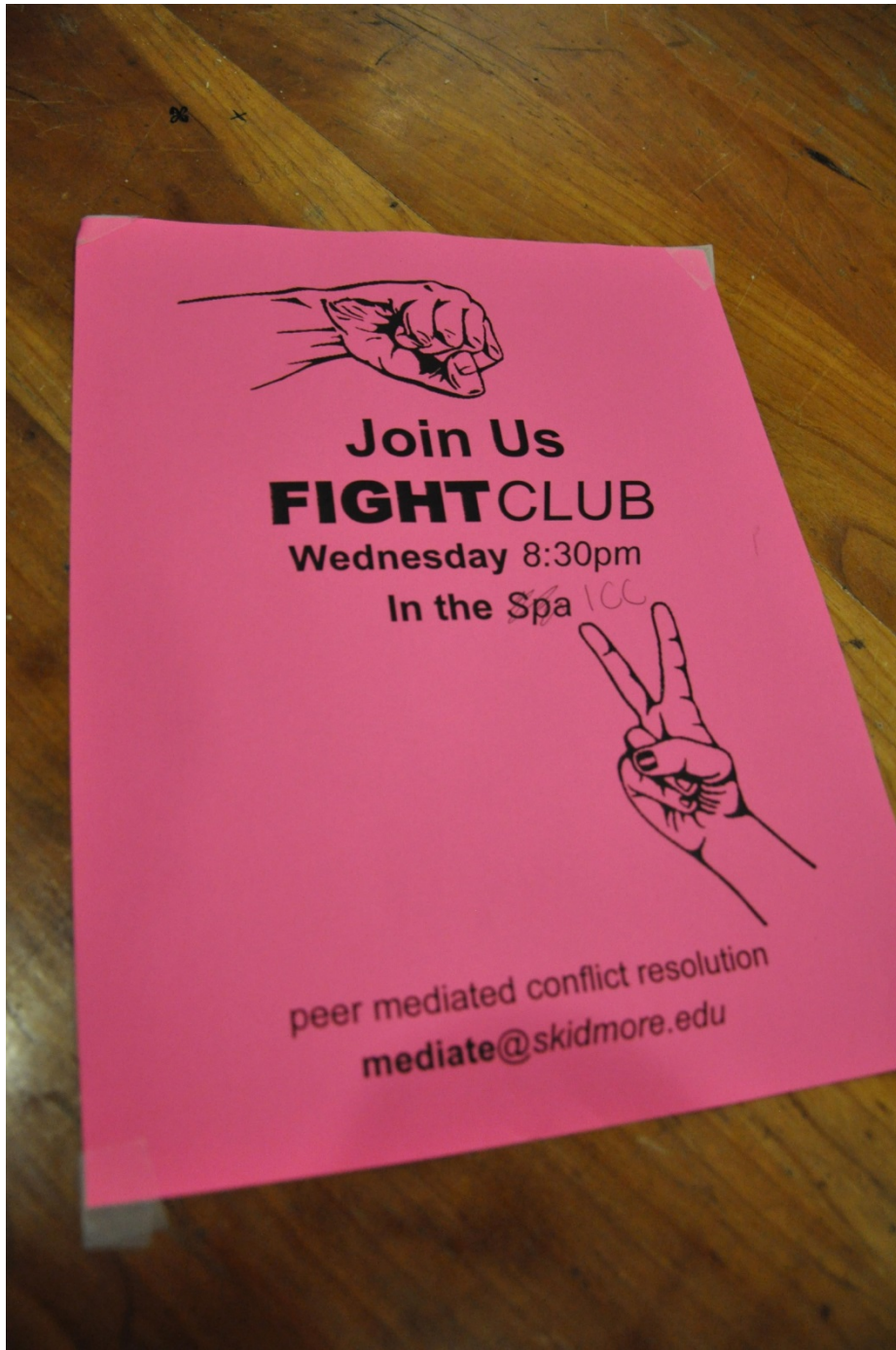
Fight Club is confidential and anything said in Fight Club is not meant to leave the club. Fight Club aims to resolve conflicts and not to start new ones, so all mediators are prohibited from addressing any mediation session outside of the session.

Pamphlets about Fight Club can be found in the Office of Residential Life and any questions about Fight Club can be sent to mediate@skidmore.edu. Fight Club meets at 8:30 p.m on Wednesdays in the Inter Cultural Center.

#1.2706938:2822809308.JPG fight club

Fight Club meets Wednesdays at 8:30 p.m in the Intercultural Center

Savannah Grier '12/ The Skidmore News



Freezin' For a Reason: Polar Plunge to raise money for Special Olympics

Team 'Skidmore Athletics' will jump into Lake George for charity

By Kelsey Nichols, Contributing Writer

On Thu, Nov 17, 2011

Students, faculty and community members will jump into the cold waters of Lake George to raise funds for the Special Olympics New York from 9 a.m. to noon this Saturday, Nov. 19, as part of Skidmore's first participation in the Polar Plunge.

The event is organized by the Special Olympics New York, which holds similar events across the country. All funds from the event will go toward this program, which provides year-round sports training and athletic competitions for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, fostering relationships with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and their communities.

Pat Wildes, a member of the Student Athlete Advisory Council and chairman of the Community Service subcommittee, said he is excited to be part of organizing the College's first Polar Plunge.

"I was inspired to bring the Polar Plunge to Skidmore's campus after hearing about it too late last fall and deciding that we should partake the following year," he said. "My role was to get our student athletes at Skidmore mobilized to take part in this event."

The Athletics department has hosted swim practice for members of the Special Olympics team every Tuesday in the Williamson Sports Center for the past few years and is involved in many different fundraising events and activities for the community.

"The swim practices are the only current Special Olympics-related connection I know of on campus, but part of our goal this year with our SAAC subcommittee is to expand upon that," Wildes said. "I think we really need to help out the local chapter of the organization."

One of the ways in which the department has been helping the organization is by fundraising for this event, which started on Nov. 14, and totaled \$1,365 as of Nov. 17. Wildes said he hopes to reach \$1,500 before Saturday's event.

On the day of the plunge, participants will take a bus paid for by the Athletics Department to Lake George. The team name for the College is "Skidmore Athletics," although not everyone participating has to be an athlete.

The event is free and open to the public, although participants are encouraged to donate to this event. General donations may also be made to the team's event page.

#1.2706615:3120369186.jpg Polar Plunge Photo

Although other colleges have participated in the event for several years, this Saturday will be Skidmore's first Polar Plunge.

Courtesy of Patrick Wildes



Administration forms committee to evaluate Moorebid Ball failures

Members to discuss issues and determine the dance's fate next semester

By Julia Leef

On Fri, Nov 18, 2011

In response to the second early shutdown of Moorebid Ball in as many years, the administration formed a committee to analyze and discuss possible solutions to resolve this year's issues of overcrowding and excessive drinking, as well as whether the College should continue to host Moorebid at all.

Committee members include Ryan Ballantine, community coordinator of Residential Life, Aaron Shifreen '13, vice president for Residential Affairs on the Student Government Association, Larry Britt, associate director of Campus Safety, Theresa Polson, assistant director of Leadership Activities, David Karp, associate director of student affairs and Robin Adams, interim director of Leadership Activities. The committee first met on Nov. 9 to discuss the challenge of location, student behavior and possible remedies to the ongoing problem of Moorebid.

"If we cannot create a safe event for students, then we should not be doing it," Calhoun said. "If we can legitimately look at our concerns and address them adequately with the support of the student body, then it should be a consideration."

Moorebid Ball, the annual all-campus Halloween party, first took place in Moore Hall, an off-campus residential apartment building that held several hundred people. When the building was sold in 2006, the location of the dance moved to Case Center, which served as a successful location until two years ago, when excessive drinking and the hospitalization of several students shut it down.

This year's Moorebid Ball, which was held in the recreational and dance gyms in the Williamson Sports Center, was also prematurely terminated, this time due to dangerous overcrowding in the hallway connecting the two gyms.

Britt said that while the two gyms, which each hold about 750 people, were not the best venues for the event, they were the only options available without limiting the numbers of students who could attend. He added that the planning committee thought it would be a safe location since there are plenty of fire exits in the gym.



"The big problem that we really didn't anticipate was the crowds in the hallways," Britt said. "It was just a complete log-jam. When I went downstairs at quarter to one, I had to wrestle and push people to get through."

The inability to anticipate crowding in the hallways stemmed from data from previous events, which the planning committee used as the basis for student behavior at Moorebid Ball. Karp said in previous years, students remained largely in the dance areas, and thus they believed students would behave similarly this year.

Since many students did not remain in the dance areas, one of the more pressing concerns the committee will discuss is whether there is a venue on campus that can feasibly hold a safe event so many students can attend.

Britt said the venue that would most likely be able to maintain a safe environment during Moorebid is the main gymnasium, which the committee was unable to secure this year due to conflicts with athletic events. Scheduling conflicts may continue to be an issue in securing the main gym as a location for Moorebid, as athletics have priority for its usage.

While the matter of a future venue is still being considered, all members of the committee agreed that Case Center was no longer a viable place to host the dance for such a large portion of the student body. Fire codes limit the number of people in Case Center to 500, Britt said, which results in huge violations during Moorebid.

With this in mind, one of the solutions the committee is considering is limiting the number of people who will be able to attend Moorebid, which may involve charging for admission and distributing tickets to the student body, as has been done in the past.

"It would be reassuring to have a successful event that's smaller and more contained, and then consider it being large again as opposed to having another all-out event go badly again," Karp said.

The committee recognizes, however, that most students would be disappointed to be turned away from Moorebid, and is considering other possibilities that would avoid placing a capacity limit on the dance.

Another major concern is the behavior of students before and during Moorebid, which the committee feels has been influenced by the event's reputation for drunkenness.

"A lot of the people planning the event are nervous that it has too much history," Adams said. "By making it bigger, does that make it better and safer? These are the questions that we are asking."



"There are certain events that call out particular kinds of behavior," Calhoun said. "There is an issue with cultural norms that has grown up around Moorebid in ways that haven't around our other events."

While the committee mentioned the possibility of using Intoxilyzers, a device that uses infrared spectroscopy to identify the presence of ethanol, at the entrance to the dance, its members agreed that most of the change has to come from the students themselves.

"We can do what we can planning-wise, but it's really up to students to show that they can be responsible," Karp said.

Although many students believe the administration should apologize for the dangerous circumstances surrounding this year's Moorebid, the committee emphasized the unpredictability of the event and said administration took the responsibility to shut down the event before it became a serious danger to students.

"It would have been a mistake to allow the event to continue once it was understood that students were in danger," Calhoun said.

There will be an address to the student body before the end of next semester regarding the committee's decision about next year's Moorebid. The members of the committee are open to student suggestions, and Adams cited some of the student ideas already presented, such as considering off-campus venues. Hosting multiple events on the same day on- and off-campus is also a possibility.



Editorial: A new look for career services

By the Editorial Board

On Fri, Nov 18, 2011

While every college aims to arm their graduates with the skills needed to succeed professionally, liberal arts schools traditionally eschew vocational instruction and focus on education for its own sake. Skidmore does not entirely fit this mold, as our mission statement specifically proscribes programs to train students "with preparation for professions, careers, and community leadership." Such an aim implies service learning and professional opportunities, not to mention programs to procure such opportunities within academic departments.

Skidmore has demonstrated its dedication to offering such opportunities as administration has begun planning a major overhaul of the Career Services Center. As this redesign develops, administration should aim to make the Center more central to student life and better affect professional preparation across campus.

Though at present academic advisors help students develop in a specific discipline and academic departments host events and guest lecturers to showcase career paths open to them, the office that guides students toward these paths is the Career Services Center. The Center offers one-on-one counseling sessions, where students are given personal advice and shown tools to find jobs and internships. In addition, students can attend seminars, use the books and directories found at the Career Center, and, as seniors and recent graduates, use Skidmore's recruiting program to get job listings and event notifications.

These offerings, while significant, are tailored to students willing to put in the effort to get started - no counseling sessions are required and, apart from the occasional event listed in mass emails, the Center makes few attempts to lure in students. This approach works only if students understand the Center and what it offers, and feel the pressure to take advantage of the opportunities it affords.

When should students feel this pressure? While Penny Loretto, Assistant Director of Career Services, says, "We always insist, the earlier, the better," the idea that students should use the center as soon as they can adds no sense of structure or purpose to the process. Though the Center attempts to make itself seen by freshmen and seniors, students may not feel pushed to stop by until they start looking for internships for their second collegiate summer after sophomore year.



Rather than focusing on pushing students to go whenever and as soon as they can make the time, the Center should be specific, letting faculty advisors know that, if their advisees have still never been to the Center by the end of their first year, for example, they should push them to make an appointment.

Another cause for concern is the lack of proportionate commitment to professional development across all departments. In the Theater department, Lary Opitz actively helps seniors set up a biography, take professional head shots, and lay the groundwork for a career in theater. In the Philosophy department, on the other hand, there is little to no discussion of life after college besides a handout given to potential majors early in the academic year. Every department should, as far as its field of study lends itself, have a standard for career development, and encourage students to visit the Career Services Center at certain times.

Currently, some departments see college education as serving no end other than self-improvement, while other departments actively attempt to teach marketable skills. If Skidmore is dedicated to its endorsement of service learning and professional development, faculty should internalize the school's mission and not fight it to the detriment of some students.

As Career Services is given its upgrade, a focus should be made at all levels of the college to embrace the services it offers. Career Services should not be a marginal resource on any campus, least of all one that professes a dedication to preparing its students for careers after they graduate.

Opinion: What's the fracking fuss?

Understanding a controversial process that affects us all

By Eliza Sherpa, Sustainability Representative, McClellan Hall

On Sat, Nov 19, 2011

You may have heard the word "fracking" around campus and wondered what all the fuss was about.

Fracking, a method of extracting natural gas from deep shale reserves, has emerged as a topic of controversy in recent months. Proponents argue that fracking will both increase national security by providing a domestic fuel source and help New York State's struggling economy by creating jobs. Some additionally insist that the increased use of natural gas is our solution to climate change, as the burning of natural gas emits less greenhouse gas than does oil or coal. While these are valid arguments, much of the natural gas extracted will be exported, and the potential economic gains exist only in a boom and bust system, which will not result in long-term economic growth.

Other industries in this state, including agriculture, tourism and small business, will be threatened. Jobs will be temporary, and not given to those New York residents who need them most. There will be huge costs for taxpayers, including an estimated \$211 to 378 million spent on roads alone. In terms of environmental impact, the comprehensive process of extracting, purifying and burning natural gas emits more greenhouse gases than coal. These valid concerns aside, the problem with hydrofracking isn't, for me, one of science or economy. It's one of morality.

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo has determined that fracking is too dangerous to take place within the New York City watershed. But don't all regions of the state deserve the same protection? When my family was approached and asked to lease our land to a natural gas company, we were promised a revitalized New York economy with thousands of new jobs, a role in furthering America's energy independence and, of course, a hefty check. While my family had the opportunity to say no, many others did not.

Over 50 percent of my town in rural New York is now leased, and, if drilling proceeds, everyone in our town will directly feel the environmental and economic impacts.

There are other issues with fracking as well. Because of regional class divides, drilling disproportionately affects working class landowners in rural areas. The process blasts millions of gallons of water into the ground, infused with thousands of gallons worth of over 500 chemicals, including the poisons hydrogen fluoride, lead, ethylene glycol and known carcinogens such as formaldehyde, naphthalene and benzene.

It is impossible to remove all of this contaminated water from the ground, and frequently the waste is stored, at least temporarily, in open pits, which risk spillage.

Drilling brings hundreds of trucks into targeted communities, and the land value of areas affected by drilling plummets. While the industry claims safety, what is perhaps most worrisome is that fracking is exempt from federal regulations, including the Clean Water Act, nor has an independent environmental impact statement ever been conducted.

While no effect, positive or negative, can be assumed as certain, negative effects have been demonstrated time and time again all over this country. There have been over a thousand instances of groundwater contamination, countless incidents where water has actually been demonstrably flammable and hundreds of people that have become sick in at-risk areas. Recently, there have even been indicators linking fracking to earthquakes. But evidence has been covered up, and these stories are rarely heard.

The corporations argue that there is no scientific proof linking fracking to these broken communities, and that drilling is, therefore, safe. Yet with clear evidence pointing towards water contamination and human health impacts and little evidence to the contrary, wouldn't we at least want to look further into this process?

Once we begin, recovery will be difficult.

Recently, there have been droughts in the Midwest and West, and national concern for the availability of clean water has intensified. With fracking, we risk contaminating our fresh water, the most fundamental and vital resource for our existence. By allowing fracking to move forward in this state, we are continuing to allow corporations to represent us in the government. If we say no, we protect our needs. We are showing our state, and our country, that we wish to build a sustainable green economy, one that runs on clean, renewable energy, not dirty fossil fuels, and that will create long-term economic growth and job development.

The fight against fracking is a fight to tell the government to value communities over corporations and to protect human rights over corporate profit. The fight against social injustice has been fought for us by countless generations past. Now it is our responsibility to sustain the fight against social and environmental injustice, and pursue a clean energy economy for a just and sustainable future.

Governor Cuomo will be making a decision on hydrofracking this December, and plans to move forward with the process despite significant public uproar, including a move by many cities, such as Albany, to institute local bans. Now is the time to take action and make our voices heard. If you're interested in getting involved, please contact esherpa@skidmore.edu or come to EAC meetings Monday, 9 p.m. in

LADD 207. There are upcoming Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) hearings (Nov. 16 Dansville, Nov. 17 Binghamton, Nov. 29 Loch Sheldrake, Nov. 30 New York City, Dec. 1 Ithaca) as well as the Delaware River Basin Commission hearing in Trenton, NJ on Nov. 21.

Healthful Hints: Sleep for success

Get in bed and stay there for a healthy and triumphant finals week

By Zoe Silver, Columnist

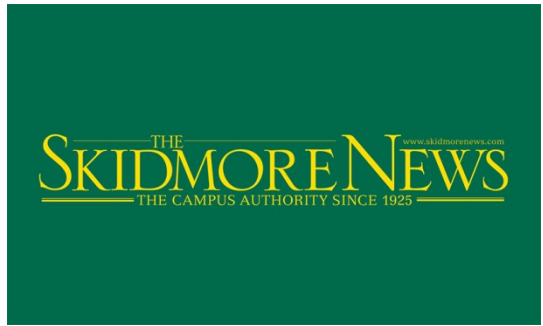
On Sat, Nov 19, 2011

Finals are just around the corner, and along with the end of the year come heavier schedules that many people let cut into their sleeping time. Sleep, however, is almost as essential to succeeding on your exams as studying. Remember that sleep is a vital human activity. Without it, we can't think clearly, our mood swings and we even occasionally hallucinate. Basically, bad things can happen if you don't catch your z's, so be sure to regulate your sleeping habits in time for finals.

Sleep is a biological necessity. It rejuvenates our bodies and minds, aides in memory retrieval and storage, repairs neural connections that allow us to do fundamental things such as breathe and releases hormones that help us grow and repair torn muscle. Given that sleep is a necessity, when our sleep debt builds, our body essentially begins to "shutdown." When you begin to experience things like weakened vision, the inability to stay awake, clumsiness, difficulty concentrating and even the onset of a cold, they could all be signs of sleep deprivation: your body trying to tell you, "go to sleep!" The average college student needs 8- 10 hours of sleep a night. This sounds unobtainable to most of us while at school, but I can assure you that if you adjust your schedule to allow for this, you will find improvements in many other areas of your life, including your school work and daily productivity.

As college students, some of us are guilty of binge drinking, binge eating...and even binge sleeping. The third is an unhealthy way to catch up on sleep as it does not effectively rejuvenate you, even though you may think that it does. By binge sleeping, I mean sleeping for two hours one night and 14 hours the next night. This is not the same as sleeping for eight hours both nights. Sometimes, oversleeping can make you groggy and just as unproductive. Instead of doing this, try adding two hours to each night of sleep until you are "caught-up" on your sleep debt.

If you have a hard time getting to sleep, as many of us do, especially when our neighbors are partying or we have a scary exam in the morning, try to be conscious of some of your habits during the day, which will affect you at night. For instance, it is a good idea to cut out caffeine after around 3 p.m., and on the weekend, keep in mind that alcohol can lead to interrupted sleep and prevent you from reaching the deepest and most rejuvenating levels of sleep. In general, try to keep a steady schedule by going to bed and waking up the same time every day, making yourself comfortable in bed and keeping your room dark. Studies have found that the use of technology right before sleep inhibits the brain from "turning-



off" and therefore lengthens the amount of time it takes to fall asleep. Instead of watching TV until you doze off, try reading a book or just lying there and letting your eyes adjust to the darkness.

Until next time, I hope that these hints find you in good health and that you "zzz" yourself to an A+.

Review: Eleventh annual Beatlemore Skidmania enchants in Zankel

By Dale Obbie, Staff Writer

On Sun, Nov 20, 2011

Last weekend marked the 11th annual Beatlemore Skidmania concert and the second held in Ladd Concert Hall of the Arthur Zankel Music Center. The popular concert showcased strong performances and unique renditions of The Beatles songs by new and old student bands.

The first show of the two-night run was on Friday, 11/11/11, and Professor Gordon Thompson, who organizes the event with the help of his Beatles seminar, reminded the audience of the show's significance: 10 years ago was the semester that Sept. 11 took place and that George Harrison died. The Beatles tribute concert began as a way to celebrate the uplifting power of the band's music in a time when we needed it most, and it continues stronger than ever.

The theme of this year's show encompassed all of The Beatles' music, as well as any songs written by members during their solo careers. It included a variety of strong performances from both underclassmen and senior bands. Members of Cousin Chuck and the Arkansas Woodchoppers took the stage in boots and overalls to complement their bluegrass rendition of "I've Just Seen a Face," which featured a foot-stompin' fiddle solo from Evan Nathan and a mandolin solo from Paul Gladstone. During their solos, the bandmates could hardly help themselves and began to jig.

Next came a funkified version of "Octopus's Garden" from Bo Peep and the Funk Sheep. Bassist Will Sacks sang the chorus while Andrew Koehler came in with his organ jabs. Trombonist Brandon Lomuto punctuated the gaps with his horn fills, giving the band's version of the fun song a tightly knit funky twist. The band went into a playful call and response between Sacks's bass and Lomuto's trombone, ending with a sweeping drum roll from drummer Dave Slitzky.

Another highlight was a Tracy Chapman-esque version of "Eight Days a Week" from Mary Leigh and Carolyn Bottelier, who combined their soulful voices with a catchy guitar riff, adding just a taste of bittersweet and heartfelt blues to the mix.

After the intermission, the Dan Papsen Memorial Band (formerly known as the Pappgows) began the second half of the show with an otherworldly version of "Blue Jay Way," a song that performers do not often bring to the table. Senior saxophonist Aaron Wallace, who has performed at Beatlemore Skidmania every year during his time at Skidmore, explains that he chose "Blue Jay Way" because it is

one of his favorite Beatles songs, but also because "the obscurity of the song was a bonus. Since Beatlemania is a concert that people attend year after year, it's always nice for the audience to hear a deep cut that hasn't been played in a while."

Wallace began "Blue Jay Way" by blowing into a didgeridoo and looping the sound to act as a drone, creating an eerie vibe while he and guitarist Sean Heulton hinted at the original song by teasing the melody. Soon they launched into an energetic funk jam driven by drummer Anthony Princi and bassist Carlo D'Angelis. Wallace explains that they did so because "we were the start of the second set, so we needed to get the audience excited for the show to come, while still staying true to the beauty of George Harrison's original composition."

The rest of the second set was anything but a letdown after "Blue Jay Way." Dam Hot Jam played a memorable version of "Day Tripper," in which Leo Cancelmo went from playing funk chords into a psychedelic rock guitar solo truly reminiscent of the '60s. Los Elk played a reggae version of "Can't Buy Me Love," which segued seamlessly into a swinging blues guitar solo. Bailiwick brought back the folksiness with its version of Harrison's "The Inner Light," replete with foot stomping, sugary vocal harmonies and a damn good fiddle solo.

The show ended in accordance with tradition - a performance by The Rust Brothers, the Skidmore faculty band, who played George Harrison's "Handle with Care" and "Get Back." They were joined by a number of student performers, including a complete horn section, two keyboardists, backup singers, percussionists and Los Elk guitarist Amir Rivera-Lieberman, who played a slide guitar solo during "Handle with Care." Ending the night on a high note, they left the stage to the sound of a standing ovation from the sold-out auditorium.

Hockey beats UMASS Boston

By Skidmore Athletics

On Sun, Nov 27, 2011

SARATOGA SPRINGS - Colin Bessey '12 had 30 saves to lead the Skidmore College hockey team to a 4-0 ECAC East win over UMASS Boston, Friday night at the Saratoga Springs City Rink.

The Thoroughbreds up their record to 2-3 overall and in conference play, while the Beacons fall to 1-3 and 0-3 in the ECAC East.

Skidmore set the tone early when Alex Radmin '13 beat UMB goalie Kevin Bendel glove side for his first goal of the season at 1:50 of the first. Alex Essaris '12 had the assist.

After a scoreless second, Tyler Doremus '12 scored a short-handed goal from Essaris and Brad Schuler '14 at 3:33 for a 2-0 lead. Zach Menard '13 made it 3-0 with a four-on-three power-play goal at 11:32 from Nick Dupuis '12 and Tim Colvin '15. David Limoges '15 fired one into the top corner for the 4-0 final from Dupuis at 16:08.

Bessey's toughest save when he stopped a two-on-one with 6:05 to play in the second. It was the second career shutout for the steady goalie, who had 12 of his 30 saves in the third period.

Bendel finished with 20 saves for UMB.

Babson downs Skidmore Hockey

By Skidmore Athletics

On Sun, Nov 27, 2011

SARATOGA SPRINGS - Babson College took a 3-0 lead and then held off a late Skidmore rally for a 4-2 ECAC East men's hockey win Saturday, Nov. 19, at the Saratoga Springs City Rink.

The Thoroughbreds are 2-4 overall and in ECAC East play. The Beavers even their record at 2-2 overall and in the East.

Ryan Smith set the tone early for Babson with his first goal of the season at 2:10 of the first on a breakaway from Shayne Anderson. Trevor Hines made it 2-0 with his first of the year from Mike Hoban and Matt Furey at 8:18. Beaver goalie Zeke Testa had 15 of his 35 saves in the first period to keep Skidmore off the board.

Babson got another quick start in the second, when Jay Haseley tallied his third of the season just 37 seconds in from Matt O'Neill and Andrew Bonazza. The Thoroughbreds battled back on a power-play goal by Vlad Gavrik '14 from David Limoges '15 and Nick Dupuis '12 at 4:48. Tim Colvin '15 pulled Skidmore to within one, 3-2, when he connected for his second of the season at 16:42 from Tony Giacini '14 and Aaron Beck '14. The Thoroughbreds continued to pressure Babson for the rest of the period, but the Beavers were able to take the 3-2 lead into the break.

Skidmore was unable to solve Testa in the third period. The goalie stopped all nine shots he saw in the final stanza, including two on a late Thoroughbred power play. Babson got a short-handed empty-net goal from Mike Driscoll at 19:31 for the 4-2 final.

Skidmore out shot Babson 37-28. Colin Bessey '12 had 24 saves for the Thoroughbreds.

Next up for Skidmore is Nichols College at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 26, in the first round of the Skidmore Invitational.

Skidmore Swimming downs Utica

By Skidmore Athletics
On Sun, Nov 27, 2011

UTICA - The Skidmore College men's and women's swimming & diving teams swept Utica, Saturday afternoon at the Utica College Pool of Champions.

The women earned a 168-106 victory, while the men won 179-82.

The Thoroughbreds got off to a strong start with women going 1-2 in the 200 Medley Relay. The team of Katherine Kelloway '14, Carrie Koch '13, Sarah Shaw '14 and Catherine King '15 went 2:02.31, while Lauren Schilling '14, Mary Collins '15, Katie Kuklewicz '15 and Elaine Burns '12 went 2:07.32. The men's team also won the 200 MR with Jesse Adler '13, Robert Fulton '15, Andrew Becker '13 and Logan Jones '15 swimming at 1:45.44.

The swimmers touched first in 28 of 28 races. Koch won the 1000 Free (11:34.14), while Nick Sauerbrunn '15 and Greg Amoresano '13 (11:23.31) went 1-2. Koch (1:15.58) and Sauerbrunn (1:06.24) also won the 100 Breast, with Sauerbrunn adding a win in the 200 Breast (2:32.77) as well.

Also winning three individual events was Shaw who won the 100 Back (1:08.18), 500 Free (5:41.85) and 200 IM (2:28.76). Double event winners were: Peter Quattromani '14 won the 200 (1:57.21) and 500 Free (5:15.89), Kelloway won the 100 and 200 Butterfly (1:03.10 and 2:21.84), Becker won the 200 Back (2:17.50) and 200 IM (2:16.05) and Jones won the 50 Free (23.06) and 100 Free (52.05)

Other event winners included King in the 200 Free (2:04.93), Tim Brosdky '14 won the 100 Back (1:01.17), Sam Leibenhaut '12 won the 200 Butterfly (2:15.15), Collins won the 200 Breast (2:53.54), Burns won the 50 Free, Emily Pryzsinda '15 won the 100 Free (1:00.95), Schilling won the 200 Back (2:30.74) and Adler won the 100 Butterfly (56.31).

Doug Pilawa '12 won both 1 Meter rounds of diving for a total score of 500.10, a new college record for 11 dives and an NCAA qualifying score. His 6-dive score of 300.30 was also an NCAA qualifying score and he also took first in the 3 Meter. Kristin Stearns '13 won the 6-dive 1 Meter diving event with a 209.15.

Skidmore returns to action on Friday, Dec. 2 for the Liberty League Championships at RPI.



Skidmore wins invitational

By Skidmore Athletics
On Sun, Nov 27, 2011

SARATOGA SPRINGS - Tournament MVP Megan Gaugler '12 hit a record nine three-pointers to lead the Skidmore College women's basketball team to an 85-59 win over Utica College in the championship game of the Skidmore Invitational Tournament, Sunday, Nov. 20, at the Williamson Sports Center.

The record breaks the previous mark of seven set three different times, the latest in 2007 by Sharlyn Harper. Gaugler finished with 33 points. The team's 15 total three-pointers also set a new record, beating the 14 made in 2010 against Potsdam.

The Thoroughbreds (3-0) took charge from the start, outscoring the Pioneers (2-1) 29-9 over the game's first 7:37 and 57-25 for the half. Gaugler scored 21 of the run's 29 points. Utica had no answer for senior guard who was a perfect 5-5 from 3-point range and 8-9 from the floor during that opening stretch. Gaugler ended the half with 24 points and three steals.

Playing limited time in the second half, Gaugler finished 12-19 from the floor and 9-13 from beyond the arc. She also had six rebounds.

All 12 players dressed scored for Skidmore. Christina Gargiso '12 earned a spot on the all-tournament team with 13 points and four assists in 19 minutes. Jesse Kavana '12 was also on the all-tournament team with five assists in 18 minutes to go along with her 14 points and four steals in a first-round win over Ursinus.

Meghan Fiore and Katie McGee represented Utica on the all-tournament team. Fiore scored 20 points, while McGee added 12 points, 10 rebounds and five assists.

Lindsay Teuber of Ursinus was also selected to the all-tournament team.

#1.2715631:1934499871.JPG something

Megan Gaugler looks to pass the ball

Meredith Simonds/The Skidmore News

#1.2715633:3698052279.JPG womensbasketball

Molly McLaughlin driving to the basket

Meredith Simonds/The Skidmore News





A Resolution of the Arts and Sciences' culminates in Schick Art Gallery

By Kristin Travagline, Contributing Writer

On Mon, Nov 28, 2011

"A Resolution of the Arts and Sciences," now on view in the Schick Art Gallery, goes beyond a unification of the two fields - it demonstrates they are one in the same. Curating the exhibition was a team comprised of Ali Carney-Knisely '12, Rachel Fisher '12, Nora Johnson '12 and Professor John Cunningham. The show features artwork by eight current students, 12 alumni and seven faculty members.

Planning for the exhibition began two years ago when Fisher volunteered to help Professor Cunningham recreate his event "Walk Like an Egyptian," which took place at Skidmore in 1987. The premise of the experiment was to lift as much mass as possible using a force multiplier that Cunningham devised.

Intending to recreate the event, Cunningham sought funding from the College. "I went to the dean to see if I could get some money - the College would have nothing to do with it." He went on to quote the Skidmore slogan ironically: "Creative thought matters, as long as it doesn't cost money."

In lieu of support from the College, Cunningham and student volunteers raised funds themselves and established a non-profit organization.

"I think there were four to six other people who met with us regularly, but who dropped out for one reason or another. And we feel strongly that they should have gotten credit, too, although Nora, Rachel and Ali were the fundamental officers.... Pete Stake, the director of the gallery, did a staggering job. It wouldn't have happened without him," Cunningham said.

What they originally envisioned as an experiment to be conducted with the involvement of Kenyon University evolved into "A Resolution of Arts and Sciences" exhibition. Cunningham kicked off a lecture series last fall, which culminated in the opening of the exhibition.

Acknowledging that the word "science" can draw to mind cold steel instruments and sterile laboratories, Rachel Fisher's piece playfully runs away with this imagery. Fisher's piece depicts an almost futuristic medical tool for drawing blood.



The streamline structure resembles a pen, while the metal that curls back to reveal the silver calls to mind a candy wrapper. "I really love biology so I've always been attracted to the medical field," Fisher said. The piece also incorporates a ball joint, allowing it rotate 360 degrees.

Fisher's piece channels the general spirit of the "Resolution" show, as it turns common notions of science on their heads.

Christine Neill's '69 watercolor "Eucalypt Medusa" exemplifies the overall warmth of the exhibition. Gentle curves, vibrant greens, gentle oranges fill the canvas to display the graceful movement of plant tendrils. The tendril-like foliage illustrated in Neill's piece resonates with the fantastical, pink tendrils of John Matthew's '79 sculpture "Eclipse." The metal tendrils emanate from a large oval piece of wood. The grain of the wood displays dark sparkling patterns, like oil swirling in water. "My works express the energy of growth and structure in biological forms such as seed pods, buds and vine," Matthews said. The brightly colored tendrils look like the metal bars on a playground.

Michelle Molokotos' '13 piece "Representation of Monet's House of Parliament" uses layers of paint tubes as a means of representation. The sparkling blue paints, orange tones and purple depict an irresistible sunset. I imagine running my hands over the rippled tubes.

Courtney Mattison's '08 sculpture "Dissolve" uses stoneware, porcelain, glaze and wood resin to create a highly realistic depiction of a coral reef damaged by climate change and ocean acidification. Tiny upright cylinders, rough porous patches and smooth surfaces simultaneously convey great fragility and resilience, increasing one's curiosity to feel the surface.

Luckily, some of the pieces are meant to be touched. This includes Professor Flip Philip's "Glavens," made of white, glistening plastic and used to study human perception of three-dimensional forms. The Glavens have simple, rounded forms like small, white sea creatures and minute, detailed surface patterns, like finger prints.

The stimulating atmosphere of the exhibition also attests to the seamless collaboration between current students, alumni and professors in creating the show. "We were so staggeringly delighted that the College has accepted it so positively, to a degree that humbles and amazes us," Cunningham said.

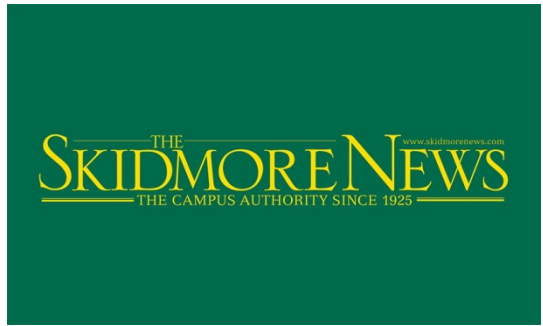
A Resolution of the Arts and Sciences will remain in the Schick until Dec. 4.

#1.2717566:1772874132.JPG Schick

"Cosmosis" by Steve O'Brien

Savannah Grier/Skidmore News

11/28/2011 1.2716639



#1.2717572:2864252604.JPG Schick

"Cancer, Heart Disease, & Stroke" by Caitlin Allen

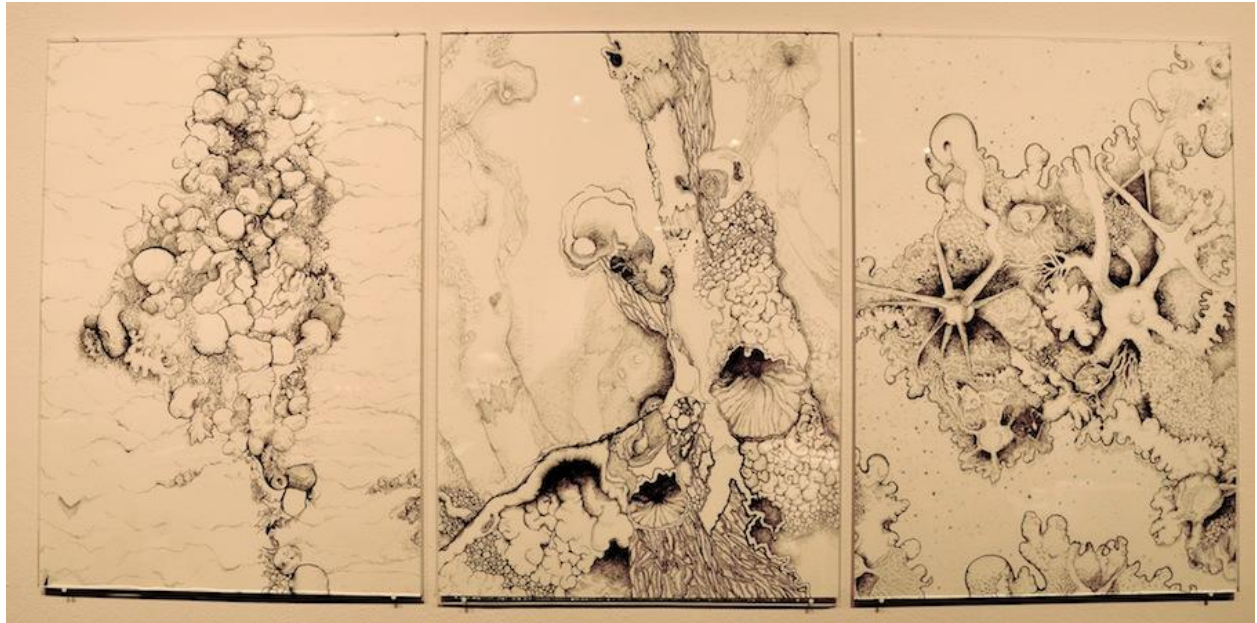
Savannah Grier/Skidmore News

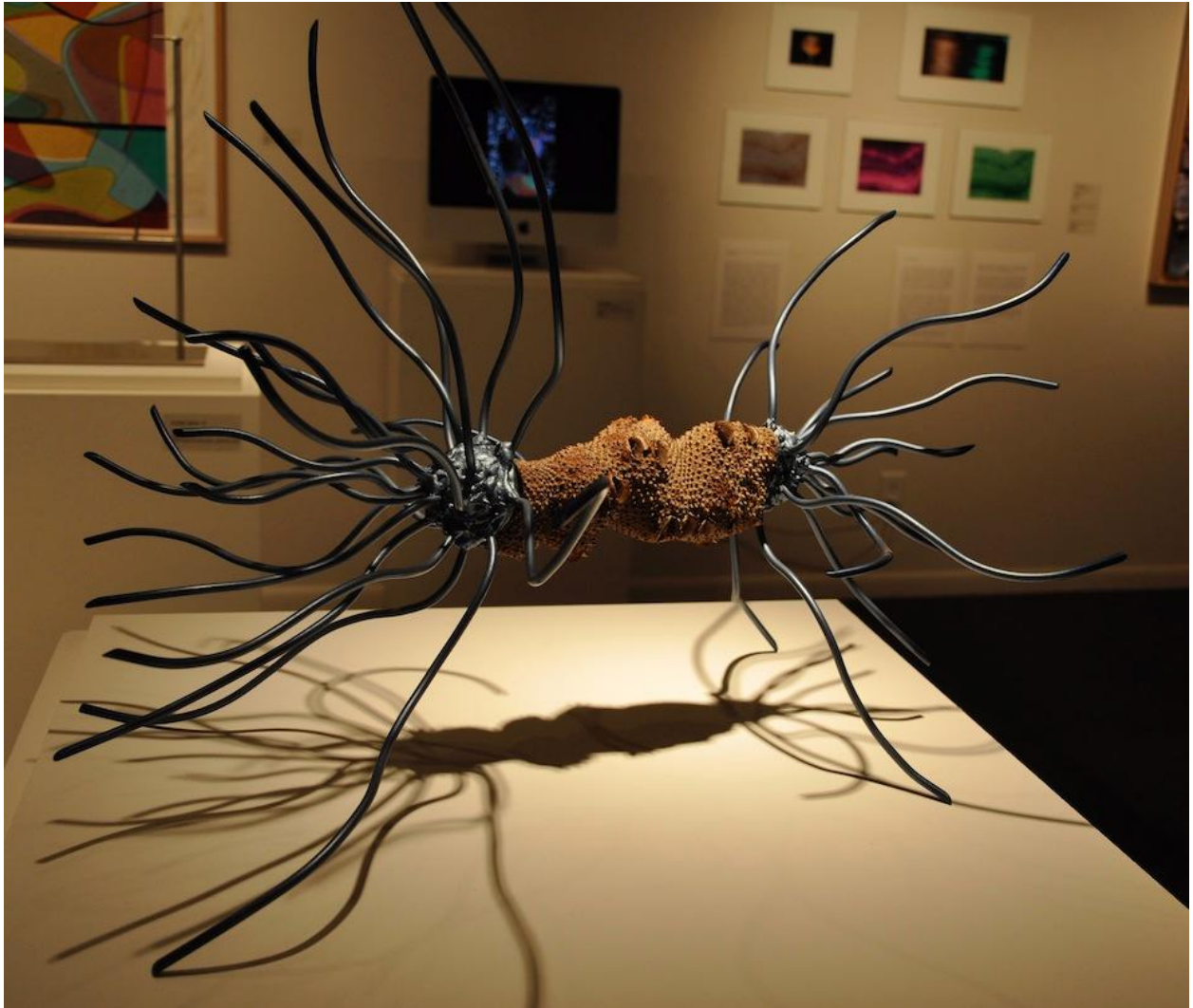
#1.2717579:1508907611.JPG Schick

"Insatiable" by John Mathews '79

Savannah Grier/Skidmore News







Thoroughbred Basketball downs Southern Vermont more easily than last year

By Skidmore Athletics
On Mon, Nov 28, 2011

SARATOGA SPRINGS - The Skidmore College men's basketball team used a balanced attack to cruise to a 91-57 victory over Southern Vermont on Tuesday night, Nov. 22.

The Thoroughbreds improve to 2-0, while the Mountaineers fall to 0-3. The game was a rematch of Skidmore's 128-123 win last season in an NCAA record seven overtimes.

The teams traded baskets early and with 10:46 remaining in the first half, Southern Vermont took an 18-17 lead on a three pointer from Travis Severs. That would be the last lead the Mountaineers would have as the Thoroughbreds closed out the half with a 28-12 run. Eight different players scored for Skidmore during the run, giving them a 45-29 lead at the half.

The second half was much of the same for the Thoroughbreds, outscoring Southern Vermont 26-7 over the first nine minutes of the half. Skidmore had its largest lead of the night with 5:09 remaining as Brian Moore '14 hit one of his three three-pointers for a 37 point advantage at 82-45. The Mountaineers weren't able to get closer than within 29 over the final five minutes as the Thoroughbreds earned the 91-57 win.

Terron Victoria '12 led a balanced Skidmore attack with 14 points, six rebounds and five assists. Brian Lowry '12 added 13 points, while Melvis Langyintuo '12 tallied 11 and Raoul Oloa '12 poured in 10 off the bench. Gerard O'Shea '12 finished with nine points, six assists, five rebounds and four steals.

Avery Mitchell led all scorers with 19 points for Southern Vermont, while Taeshon Johnson posted a double-double with 11 points and 10 rebounds. Jordan Santiago added 10.

Skidmore forced 20 Mountaineer turnovers, while committing just three, and had 25 assists on 35 made shots. The Thoroughbred bench outscored Southern Vermont's bench 38-9.

Skidmore returns to action at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 30, when they host Oneonta St. for tip-off.

Hamilton downs Skidmore Hockey

By Skidmore Athletics
On Mon, Nov 28, 2011

SARATOGA SPRINGS - Anthony Scarpino scored the game-winner off a faceoff at 18:46 of the third period to lead the Hamilton College hockey team to a 4-3 win over Skidmore College in the Skidmore Invitational Tournament championship game, Sunday at the Saratoga Springs City Rink.

In the penalty-filled consolation game, SUNY Brockport scored five times in the third period for a 7-3 win over Nichols College.

The championship game featured four lead changes with neither team leading by more than a goal.

Aaron Beck '14 opened the scoring for the Thoroughbreds (3-5) at 4:48 of the first from Tony Giacini '14 and Tim Colvin '15. The Continentals (2-1-1) tied it at 10:19 when Bryan Kelly scored from Brian Infante and Andrew Jelinek. Skidmore took a 2-1 lead into the locker room when Brendan Cottom '13 scored a power-play goal at 12:17 from Nick Dupuis '12 and Zach Menard '13.

Hamilton scored the lone second period goal when Pat Curtis connected from Michael DiMare and Scarpino at 8:53 to tie it 2-2.

The teams traded unsuccessful chances in the third until Bryan Kelly's power-play shot from the point gave Hamilton its first lead of the game, 3-2, at 14:52 from DiMare and Curtis.

The Continentals were called for a hit from behind major at 15:21 and Skidmore took advantage when Dupuis collected a rebound and fired it home to tie it 3-3 at 16:02 from Colvin and Julian Malakorn '13.

A Thoroughbred penalty at 18:44 led to a faceoff in Skidmore's defensive end that DiMare won, sending the puck to Scarpino who one-timed it for the game winner at 18:46.

Skidmore had a 24-21 shot advantage. Colin Bessey '12 had 17 saves for the Thoroughbreds, while Joe Quattrocchi stopped 21 shots for the Continentals.

DiMare earned tournament MVP honors and was joined by Quattrocchi on the all-tournament team. Representing Skidmore were Giacini and Alex Essaris '12. Brockport's James Cody and Louie Educate of Nichols were also selected to the team.

In the consolation game, Brockport (2-6-2) and Nichols (1-5-1) combined for 96 minutes in penalties.

After a scoreless first period, the Bison grabbed a 2-0 on a pair of second-period goals by Educate. Brockport tied it on a power-play goal by Cody at 16:30 and a tally by Troy Polino at 17:30.

Cody gave the Golden Eagles a 3-2 lead with a short-handed goal at 2:08 of the third. Steve Sachman extended the lead to 4-2 with a power-play goal at 7:27. Nichols stayed close when Andrew Ella scored his first of the season at 10:00 to cut it to 4-3.

Brockport opened it up with three goals in the final 2:10 for the 7-3 win. Cody scored his hat trick at 17:50, followed by a Polino goal at 18:33 and Colby Spooner's first of the season at 19:21.

The Golden Eagles had a commanding 37-21 shot advantage. Jacob Rinn had 30 saves for Nichols, while Aaron Green stopped 18 shots for Brockport.

Skidmore student wins \$100 to throw a party

New organization Party Fund awards weekly grants to college students

By Andrew Shi, Staff Writer

On Mon, Nov 28, 2011

Victoria Manganiello '12 won \$100 for an on-campus party on Nov. 16 from the newly formed organization, the Party Fund, with the sole condition that she recognize the business that sponsored her.

The Party Fund - founded a few months ago by Pulse Advisory, a venture accelerator in New York City - allots funds every Wednesday to students who promote the sponsoring businesses. In accordance with this project, Manganiello posted a link about her sponsor, NerdWallet, on the College's open forum, along with a short blurb praising its service, which assists people in finding credit cards best customized to their spending needs.

All kinds of businesses, anything from startups, services to consumer products, can sponsor Party Fund. Any brand that wants to target the college audience is ideal, said Tracy Lum, a business analyst at Pulse Advisory, which oversees the Party Fund project.

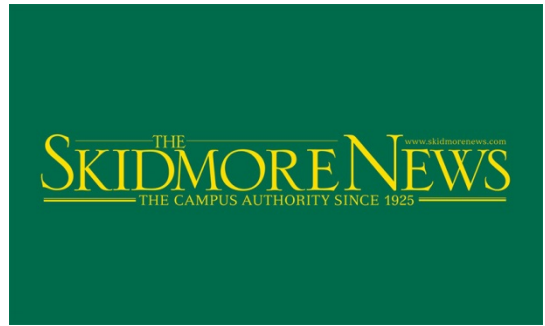
Lum said Tanjeloff loosely based the Party Fund on a party grant system that Harvard University implemented a few years ago, which allowed students to send requests to the financial committee of the Undergraduate Council to receive funds. The program has since been discontinued by Harvard's administration due to students spending funds on alcohol, according to the Harvard Crimson.

The Party Fund is just a few weeks old and is still in beta launch, said Lum, expressing hope for its success, and adding that the process itself is simple and free for students.

I used the money to buy supplies for a gallery space that my housemates and I created in an unused room in my apartment, Manganiello said. "The next thing I had to do was throw the party, within 10 days, and at the party take a picture with 10 friends and a sign that says 'We love NerdWallet,' and tag [the business] in it on Facebook."

"Sponsors are always looking for innovative and engaging ways to reach college students, so we are positioning ourselves as a great platform to do so," Lum said.

The Party Fund announces new winners every Wednesday on its [website](http://www.thepartyfund.com). Students can also visit the organization's [Facebook page](http://www.facebook.com/partyfund) to learn more.



#1.2716594:2595217910.jpg Party Fund Photo

Manganiello tagged this photo of her friends on Facebook, promoting NerdWallet, the sponsor of her party.

Courtesy of the Party Fund



Though the Earth may shake them

Students and study abroad programs reflect on the earthquake in Christchurch

By Sarah Barry, Features Editor

On Mon, Nov 28, 2011

The 10 Skidmore students studying in Christchurch, New Zealand this past spring were confronted with a new challenge during their travels abroad. On Tuesday, Feb. 22, an earthquake with a magnitude of 6.3 hit the Canterbury region.

While the earthquake disrupted the carefully planned semesters of several Skidmore students, students adapted and the University of Canterbury and study abroad programs were prepared to deal with the effects of the quake.

“Even prior to the first major earthquake to strike Christchurch on Sept 4 2010, the University of Canterbury had a very extensive emergency preparedness programme, which included trained staff, facilities and resources specifically directed toward dealing with a major critical incident on campus,” said Dr. Nello Angerilli, pro-vice chancellor of International and Student Services at the University of Canterbury. The university increased its preparedness program after the earthquake in September 2010.

Preventing any harm to students is the first goal of University of Canterbury’s Emergency Management Plan. The University of Canterbury then made contacting students one of the immediate priorities after the earthquake.

The University emailed each student, sent a webform and provided the number to a direct line where students could contact the University. “We asked each student if [he or she was] safe, uninjured and in acceptable accommodation, and if so we urged [him or her] to tell [his or her] classmates to contact us directly, then register with their nearest consulate and also to contact a family member overseas to let them know that they were ok,” Angerilli said.

“Within days, we had an amazing response and had created a very complete list of students and their whereabouts, which we were then able to use to respond to the enquiries of emergency services, consulates and family members,” Angerilli said.

Ellie Nichols ‘13 was one student studying in Christchurch at the time of the earthquake. “We were warned about earthquakes, and they say it’s a possibility. I was aware that it happens, but it’s not front and center at all on your mind,” Nichols said.

Ellie was just arriving at class when the earthquake hit. "A girl next to me dove under a table, so I did the same. In reality it only lasted about 20 seconds. When it was over everyone looked at each other like 'what just happened?' The faculty members started to evacuate us to the parking lot. I kept asking if the worst was over," Nichols said.

Ellie studied through the IES (International Education of Students). The earthquake undoubtedly changed her plans for her semester abroad. "IES announced that it would no longer have a program for the spring 2011. IES then put together some options for students. I've done a lot of traveling, and I did a lot of research, so I knew that I wanted to go to Christchurch specifically. I felt it more of a cultural identity than some of the other cities," Nichols said.

IES also has pre-existing plans in preparation for natural disasters and other potential issues that occur throughout the semester. "Last academic year alone we managed 188 significant levels of crises worldwide (the Arab spring uprisings, political demonstrations, university and transportation and labor strikes, earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic ash, etc.) not including the daily health matters that impact students, be they attending school in the U.S. or abroad," said Mary Dwyer, doctoral president and chief executive officer of IES Abroad.

"In the case of the Christchurch earthquake, our students were provided the means to evacuate at IES Abroad's expense," Dwyer said. The University of Canterbury advised its study abroad partners to consider other options for students to ensure a full semester's study abroad experience before it was too late to transfer to other Universities. IES then set out to move students to the program at the University of Auckland.

"Our director of our Auckland program collaborated closely with the director of our Christchurch program to get all of our Christchurch students moved to the University of Auckland. The University of Auckland on a day's notice agreed to accept all of the IES Abroad students and make arrangements for their classes and housing," Dwyer said.

Jon Reeves '12, who was also in Christchurch, studied with Frontiers Abroad. "Our program got in touch with all our families and told us we were going to a field camp," Reeves said. Reeves stayed in New Zealand, but moved with the program to Wellington, New Zealand. "We stayed at the field camp for close to a week and, at that point, the program did an amazing job organizing all of our classes."

Reeves experienced both challenges and benefits with the move. "There were a lot more Americans in Christchurch. We moved from the equivalent of Scribner Village to living in the dorms with first semester 17- and 18-year-old students. The building had strict rules and wasn't the best environment



for socializing. We were kind of the weird American kids, but it forced us to really put ourselves out there," Reeves said.

Aurora Pinkey-Drobnis '12 also moved to Wellington after the earthquake. "I thought it was a great opportunity to experience a natural disaster as a geology student and to see the ways [with] which it was dealt. I did a project on the earthquake and the media's response to the disaster. I loved Wellington - I liked the move," Pinkey-Drobnis said.

Nichols ended up leaving New Zealand and returning home to Denver, CO where she did some freelance fashion work and secured an internship with a fashion photo production company called Brachfeld-Paris, founded by a Skidmore alumnus. The other nine students who started the semester in Christchurch continued at other universities in New Zealand. "I want to note that Skidmore Study Abroad was so supportive and reasonable and I'm very appreciative," Nichols said.

#1.2717303:3811562856.jpg christchurch

The Emergency Operations centre at work at the University of Canterbury on the third day after the earthquake

Provided by the University of Canterbury



Skidmore dominates Nichols

By Skidmore Athletics
On Mon, Nov 28, 2011

SARATOGA SPRINGS - Tony Giacini '14 scored a career-high four goals to lead the Skidmore College hockey team to an 8-2 win over Nichols College in the first round of the Skidmore Invitational Tournament, Saturday, Nov. 26 at the Saratoga Springs City Rink.

In the first game, Skidmore took a 3-1 first period lead on goals by Julian Malakorn '13, David Limoges '15 and Erik Nilsson '15. Brett Jackson had the lone Nichols goal.

Giacini started a four-goal Skidmore second period with his first goal of the game at 1:34 for a 4-1 Thoroughbred lead. He made it 5-1 at 6:31. Joe Sposito tallied a power-play goal for Nichols at 9:44, but that would be it for the Bison offense. Giacini rang-up his hat trick at 12:39. Tyler Doremus '12 made it 7-2 at 13:43.

Giacini's fourth goal was a power-play tally at 15:31 of the third. It was his team-high seventh of the season.

Alex Essaris '14 had three assists for Skidmore.

Skidmore outshot Nichols, 44-25. Colin Bessey '12 had 18 saves in the first 45:11 for the win, while John Bienkowski '12 stopped all five shots he saw over the final 14:49. Bison goalie Ryan Casey had 36 saves.

The second game featured a wild finish with five third-period goals, including each team scoring in the final two minutes to force the OT.

Hamilton led 2-0 after the first on a short-handed goal by Bryan Kelly at 11:21 and an unassisted goal by Michael DiMare at 15:50.

Brockport tied it with the first two goals of the second period. Nick Panepinto scored at 3:26 and Adam Shoff evened the score, 2-2, at 12:31. The Continentals took a 3-2 lead into the break when DiMare scored his second of the game with both teams down a man at 15:06.

In the third, Panepinto tied it for the Golden Eagles with his second of the team, a power-play goal at 8:04. Hamilton went back ahead, 4-3, when Anthony Scarpino scored his first of the season, a power-play goal at 9:12. Brockport battled back to tie it 4-4 on a James Cody power-play goal at 14:48.

Scarpino scored what looked like the game-winner for Hamilton at 18:00 when Pat Curtis forced a turnover at the blue line, sending Scarpino in on a breakaway for his second goal of the game to make it 5-4. Down a man, the Golden Eagles pulled goalie Joe Reagan and the gamble paid off when Shoff scored his second of the game, a short-handed goal at 18:50.

Both teams had opportunities in the extra period, but Reagan and Hamilton goalie Cam Gibbar each stopped two shots to preserve the tie.

In the shootout, DiMare and Andrew Jelinek scored for the Continentals, while Gibbar stopped a Brockport shot and forced another wide.

Gibbar finished with 26 saves, while Reagan had 28.



EAC continues campaign for campus-wide sustainability

Members increase involvement in SGA and on-campus initiatives

By Ani Lordkipanidze, Staff Writer

On Wed, Nov 30, 2011

Five members of the EAC, including President Margot Reisner '14 and Vice President Eliza Sherpa '14, will meet with President Philip Glotzbach next week as part of their efforts to increase awareness of sustainability and other environmental issues on campus.

The whole point is that these issues won't depend only upon students - it's going to be an institutional thing, Reisner said. "We should show that we will have a consistent group of students working around these issues."

The EAC has remained active in a number of environmental issues, providing ways for students to become involved. Sherpa suggested three ways in which students can contribute their voices to ongoing concerns: students may submit a comment on <http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/76838.html> The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), sign a http://toxicstargeting.com/MarcellusShale/cuomo/coalition_letter/2011 coalition letter or attend a DEC hearing to show physical support.

In addition to participating in national events, the EAC plans to focus on change relating to the club and its actions, including adding an additional committee to the SGA.

In the SGA Senate meeting on Nov. 29, Talia Arnow '13, leader of the Waste Group subcommittee and a Senate member, presented the achievements of the Sustainability Committee, which underwent a trial period this semester. The committee was approved by a majority vote, and includes a Sustainability senator and seven Willingness-to-serve positions.

The EAC is also considering changing its name to focus on social and economical issues, which it covers in addition to environmental ones, an idea that has been discussed over the past few weeks.

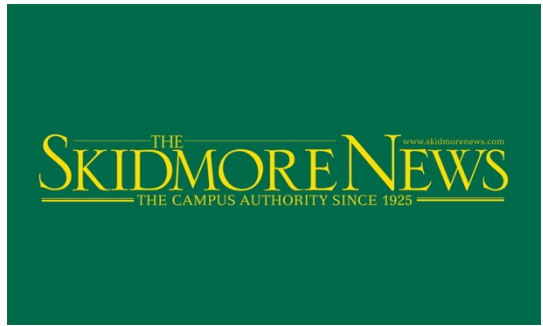
Members said they think the new name should include words such as action, advocates, change, justice, activism, youth, environment and future. One of the most popular options was "Students Advocating for Sustainable Action".

“It’s important to think about why are you changing the name,” said Riley Neugebauer, sustainability coordinator, offering her advice at the Nov. 21 meeting, adding that the club’s name should reflect its actions and should be considered very seriously.

In addition to these changes, the EAC is working on several projects to promote awareness on campus this semester, including creating a community recipe book to sell to students and water drop-shaped stickers in support of the "Take Back the Tap Campaign," an initiative to eliminate bottled water on campus.

Also part of the tap-campaign, the Waste Group subcommittee constructed a seven-foot water bottle filled with recycled water bottles. After the break the EAC will use this giant project to attract students to its table in the Murray-Aikins Dining Hall.

Students also will have the opportunity to participate in several events this weekend, including a Department of Environmental Conservation commentary session, during which students may compose feedback to send to the DEC on its stance on hydrofracking, from 1 to 3 p.m. Dec. 3 in the Spa. Students may also help put the Student Garden to bed in preparation for winter at 1 p.m. Dec. 4.



Comic: Campus Sneaky

By Wyatt Erchak, Cartoonist

On Wed, Nov 30, 2011

Alumni now invited to Skidmore's traditional Tree Lighting Ceremony

Organizers hope the event will bring the community together for the holiday season

By Andrew Shi, Staff Writer

On Wed, Nov 30, 2011

Students may have already noticed the large tree set up in front of the Murray-Aikins Dining Hall in preparation for the College's 23rd annual Tree Lighting Ceremony on Dec. 1, which alumni have been invited to attend for the first time.

The Tree Lighting Ceremony tradition began in 1988 with the College's fifth president, Dr. David H. Porter, who came in from Carleton College in 1987. This year, Annie Delauney, senior assistant director of Alumni Affairs & College Events, and Robin Adams, interim director of Campus Life, met with Rohini Alamgir '12, chairwoman of the Student Government Association's Traditions Committee, to organize the event.

The idea to invite alumni to the Tree Lighting Ceremony stemmed from an initiative of the Alumni Association, the Alumni Board of Directors and the Office of Alumni Affairs to create more opportunities for alumni and students to interact, Delauney said.

"Over the years, Tree Lighting has evolved into a student-run, non-denominational event geared toward unifying the campus community and exemplifying the holiday mood as the school term draws to an end," Alamgir said.

"It's also a wonderful way to keep our alumni connected to the College - we often hear from our alumni that they wish there were more opportunities to speak with current students," Delauney said. "Our hope is that both students and alumni will enjoy this format and that we will be able to partner with the Traditions Committee on this event in the future."

The ceremony will include refreshments, performances by various student a cappella groups and poetry read by President Philip Glotzbach and Director of Religious and Spiritual Life Richard Chrisman.

Several on-campus organizations also will attend the ceremony, including representatives from the Skidmore Shop, the Senior Gift Committee, and Skidmore Cares, which will be accepting donations (non-perishable food, school supplies, clothing etc.) for the Saratoga community during the holiday season.

The Tree Lighting Ceremony will be held from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on Case Green. Organizers encourage attendees to contribute a personal ornament to the tree. After the holiday season, the tree will be planted in a permanent location on-campus in support of the campus wide sustainability initiative.

#1.2720264:1058446965.jpg Tree photo

This tree, stationed outside of the Murray-Aikins Dining Hall, will soon be decorated and lit up at the 23rd Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony.

Savannah Grier/The Skidmore News



Linda Hall chosen by students to give 12th annual Jon Ramsey Lecture

The professor of English encourages students to break out from the confinement of reading lists

By Julia Leef

On Wed, Nov 30, 2011

Professor Linda Hall's office is well-stocked with books, journal articles and newspaper clippings - sources that enabled her to discover other materials and to expand her reading repertoire, a theme that she will discuss in this year's Jon Ramsey Lecture on Dec. 1.

This annual lecture, renamed after former Dean of Students Jon Ramsey in 2004, began in 1999 as an opportunity for academic excellence and community building. Every year student members of the Honors Forum choose a faculty speaker to deliver a lecture on a subject of his or her choice.

Students have the opportunity to choose a faculty member who has been influential to them, said Catherine Golden, director of the Honors Forum. "Many other lectures are based on the curriculum of the department, but what this lecture does is it says to Honors Forum students, who go that extra mile, 'you have an opportunity to choose'."

Hall, who won by a large margin of votes, according to Golden, is an associate professor in the English Department. She has already administered and spoken at a number of gatherings, including this year's First-Year Experience presentation with summer reading author Lorrie Moore and the graduation ceremony of 2007.

"I'm personally thrilled by the choice because Linda is my colleague, and I've heard her speak before," Golden said. "She's passionate, she's funny, she's demanding but also inspiring. These are the things that really stand out in students' comments."

Hall's topic of choice, "Who's Afraid of Self-Reliance?" is something that she said she tries to teach in all of her classes. She believes it is important that students read books that interest them, not just the ones assigned to them by a professor.

"I want people to just not be limited to their professors' preferences," Hall said. "I want to foster in people habits that will last them at least until middle-age. People have to learn to choose their reading on their own and not be dependent on others to choose for them."

One of the issues about which Hall will speak is that of summer reading material, which often consists of the same books across different schools.

"Why, if we believe in diversity in the classroom, don't we believe in diversity when it comes to books?" Hall asked.

One of the ways in which Hall said students could find new reading material is by pursuing a particular subject or work that they found referenced in another book. Instead of referring to a list of suggested reading material, students should feel free to browse on their own and look for topics that they truly find interesting or topics about which they want to learn more, Hall said. She also said that the process by which people learn is more important than what they learn.

Don't ever ask us what we know. Ask us how we learned what we know, said Hall, summarizing another topic she will discuss in her lecture. "People, if they're just set free to choose for themselves, will surprise themselves. You very rarely know what you want until it comes to you."

"I encourage students to come," Golden said. "I think it will be a wonderfully witty and insightful talk."

The lecture is open to the public and will take place at 5:15 p.m. in Gannett Auditorium.



Office of Communications plans a restructured Skidmore website

Administrators take first-year student opinions into account in redesigning the College's webpages

By Adrian Appleman, Contributing Writer

On Wed, Nov 30, 2011

Based on the comments from first-year student focus groups held throughout November, the Office of Communications, in conjunction with the Admissions Office, will execute a complete revamp of the College's online and print publications.

The series of focus groups, conducted annually for the past three years, focuses mainly on first-year students and their experiences with the college admissions process. Administrators for the groups included Daniella Nordin, online community manager, Daniel Forbush, executive director of Communications, Emmeline Taylor '14, a student blogger for the Office of Communications' new proprietary social networking site, Skidmore Student-to-Student, and Peter MacDonald, director of Recruitment Marketing.

One component of this year's focus groups was the implementation of a Facebook community for incoming students. On Oct. 24, the Office of Communications sent out a survey to all first-year students asking for feedback on the admissions process, as well as the College's Facebook pages and applications.

"The results of the survey reinforced that a majority of the students use Facebook as their primary way to connect with people," Nordin said.

Of the 103 first-year students who responded to the survey, 92.2 percent "liked" the Class of 2015 Facebook page, and 87.4 percent subsequently joined the private "Skidmore College" Facebook application.

"Incoming students seemed to love that they could make connections before stepping foot on campus," Nordin said. "One student even said he met his girlfriend through the site."

Further analyses of the feedback from focus groups from this and last semester showed that what students valued most during the admissions process was the personal connections with people who were already part of the college community.



"It's always about the people," said Romeo Makore '15, an international first-year student from Zimbabwe who participated in the Nov. 7 focus group and applied to Skidmore early decision having never visited campus. "Everyone at Skidmore is amazing, and everyone is accepting."

While students approved of the College's outreach on Facebook, overall they disapproved of its main website. "You shouldn't have to dig to find out about the school you want to attend," said Makore said on the difficulties navigating the site. "It should be right in front of you."

"We've known the website needs an update for a while now," Nordin conceded. "That's why we are going through a 'refreshing' period."

Efforts to redesign the website are already under way. Upcoming changes include translating the website into Spanish and Mandarin, soon to be followed by other languages to help promote international student interest.

Another possible change includes converting the "<http://cms.skidmore.edu/admissions/upload/The-Skidmore-Mind.pdf>"> Mind Owner's Manual," an informational manual on the average Skidmore student's mind, into an interactive web application for prospective students.

Further changes to the main website will debut between June and August of 2012, including the current "Creative Thought at Work" campaign evolving into an all-encompassing "Creative Thought Works" branch of the website, expanding it to more than just the alumni profiles offered now.

"What particularly stood out to the students were the alumni stories," said Nordin said. "We are also looking to build web components for these publications."

Edwards and Company, a communications consulting firm that helped develop the College's "Creative Thought Matters" campaign in 2002, worked with the Admissions and Communications departments to redesign the website and refresh the admissions publications.

We wanted a better understanding of 'Creative Thought Matters', said Forbush said, "and how it is interpreted by different audiences - what it means to the greater Skidmore community."

Through the focus groups, along with the "Recruitment Communication Strategy Group," a new coalition of several departments that including the Office of Communications, Admissions, the First-Year Experience, the Web Team, etc., Communications has re-prioritized what to focus on when it comes to refurbishing the website.

"We want more emphasis on story-telling and a focus on the outcomes of a Skidmore education," Forbush said.

With its success in generating productive feedback, the Communications department plans on continuing this series of focus groups for years to come. "Two years ago," Forbush said, "focus groups helped us understand the importance of Facebook in the admissions process. We'll always do this; we always want feedback on how we're doing."