



A Response to “On Skidmore’s Sustainability Ventures”

By Zia O'Neill

Skidmore's sustainability initiatives are not perfect and there is room for improvement. However, Skidmore is working hard to become more sustainable. I was initially excited to read what the Skidmore News Editorial Board had to say about future steps in the editorial “On Skidmore's Sustainability Ventures.” However, I was disappointed in the editorial's representation, depth of coverage, and accuracy of information regarding Skidmore's sustainability ventures.

Sustainability was considered in the design and construction of the new apartments, particularly the utilization of geothermal heating and cooling. Among many efforts, the Northwoods Apartments were built using recycled materials for roofs, doors, and steel frames, windows were designed to maximize daylight, and sustainably harvest wood was used for trims. Spray foam insulation, which far exceeds NYS efficiency standards, was also used in the Sussman apartments.

The editors also stated that they would prefer if Skidmore didn't “spend millions of dollars on flashier improvements” like solar panels. However, the project, which generates 12% of the college's electricity needs, was funded by a 2.35 million dollar grant from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), with additional partnerships with Dynamic Energy and Washington Gas Energy Systems. Michael Hall, the special assistant to the Vice President of Finance and Administration, explained that Skidmore only paid legal fees associated with land permits and to Greenfield. The solar array will pay off these costs by 2017.

Skidmore did in part finance the \$2 million geothermal project, but the college was aided by an \$800,000 grant from the New York State HECAP. Even though it was a large investment, the college estimates they will save \$110,000 each year from not having to purchase natural gas (Neugebauer et al. 2012).

Skidmore Unplugged is currently based in residential halls because they are the only buildings that have individual energy meters. Levi Rogers, sustainability coordinator, explains that the office would like to install more meters, however the office decided to use remaining grant funding to reestablish the garden and renovate the bike share program, which were more inclusive campus initiatives. Unplugged aims to reach the greater Skidmore community through tabling, films, events, dialogues, trivia, and more but the Sustainable Skidmore Office is working to make Unplugged a more inclusive program, and fake energy bills have potential to be a good educational tool.

Other ongoing sustainability initiatives include purchasing recyclable tiled carpet, green seal certified cleaning products, paper goods with recycled content, water bottle refilling stations, zero-sort recycling, paperless offices, the library's paper-cut system, utilizing low VOC paints and adhesives, independent boilers, lighting retrofits, Give + Go, trayless dining, low-flow water fixtures, and much more.

Skidmore is always looking for ways to make additional improvements. However, it is also important to recognize and acknowledge

steps that have already been taken. Levi and Emily in the Skidmore Sustainability Office (Harder 110) are always open to schedule a meeting with members of the Skidmore community about ideas. Additionally, the Environmental Action Club meets Mondays at 9pm in Ladd 207.

Read the original opinion piece, "On Skidmore's Sustainability Ventures," [here](#).

Find More Information At:

<http://www.skidmore.edu/sustainability/index.php>

<http://www.skidmore.edu/news/2014/1007-skidmore-celebrates-solar-array.php>

<http://skidmore.informz.net/InformzDataService/OnlineVersion/Ind/bWFpbGluZ0luc3RhbmNlSWQ9NDM0NzE2NyZzdWJzY3JpYmVySWQ9MTAwMTE0MTg4Mg>

Or Email

Levi at lrogers@skidmore.edu

Emily at edavids1@skidmore.edu

Sources

"Current Initiatives - Buildings." Sustainable Skidmore. Skidmore College, n.d. Web. 17. Nov.

Neugebauer, Riley, Paul Lundberg, Michael Hall, and Daniel Rodecker. "Skidmore College's Innovative District Geothermal System." AASHE. The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education, 6 July 2012. Web. 17 Nov. 2014.

DeGregory, Hanks named Longstreth/NFHCA All-Americans



Skidmore College field hockey junior forward Dani DeGregory and junior defender Jenn Hanks were selected as 2014 Longstreth/NFHCA Division III All-Americans, the NFHCA announced Monday.

DeGregory was named to the first team, while Hanks was a third team honoree.

DeGregory posted the best statistical season in Skidmore history, producing a program-high 38 goals and 91 points. She led the nation in points, points per game (4.14), goals, goals per game (1.73) and ranked fifth in assists (15) and tied for seventh in assists per game (0.68). Her 38 goals and 91 points rank third in Division III history, her 4.14 points per game place her seventh and her 1.73 goals per game rank 10th all-time. She tallied 46 points (19G, 8A) over the final 11 games, including three goals and two assists in the NCAA tournament second round and a goal in the national quarterfinal.

Hanks anchored a Thoroughbreds defense that finished 25th in Division III with a 1.26 goals against average and allowed only four goals in its four postseason contests, including a shutout in the Liberty League final. She recorded one defensive save and was also a major contributor on offense, tying for fourth on the team with seven goals and ranking fifth with 19 points. She also netted game-winning goals against Geneseo and St. Lawrence.

Skidmore finished the season with a record of 18-4 en route to the program's sixth Liberty League title in seven years. The Thoroughbreds advanced to the national quarterfinal for the second consecutive year before suffering a heartbreaking 2-1 overtime defeat against Bowdoin.



The FACT Internship: A Reflection

By Jordan Grapel '16, Contributing Writer

My name is Jordan Grapel and this summer I was in New Haven as part of the FACT internship (Furthering Awareness Community and Technology). The FACT internship is funded by Skidmore Academic Services (SAS), a program that allows students to spend the summer studying a particular disability or assistive technology. SAS will provide a participating student with a \$4000 stipend if he or she can find a facility that is researching their topic of choice and plans to work there for a total of 250 hours over the course of 8-12 weeks.

In my case, I chose to study Autism Spectrum Disorder, I then spent the summer at the Yale Child Study Center. I worked under Dr. Fred Volkmar, Director of the Yale Child Study Center, Chief of Psychiatry at the Yale New Haven Hospital, and the Editor in Chief of the *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*. Together we spent the summer working on a study regarding sensitivity in people diagnosed with Autism. The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual for Mental Disorders, fifth edition (DSM-V) lists hyper or hypo-sensitivity to sensory stimuli as a diagnostic criteria for Autism. Dr. Volkmar and I compared measures of hyper and hypo-sensitivity in subjects with Autism with measures of hyper and hypo-sensitivity in subjects with other mental disorders. Dr. Volkmar tasked me with locating all of the subjects' information through a Yale database while using chi-squares to compare the data. The results of our study are going to be published in the *Yale Journal of Biology and Medicine*.

Dr. Volkmar also put me in charge of reviewing the book, *Puzzled: 100 Pieces of Autism*, by Nilla Childs. *Puzzled* is an autobiography about the life of a woman whose son had undiagnosed Autism for most of his life. The review I wrote for that book was published and is currently in the *Journal of Autism*.

Dr. Volkmar knew this internship was supposed to be a learning experience for me, so he took it upon himself to make sure I spent as much time reading about Autism as I did researching it. He enrolled me in his online Autism class, where several Yale students and I learned everything there is to know about Autism. Dr. Volkmar assigned the class several readings, and had us watch many lectures by him and several other leading professionals in the field of Autism research. That class went over everything from the genetics of autism, to the philosophy of treating and educating people with Autism. I also attended several lectures and panels in Yale's auditorium. Dr. Volkmar and I visited an elementary school for children with disabilities and a facility for adults with Autism to see first hand how this disorder treated.

My favorite part of the internship was that every Tuesday morning I got to sit in on a case review. Dr. Volkmar and several other trained professionals would get together and discuss a young child. They would talk about his/her diagnosis, what his/her parents and teachers had to say about him/her, and what medication, if any he/she was on. Then one of the professionals would sit in a room with the boy or girl and give him/her some sort of test (it varied from child to child) while the rest of us watched via Skype. I enjoyed this because it reflects the exact kind of work I hope to do myself some day therefore it was exhilarating to actually see it right before my eyes.

The FACT internship was an enriching experience that not only allowed me to study Autism, something I wish to do for a career, but it also enabled me to be a published writer. If you are interested in spending the summer researching the disability of your choice, you should definitely consider applying for the FACT internship. To do so contact Jamin Totino in the Starbuck Center. It is a very fulfilling and rewarding experience.



Blue Side: Finding Common Ground: The Importance of a Two-State Solution

By Noah Tananbaum, Contributing Writer

[Weeks ago](#), two Palestinians entered an Orthodox synagogue in Jerusalem and attacked four men, three of whom were rabbis, leaving them dead within moments. The synagogue soon became a bloodbath as the police arrived and a shootout ensued. President Obama condemned the actions, saying, “We have to remind ourselves that the majority of Palestinians and Israelis overwhelmingly want peace.” News reports rarely, if ever, emphasize that Israelis and Palestinians have far more similarities than differences; the media and the political elite in America and throughout the Middle East constantly stress conflict and highlight the notion that there are fundamental differences between the two groups. For vast numbers of both of these groups, this is simply not true. If being a Zionist means that one supports the existence of a Jewish state and homeland, then I am a Zionist. But that does not mean that I in any way condone the actions of the Israeli government when they continually build settlements in areas where they have no jurisdiction. Nor do I excuse the actions of those extremists who seek to dismantle a beacon of democracy and hope for so many Jews.

[Ari Shavit](#), an Israeli columnist, explains that this conflict rests on two fundamental pillars: occupation and intimidation. Generally, liberals overemphasize occupation and underemphasize intimidation while conservatives overemphasize intimidation and underemphasize occupation. If we are to have a nuanced understanding of the conflict, then both of these facets must be taken into account in equal measure. Conservatives are quick to point out that Israel should have a right to defend itself. They often pose the hypothetical, “If Canada attacked us, shouldn’t we have the right to retaliate?” The right to defend oneself is certainly valid, but it is important to understand the implications of retaliation by force and to be aware that those attacking Israel do not represent the vast majority of the Palestinian population. Most of these people are nonviolent. For hundreds (if not thousands) of years, these Palestinian families lived in the land of Israel (then Palestine) quite peacefully. Then, in 1948, many of these families were displaced in the Israeli War of Independence and dispersed throughout the Middle East. The Palestinians deserve to be restored to their rightful home.

Conversely, liberals consistently deride actions that Israel takes, regarding the threats made to its national security and the safety of its people. Israel should be held to a high standard; it is, after all, the only truly democratic country in the region. However, it is naive to expect Israel to refrain from defending itself when at risk. In Israel’s defense, it has implemented the [Iron Dome](#) defense system that shoots rockets out of the sky, harming no one in the process. This past summer, Israel [called](#) the homes of the Gazans in advance of the rocket attacks, warning them to evacuate as quickly as possible. While it is small comfort to the Gazans who lose their homes, there are still very few, if any, countries that would even bother to give a warning. [Walter Reich](#) explains that the criticism Israel receives often leaves it feeling trapped in a conundrum. On the one hand, if they do not take action against the extremists who seek to undermine Israel and everything it stands for, they face certain physical destruction. On the other hand, if they continue to retaliate and be ridiculed, they face moral destruction. Reich argues that this is a lose-lose situation.

Some people conflate Zionism with anti-Palestinian sentiments. While I cannot speak for all Zionists, I can say with complete confidence that the Zionists I know reject that claim. [History](#) tells us that the Jews were banished from the land that is present-day Israel in 70 AD by the Romans and until 1948, the Jewish people were in the Diaspora—the land outside Israel, the land of banishment. The Holocaust was the catalyst for reminding the world of the long and violent history of making Jews into scapegoats

for often convenient and spurious reasons. Again, this does not justify the displacement of the Palestinian people in 1948 or again in 1967 during the Six Day War. I do not believe that Israel should be laying claim to the territories of West Bank and Gaza; this is what happens when Israel is ruled by a war hawk who has little regard for others. This is why a [two-state solution](#) is crucial. This plan would incorporate an independent Palestinian state side-by-side with Israel. It would include returning to the borders before the Six Day War of 1967, in which Israel would forfeit the territories of the Sinai Peninsula and the Golan Heights, among others. Perhaps most importantly, Jerusalem would be divided up between the two peoples and there would be joint access to the holy sites. If we are to be fair and equitable to these two groups of people, the two-state solution is the only logical resolution to this quarrel.

The idea that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is a primordial clash of civilizations that has been raging for time immemorial is simply not true. The conflict's roots stem from the late nineteenth/early twentieth century from such events as the Dreyfus Affair in France, the pogroms of Eastern Europe, the fall of the Ottoman Empire, and Europe's subsequent colonization of the Middle East. Until then, this issue was a dormant one. In order to solve this crisis, it is imperative to bring together moderate people from both sides of this issue. There are many more of them than we are led to believe and they, just like us, want a swift and comprehensive solution. There will always be extreme people who contribute to the terrible events we hear about in the news but there are also incredibly good, decent people doing important work every day. These are the people we need to illuminate and support, regardless of how the media views the situation. Only when the moderate voices drown out those of the extremists will there be any kind of substantial change that will form a path to peace.

Why We Still Watch Football—Sometimes

By Mia Merrill, Sports Editor



Is the corruption of the NFL enough to get fans to turn off their TVs? / Image copyright by National Football League

Aaron Hernandez is a twenty-five year old who has been indicted for three murders. Ben Roethlisberger has been accused of sexual assault in two different states. Michael Vick owned a dogfighting ring, and murdered several dogs. Ray Rice physically assaulted his fiancé. Three of these men are still employed by the National Football League (NFL).

So why do we, as citizens of the modern world, still watch football? Why do we gather together once a week and worship at the altar of hyper-masculinity and glorified violence? Can hometown pride really excuse all of the assaults and arrests? Can tradition override human rights?

All right, I know, that's too many questions. And the American public is probably not going to stop watching football unless God comes down and tells them to—and even then, people would be more inclined to just stop going to church. So we've got two unchangeable parts of a system: players who won't stop misbehaving, and fans who won't stop rewarding the players. It's worthless to tell people to stop watching football, to stop buying the jerseys of players who've committed crimes or otherwise screwed up in the public eye. If those of us who have grown disenchanted with the game could try to understand why it has remained appealing, we may become less judgmental.

When I returned home for a weekend this semester, I saw my mom go through her usual football routine: donning the jersey of her favorite player, watching the pre-game shows, scrolling through her fantasy lineup online, and then finally settling in to watch the big game. But this time, I wasn't rolling my eyes and shutting myself up in my room to avoid hearing her victory cheers. I noticed that my mom was more relaxed while watching the game than she had been all weekend. Even though I disliked the game “ and was still angry over the Ray Rice controversy, despite my home team of the Ravens relinquishing him from his duties on the field—I appreciated how happy my mom was because of it.

Just as working out releases endorphins and can make us happy, reading a book can make us forget about our worries and taking some time to ourselves can rejuvenate us, watching a team sport like football can be therapeutic. Football provides its fans with a sense of community. The fans are united for a common purpose, and may even feel like they are the ones playing the game and fighting for the cause. It can be a distraction from stress, or just something to look forward to. It can make people feel like they are not alone.

So even though my anger at some football players and at the NFL has not subsided, and even though many people share this anger, I understand the importance of watching football. You never know what some people may need to do to relax and to find peace in their day-to-day lives. For some people, that may be watching a game with some pretty corrupt players sponsored by a pretty corrupt organization. But if it makes people happy and able to live their lives, football may be worth it.



Keep Your Elf in Shape: How to Stay Active Over Winter Break

By Brittany Dingler '15, PHE

As the days get shorter and colder, it naturally becomes increasingly hard to find the time and energy to remain active. For those of us who loved our autumn jogs after class, the transition to the harshly lit-room at the Sports Center with its various, hard plastic cardio equipment is not at all desirable. Perhaps even more difficult is the fate of exercise once we get home and find that baking, preparing for the holidays, or visiting with friends and family just feels so much better than renewing our gym membership, huffing out on the road for an icy jog, or futzing around with Wii fit.

However, even if weather does not pose a threat to our workouts (for those lucky Floridians), the change in schedule certainly might.

The transition from structured class days to whatever your winter schedule might be likely also affects your "normal" workout time. As a result, whether in Florida or Alaska, you may very well be at risk of feeling the effects of inactivity this winter break. For some, this inactivity may serve to exacerbate an impending dangerous dip in overall energy levels. For others, Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) poses a real threat during the winter months as it brings on symptoms of depression, irritability, fatigue, and a greater need for sleep.

So how do we avoid the looming sedentary lifestyle of winter break? Try out the following fun ways to break a sweat!

1. No need to join a gym! Choose from one of many apps that helps you find a fun indoor workout for anything from yoga to burpees (yes, everyone's favorite). I personally recommend the Johnson & Johnson 7 Minute Workout App or Yogify (both free!).
2. Bundle up and get outside! Grab a friend, relative, dog, or all three and head out on a trail walk. This is a great option if you're feeling a bit under the weather and don't feel quite up to a full-body workout. Whether you're home or visiting family, you can find a nice trail by going to USA Track & Field (<http://www.usatf.org/routes/>). Feeling a bit more competitive? Try out Running in the USA (<http://runningintheusa.com/Race/>) for 5K, trail races, half marathons and any other feat you might want to tackle.
3. Don't have the time to devote to scheduled workout? Here are some suggestions for fitting in activity into your normal day. Whether shopping, exchanging Meema's cat sweater, or window shopping, try to make a game of creating the longest possible distance between stores so you can get some extra steps into your shopping adventures. If you'll be in a snowy area, volunteer to get out that snow shovel and burn about 400 calories per hour! If you celebrate Christmas, Time Healthland says you can burn 85 calories decorating the Christmas tree or 48 calories wrapping presents in just half an hour!

Regardless of how you choose to break a sweat this winter break, studies show that short-term benefits of exercise include elevated mood, productivity, and relaxation. So do your best to get up, get moving, and have fun!



Club Profile: Democracy Matters

By Billie Kanfer '16, Features Editor

It has been brought up time and again that Skidmore students do not care about politics. After this past midterm election, the data showed that (although absentee ballots were not accounted for) approximately 20 percent of the study body voted at Skidmore on election day. The total percentage is certainly higher considering absentee ballots (This statistic for which could not be found). Still, a club at Skidmore has taken the initiative to change this ambivalence for politics. Democracy Matters is a club that began last year and currently has seven avid members. Meeting every Tuesday night at 8 p.m. in Bolton 282, the club strives to “make the campus more politically engaged and interested in money and politics,” secretary James Rider '16 said. Democracy Matters is led by Cara Cancelmo '16, Rachel Castellano '16, and Elena Veatch '16.

Rider finds that the club is “small but strong.” They are a non-partisan club and don't care what side you sway towards. They want to increase membership and hope to do so by informing the student body that they aren't exclusive solely to those active in politics. As Rider states, “the E-Board wants to teach but they're also learning alongside each other.”

Democracy Matters recently participated in ConsentFest where they distributed politics-related condoms that read, “don't get screwed by politicians.” Recently they have also put up posters around campus to promote awareness of their club and the notion that they are open to anyone on campus who has the urge to make a difference. Democracy Matters wants students to become involved because, where money influences politics so heavily, only the collective voice can create change. As Rider quotes the line perhaps made famous by the West Wing, “decisions are made by those who show up.” When asked what he thinks of the student involvement with politics on campus, Rider answered, “people are disengaged because they don't think what they say matters.” However, He begs to differ, believing that “students need to care.”

Democracy Matters encouraged voter registration this past election and made short video clips which are posted on the Government department's website and Facebook. They will host a movie screening of *Pay 2 Play* on Tuesday, Dec. 9 at 5:30 p.m. in Emerson Auditorium. The documentary follows filmmaker John Ennis on his quest to find a way out from under the Pay 2 Play System (a system where Politicians reward their donors with large sums from the public treasury). They encourage any and everyone to attend, as there will be refreshments and a great movie to watch!



Rise in Visual Literacy Across Campus

By Billie Kanfer '16, Features Editor

Skidmore College has seen an increase in the study of media at Skidmore in media studies within the last year. From the media and film studies minor, to Project VIS, and the John B. Moore Documentary Studies Collaborative (MDOCS), Skidmore has broadened its scope of what they include in academic and extracurricular studies. Recently, Library room 113 has become devoted to Visual Literacy, housing both the Visual Literacy Forum and the MDOCS studies program. Led by Professor Jordana Dym, Interim Director, the newly inaugurated program is in full swing as many classes have been and will continue to be offered. After two years of faculty and staff meeting to discuss adding documentary programming as a Skidmore resource, it was made possible by donor Jim Towne, who is related to Skidmore's second President, Henry T. Moore (1925-1957) and John B. Moore, after whom the MDOCS program is named. Towne hoped that students would use practical skills and local history to become proficient documentarians.

Professor Dym says that MDOCS originated from a culmination of ideas drawn from various humanities and social sciences departments. Faculty and staff were separately talking about the concept of documenting history and finally, through the accessibility of this donation, were able to make documentary studies come to life.

When speaking to Professor Dym, I asked her why this program will not be offered as a major or minor. She answered that, "its purpose is to serve everyone's students. Everyone can tell their own story, no matter what department they claim to be their major/minor." This reflects the mission of MDOCS: "presenting the stories of the human experience in documentary media and technologies" where anyone can participate and the studies are not limited to a particular subject matter.

Students are encouraged to take these doc studies classes and even research alongside faculty to pursue these methods of documenting. There are currently several projects in the making, including documenting the 60th Anniversary of the Saratoga Springs Senior center, an exhibit created by Skidmore history students that is going to be displayed at the Saratoga Springs History Museum. Also in the making is an oral history of retired Skidmore faculty and staff. These projects are all-inclusive and strive to engage the student body. On the MDOCS website, one can find other students who have immersed themselves in this new program and are pursuing their own documentary studies.

MDOCS is part of an overarching theme at Skidmore—a theme of Visual Literacy. Professor Dym says that these initiatives make us "better at living in a visual world." Between these new programs being offered, it is apparent that Skidmore is striving to cater towards a much more contemporary world, while continuing the storytelling aspect of our history through MDOCS. "We want to encourage evidence-based storytelling creatively, compellingly, and clearly" concludes Professor Dym as she asks that students partake in these new initiatives and take advantage of the various new courses.

Click here to find out more about MDOCS: <http://www.skidmore.edu/mdocs> and Project VIS <http://www.skidmore.edu/project-vis/>

Skidmore Polo Club Under SGA Review



By Janine Kritschgau' 18, Staff Writer

The Student Government Association (SGA) has undertaken an assessment of the Skidmore College Polo Club to determine the future of the relationship between the two. The heart of the matter is a concern about the rising costs of Polo Club, which as a SGA chartered club receives funds from the association. So far, the association has reviewed past finances of the club and future budget trajectories to inform a decision which will determine the future funding granted to the Club from the SGA's annual budget of about \$775,000 dollars.

The Polo Club used to be a Varsity Sport until it was stripped of its title in 1989. After the program turned into a club, its string of ponies was slightly downsized and moved to a stable 35 minutes away. Since then, the club has won national championships, and has relocated to just five minutes from campus. Currently, the Polo Club hosts 32 due-paying members and 14 horses.

The Polo team hopes to be granted additional funding. Last year, the Club received an estimated \$25,000 annually from outside donors, in addition to the \$50,000 dollars from SGA. According to the association, this year, “SGA expects to spend between \$60,000 and \$70,000 on the club...due to an unreasonably high fundraising expectation and the inevitability of unexpected...costs.”

Despite high costs, the Polo team notes that it is the least expensive riding program available to students at Skidmore, with dues at \$670 (JV and Varsity) and \$400 (Beginners) for a year of riding. Other options available are Physical Activity courses for credit at Van Lennep riding stable, at about \$1,600 dollars per year. The Division III riding team members pay about \$2,100 dollars a year to ride and show.

However, SGA has also voiced concerns relating to the health and management of the horses. The Club assured SGA that they are fully equipped to take care of their horses, and in an email highlighted the expertise of barn managers hired to care for horses, the fact that no “major incidents” have occurred in any one of the total 5000 polo practices held, and offered a letter of recommendation from the stable veterinarian. The Club hopes to assure the SGA of the club's stability.

The Polo Club does not wish to comment extensively on the evaluation. However, Club President William Miller did note that the club is “patiently awaiting updates from SGA,” and feels “the matter is being handled professionally.”

Reel Talk: Winter Preview



By Sean van der Heijden

As we get closer to break, a ton of producers are churning out movies for all the people home for the holidays. A ton of big-budget films—like the final film in the Hobbit Trilogy, Exodus: Gods and Kings, Angelina Jolie's WWII biopic Unbroken, and the fairytale musical Into the Woods—are all slated for release in the coming weeks. Here are a few more under-the-radar films that look promising and might be worth seeking out:

Wild: dir. Jean-Marc Vallée, starring Reese Witherspoon and Laura Dern.

In her first serious role in almost 10 years, Witherspoon is getting a ton of attention for leading this true life drama about a woman who embarks on a 1,000 hike along the Pacific coast. Laura Dern plays her drug-addicted mother, and both roles look pretty raw and gritty. Wild comes out this weekend on Dec. 5.

A Most Violent Year: dir. J.C. Chandor, starring Jessica Chastain and Oscar Isaac.

A drama about an immigrant father (Isaac) struggling to keep his family afloat in 1980s NYC, Chandor's latest film is hinging its success on Chastain's brutal performance as the corrupt wife of Isaac's businessman. The film looks clean and moody, and could surprise audiences. It opens on New Year's Eve.

American Sniper: dir. Clint Eastwood, starring Bradley Cooper and Sienna Miller.

While Eastwood has had a couple misses lately in terms of his directorial efforts, this one looks really intense. The true story of Chris Kyle—the most deadly sniper in US history—the film is aiming to take a realistic look at the effects of war without glorifying Kyle's achievements. The film opens on Christmas Day in limited release and goes wide on Jan. 16.

Still Alice: dirs. Richard Glatzer and Wash Westmoreland, starring Julianne Moore, Kristen Stewart, Alec Baldwin, and Kate Bosworth.

A few months ago, nobody had heard of this film, but now Julianne Moore's performance is almost guaranteed to win her a long-deserved Oscar. Centered on a linguistics professor (Moore) who gets diagnosed with early-onset Alzheimer's disease, it's a crushing and taut looking film definitely worth watching. It opens on Jan. 16.

Big Eyes: dir. Tim Burton, starring Amy Adams, Christoph Waltz, Jason Schwartzman, Krysten Ritter, and Terrence Stamp.

Burton hasn't really had a good live-action film since *Sweeney Todd* seven years ago. *Big Eyes* could go either way, but represents a change from the dark zaniness of his most recent films into something a bit more accessible. Based on pop-culture artist Margaret Keane and the husband who claimed to have painted all her works, the film opens just in time for Christmas.

Some other films coming out soon are Paul Thomas Anderson's drug-fueled adaptation of Thomas Pynchon's *Inherent Vice* and Chris Rock's comedy about acting *Top Five*, both of which open on Dec. 12. Also, the Seth Rogan-James Franco comedy *The Interview* about assassinating North Korea's dictator opens for Christmas. Liam Neeson reprises his role as Bryan Mills one last time for *Taken 3*, which opens Jan. 9, along with the MLK historical drama *Selma* about the fight for civil rights in the 1960s—which has recently been surprising a lot of critics, but has yet to screen for audiences.

*One notable omission: *The Imitation Game*—about WWII logician Alan Turing and starring Benedict Cumberbatch and Keira Knightly—was slated for release on Nov. 21 and thus made my Fall Preview earlier in the year. However, it was pushed into a limited release on Nov. 28 and goes wide on Dec. 12. It looks great and has been getting pretty solid reviews.

Reel Talk: “The Theory of Everything” is simplistic, moving, and kind of magical.



By Sean van der Heijden

Based on a true story, “The Theory of Everything” retells the relationship between renowned scientist Stephen Hawking and his ex-wife Jane Wilde. Hawking has become famous not only for his revolutionary theories on physics and cosmology, but also for battling with ALS for the majority of his life. What you may not know, though, is how Hawking started out, and that’s where the film begins.

Directed with surprising fluidity by James Marsh (best known for his documentary *Man on Wire*), the only words I can come up with to describe this film are extremely—but appropriately—British: delightful, charming, lovely. Despite the many heavy themes handled within the film, the overall feeling is one of hope and levity. It is astonishing to see the characters overcome so much simply out of their love for each other, and their love of a life riddled with hardships.

Eddie Redmayne (*Les Misérables*) portrays Hawking with wonderful charm and charisma. His performance is a heartbreaking tour de force—both emotionally and physically challenging; Redmayne is simply astonishing in his role. It’s easy to take it for granted while watching the film, but the way Redmayne is able to contort his body, face, and speech as if he were suffering from ALS is remarkable. Stephen Hawking has even commented that at certain points in the film, he felt like he was watching himself. That’s how good it is—a must-see achievement, and a shoe-in for a Best Actor nomination this Oscar season.

While this film certainly belongs to Redmayne, Felicity Jones is gives a subtle, yet powerful performance as Hawking’s wife. The anguish she portrays while watching her husband slowly deteriorate is crushing, but her optimism and refusal to give up during their 30-year marriage comes through just as strongly. Jones has been putting out solid work in supporting roles for a while now, and it’s great to see her rise up to the challenges that this role presents. While not as obviously affecting as Redmayne’s performance, it’s really a beautiful turn.

The whole film is beautiful, actually, and shot with incredible detail. A lot of focus is put on circles and spirals—on how everything is interconnected and important in its own way. The overall message is really heartwarming, the musical score is genuinely uplifting, and the whole tone of the film is designed to inspire. Okay—that might sound a little ridiculous, but it is really inspiring, and you just can’t miss out on the performances.

Overall: 8 out of 10.



Editorial: On the Role of Health Services on Campus

By the Editorial Board

Skidmore provides a number of essential services for its students. The school feeds us, keeps us safe, and provides health services. Anyone who has been seriously ill knows that your health takes priority. Being sick, especially when you are away from your family at school, takes a significant toll on your ability to keep up with class work and participation in college life. It is in the best interest of the College to provide affordable and effective services to keep its students healthy. The Editorial Board believes that Skidmore's Health Services' is not as productive and beneficial to its students as it could or should be.

Health Services employs a number of policies that do not serve its students as well it could. The [office is closed](#) on Saturdays and open 9 am to 5 pm, with one hour for lunch, during the week. We understand that the office is limited in its staffing and funding, but these hours make it difficult for a busy student to stop by for a check-in. Students can-- and should-- make appointments to ensure availability, but students frequently hope to just drop in for a quick consultation. Closing the office entirely on Saturday, the first day in the week when most students are truly free, poses a significant inconvenience that could preclude students from seeking timely health care. And that's for the students who know where Health Services is located, many do not. The addition of awkward hours for students who have class from 9-5 and poor visibility results in a poor reputation.

The office should launch an advertising and awareness campaign on campus. If students-- especially first years-- were made aware of the [services available in the first floor](#) of Jonsson Tower, they would be more likely to seek out the office in case of health issues. Furthermore, with Health Services not currently promoting itself, the only impression is the one from students. The office should speak up to improve its reputation on campus.

The office could also engage in outreach to students, reaching out on a personal level (as well as practical) to allow students to connect a face to the office. Liaising with the [Peer Health Educators](#), through Health Services, would allow Health Services to reach the student body through their peers. Certain offices ([Peer Advocates](#), for example) work with the First Year Experience to present their services to first year seminars. Health Services could organize a similar seminar to make first year students aware of the variety of services available.

Making several changes in how Health Services represents itself on campus would make a difference in how students perceive the service.

Campus Safety Reports Nov.21-27



Friday Nov. 21

College Violation 09:29 PM: RP reports a noise complaint. Dispatched officer reports subject lowered music at that time.

Suspicious Activity 09:31PM: RP reports while responding to a noise complaint observing four male subjects located near the bike shed outside acting suspiciously. Violation of college policy regarding drugs reported.

College Violation 11:06 PM: RP called to report a noise complaint. Dispatched officers report residents observed in violation of college policies.

College Violation 11:20PM: Officers report a noise complaint. Officers spoke with students who have complied with request to disperse or lower the volume.

College Violation 11:53PM: RP reports a noise complaint. Dispatched officers report loud music lowered. Additional violations observed involving drugs and alcohol. Report issued.

Saturday Nov. 22

College Violation at Howe Hall 12:20 AM: RP reports loud noise and suspicious odor. Dispatched Officers report call unfounded.

College Violation at Moore Way 12:55AM: RP reports a noise complaint. Dispatched Officers report loud music and loud talking lowered upon request.

Fire Alarm 03:00AM at Dayton Drive: Fire alarm activation received. Dispatched Officers and Maintenance. Fire Department notified. Officers report cause of alarm due to cooking. Report issued.

Suspicious Activity at Case Center Lot 6:30PM: RP reports a suspicious person by the dormitories. Officer dispatched reports subject identified. No further problems.

Fire Alarm at Whitman Way 08:52PM: Fire alarm activation received. Officers, Maintenance and SSFD dispatched. Activation due to aerosol can spray. Report issued.

Sunday Nov. 23

College Violation at Sussman Apartments 01:07AM: RP reports a noise complaint. Dispatched officer reports speaking to the residents who agreed to lower the volume.

College Violation at Mccellan Hall 01:31AM: RP reporting loud subjects in lobby. Officer dispatched and subjects GOA.

Criminal Mischief at Mccellan Hall 01:57AM: Officer reports a broken light cover. Damage recorded. Report issued.

College Violation at Whitman Way 02:00AM: RP reports noise complaint. Officer dispatched report call unfounded. No noise detected.

Monday Nov. 24

College Violation-Noise at Wilmarth Hall 12:48AM: RP reports loud music. Officer reports student turned music down.

Campus Safety Assist at Kimball Hall 9:19AM: RP states person(s) unknown tried to start a fire in the covered entrance. Officer dispatched to take report.

Harassment at North Hall 2:00PM: RP reports mechanical harassment to Skidmore cell phone. Report taken.

Animals at Palamountain 6:43PM: RP reports a bat flying in the hallway. Officer unable to locate bat at this time.

Tuesday Nov. 25

Suspicious Odor at Jonnson Tower 7:45PM: RP reports an odor of incense. Officer dispatched, report taken.

Wednesday Nov. 26

Liquor Law Violation at Wait Hall 10:03AM: RP requests an Officer respond to confiscate found alcohol. Report generated.

Fire Alarm-Other at Sussman Apartment A 1:26PM: Fire alarm activation received. Units dispatched, due to cooking. Report generated.

Thursday Nov. 27

Power Outage 12:30AM: Unplanned power outage campus wide. Power restored, report generated.

Power Outage 11:47AM: Experiencing a campus wide power out at this time, power restored. Report generated.

Skidmore Seeks to Increase International Student Presence



The more the merrier. Courtesy of Skidmore.edu

by Noa Maltzman' 18, Staff Writer

Ten years ago, less than one percent or fewer than 20 of Skidmore's students were international. Today that number has significantly increased, as ten percent of the freshman class and 8.7 percent of the overall student body do not hold U.S. citizenship.

The increased interest among international applicants for a Skidmore education is also reflected in application trends. Whereas Skidmore had 600 international applications in 2012, last year the college had 1600 applications from abroad. Skidmore's appeal to international students is more than just coincidence—it is the result of a deliberate strategy on the part of the admission's office.

While Skidmore's growth inevitably stems in part from increasing worldwide demand for a U.S. education, Skidmore's growth is much more dramatic than what is happening at most U.S. campuses. According to a recent report from the Institute of International Education, Skidmore's growth far outpaces national trends. During this ten-year period, Skidmore's increase in international students has increased almost 1000 percent. The national population of international undergraduate students has increased approximately 66 percent.

Unlike prospective American applicants (especially those in the Northeast corridor), many international students are not able visit Skidmore before they apply, or even before they arrive for their first day. As a result, international outreach is particularly important for institutions, such as Skidmore, that want to have a global footprint.

In addition to having to confront that many international applicants can't visit Saratoga Springs, recruitment of international students is also challenging because of their unfamiliarity with U.S. schools. As a result, key strategies for increasing international enrollment include educating international high school counselors about Skidmore and its offerings and meeting prospective students in their home countries.

“The biggest challenge [for international student recruitment], if you are not Harvard, Yale, Princeton, UCLA, etc., is name recognition and students being willing to go to an institution that they have not heard of before,” explains Vice President for Enrollment at Puget Sound University Jenny Rickard.

Although Skidmore admission's officers have been traveling internationally for the past 15-20 years it wasn't until the last eight to

ten years that they have increased their global presence.

Some things that Skidmore has done to help with this issue is that “we have traveled more consistently internationally, attended more conferences dealing with international admissions, and we have teamed up with 9 other upstate NY colleges/universities to offer a summer tour of the region for international guidance/college counselors,” said Ken Dunbar, member of the Skidmore Class of 2000 and Associate Director of Admissions and Coordinator of International Admissions.

One of the biggest pieces of advice for focusing on international student recruitment from admissions counselors around the world is the need to focus on one region instead of multiple regions. This is because admissions counselors at colleges need to build “relationships with schools, counselors and students” said Rickard.

Consistent with this, Skidmore's admissions officers attempt to build international enrollment by focusing on key markets and building strong relationships with counselors. “Of course we add new schools each year, but there is always the core schools in each city that we visit” Dunbar said. Cities that Skidmore consistently visit include: Istanbul, Athens, Thessaloniki, Hong Kong, Singapore, Shanghai, Shenzhen, Johannesburg, Amman, Sao Paulo, Buenos Aires, Lima and Quito.

For both international and American students, the cost of higher education is an important factor in a family's decision to send a child to a particular school. To enhance international access, Skidmore has become a member of the Davis United World College Scholars program. This is a privately funded program that helps to bring international students to American campuses and pays a portion of their tuition. And, unlike some schools, Skidmore does provide some aid for international students. “We have been smart with the limited financial aid we have for international students,” explains Dunbar.

While reaching out to students and counselors is important, the secret to Skidmore's success is what people think of the campus and Skidmore. As Dunbar explains, “being in NY helps a lot and having business and other ‘pre-professional’ programs is a nice feature of our curriculum that goes a long way internationally.” Skidmore's reputation for providing academic support and helping international students master English -- and even its U.S. News and World Report ranking-- makes Skidmore attractive to international students.

It were these factors that led Freshman Cen (Tammy) Liang from China to Skidmore. For Liang, she had narrowed her college process down to wanting to attend a liberal arts college in New York because “I like New York and my friend studies here [in NY].” After narrowing it down, she then did research on liberal arts colleges in NY and learned about Skidmore. She looked at both the Skidmore college website and Skidmore's ranking on US News and to her both seemed very good.

Perhaps the most important factor in increasing Skidmore's international enrollment is by making sure those who have come to Skidmore share their experiences with prospective students. “Hearing happiness directly from a student is better than anything admissions can do,” Dunbar exclaimed.

Looking ahead at the next ten years, Skidmore's goals include increasing the student body's international cohort by ten percentage points, up from its current 8.7 percent. Ten percent of this year's freshman class is international, and so Skidmore looks well on its way to achieving this goal.

Residential Life Makes Changes



Apparently not the only blueprints in Res Life's desk. Courtesy of Skidmore.edu

By Noa Maltzman '18, Staff Writer

In the past year, The Office Of Residential Life, headed by Interim Director Ann Marie Przywara, has implemented several changes. The first includes the elimination of the Head Resident position.

Last year Skidmore had what was called Head Residents. These were undergraduate students, normally juniors or seniors, who oversaw the Residential Advisors (RA) within their dormitory and worked with the Area Coordinator to help with the running of the residence halls and Apartments. Skidmore was “unique having student building managers and it wasn't a uniqueness that made our colleagues at other res life institutions say wow that is a great opportunity,” Przywara said. Colleges like Skidmore that had Head Residents were trying phase them out because there were not many benefits to having them.

In previous years, the Head Residents had direct supervision of the RAs. In turn, the Area Coordinators, who are trained full time professionals, had direct supervision of the Head Residents and Unit Assistants (UA), but indirect supervision of the RAs. This year Residential Life has streamlined the hierarchy so that Area Coordinators directly supervise the RAs, too. Simplification should have perceivable benefits. “I think having direct supervision of RA's and UA's gives us a really good opportunity to be developmental with them and to give them some skill training with a skill set they can use even beyond Skidmore,” Przywara says.

Eliminating the position of Head Resident is the first of Residential Life's two big changes. Last year Residential Life had four main responsibilities: programming and events within the residential life, housing, student conduct and off-campus relations. This year, though, oversight of student conduct has been given to Campus Life, directed by David Karp and Assistant Director of Student Conduct Erin Dagle.

Residential Life still deals with first and second level AOD violations, but most violations are now managed by the Office of Campus Life. As such, they have much more time to deal with other student issues. For example, “last year if you were a first year student, second, third or fourth year student and had housing related concerns, was worried about a friend who was experiencing a crisis, [then] we probably wouldn't see you in the same day. It would probably be a couple of days later because our schedule was filled with a lot of student conduct meetings,” Przywara says. “Now if you call even at 10:30 [in the morning] we can probably see you like early afternoon because we are budgeting time and being strategic about that, to give time and space to help students as immediately as possible and get them connected to resources.”

Residential Life also has implemented smaller changes that include requiring RAs to send in weekly reports and creating a student-staff advisory board. They are also looking at residence hall traditions because, as Przywara says, they don't feel that students have a real sense of connection to their residence hall. Expect more changes to come.

Blurbs Overheard



Just a few blurbs overheard

By Jenn Florence, Pulp Editor

"Think about it. Witch doctors in a target parking lot." Overheard in Northwoods

"I'm not an animal. I'm an accent." Overheard in Zankel

"Field guide to Americans: white power hairstyles" Overheard in the library

"Existentialism is a more productive nihilism." Overheard in Northwoods

"I missed my appointment with the CDC. I hope that's not a metaphor for my future." Overheard in Case

Letter to the Editor: In Response to "Editorial: On the Role of Health Services on Campus"



By Patricia Bosen, Clinical Director Health Services

I am writing to respond to your recent [article about Health Services](#).

We recently sent a satisfaction survey to all students and I will use some of that data as well as our annual statistics to respond to your article. Our survey sample size was 347 students and represented all class years fairly evenly.

Health Services had a total of 6,325 visits last year (Fall '13 and Spring '14). This represents 1943 unique students and 75% of the student population. When we look at our statistics every year, the highest utilization of Health Services is by either freshmen or sophomore students.

Although we are not open on Saturdays, we are open on Sundays from 12-5 PM and see an average of 15 students per Sunday. According to the survey, 60% of students are aware of Sunday hours. Our staffing is limited on Sundays (one RN and either a nurse practitioner or physician) but being open one day of the weekend certainly is helpful to students who may not be able to get there otherwise.

We asked students why they were not coming to Health Services and 84% of the respondents stated that they have not needed the services. Only 3% stated that they did not know the services existed. Many students have commented that they like the fact that we are located in a res. hall as it makes us more accessible to them.

The article discussed that students frequently hope to “just drop in for a quick consultation.” There are always two registered nurses and a nurse practitioner available to see students on a walk-in basis anytime the office is open. According to our survey, 97% of students were aware that we had walk-in visits available and 73% of the respondents stated that their most recent visit was as a walk-in. Just like visiting a provider at home, Urgent Care or the ER- there may be times that students have to wait to be seen but once they are in an exam room- we spend as much time as we need to listening to concerns, educating and treating. Our website lists appropriate reasons for both walk-in visits and appointments. A student who has an acute illness, a general medical problem, injury, needs an immunization or lab work as ordered by an outside provider should come as a walk-in. We schedule appointments for more chronic issues, GYN exam/problems, birth control counseling, visits with the nutritionist, physicals for travel abroad, STI testing and

counseling. If a student is unsure whether they should come in as a walk-in or appointment, we encourage them to call us and ask.

The recent satisfaction survey revealed that most students are satisfied with the services we provide and the overall attitude toward Health Services is positive. I know that there are always areas for improvement and certainly welcome any further discussions you would like to have regarding ways to improve the work that we do. It is sometimes difficult to be out on campus promoting ourselves when the work at the office is so busy. That's when working with student groups and others across campus is essential. This semester, we have had several strategic planning meetings with the Counseling Center and the Office of Health Promotion with the goal of serving students better, this work will be on-going. We have worked with the PHEs on projects to promote Health Services and have also worked with other student groups including VOX, SCEMS, and the Center.

Sincerely,

Patty Bosen