

## What to Expect from the Tang: Spring 2015



Photo by Ryan Davis '17

By Janine Kritschgau '18

A new exhibit, titled *Realms of Earth and Sky*, is coming to the Tang Teaching Museum. The exhibit will feature Indian paintings created between the 15th and 19th centuries and is intended to inspire conversations of religion, culture, and beauty. The official opening reception will be held in the museum on Feb. 7, which will unveil not only this exhibit but also two others: Elevator Music 28: Morton Subotnick- Silver Apples of the Moon, and Nicholas Krushenick: Electric Soup.

At 7-8:30 p.m. on Feb. 25, Skidmore Professor of Religion Eliza Kent will lecture students about Hindu medicine to add background to the themes of the exhibit. On Feb. 28 there will also be an Indian festival where music, art, dance, and food will be available. The Hayat club is an organizer of this event.

At 7 p.m. on April 2 Skidmore will host guest lecturers Molly Aiken and Dipti Khera, experts in Rajput painting. They will speak to students about pleasure in South Asian paintings. On April 14 at noon, Skidmore's own Rachel Silgman, Tang assistant director of curatorial affairs, and Saleema Waraich, assistant professor of art history, will be guiding a tour of the exhibit.

For students who feel inspired to create artwork themselves, there will be a Miniature Painting Workshop on Friday, April 17, noon-2 p.m. and 2:30-4:30 p.m. Reservations are required for this workshop, and can be made by calling 518-580-8080.

To learn more about the exhibit, download the free app, *Realms of Earth and Sky*, or pick up a catalog of the exhibit that contains essays, notes, and information put together by the curators.

The Tang Hours:

Tuesday noon-5

Wednesday noon-5

Thursday noon-9

Friday noon-5

Saturday noon-5

Sunday noon-5

## Just Keep Swimming: Training Trip 2015

By Katherine Kuklewicz '15



Katherine Kuklewicz '15 shares memories from the Swimming & Diving Training Trip / Photo by Skidmore Athletics

Each year during winter break, the Skidmore Swimming and Diving Team travels to Ponce, Puerto Rico for a week of high-intensity training. We train in Puerto Rico because of the island's many available fifty-meter long course swimming pools. The long pool helps lengthen our strokes and greatly increase our endurance. Though we spent approximately four hours in the pool each day, we also took advantage of Puerto Rico's beautiful weather and warm beaches. Whether that entailed laying by the resort's pool, playing water volleyball, catching the local iguanas, or walking along the beach, each of us enjoyed spending our free time with our teammates. In addition, we had the opportunity to swim and race against Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

During two of the days, we only swam in the morning so that we could travel around Puerto Rico. This year we organized two afternoon trips. On the first afternoon, a number of us took a bus to the northern city of Old San Juan. Old San Juan has numerous shops, restaurants, museums, and even an old fortification to explore. The second trip was to a bay where the team snorkeled around many tropical reefs and mangrove islands. The native guides would dive for underwater treasures, like sea cucumbers and lobsters, which we got to hold. Once the sun had set, we traveled to a bioluminescent bay, where we jumped in and triggered the water's luminescence. With each movement the water sparkled neon blue, like shooting stars all around you. It was a magnificent experience, which we will all remember.

It seems to have become a Skidmore Swimming and Diving tradition that on our last day in Puerto Rico, our team has the opportunity to jump off five, seven and even 10-meter diving boards. Now, I can tell you from experience that the 10-meter board is not for the faint of heart. Though it may look harmless from the ground, once atop the large platform you can see much of Ponce City and the island's northern mountain range. To put it in perspective, 10-meters is roughly the equivalent of jumping off a three-story building. To this day, I remember leaping off the monstrous board as a first year swimmer, hoping that I would land in the "small-looking" diving well below. However terrifying it may have been, the view from the top is unforgettable, and it was truly a worthwhile experience. Each training trip, the new swimmers are eager to be the first to conquer the 10-meter, while all of us upperclassmen cheer them on from the pool deck. The 10-meter board is a wonderful way to end our training trip and to say farewell to the tropical island.

Now that we are back at Skidmore, our training remains challenging and fun. Coach Jill Greenleaf and Assistant Coach Ryan Bremser continue to write difficult swimming sets to maintain our technique, while Coach Dave Longbrake encourages the divers to perform more complex dives. You may be wondering what all of this strenuous training is leading up to. At the end of the season, Feb. 18-21, we will travel to Rochester, New York, where we will compete in the four-day Upper New York State Collegiate Swimming Association (UNYSCSA) Championship Swimming and Diving meet. Though each race is physically exhausting, our hard work and enhanced stamina from the season will pay off. It is at this meet where all of us, more often than not, achieve best times in many of our events. Words cannot begin to describe the euphoria you feel at the end of a race when you look up at the timing board and see the fastest time you have ever swum. In addition to personal accomplishments, the team frequently breaks school records, both in relay events and individual swims. As always, when we are not swimming, it is a pleasure to applaud and support our teammates in the water. I am sure I speak for many swimmers when I say that swimming is a difficult sport, but it has

become our passion, which ultimately unites us as a family.

Click [here](#) to see a video by Skidmore Athletics about the 2015 training trip

## Editorial: On Skidmore's Future General Education Requirements



Photo taken by Skidmore College Instagram

By the Editorial Board

Skidmore's long-standing general education requirements are finally up for review by the College. What exactly the changes to the core curriculum will look like is so far unclear. It's a complicated topic, with significant implications, and the Editorial Board had trouble coming to a consensus on what Skidmore's core curriculum should look like. We concluded that the future of Skidmore's General Education requirements ultimately comes down to how Skidmore wants to treat its students.

On the one hand, Skidmore is a liberal arts institution. Liberal, most literally implying individual freedoms, could be interpreted as meaning a school with no requirements at all. If Skidmore is a liberal institution, designated to prepare its students for life after college, should we not be treated as adults while we are here?

One could argue that students should have a choice in what kind of requirements they must take, and that not all nine must be fulfilled before graduation. One could also argue that students need no babysitting at all, and that requirements should be excluded from the curriculum altogether. One of Skidmore's boasting points is that it asks its students to step outside of their comfort zones, through its general requirements. But what about when those requirements get in the way of a student's passions, or their major track? And what about when we take into account the school's staggering tuition, and acknowledge that students are oftentimes paying for courses that may serve them no use whatsoever, that they do not want to be taking? Skidmore does offer many summer courses, which helps students complete some extra requirements, but for a hefty additional expense. One 4-credit course at Skidmore over the summer amounts to \$4095 including housing. Many students pursuing an Art major often have to stay at Skidmore during the summer, in order to complete their major requirements, because much of their time during Fall and Spring semesters was spent completing General Education requirements.

So, perhaps the school should grant us some more choice and leniency as far as which requirements must be fulfilled in order to graduate. If the school wants us to act like adults, discover our passions and pursue them, and lead a successful life after graduation,

then perhaps they should treat us more like adults?

However, there is, of course, an opposing argument. We all entered Skidmore fully aware that the school had General Education requirements that every student must fulfill. Skidmore holds its students to a standard that entails being a well-rounded individual. In the College's [Mission Statement](#), it states “Skidmore faculty and staff create a challenging yet supportive environment that cultivates students' intellectual and personal excellence, encouraging them to expand their expectations of themselves while they enrich their academic understanding.” Thus, Skidmore's Gen Ed requirements align with their Mission Statement outlining their expectations of us as students. They seek to broaden our horizons while educating us.

An employer who hires a Skidmore graduate most likely expects that they will be hiring an individual who has a basic understanding of all core disciplines. If said graduate had not, in fact, fulfilled all core requirements, the employer will potentially have hired an underqualified employee, unbeknownst to them. Furthermore, many students enter Skidmore unsure of what they want to major in. After dabbling in subjects, and fulfilling general education requirements, it is certainly easier for a student to narrow down what they do and do not enjoy. This is what a liberal arts education is all about--allowing its students to explore multiple disciplines before they hone in on just one subject. Without a core curriculum, some students may flounder, and other students will graduate with from study to narrow to be considered liberal arts.

Should Skidmore bestow its students more or less academic freedom? This is ultimately a question of values. Do we, the students, value our independence or our institution's structure and standards more? Do we prefer a well-rounded education, or a boundary-free experience?

## Super Bowl at Skidmore: A Long Winter's Night

By Mia Merrill, Sports Editor



Skidmore students packed the dining hall Sunday night to watch the big game / Photo by fan experiences.com

On Sunday night, the New England Patriots beat the Seattle Seahawks in the 49th annual NFL Super Bowl. The game was played for about four hours, with the victory up for grabs during much of the game. The Super Bowl went on as scheduled amid controversy surrounding the Patriots, who allegedly deflated footballs in the American Football Conference title game against the Indianapolis Colts.

At Skidmore, students crowded into the dining hall to watch the game. The dining hall provided various flavors of chicken wings, a football game staple. The blue side was packed for the entire duration of the program, from kickoff to Katy Perry's eccentric halftime show and ultimately to the Patriots' victory.

Staying in d-hall for four hours has its side effects, particularly for the employees. Students loaded up on nacho cheese that stuck to plates and silverware. With so many people settled into their seats at different tables, closing time clean up was arduous. Of course, dining hall employees were prepared for the night's events. Those on a shift scrubbing tables knew they could hardly clean the blue side because of the crowd, and those in the dish room quickly learned how to rid the plates of the thick nacho cheese. But is it really fair to disregard our manners and our respect for dining services, even if just for a night?

Although the shift may have been more tedious, there was an undeniable sense of community in d-hall on Sunday night. Cheers would rise up from the blue side and rock the whole building. Applause erupted after the "Like A Girl" advertisement, which asked young boys and girls to demonstrate what they thought it meant to run, throw, and play sports like a girl. People from the red side wandered over to hear Idina Menzel's rendition of the national anthem, or to experience the now phenomenon of Katy Perry's left shark. Despite any team rivalries present in the crowd, the Skidmore community came together for a night of tradition and fun. Next year will bring more camaraderie — and perhaps a cleaner dining hall.

## Skidmore's New Science Building: The Center for Integrated Science



Photo courtesy of <http://www.skidmore.edu/cis/> What the finished science building is expected to look like.

By Noa Maltzman '18, News Editor

Every student who plans to graduate from Skidmore College will be subject to taking a natural lab science class, even if they are not of that major. However this does not necessarily mean that students will be taking these classes in state-of-the-art buildings built in the last decade, such like students at many of the other Northeast Liberal Arts Colleges. Instead, many students have been going to lab science classes in the same buildings and spaces that were created and have been used since the 1960s.

In as soon as the next five and a half years all of this will change. Skidmore is currently in the process of working to create a new science building that will replace the existing Dana Science Center, and it will be known as the Center for Integrated Science (CIS).

The CIS has a project cost of over \$100 million, but it will bring together all nine physical and life science departments and programs under one roof. Currently, these vast classes are spread out from the Williamson Sports Center, to Tisch Learning Center to Dana Science Center. "By bringing together all nine physical and life science departments we are going to be able to show students how all of those disciplines integrate together. Plus we will be able to establish new synergies that are not possible when everyone is spread across multiple buildings," said Kimberley Frederick, Chair and Professor of Chemistry. "I think it will really improve the educational experience for students. All students not just science students," Frederick said.

This construction project "will be one of the largest projects in recent college history, with the initial campus construction in the 1960s aside," said Paul Lundberg, Assistant Director Construction Services.

The project involves completely gutting the inside of Dana and adding an additional 115,000 square feet. The new building will include 46 research labs, 16 classrooms and meeting rooms, 22 teaching labs, an open atrium, many study and hangout locations, computer labs and an ideal lab. "The ideal lab is basically a place where students can go to actualize their ideas," said Frederick. The ideal lab will include everything from 3D printers to sewing machines. "It is a place where you can physically create ideas that you have in your head. Whether that be for entrepreneurship, for just some kind of creative expression, or a class project," Frederick said.

All of this construction is expected to take about four and a half to five years, but that does not mean the project is going to be done in as short as four and a half years. Before construction can even begin there is a long list of tasks that must be completed. The very first thing on the list is finishing the fundraising for the building. So far, fundraising for the building has been going on for 18 months and \$32 million has been raised. Ideally Skidmore is hoping to raise \$80-100 million. If they can't raise that much then they are hoping to raise at least \$60-80 million.



Originally, “we hoped to be done [with the fundraising] this year, but you never know how fundraising projects like this will progress until you start. We will keep at it until we get there,” said Kimberly Verstandi, Associate Vice President for Advancement and Campaign Director. With this in mind it is unknown how much longer it will take to raise the rest of the money. “We are hoping to get the bulk of [the money] through donations,” but “we may end up borrowing some too depending how it all flushes out,” Karen Kellogg, Associate Dean of the Faculty for Infrastructure, Sustainability, and Civic Engagement said. “The CIS continues to be our top fundraising priority,” Verstandi said.

Once the fundraising for the project is complete, it is then time to start working on permitting for the building and construction documents. These two things alone will take about a year and once they are complete it is time to start taking bids and searching for a builder.

The construction is going to be done in multiple stages with the new added spaces being built first. This will take about two years. Once this is done, the construction team will work on the gutting and construction of the inside of Dana. This way when Dana is being worked on, those offices, research labs and classrooms that were once inside will be able to move to the new space that was built first. Kellogg said that, “there are certainly going to be some inconveniences,” with all the construction, “but the commitment is that there is no disruption [to] teaching or research.”

The final CIS building might be very far from being done, and no current Skidmore students might be here when it is finally opened, but once it is finished it will be a place for all students, those studying the sciences and those not. “This building is really targeted to be a building for every student on campus. Not just for the students taking their lab science and their quantitative reasoning requirements,” Fredrick said. “We wanted to make sure to bring in spaces that the whole campus needs. So we have four general purpose classrooms, four computer classrooms, [and] a larger atrium space for larger community gatherings,” said Kellogg.

## A New Student Constitution

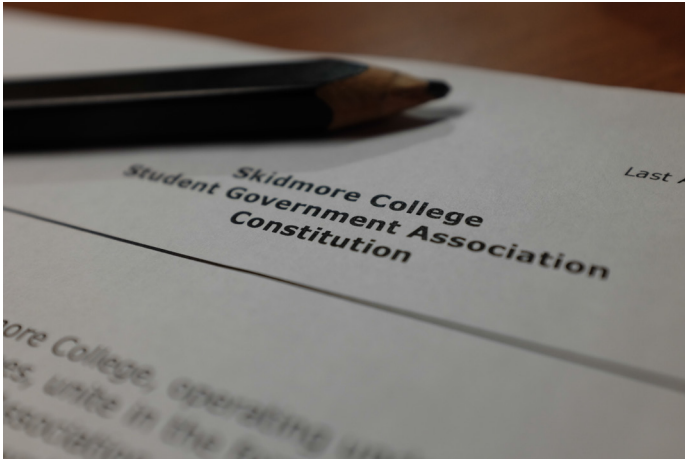


Photo by Ryan Davis '17, Art Director

By Noa Maltzman '18, News Editor

On Friday, Jan. 30, all Skidmore students received an email from Student Government Association (SGA) President Addison Bennett '16, that announced the new student constitution. “After more than a year of work with students, President Glotzbach and his Cabinet, and the entire College, the SGA Senate has unanimously approved a new Constitution for the Student Body,” Bennett wrote in his email.

The work on forming this new constitution began over a year ago during Fall 2013, as a project that SGA Vice President for Financial Affairs, Sam Harris '15 and Bennett took on. Together they worked to identify what they felt to be the most important values and the biggest flaws. Then they worked to establish a document and structure that would reflect the need to adapt.

Harris and Bennett also sought advice from students through SGA Town Hall meetings, SGA committees, discussions in the SGA Senate and a special SGA group that worked on the Constitution. Other faculty members and staff including President Glotzbach were also consulted, definitely making this a group effort.

“This document is written for one purpose: to establish a new structure of student representation that allows student representatives to be more accessible and responsive to what you need from your College,” Bennett wrote. “It will allow us to more effectively do our job of creating programs and supporting the policies that build our vibrant campus life.”

“As members of the SGA Executive Committee for a combined five years, Sam Harris and I ran into a lot of obstacles and problems related to our current constitution,” said Bennett. Which is part of the reason that led to the formulation of a new constitution. “Its most important flaw is in its construction: the document is 17 pages worth of operating codes, membership requirements, and generally unclear and uninspiring lists,” Bennett said. According to Bennett, this is a problem because he feels this is “why students often find it difficult to engage with [SGA], and we want to do something about it.”

The new constitution is much shorter at only eight pages long, and according to Bennett it will help SGA adapt to the changing times.

Making the constitution shorter is only a fraction of what was changed. Exact sections, wordings, roles and aspects were also altered. One of the other changes was the addition of a new position on the SGA executive committee. This position is the Executive Vice President, and fundamentally they will be the SGA “number two person.” “The Executive VP's job will mostly be helping represent SGA to the administration, filling in for the President when necessary, coordinating strategic initiatives, and ensuring

sustainability across all initiatives,” said Bennett.

The number and position of senators that are a part of the SGA senate were also changed in the new constitution. Currently the majority of the senators that are a part of the SGA Senate are known as general senators at large. This will not be the case next year. Instead there will be four class senators per grade; one senator from each residential life area, and the class president for each class will also serve as a senator. The class-based senators were added because “currently, the first year class has three senators, and we decided we really liked the class-based constituency idea,” Bennett said. They were also added because currently the senators at large represent the whole student body and according to Bennett this makes it hard to represent and hard for outreach efforts. The residential life senators are a new position that were added because they “will be able to represent people who they actually know, and they'll have the ability to advocate for specific interests of their residents,” Bennett said. “I believe that we can use these new positions to help foster a new residential, community-based student life at Skidmore in a way that I feel we're currently lacking,” Bennett also said.

Details on aspects such as the SGA committees were removed from the new constitution and will be included in a separate but accompanying set of bylaws. According to Bennett this was done because “we don't want to run a special election to amend the constitution every time we want to mess with the membership of a single committee.”

Though hard work and countless hours may have been put into creating the new constitution nothing is official yet. In early March before spring break, all students will get the chance to vote in a special election, with one question on the ballot. The question will ask “do you support the new Constitution for the Student Body?” Whether you think these changes are great or not get ready to have your opinion heard. If the new constitution is approved it will go into effect immediately following this year's commencement.

Until this election, students can keep their eyes out for a special outreach and education campaign called, "Get out the vote" that will soon be announced. This will help educate students on this issue before they vote. “We don't want anyone to be surprised on election day,” Bennett said.

Overall Bennett feels that “the most important thing is we want to create a constitution that allows students to act within Skidmore and make change.”

## Sustainable Saratoga Will Launch Centennial Trees Project



Photo from <http://www.focusthenation.org/blog/51-meet-our-partners>

Update: The event has been postponed. Check back for more updates.

Sustainable Saratoga will soon be kicking off its Centennial Trees project with a hands-on, participatory brainstorming session for the public. The public is invited to share ideas about where and how we can best leave a towering, leafy legacy for our kids and grandkids.

Centennial Trees is Sustainable Saratoga's way of celebrating the City's 2015 Centennial. They will facilitate a public-private planting campaign of large-species specimen trees (such as oaks, tulip poplars, American elms & maples) in 100 prominent, high-impact locations. Sustainable Saratoga is looking for highly visible public and private sites—sites where large-species trees, as they mature over future decades, will become valued assets that define how we experience the City.

Centennial-worthy, transformative locations could include prominent corners, gateways, and other high-profile streets. Or locations that shape our view of historic and prominent buildings, parks, cemeteries, plazas, etc.

Sustainable Saratoga wants your help in identifying these locations. At Saturday's brainstorming session, Tom Denny, retired Skidmore Professor of Music History and Department Chair, will open with a brief illustrated presentation about the transformative potential of the Centennial Trees project. After that, the public will be asked to roll up their sleeves and get to work. Using maps and photos of the City, participants will work together and individually to generate ideas about where towering trees will have the most beneficial lasting impact. Tech-savvy participants are invited to bring their own laptops or tablets or phones to use while exploring the city, but everyone will be able to participate, with or without such gear.

The Centennial Trees workshop will take place soon. For more information and updates, go to [www.sustainablesaratoga.org/centennialtrees](http://www.sustainablesaratoga.org/centennialtrees). Send suggestions or questions to [trees@sustainablesaratoga.org](mailto:trees@sustainablesaratoga.org).

## Chowderfest 2015



Photo From <http://discoversaratoga.org/chowderfest>

By Caitria O'Shaughnessy

No doubt you heard last Saturday, Saratoga Springs hosted its annual Chowderfest, a tradition that has lasted 17 years. This event has become a staple for the town and surrounding communities during the dark and cold winter months. People come from all over to traipse through downtown in the cold and snow, moving from stand to stand and restaurant to restaurant all in search of “buck-a-cup” chowder.

This year, Chowderfest boasted 88 participants, including restaurants from in-town, out-of-town, and dog chowder contest participants. This year, Druther's won multiple awards, including The People's Choice, Best On Broadway, and Most Chowder Served. The full list of winners from this year, as well as past years, can be found [here](#).

While braving thirteen-degree weather for several hours on a quest to taste the best chowder seems unrealistic to anyone who doesn't reside in New England, the turnout for the fest tells a different story. Some chowder lines stretched as far a block long while other people crammed into restaurants all over town leaving little room to breathe, let alone slurp their chowder in peace. The streets were also packed. In fact, the town looked about as crowded as it does on a good weekend in racing season, only with three extra layers of clothing. Several streets were blocked off and despite the blustery weather, everyone was having fun walking around, talking, laughing, and trying to find another cup of chowder to stay warm.

## Weekend A&E Briefing



### 2015 Juried Student Art Exhibition

Opened Feb. 5, Shick Art Gallery

Skidmore's Shick Art Gallery presents the 2015 Juried Student Exhibition, a celebration of the creativity, imagination, and skill of Skidmore students, from Feb. 5 to March 9, 2015. It's completely free and open to the public. The gallery is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fridays, and from noon to 4 p.m. weekends.



### Skidmore Circus Club Performance Team Auditions

Feb. 7 12 p.m. - 1 p.m., Filene Hall

Come in comfortable clothes and be ready to have some fun. Bring a skill to present — from gymnastics, to juggling, to hooping, to any form of acting!



### Lecture by Stephen Westfall and Spring Opening Reception

Feb. 7, lecture at 5 p.m. and Spring Opening reception at 6:30 p.m., Tang Museum

Artist and critic Stephen Westfall speaks on the artwork and career of Nicholas Krushenick, followed by the Spring Opening celebrating the latest exhibitions.



### **Thodos Dance Chicago performance**

Feb. 7, 8 p.m., Skidmore Dance Theater

The performance will highlight two Skidmore graduates and renowned choreographers: Melissa Thodos and Sybil Shearer. The program includes a contemporary dance about Helen Keller and mixed repertoire that celebrates Chicago voices past and present. Tickets for the Skidmore performance are \$15 for adults, \$10 for the Skidmore community, and \$5 for students.



### **Meccore String Quartet performing Beethoven**

Feb. 7, 8 p.m., Zankel Music Center

The Meccore String Quartet is the next group to participate in Skidmore's ambitious Beethoven String Quartet Cycle project, which features six internationally renowned guest artists performing the full cycle of Beethoven's 16 string quartets over the course of the next two years. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$5 for seniors and the Skidmore community, free for students and children.



## **TROPICANA!**

Feb. 7, 10pm - 2am, Falstaffs

Come to ISU's Tropical-themed dance party! DJs Dhruv and Nico will fire up the passions for the whole night. There will also be hammocks.



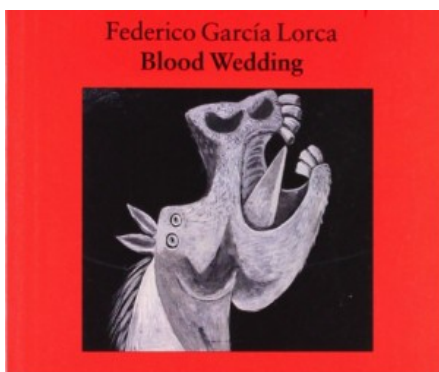
## Skidmore College Department of Theater Announces its Spring 2015 Season



### THE PENELOPIAD

**By Margaret Atwood, Directed by Emily Moler '15, Black Box Studio, Janet Kinghorn Bernhard Theater, Feb. 27 - March 4. All shows at 8 p.m., except the Sunday matinee at 2 p.m.**

In a splendid contemporary twist on *The Odyssey*, Margaret Atwood has chosen to give a voice to Penelope, wife of Odysseus, and to her twelve maids. In this dazzling, playful retelling, the story becomes as wise and compassionate as it is haunting, and as wildly entertaining as it is unsettling. With wit and verve, drawing on the story-telling and poetic talent for which she herself is renowned, Atwood gives Penelope new life and reality — and sets out to provide an answer to an ancient mystery. Seating is limited, so reservations are a must!



### Federico García Lorca's BLOOD WEDDING

**A stage adaptation by Carolyn Anderson and Will Bond Mainstage Theater, Janet Kinghorn Bernhard Theater, April 10-12 and April 16-19. All shows at 8 p.m., except Sunday matinees at 2 p.m.**

Tradition, passion and violence are at the core of this true story about a love that can never become a marriage. *Blood Wedding* is

rooted in the land, and in its people's desire to cling on to tradition in changing times. Underneath the landscape of this play is the rumbling of the early days of the Spanish Civil War and Lorca's poetic resistance.

**TICKETS: \$12 general admission, \$8 students and senior citizens**

**For reservations or information, call the Skidmore Theater Box Office at (518) 580-5439 or email [boxoffice@skidmore.edu](mailto:boxoffice@skidmore.edu). For online ticketing, refer to Skidmore College Theater on Facebook or [Skidmore.edu/theater](http://Skidmore.edu/theater). For group sales, please contact Kathy Mendenhall at (518) 580-5431.**

## Chamber event links international students and the community



A group of Skidmore's international students got the inside scoop on their adopted hometown of Saratoga Springs and the area's career opportunities, thanks to a recent gathering hosted by the Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce. The event, held at the chamber offices, brought together some 15 Skidmore students with area professionals to swap ideas and learn from one another.

The annual mixer, launched last year, was the idea of Darren Drabek, academic counselor and coordinator of international student services at Skidmore, who was looking for ways to connect his students to the community and increase their awareness of the local business and service economy. Skidmore's Office of Community Relations proposed the idea to the chamber of commerce, and the staff there took off with the idea, rounding up local professionals willing to share their expertise.

Said Drabek, "Student exposure to local businesses is often limited to the bare necessities or to entertainment. We created this event to encourage a deeper understanding of other facets of the Saratoga Springs professional community. Our office seeks opportunities for visiting students to learn what their American counterparts have observed for years in the working culture."

Participants filed into the chamber's conference room and were immediately greeted by the warm smiles of chamber representatives, Skidmore faculty and staff, and business leaders. Pizza and refreshments were served as the community members settled around a large oval table.

Skidmore students from China, the Bahamas, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Haiti, Kenya, Libya, Lithuania, Madagascar, Nigeria, South Africa, and Swaziland shared their passions and how they each wanted to become involved in the community. These aspiring engineers, computer scientists, business professionals, doctors, and humanitarians all had something they sought to learn from industries in the U.S.

Representatives from a variety of sectors—healthcare, nonprofit, marketing, technology, and law—introduced themselves and spoke about the specific qualities they look for when hiring. Dave Shacket, president of the web development company WebInstincts, values flexibility and a good attitude when working collaboratively to solve problems. Matt Jones, principal of the Jones Firm, seeks good writers and self-starters. Sue Malinowski, executive director of CAPTAIN Youth and Family Services, looks for passion, commitment, and a willingness to work around the clock for a cause. Mad Glory, Allegory Studios, Saratoga Bridges, Fingerpaint Marketing, and Saratoga Hospital were some of the other businesses in attendance.

Later in the program, students and business representatives mingled and swapped ideas, advice, and experiences. Stella Langat '16 recommended the creation of an app that would list Saratoga businesses and their available internships and other career opportunities. Hailing from Kenya, Langat is an economics major and environmental science minor who wants to acquire the skills to one day manage her own company. Right now, she is focusing on the marketing side of things.

Said Langat, "I believe in my confidence, personality, and my ability to network, and I know those are very important when

launching a new brand, or marketing a startup. I want to be able to market a small business to become big.”

Themba Shongwe '18, a prospective business and economics major, is interested in one day registering his own non-government organization in his native country of Swaziland. In addition to the business classes he is taking at Skidmore, networking events such as this add to his reservoir of administrative wisdom.

Said Shongwe, “It's about learning organizational structure and the financial side. I believe functional NGOs have the potential to have an impact in my country. With impact comes influence, and I would like to positively influence the direction that education is going. That's my goal. That is the highest point of my dreams. And it all starts with learning the skills I need to run an organization.”

## Why Yoga Isn't Just for Basic B\*tches

By Emily Gazzola, Contributing Writer

I recently took a hot yoga class for the first time. This was a new experience for me, someone who has only been practicing regularly for less than a year. Although I am not a huge fan of sweating, the class influenced my perception of yoga as a sport.

Upon entering, I was immediately surrounded in the packed, 105° room. To my left, a college wrestler did impressive handstands, while the woman to my right arrived last and seemed frazzled and uncomfortable in the class. I was in between the two extremes. It's time someone said it and my hot yoga class was the perfect example: Yoga is for everyone. How often in life are we able to devote a chunk of time to focus on syncing our mind and body? Yoga is a unique sport that can be practiced at different intensities and on different levels. There are modifications that can be applied to virtually any posture, guaranteeing a workout that is both vigorous and tailored to one's specific level of ability. With all of the chaos that surrounds us every day, it is important to set aside time to focus on one's body. Yoga is for athletes, dancers, runners, and seniors. Everyone can benefit from stretching his or her muscles. It prevents injury and just feels great!

Something I have come to learn about the practice of yoga is that it is both a mental and a physical challenge. I believe everyone should experience yoga because yoga is a metaphor for life. Even yogis who have practiced their entire lives will never achieve perfection. Yoga is so humbling in that everyone is working toward her/his own goals. Yogis acknowledge that everyone needs their own time to do that; some yogis will say that they worked on a particular posture for years. Years!

There is a common misconception about yoga, which should be dismissed. It seems that whenever the word is mentioned, instantly a picture of a perky girl clutching a yoga mat comes to mind. However, yoga is so much more than that. It is a vigorous exercise that has healing properties and positive effects on both the body and mind. There are many different branches of yoga that have deep historical and spiritual traditions.

One of the keys of practicing yoga well is learning how to quiet the mind even in times of great physical stress. I was once told that when you enter a new or especially challenging posture and your body begins to shake, it is your body's way of 'requesting strength.' This idea struck me because it was a completely different perspective on exercise. It demonstrates the Eastern way of thinking about energy and balance that is essential to the yoga practice and refreshing to a Westerner. Pushing one's body to the brink is not what yoga is about; it is constantly working to improve oneself in all capacities.

Yoga has positively impacted my own life in more ways than one, but I think the mental and spiritual takeaways are perhaps the most important lessons to be gained from yoga practice. In our lives we will never achieve perfection; there will always be someone on my left doing fancy inversions, just like there will always be someone on my right who can barely get into downward dog. It has taken me a long time to realize this life lesson: the ultimate goal is to find one's own path towards achieving strength, balance, and positivity in all facets of life.

Try taking a yoga class. Breathe a little. Namaste.

-x-

P.S. If you're interested in yoga now, there are many studios in the town of Saratoga, as well as yoga in Wilson chapel on Sundays as well as the Skidmore yoga club which meets three times a week with a private instructor. Additionally there are classes offered at the athletic center. Good luck!

## In Contrast to the Editorial: Picking Your Own Requirements

By Sean van der Heijden, Editor

There's always that one class that we really don't want to take—for some of us it's the QR2 requirement, or art, or foreign language. We know it won't serve us any purpose—we just have to get it done. The question is, how to avoid taking that class?

Well, our editorial board was split over this week's topic—should we have requirements that every student needs to fill? How many should we have—if at all? We reached a compromise, but there was an alternate proposition that some of us agreed with: students must only complete five out of seven of the all-college requirements.

There are a few loopholes but the concept is pretty straightforward: the college would leave it up to the students to decide which of the all-college requirements they want to take. Having requirements in general is important—I have taken a variety of courses including neuroscience, art history, even a course on the Wizard of Oz, all of which I enjoyed. I never would have taken them if it were not for the requirements. I definitely learned a lot from them that I've used in other courses and in, well, life.

That being said, we all just try to push through some of the requirements. Let's call this class “X” to avoid controversy.... If I already learned “X” in high school and my major has nothing to do with “X,” then why should I have to waste time and money taking said class?

That's why this proposition is both economical and practical. Classes are expensive, and wasting money to get through a class where you're just going to throw all the notes away after and forget everything isn't the best system. Letting students choose which of the five classes to take lets them maximize their tuition and focus more time onto what they really want to study, or allow them to experiment more in different departments.

But should some requirements be non-negotiable? We all agreed that the expository writing requirement was necessary, and most of us thought the QR2 requirement should stay. These are issues that the Curricular Committee could deliberate, but for the most part, allowing students to have more of a say in what All-College requirements they take seems incredibly beneficial.

## Ensemble ACJW to Come to Skidmore



Photo by Jennifer Taylor

Ensemble ACJW returns to Skidmore College in February for its spring-semester residency and concert. Scheduled at 8 p.m. Feb. 13 in the Arthur Zankel Music Center, the concert will feature selections by Roussel (Trio for Flute, Viola and Cello, Op. 40), Ravel (Piano Trio in A Minor), and the world premiere of “Backlight” by Meredith Monk. At 7 p.m. Monk will present the pre-concert talk. For tickets, visit <http://www.skidmore.edu/zankel/>

Ensemble ACJW is a program of Carnegie Hall, the Juilliard School and the Weill Music Institute in partnership with the NYC Department of Education. The ensemble's spring residency is made possible with generous support from the Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Foundation.

## Skidmore's 26th Annual Comfest



Photo By Rebecca Shesser '15

By Janine Kritschgau '18, Features Editor

College loves comedy, but comedy loves Skidmore. This is a great time for comedy across America, let alone on college campuses. But at Skidmore, it's been the golden age of comedy since 1989. That is the year that David Miner—a former member of the Ad-Liberal Artists, now producing *Parks and Recreation*—put on a comedy festival showcasing not only Skidmore's talents, but also the talents of groups from neighboring colleges and up-and-coming professionals.

“It reminds me of a Folklore. It gets passed down from student to student,” explained Senior co-Producer Rebecca Baruc. Baruc, along with co-producer Adam Fisher-Cox, began forming the 2015 show last spring by drafting a list of candidates for the professional act. Ron Funches, Kyle Dunnigan, Pete Holmes, and Aparna Nancherla all topped the list. But there was one comic who stood above the rest; 43-year-old Tig Notaro was the number one pick. “I guess I could take it to that one set, Live,” Baruc says, “[it is] a very unique set” unlike everything I've heard.” Live was promoted on Louis C.K.'s website just two years ago. Live, arguably Notaro's most well known performance, exemplifies a skill she has mastered: the art of mixing tragedy and wisdom, while simultaneously being entertaining.

Neither Baruc nor Fisher-Cox foresees a career in comedy, despite possessing what seems to be an incredible feel for high quality, enchanting performances. Shortly after Notaro confirmed her performance at Comfest in August, she signed a book deal, was awarded an HBO show, and piqued the interest of several prominent news outlets. “She said she'll do whatever she thinks is funny,” says Fisher-Cox.

Sixteen college comedy groups will perform alongside Notaro, her opening act Chris Thayer, musical improv group Baby Wants Candy, and professional sketch comedy group Gentlemen Party. Thirty-six other groups applied to be in the show by submitting 15-minute video recordings of their group. The producing team got to work, analyzing the stage presence and group dynamic of the

Skidmore News Online: February 2015. Retrieved from <http://www.skidmorenews.com> on 7/28/2015.



applicants. Some groups, namely comedy clubs from Brown, Yale, and NYU were automatically granted an invitation to Comfest based on consistently positive past performances.

Producer Fisher-Cox says that despite the stresses of organizing and putting on a show of this magnitude, “it is very satisfying—I'm so excited to be introducing it to people.”

Tickets will go on sale on Feb. 9 at 10 a.m. Students should go to the second floor of Case to line up and receive a code used for online ticket purchase. The event has never taken more than two days to sell out, so get your ticket fast before sales open to the general public on Feb. 10.

## Campus Safety Reports Jan.30-Feb. 5



### Friday Jan. 30

College Violation at Howe Hall 12:3 AM: RP reports a noise complaint.

College Violation at Dayton Drive 1:40 AM: RP reports loud noise. Dispatched Officer advised unfounded/no noise upon his arrival.

Suspicious Activity at Sussman Apartments 9:21 AM: RP called stating there is a suspicious male near apartment. Dispatched Officers report it was a vendor repairing a window. RP advised.

Suspicious Activity at Jonsson Tower 10:38 PM: Officer secured a backpack containing alcohol from a male in the south stairwell of Jonsson Tower.

### Saturday Jan. 31

Moving Violations at Northwoods Apartments Grounds 12:22 AM: Sergeant reports vehicle driving the wrong way on a one way designated roadway. Ticket issued.

College Violation at Kimball Hall 1:06 AM: RP called to report that it's loud on the 2nd floor. Disp. Officer reports all quiet upon arrival.

Suspicious Odor at Wiecking Hall 2:04 AM: RP reports a suspicious odor on the 2nd floor. Disp. Officer who reports no odor present/call unfounded.

### Sunday Feb. 1

Fire Alarm at Sussman Apartments 7:16 AM: Fire alarm activation due to cooking fumes. Advised Officers, Maintenance and SSFD.

### Monday Feb. 2

Criminal Mischief at McClellan Hall 1:12 PM: RP notified stop sign found in center stairwell. Disp. Officer. Report taken.

Trespass Off Campus 3:25 PM: Railroad Police Office reported that students were allegedly almost hit by train while snowshoeing

on railroad tracks. No evidence found by either municipality to support allegation that persons were students. Call unfounded.

Suspicious Odor at Jonsson Tower 9:37 PM: RP reports suspicious odor on the 3rd floor. Disp. Officer who reports that there is a faint odor but is unable to locate source of odor.

Suspicious Odor at Wait Hall 9:21 PM: RP reports a couple of subjects near bike shed smoking marijuana. Disp. Officer who reports subjects fled upon his arrival.

Fire Alarm at Penfield Hall 10:14 PM: Fire alarm received. Disp. Officers, Maintenance and advised SSFD. Problem with heating equipment.

College Violation at Sussman Apartments 11:01 PM: RP called to report a noise complaint. Disp. who spoke with residents and advised them to turn down the music; they complied.

### **Tuesday Feb. 3**

Criminal Mischief at Sussman Apartments unknown time: RP requests an officer regarding damage to a window. Disp. Officer who took a report.

Accident at Perimeter Road 1:20 PM: RP requests an officer regarding damage to a window. Disp. Officer who took a report.

Suspicious Odor at Wait Hall 10:12 PM: RP reports an odor of incense in this area. Disp. officer who reports the source was located and individual spoken with. Report made.

### **Wednesday Feb. 4**

Dating Violence at Unknown Residence Hall 10:58 AM: RP advised receiving a report of dating violence that occurred starting in 2012 and ending in 2013.

Accident at Palamountain Lot 11:30 AM: RP reports that her vehicle was struck while parked. Requests Saratoga PD for accident report.

### **Thursday Feb 5.**

Suspicious Odor at Wait Hall 5:32 PM: RP reports suspicious odor at main entrance. Two subjects observed. Disp. Officer who reports subjects GOA upon arrival

Suspicious Odor at Jonsson Tower 9:15 PM: RP in office to report a suspicious odor on the 3rd floor. Disp. officer.

Suspicious Odor at Jonsson Tower 9:15 PM: RP in office to report a suspicious odor on the 8th floor. Disp. officer.

Suspicious Odor at Wait Hall 9:09 PM: RP reports a suspicious odor on the 2nd floor. Disp. Officers.

Suspicious Odor at Jonsson Tower 10:41 PM: RP called to report a suspicious odor. Disp. officers.

Criminal Mischief at Wiecking Hall 11:42 PM: RP called to report that the entire peephole assembly is missing from his door. Disp. officers.

College Violation at Wait Hall 11:48 PM: RP called in a noise complaint. Dispatched Officer who reports loud talking. All quieted down.

## Creek



Photograph by: Nicole Smith '16, Pulp Editor

Story By: Douglas Patrick '18, Contributing Writer

The Late evening sun beats down on me as I sit on this rickety wooden bench. I watch the hot orange ball in the sky fall slowly beneath the trees that surround me and the Creek. There's a certain kind of gloom that the last rays of sun give off. Today, those rays seem to beam especially strong.

My thoughts began to trickle with the water in front of me. It's stupid that people automatically assume that something's wrong if someone declines an invitation somewhere. There's nothing wrong, not with me at least. Just because I'd rather ride my bike down to the Creek than go over Tom's house with my friends doesn't mean that I'm depressed or something. But I guess my friends just can't accept that because my phone hasn't stopped vibrating for the past couple hours. I wish they would stop calling me. I need time alone, time to think.

The Creek was not my original destination this afternoon, I recollected. I had gotten on my bike earlier with every intention of going to Tom's. Except once I got up to his driveway I immediately turned around. I knew I wouldn't have been able to look him in the eyes and that's why I cancelled our plans without a word. So, maybe the constant calls of concern are justified, but I still don't like them.

The bike ride to Tom's house had once been supremely familiar. I still remembered how I'd sit on my bike, watch the garage door rise and gear up for my journey down to my best friend's house every Saturday morning. The latter portion of these rides were the ones that I remembered best. Not because they had happened much more recently, because they hadn't. Come to think of it, this particular morning's ride was the first time I had made the pilgrimage in a year or so, although it seemed longer. I could remember the latter rides better because I was able to experience this great ecstasy that was created by the wind as it blew through my hair; a luxury I wasn't afforded until after I deemed myself old enough to leave my helmet home. When a burst of wind rustles my hair now, I reminisce about letting my bike glide around the tight, flowing curves of the open road that led to Tom's. I'd try my luck by taking each bend with my tires nearly touching the protective lip of the street. When I did this, I'd be able to look down the steep leaf-infested hill to the Creek. It was nearly a ninety-degree angle straight to the water. Even just looking down at it, I got the sensation that it was sucking me in like a black hole.

Today's path was going to be slightly different for I was picking up Paul at his house so we could ride together. Unfortunately, this wasn't because Paul didn't know the way to Tom's. In fact, he probably had a better memory of it than I did, to tell the truth. He had been making this trip more often and more recently ever since he and Tom became connected at the hip about a year or so ago.

It seemed like as soon as Tom made the varsity baseball team, Paul became his second half. He was this "super cool upperclassman" that I just "had to meet," according to Tom. So, naturally, I did, when Tom invited him with us to a movie. After that, Tom started to mention the funny things Paul did at practice or after school. Then it seemed that Paul kept getting invited more and more to our plans until I became the one getting invited to their plans. Eventually, I wasn't even being invited at all. It was bizarre when I realized that, although he was still mine, Tom had replaced me for a new best friend.

Skidmore News Online: February 2015. Retrieved from <http://www.skidmorenews.com> on 7/28/2015.

The inside jokes Paul and Tom referenced at the lunch table made me burn with wonder as I questioned whether Tom was ever even my friend to begin with. Maybe, I'd think too often, I mistakenly perceived friendliness for friendship because we never went to baseball games like he and Paul did. We didn't both "absolutely love" 90's rock like he and Paul did. We didn't play baseball, talk about girls, or text like they did either. We did, however, not talk to each other for weeks at a time so that's one point to chalk up on our side.

Tom and I did still talk from time to time, though. Surprisingly, the last time we talked, a couple of days ago, he invited me over. He probably only did this because I hinted that I was upset. I explained that I felt as if we were drifting apart, so he must have felt obligated to assuage the small wound he gave me. But, I was still invited over to his house nonetheless. In actuality however, this little wound was a bigger scar than I let on in conversation — I'm really quite good at downplaying things.

Unluckily for me, Paul was invited over too, which was why I had to stop for him along the way. I wished the entire time to be riding with nearly anybody else. Mostly, just because I wanted a calm ride down the bends accompanied by the white noise of my tires spinning over the top of the pavement. Sadly, I was going to be out of luck because I knew that Paul's energetic body wasn't going to allow for even a moment of silence. He seemed to be in constant motion: his knee would bounce up and down in class for what seemed like hours, his fingers tapped on anything they could find, and his mouth never stopped moving. Sometimes I wasn't sure how he found time to swallow.

Though in front, he faced me countless times to shout at me while he rode his bike.

"You hear about who the Indians just picked up!?"

"No."

He turned back to the road for half a moment and then shot around again, "How about the Red Sox's pitchers this year? Absolutely incredible, huh?"

"They're alright," I replied coldly.

Quickly after, he sensed a curve was coming and, thankfully, rotated back around. I thanked the heavens every time his stupid face stopped staring at me. I didn't much care about the rubbish he kept yelling, but I will admit that I was impressed by his intuition to predict each new turn.

After gliding around a bend, he straightened his bike to the street and readied himself to turn around once more. Another turn approached quickly.

"Dude," he called to me, "I'm so pumped!"

"Why is that?"

"Tom and I just got tickets to see this awesome Nirvana cover band!"

"That does sound awesome. What are they called?"

"The Negative Creeps! I've only heard good things about them!"

"Great. I haven't heard of them. Where are they playing at?"

"Actually, I'm not totally sure yet! I would think—"

A loud shriek cut him off. His tires collided with the lip of the road, which sent him flying down the hill, leading to the Creek. Maybe I should have stopped asking him questions.

I kept peddling. Naturally, I thought, an athletic guy like Paul would be able to catch up with lazy me. However, upon arrival in Tom's driveway, I looked around and couldn't find Paul anywhere around me or in the distance. Then a chilling thought came over my entire body that scared the hell out of me.

And that's why I'm sitting on this old bench trying to think and figure it out as I listen to the Creek's splashing water. I wasn't racking my brain trying to figure out what happened to Paul—anyone with half a brain knew what had happened to him. It didn't take a detective to figure that out. Instead, I sit staring into this bloody Creek while I try to comprehend why I feel so good about his death.

## Reel Talk: Whiplash is an exhilarating, thought-provoking indie drama



By Sean van der Heijden

Finally got to see Whiplash this weekend and my suggestion is—catch it while it's still in theaters, you won't be disappointed. Despite hearing rave reviews from a bunch of people, I was blown away by how taut and impressive this movie is. Shot in just 19 days by first-time writer-director Damian Chazelle, the movie charts a college freshman's time in music school under the instruction of his satanic band teacher, Fletcher.

And “satanic” is probably the nicest adjective to describe him. Played with fierce determination by the ubiquitous J.K. Simmons, Fletcher is a tormented genius who abuses his students in pretty much every way possible—verbally, physically, emotionally, psychologically. While his inventive curse words and raging antics are certainly a sight to see, his mind games are far more terrifying and really add depth to the character. It's one of the best performances of the year.

Also fantastic is Miles Teller as Andrew, the young drummer determined to be one of the “greats.” While most of the time he comes off as cocky and self-righteous, I found myself rooting for him nonetheless—if only because of what he goes through. With blistered, bloody hands, he certainly has the drive to practice, but needs to be pushed in order to truly achieve greatness.

This brings up one of the central questions of the film: how far is too far? How much is too much? Is throwing a chair at someone's head considered too excessive, or is it a necessary step in helping someone be the best they can be? The film offers no definitive answers to these questions, but I would say: are the great musicians, students, or people the ones that need to be pushed, or the ones that can push themselves?

You'll have to watch the film and decide for yourself—Chazelle certainly did a fantastic job at blurring that line. Also fantastic: basically everything else. The direction, the editing, the music, the sound, the cinematography—all are done to perfection. If your foot doesn't tap to all the swinging jazz ensembles or if you're not on the edge of your seat at one point or another, well, you must be watching a different movie. Whiplash sucks you in and holds you, breathless, till the very last second.

Overall: 9 out of 10.

## Polo Club and SGA Meet to Discuss Polo's Standing with SGA



Photo courtesy of Skidmore Polo Club Facebook page

By Noa Maltzman '18, News Editor

On Saturday February 7, members of both the Polo Club executive board (and two members of their Alumni Advisory board Will Orthwein '92 and Tab Orthwein '91) and members of the Student Government Association (SGA) joined together to discuss many issues related to the Polo club and their current standing with SGA.

The Polo Club has been under SGA review since October (as discussed in a previous Skidmore News article, [Skidmore Polo Club Under SGA Review](#), that was published in December 2014). "It got to the point where we needed to consider if this is something SGA can continue to support," said SGA President, Addison Bennett '16. SGA as a whole only has a limited number of funds, as they get \$319 per student per year, and currently one of the clubs they give much of that funding to is the Polo Club.

When the club first went under review at the end of October, a memo was sent to the Polo Club from SGA that discussed their concerns with the club. The memo had seven items of concern. Three of those items were horse care, financial involvement and administrative involvement. Horse care is no longer an issue SGA has with the club, as the club has proven that the horses are well taken care of. "You [Polo Club] know horses better than we do. We are not going to pretend we know your horses better," said Bennett.

Members of the SGA have been investigating and looking into the current Polo Club and past information about the club as part of their review. They have gotten in touch with people in almost every department and area of the school. They also reached out to David Porter who was the president of Skidmore College at the time Polo was stripped of their varsity status because of similar issues they are facing now—issues that had to do mainly with finances, and the financial burden the club brings. When Polo was stripped of their varsity status, SGA volunteered to pick them up and support them as they had the funds at the time to do this.

"We do not want to be the people to take something away," said Bennett, and this was something that was clearly stressed at their joint meeting on February 7. Other members of the SGA executive committee echoed this statement of Bennett. Soraya Attia '15, Senior Class President, spoke up at the meeting and said, "I don't want to see the polo team go," also stating: "I just want to see something sustainable."

At the meeting, the conversation kept going back and forth from members of the Polo club executive board and members of SGA. The Polo Club was trying to convince SGA to make a compromise. The president of Polo Club, Bill Miller '15, said at the meeting, Skidmore News Online: February 2015. Retrieved from <http://www.skidmorenews.com> on 7/28/2015.



“it would be one thing if we just shut our doors and weren't willing to compromise.”

A few days prior to this meeting the Polo Club had sent a proposed budget to SGA that reduced their budget by almost 40 percent. “We are trying to meet you half way,” said Miller. Treasure of the Polo club Meggie Danielson '17 echoed this statement by saying “we are willing to meet you halfway.”

Currently the Polo club owns ten horses and leases four horses. The horses they lease do not cost the club any money except for what it takes to care for them. The club leases the horses for the school year, and then at the end of the year they give the horses back to their owners. In the budget proposal that they wrote up, they would only lease horses for the fall semester opposed to the whole school year. Then in the spring semester they would only keep the horses that they owned, as the leased horses would be returned to their owners. With fewer horses in the spring, the team would still be able to ride and practice, but would have to travel for all their games, as they wouldn't have enough horses to host.

“You guys [Polo Club] do something that distinguishes Skidmore from other colleges,” Bennett said. With this in mind, though, there has been this ongoing debate over the years that Polo is cool and students like to do it but it takes a lot of work. Hopefully this issue will come to an end, and a decision will be made prior to spring break. Bennett said SGA has a “flexible deadline” of before spring break in regards to when they want to have a final decision on if the Polo Club will lose its funding or not.

## Snow Days & Delays: When Skidmore Cancels



Photo courtesy of Skidmore Facebook page

By Madeleine Freundlich '17

Last Monday, Feb. 2, students and faculty received emails and text messages around 5:50 in the morning announcing that all classes and activities would be suspended for the day. This snow day was the first full-day cancellation due to snow in four years, and students were incredibly excited to catch up on work, sleep, and spend time outside in the snow. Since last Monday, many have been wishing for another snow day, watching the weather reports and wondering what factors will encourage the administration to suspend activities once again.

So how does our administration decide if classes will be cancelled? A small group of faculty including President Glotzbach get on a conference call at 5:00 am and discuss the conditions, “Including but not limited to: weather forecasts—duration and rate of the storm, type of storm (heavy or light snow, winds, ice), safety for students, faculty and staff, if there are National Weather Service Advisories, law enforcement bulletins,” said Barbara Beck, Associate Vice President for Finance & Administration. The committee also takes a look at class schedules for the day and checks if there are any special events on campus. Usually, the committee decides that the day will unfold as usual, and facilities gets to work making sure our campus is as accessible as possible. Sometimes class openings will be delayed, but typically the college works to stay open.

Beck said that the storm that Monday “was going to hamper faculty and staff and commuting students in both their drive in and home from campus, so safety was a concern and town and city plows were not going to be keeping up with clearing.” It's not unusual that Saratoga has to deal with a lot of snow, but it's vital that professors and staff can safely get to and from Skidmore. With a true blizzard, that may prove impossible and lead to a snow day.

For those curious, the college's official inclement weather policy can be found online at <http://www.skidmore.edu/hr/documents/InclementWeatherPolicy.pdf>.

## Riff-Raff's Guide to Self-Reconciliation

Article By: Taylor Ray '17, Contributing Writer

Using the label 'Versace' to describe everyday objects and occurrences, Riff Raff gives us a peek into the marvelous real of his world. We are all Riff Raff. You and I both lust after shots of iced buttermilk ranch, but we would never admit it to an audience of strangers.

Riff Raff would ignore your childhood pediatrician just like your mother did: he can grow three inches taller in his thirties if he so chooses. Your mother scoffed at the doctor when, post-puberty, your head climbed higher and higher on the stadiometer every visit. Your mother loves to be right. Your mother is Riff Raff.

Riff Raff is a collection of quick-cuts of major U.S. city skyscrapers against a trendy beat. Riff Raff doesn't want any rules. Riff Raff wants two dozen oysters. He is a performer, but post-stage, he thinks: I don't want my performances to define me. He is an introvert.

Riff Raff can be awkward at the dinner table. He knows that he is being watched, even by his friends. But Riff Raff is in his element, almost completely candid and comfortable in front of the camera, when his big and small talk reflects the parts of life that he is most passionate about. He falls into the comfortable pattern of sauces — barbecue, sweet and sour, honey mustard — and loses himself, almost forgetting his audience. Sauce is the soup du jour. Sometimes, Riff Raff thinks about gender roles and how they have influenced him as a man. He is still learning to check his privilege. He fills online shopping carts only to exit out of Google Chrome without a purchase or a second thought. Riff Raff is a little bit embarrassed about his self-affirmations taped to the mirror — he's only trying to be more introspective lately. Riff Raff has trouble saying "I love you" in a sincere and meaningful way to those around him. He ordered a Warby Parker home try-on. Riff Raff wakes up before his alarm every morning.

What do we see in Riff Raff? Ourselves. We should be so lucky enough to chew on life with the same vigor with which Kody and Jody Husky chew on their Versace bones. Life can be neon if you let it.

## Thoroughbreds Win Overtime Battle of Liberty Leaders

By Skidmore Athletics



Kelly Donnelly '18, who scored fifteen points / Photo by Bob Ewell

Kelly Donnelly '18, Angela Botiba '15, and Amber Holgate '16 scored fifteen points each, leading the Skidmore College women's basketball team to a 67-65 Liberty League overtime win against St. Lawrence University on Tuesday night at the Williamson Sports Center.

It was the first game of the season between the league's top two teams. The Thoroughbreds are 10-2 in league play, and 14-7 overall. The Saints are 12-2 and 17-5. The rematch is scheduled for Feb. 20 in Canton, New York.

Donnelly scored all fifteen of her points in the second half, to earn her fourth double-double of the season with fifteen rebounds, two assists, and two blocks. Botiba had seven rebounds, and Holgate was a perfect 8-8 from the line.

Kara McDuffee led St. Lawrence with twenty-five points, sixteen rebounds, and two assists. Cara Waterson added fourteen points off the bench.

Skidmore outscored St. Lawrence 9-2 over the first four minutes and forty-eight seconds of overtime to open a 67-60 lead. Ella Scheuerell '16 had a key three-pointer. Botiba scored four points on a basket and a pair of free throws, and Donnelly had a field goal in the run.

With twelve seconds left, the Saints scored the next five points, including a three-pointer by McDuffee with :00.1 left on the clock for the 67-65 final. The Thoroughbreds were 3-4 (75%) from the floor, while the Saints shot went 3-14 (21.4%) in the extra stanza.

The game started out slow, with neither team getting any traction in the first half. The Saints shot 9-33 (27.3%) from the floor, while the Thoroughbreds went 6-23 for 26.1%. There were three lead changes and two ties, with St. Lawrence up 24-20 at the break.

St. Lawrence had its biggest lead of the game, with 27-20, at the eighteen minute and fifty second mark. Skidmore found its range, going on a 19-4 run to go up 39-31. St. Lawrence fought back to retake the lead 56-54 on a Waterson layup, with only two minutes and forty-five seconds to play in regulation. Donnelly cut it to one, 56-55, with a free throw at two minutes and fifteen seconds. McDuffee put the Saints in front by three points, 58-55, with one minute and fifty seconds to play, but Holgate responded with a three to tie it 58-58, with one minute and thirty-eight seconds to play.

Both teams had chances over the final ninety seconds, but defense prevailed and the game went into overtime.

Skidmore's defense held St. Lawrence to just 18.9% from three-point range on 7-37 attempts for the game. St. Lawrence only hit one of ten threes in overtime.

The Thoroughbreds will host Rensselaer on Feb. 13 at 6 p.m.

A statement from Skidmore coach Darren Bennett:

"Tonight's win was a big [one] for us in so many ways. It kept us on pace with the top of the pack in the conference for seeding, and it was a team that our players have not beaten during their time here.

"We've lost some games in conference play versus good teams with records not as good as their personnel, and that can wear on you mentally, especially down the stretch. It's good to be back in the confines of home, your fans, your dining hall for meals and your own surroundings to balance yourself for the game.

"St. Lawrence is an athletic team with scorers at every position. They don't play with a true post, but [they] defend well inside, so defending them is difficult and their athleticism makes it tough on the defensive end as well.

"We came out strong in so many ways, but really did not take care of the ball or win 50-50 balls and that almost came back to get us in the end. Statistically this was not our game, but in the end we were able to pull it off.

"We had a big second half from Kelly Donnelly scoring all of her points in that stanza and, our inside was able to get some things done with Angela, Ella. and Migle [Vilunaite]. Our perimeter shooting was not our best asset, but we were able to hit enough key shots and get to the line to get the points we needed to be successful.

"I'm really proud of our captains for keeping us together after the tough weekend road loss, and putting us back in a place we need to be to reach our season goals."

## A Letter from The Center for Sex & Gender Relations

Dear Skidmore Community,

Hello! Just in case you haven't heard of us, we wanted to introduce ourselves! The Center for Sex & Gender Relations is an awesome (well we think it's awesome!) resource on campus for all of your sex and gender concerns and questions. Did you know that the Center is open every afternoon? During office hours, you can purchase condoms (10 for \$1), dental dams (free!) and lube, check out our awesome library, or talk to a Peer Advocate (PA). Students come to talk to us (always confidentially) about a variety of topics ranging from safer sex to sexual and gender identity to relationship issues and more. Students should also know that we are a peer to peer anonymous resource on campus and can offer support and resources to students who may have experienced sexual or gender-based misconduct. Though we have to report statistics, your identity is kept anonymous you can learn about both the resources and options available to you as you begin your healing process.

An exciting new direction for The Center is a focus on Prevention and Educational Programming. While programming has always been important, we are really diving in this semester and hope to offer multiple programs every month throughout the semester. In order to make this happen, we are excited to be partnering with one of our favorite off-campus resources, Wellspring. Wellspring, formerly Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Services of Saratoga County, provides victim services in legal advocacy, crisis intervention, medical advocacy and much more. Additionally, Wellspring offers a 24/7 hotline. The advocates who answer the hotline receive very specialized training including an intensive 40 hour required training before ever answering a call. Wellspring hotline advocates are required to continue their training and education throughout their tenure at the agency. Given the availability and expertise that Wellspring brings to campus, The Center has decided to terminate our weekend hotline and invite students to use the Wellspring hotline anytime they have a question or experience that they need help with. This decision will allow The Center to concentrate our efforts on Prevention and Educational programming and will give students greater access to hotline services. Additionally, we hope this partnership will allow us the opportunity to welcome advocates from Wellspring on campus to provide victim advocacy services as well as outreach services in the future. We are truly excited to welcome Wellspring to our community and know that their presence at Skidmore will assist us in our ultimate goal of creating an informed, safer and healthier Skidmore!

Also remember that Skidmore offers an after-hours on-call counselor from the Counseling Center as well as an after-hours on-call nurse practitioner from Health Services while school is in session. These resources are well-utilized by students and we continue to be grateful for the level of commitment both Health Services and the Counseling Center bring to our community. We encourage students to continue to use these resources for any type of emergency that pertains to sex, gender, and more.

We are looking forward to an amazing semester! We are excited to continue providing you with the information and products you need to have safe, healthy and consensual relationships and look forward to an exciting partnership with Wellspring. We are located on the 3rd floor of Case and would love for you to come by and say hi! Watch out for our programs and Racy Readers! If you have questions, please contact us at [sgrcenter@skidmore.edu](mailto:sgrcenter@skidmore.edu).

Thanks for your continued support!

The Center

## Romance and Microbes: The Science Behind Shared Bacteria



Kiss II, Roy Lichtenstein, 1962, Roy Lichtenstein Foundation. Accessed through ARTstor Digital Library.

By Brittany Dingler

While the approaching of Valentine's Day usually marks ubiquitous exchanges of chocolates, roses, and “punny” cards, most of us do not realize the other “something special” we are giving our significant others: bacteria. These invisible microbial guests outnumber our own cells ten-fold, as they enjoy a life of free meals, nice homes, and protection.

In our mouths alone, we harbor up to 200 species of bacteria, adding up to a whopping 1,000 to 100,000 microbes (Stevens & Desrocher, 1997). The bacterial cocktail within our mouths is usually unique to us and largely depends on our oral hygiene habits, diet, genetics, and overall health. However, a study carried out by Kort et al. (2014) found that a few distinct species can enjoy shared custody between individuals in a relationship. Here, the researchers discovered that hours after consuming a probiotic yogurt, those who engaged in “intimate kissing” shared *Lactobacillus* and *Bifidobacterium* bacteria. Perhaps less romantic is their finding that, on average, a 10-second kiss facilitated the transfer of 80 million bacteria.

Though this might seem gross enough to make you temporarily swear off intimacy and keep your chocolate box to yourself, it is worth considering the evolutionary benefits to why this particular act of intimacy is important to us as humans. Kort et al. (2014) have evidence that, although we are not the only animals who kiss, our particular form of saliva-swapping smooching may have enabled our ancestors to do a quick, necessary profile of the dietary and metabolic fitness of our potential mates via implicit “chemical cues.” This is not entirely unlike our innate propensity to favor those with symmetrical faces and silky, shiny hair - qualities that also speak to the health of the individual. Additionally, the famous “cuddle hormone,” oxytocin, spikes during a kiss, which facilitates feelings of attachment, a key component of a species' survival.

On a more appreciable level, humans' naturally residing bacteria help to fight off of pathogenic (disease-causing) bacteria that could make us sick or create infection by outcompeting the ill-meaning microbes for space and nutrients. As a result, our immune systems may be benefiting from our intimate exchanges, while taking “what's mine is yours” to a whole new level.

Skidmore News Online: February 2015. Retrieved from <http://www.skidmorenews.com> on 7/28/2015.

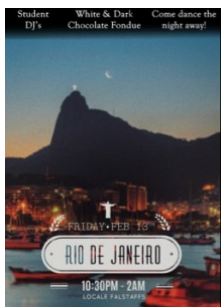
## Weekend A&E Briefing



### Ensemble ACJW, presenting musical valentine

Feb. 13, 8pm, Zankel

This program features Roussel's Trio for Flute, Viola, and Cello. Also includes the world premier of "Backlight" by Meredith Monk. It's \$8 for adults, \$5 for seniors, retirees, faculty, and staff, and free for students and children.



### Winter Dance: Rio!

Feb. 13, 10:30pm - 2am, Falstaffs

Carnival style dance, Rio de Janeiro themed! There will be chocolate fountains.



### Comfest, 26th Annual National College Comedy Festival

Feb. 13 & 14 in JKB Theater, 7 & 10pm both nights



The professional lineup this year includes comedy from Grammy Award nominated stand-up Tig Notaro, improvised musical group Baby Wants Candy, sketch comedy from Gentlemen Party, and stand-up from Chris Thayer. Plus, 16 college sketch comedy and improv groups will be performing including Skidmore's own Skidomegy, Ad-Libs, and The Sketchies! Visit <http://www.nationalcollegecomedyfestival.com/> for more details on the festival and ticket sales.



### Winter Carnival

Feb. 14, 3-7pm, Case center

Free food, games, and club performances will take over all levels of Case. Performances by the Circus Club, Pulse, Dynamics, Raices, and Breakbeats! There will also be a huge bouncy obstacle course.



### Sex Toy Bingo

Feb. 14, 6pm, Gannet Auditorium

Brought to you by the Skidmore Feminist Action Network, there will be several rounds of bingo, and the winner of each round wins a sex toy. The quality and value of the toys increase with each round!

## The Sound of Silence: Why no one is talking about Net Neutrality, and what that says about us as citizens of the world



Ryan Davis '17 / Skidmore News

by Ryan Davis '17

On Feb. 19, the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) will announce their decision on the legality of ‘Net Neutrality.’ Net Neutrality is the reason the Internet works the way we know it to today. It ensures that all data on the Internet be considered equal. Much like how water or electricity sent to your house cannot be controlled by individual providers, data must also be allowed to flow to your home or workplace unrestricted. The result of free data movement has been an open Internet where smaller websites can compete with big name corporations' websites, because the speed at which both sites can be accessed is the same. It has made the Internet a fertile ground for entrepreneurs and innovators, and Internet-savvy youth have benefited as a result, though we might not realize it. Sites that we take for granted such as YouTube, Facebook, and Tumblr all got their start as small websites, which, due to the principle of net neutrality, were able to compete with sites that were already established.

However, this is all poised to change. In January, 2014, Verizon sued the U.S. government, proposing that due to a technicality wherein Internet Service Providers (ISPs) are not classified as common carriers (i.e., services that can be regulated by the government because they serve the public, such as gas pipelines), the FCC has no right to regulate them, and as such, Net Neutrality does not apply. Since then, the FCC has been deliberating on whether ISPs are common carriers, and if Net Neutrality should be abolished. The consequences of this ruling will be monumental.

If Net Neutrality is abolished, it will allow ISPs to slow down or speed up the bandwidth of any website they want. ISP representatives have described this as creating “fast lanes.” Initially, this doesn't sound too bad, but think about it this way: by abolishing net neutrality, ISPs can essentially strong-arm any company they want into paying them to maintain the speed at which their services can be accessed. If Netflix wants to stay in business and not lose subscribers due to poor buffering speeds, they would

have to pay a premium. A competitor who can't pay that premium would fail because they would not be able to compete. Given the way ISPs currently operate, this would be comparable to a form of extortion. According to the FCC, 67 percent of Americans have two or less ISPs to choose between. If Comcast wants to extort a bit of money out of Tumblr, they can, because if Tumblr doesn't pay, over half of their customers will be experiencing frustrating or unusable Internet speeds to access their service, hurting their bottom line and potentially putting them out of business.

Upon further investigation, the issue becomes exceedingly complicated. One problem is that Comcast and Verizon are essentially monopolies regarding how little choice their consumers actually have in choosing a service provider. Another issue is that ISPs exert huge amounts of influence over the U.S. government. According to Bloomberg News, Comcast is the second largest corporate lobbyist of the U.S. government, just behind Northrop Grumman, a defense contractor responsible for aerospace systems, electronic systems, information systems, and technical services for the U.S. military. Comcast lobbies the U.S. government second only to the guys making helicopters and jets for the air force. (Think about the implications of that for a second.) Comcast spent \$18,810,000 on lobbying alone in 2013. Their influence goes beyond lobbying money, though. Current FCC chairman Tom Wheeler is a former lobbyist himself for telecommunication companies. Now he's in charge of the government office that regulates them. I would argue that this is a little more than a potential conflict of interest.

So, a decision that effects the very foundation of the Internet is happening in a week's time, and no one seems to be talking about it here at Skidmore. I can only speculate as to why that is, but I think political satirist John Oliver put it best in saying, "If you want to do something evil, put it inside something boring." This is a shockingly true statement. For example, look at the Edward Snowden leaks. The outcry against government surveillance has been muted at best, because the actual legislation governing electronic surveillance and data collection is boring. Cable news has been slow to report on Net Neutrality or Snowden.

My larger point is, groundbreaking things are going on in our world, both domestically and internationally, and yet we seem to be confined to only the problems we can make sense of. Large public outcry seems limited to issues that are promoted by cable news, or ones that we can take polarizing opinions on. Take any hot social issue of our time, from minimum wage to gay marriage. An us vs. them mentality sets in, it becomes easy to vilify the opposing side, and outcry on both ends is loud and zealous.

However, consider issues that are more difficult to take opposing sides on; issues in which there is no villain with a human face. What about shadowy corporations exerting absurd amounts of control on our "government of the people"? What about corporations maintaining the power to enforce their religious beliefs over their workers and their healthcare? This list could go on and on.

These issues are complicated, relevant beyond belief, and seem to be largely ignored. Where is the media coverage of those matters? Where are the protests at all? Where are the discussions, activism, and calls for change? I challenge the citizens of the U.S. and students of Skidmore to be better rounded in our political activism and global literacy. I challenge us to reject sensationalized stories of modern news, and to become more active and knowledgeable both domestically and internationally. It can be easy to forget or become overwhelmed by the many problems of the world, and there are no easy answers to most of them, but for the sake of our future, we have to try.

## Remembering Anne Palamountain



Photo from Skidmore.edu

By Janine Kritschgau '18, Features Editor

Anne Palamountain, a prominent individual for the College during the past fifty years of her life, passed away on Jan. 24. She indirectly touched the lives of every student through her development of Financial Aid programs at Skidmore, namely organizing the annual Palamountain Scholarship Benefit each summer. She also formed close relationships with various members of the faculty.

Professor Rotheim, of the English department, described Anne's commitment by explaining that “she threw herself into anything and all things Skidmore with tireless energy and enthusiasm.” She will be remembered for her spirit and dynamic vision. Professor Rotheim added, “Anne was one of those persons who aged with grace, integrity, and good humor.”

Many of the same sentiments were echoed by Classics Professor Michael Arnush. Since the time he first came to campus, in the late 80s, he explained that he “would see her around and [at that time] already held her in high esteem.” Professor Arnush shared fond memories with Palamountain from a two week alumni trip to Greece in 1989, which she attended. Despite her being 74 years of age at the time of the trip, she climbed the acropolis, swam in the hotel pools and the Mediterranean Sea. “She was phenomenal,” Professor Arnush reflected.

Each year, Anne Palamountain participated in fundraising efforts to raise between 100,000 and 200,000 dollars for student scholarships. “She was a remarkable friend to Skidmore,” Professor Arnush stated. “She obviously fell in love with the college, and we fell in love with her.”

## Sochi: Where Are They Now?

By Mia Merrill, Sports Editor,

A year ago, many of us were huddling around televisions and trying to determine the meaning of “Hot. Cool. Yours.”



Many athletes from the Sochi Games have since stopped competing / Photo by NBC News

The Russian Federation hosted the 2014 Winter Olympics in its only city that was not freezing cold in February. Eighty-eight nations sent representatives to the Games, and the host nation ended up garnering the most medals with thirty-three. The United States came in fourth in the medal count, with twenty-eight medals. Many of the US athletes have returned to training, possibly gunning for another Olympic run.

Ted Ligety, a three-time Olympic alpine skier, went on to compete in Slovenia and Switzerland after the Olympics. He won the giant slalom discipline in the last competition of the 2014 season. Slalom skiing requires athletes to maneuver between poles as they progress down the slope.

Mikaela Shiffrin, an alpine skier, fulfilled the Olympic trope of making the audience feel inadequate. Only eighteen years old in Sochi, Shiffrin became the youngest person to win the gold for the slalom. Shiffrin has gone on to compete and win at competitions in Croatia and Austria, and is in the midst of a successful 2015 season.

Ice dancing champions Meryl Davis and Charlie White have not competed since the Olympics, despite being the all-American sweethearts of the games. Davis did, however, win *Dancing with the Stars* later in 2014.

Sage Kotsenburg, who became the first person to win the new slopestyle snowboarding event at Sochi, has continued his training since the Games.

I could tediously name more athletes who have continued or ceased their training since the Olympics, but it may be more important to talk about why athletes are so inclined to resign after the Games. Olympic athletes train their whole lives for their shining moment at the Games—a moment that could end in defeat or even injury. The press exploits the winners once they return home, athletes make endless public appearances and scarcely find time to return to training. The Olympic cycle is a vicious one that robs athletes of their personal lives. It is easy for audiences to criticize athletes who choose not to return to their sport after an Olympics—and for us to wonder why they are throwing their work away. But in the modern sports system, athletes are drained after such high-profile competitive seasons. They must determine whether or not the media attention is worth the grueling training.

Of course, many Olympic athletes will not return for the next winter games in Pyeongchang, South Korea in 2018. Intense athletes are not always known for their longevity. But it should be interesting to see who decides to keep training, and to take the Olympic risk yet again.

## Reel Talk: Yes, “Fifty Shades of Grey” is that bad



By Sean van der Heijden

I don't even really know where to begin. As a movie, it's watchable. It's basically just the most expensive porno ever made: terrible acting, terrible plot, but that's not really the point. If you go in expecting any of that, you will very obviously be disappointed—the two leads are terrible actors and have no chemistry together. The writing is so bad it's laughable. The script—famously based off of Twilight fan fiction—embodies every cliché ever of the “boy-meets-girl” narrative. For a while, I thought it was the most unintentionally hilarious movie I've ever seen, until it stopped being funny.

The problem with this movie isn't how bad it is—everyone knows it's bad (except, apparently, the filmmakers, who actually strove to make it serious). The problem is everything this film embodies: naïve girl falls for rich, powerful man; innocent girl loses her virginity to more experienced man; man wins girl over by buying her expensive things; girl is submissive and completely controlled by man; girl is possession of man.

None of these tropes or stereotypes are good to uphold. You can read it that the main character, Anastasia, has control over the relationship and that it is consensual the whole time. You can also read it that she is manipulated into a harmful relationship and raped by him. I can't say if either of these readings is “right” and the other is “wrong,” but either way—if you need an extensive written contract in order to maintain a relationship, you're doing it wrong.

Also, as I said above, the film tries to take itself seriously, which is honestly just cringe-worthy. If it wants to be some sort of BDSM, sexual empowerment movie, I didn't get it. Anastasia goes along with Christian Grey's excessive relationship requirements because “that's just the way he is,” which is honestly the poorest excuse possible for “I have emotional scars left over from my childhood.” The thing is, nobody ever tries to fix his problems or suggest therapy—they just go along with it and submit to him, which I didn't find realistic and, again, makes Anastasia look weak.

So I honestly just walked away really annoyed. If you want to watch a film that actually tackles sadomasochism, watch *Secretary* (2002) with the fantastic Maggie Gyllenhaal or David Cronenberg's *A Dangerous Method* (2011) with Viggo Mortenson as Sigmund

Freud. Also—instead of spending money on movie tickets—if you want to donate money to helping out women in abusive relationships (and watch “Fifty Shades of Buscemi,” which I can promise you is much better), click [here](#).

Overall: I can't give it too low of a score just because I know how much effort goes into making a film which was, at times, unintentionally amusing. I'd say 2 out of 10.

## Why Does The World Exist? An Existential Detective Story

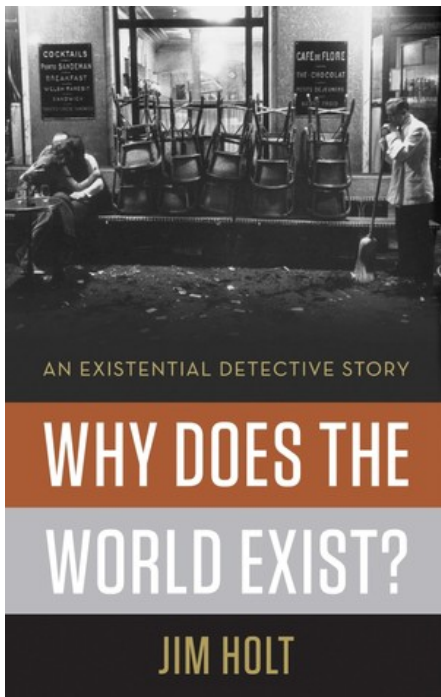


Photo Courtesy of goodreads.com

By Erin Silgado '18

Why Does the World Exist is considered one of the best books of the year according to New York Times Book Review, New York Magazine, Slate, Discover Magazine, and Christian Century. Author Jim Holt is a long time contributor to The New Yorker, a frequent contributor to the New York Times, and has written another book called Stop Me If You've Heard This.

In Why Does The World Exist, Holt tries to tackle the “darkest question in all of philosophy”: Why is there something rather than nothing? Through a series of interviews with modern philosophers, scientists, and writers, he gathers theories and tests them against each other. A wide variety of perspectives are taken into consideration, including those of the religious, atheists, and agnostics. He analyzes and explains these theories, using examples that even a philosophical novice could understand. His writing is almost entirely unprejudiced, which allows readers to come to their own conclusions about the theories he presents.

It is a wonderful, albeit frustrating, read because Holt provides no concrete answer for this burning question. Prominent British non-fiction author Sarah Bakewell might have been right when she said, “I can imagine few more enjoyable ways of thinking than to read this book.” However, in the end, this piece of literature helps one to understand his or her place in the seemingly huge and uncertain world, and is a worthwhile read.

4 stars out of 5.



# THE SKIDMORE NEWS

HOME ABOUT US NEWS FEATURES OPINION ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT SPORTS PULP ARCHIVES ADVERTISING STAFF



Friday Feb. 6

Fire Alarm at Sussman Apartments 8:46 AM: Fire alarm activation received, units dispatched. Source of alarm due to cooking.

College Violation at Willmarth Hall 2:34 PM: RP reports noise complaint after numerous requests to lower music. Unit dispatched, resident complied.

Suspicious Odor at Dana 3:35 PM: RP reports sulfur odor. Units dispatched, source could not be located.

Suspicious Odor at Jonsson Tower 5:25 PM: RP reports suspicious odor. Officer dispatched, report generated.

Fire Alarm at Penfield Hall 8:30 PM: Fire alarm activation received. Units dispatched, unknown reason for activation.

College Violation Wait Hall 9:15 PM: RP reports college violation. Unit dispatched, report generated.

Saturday Feb. 7

College Violation Wait Hall 1:28 AM: RP requests assistance with noisy group who failed to comply with request. Units dispatched, group gone on arrival.

Criminal Mischief Wiecking Hall 1:57 AM: RP requests response for discharged fire extinguisher. Units dispatched, report generated.

College Violation Wiecking Hall 2:01AM: RP requests assistance with alcohol violation found in dorm. Unit dispatched, report generated. Alcohol violation referral.

Fire Alarm Sussman Apartments 3:11PM: Fire alarm activation received, units dispatched. Due to cooking. Report generated.

Fire Alarm Whitman Way 10:04 PM: Fire alarm activation received. Units dispatched, due to slight smoke condition from ironing. Report generated.

Suspicious Odor Jonsson Tower 10:39 PM: RP reports suspicious odor. Officer dispatched, violation not found.

College Violation Whitman Way 11:35PM: Noise complaint received. Units dispatched, residents complied.

Sunday Feb. 8

Suspicious Odor Jonsson Tower 12:01AM: RP reports a strong odor. Officer dispatched, reports unfounded.

Alarm Dinning Hall 8:56 AM: Fire alarm activation received. Units dispatched, due to flooding. Report generated.

Towing Moore Way 8:00 AM: Vehicle parked in fire lane. Attempt to contact numerous times, no response. Matts towing notified, student moved vehicle prior to tow.

Fire Alarm Cane Crossing 2:42PM: Fire alarm activation received. Units dispatched, due to marijuana. Report generated.

Suspicious Odor Jonsson Tower 8:15 PM: RP reports a suspicious odor. Officers dispatched. Numerous violations noted, report generated.

Sex Offense On Campus 9:41PM: Assistance requested for a possible sexual and gender based misconduct incident.

College Violation Whitman Way 10:36 PM: RP reports excessive noise, officer dispatched. Residents complied with request to quiet down.

Fire Alarm Sussman Apartments 11:16PM: Fire alarm activation received. Units dispatched, due to burning incense. Report generated.

Monday Feb. 9

Emergency Phone Sussman Apartments 7:21AM: Emergency phone activation for apartments with no response. Units dispatched, no one in the area.

Campus Safety Assist Off Campus 10:15 AM: Law enforcement requests information regarding a suspicious package. Report generated.

Fire Alarm Whitman Way 7:24PM: Fire alarm activation received. Units dispatched, due to marijuana. Report generated.

Tuesday Feb. 10

Suspicious Activity Whitman Way 3:55AM: RP reports a suspicious noise in her apartment. Dispatched officer. Unfounded.

Welfare Check Rounds Hall 2:26PM: RP requested a welfare check of student. Unit dispatched, student found okay and advised to follow up with RP. Report generated.

Fire Alarm Sussman Apartments 6:13 PM: Fire alarm activation received. Units dispatched, due to cooking. Report generated.

Suspicious Activity Jonsson Tower 9:01 PM: RP reports subjects smoking marijuana at the back door of the building. Units dispatched, subjects gone on arrival.

Suspicious Odor McClellan Hall 11:00PM: RP reports a suspicious odor. Odor was detected but no one was in area. Unable to locate.

Wednesday Feb. 11

Campus Safety Report Cane Crossing 12:00 AM: RP reports a suspicious female wearing a green coat in the area. Dispatched Officer. Officer reports no one in area.

College Violation Wiecking Hall 11:42 PM: RP reports loud music from dorm room. Officer spoke with occupants who will comply with quiet hours.

Thursday Feb. 12

College Violation Moore Way 12:06 AM: RP reports loud music from apartment. Units dispatched, resident complied with request to lower music.

Towing Jonsson Tower Lot 10:02 AM: Officer request a tow truck to tow a vehicle found in violation. Report generated.

Suspicious Odor Jonsson Tower 4:26 PM: RP reports a suspicious odor. Units dispatched, source could not be located.

Welfare Check Cane Crossing 9:10 PM: RP requests welfare check of student. Unit dispatched, RP cancelled prior to check. Student called RP.

Welfare Check Moore Way 10:59PM: RP requests check on student. Units dispatched, student found well. Report generated.

## Club Profile: Line



By Janine Kritschgau '18, Features Editor

Line is an art publication focusing on art from Skidmore and downtown Saratoga Springs. Articles published in the magazine examine exhibits at the Tang and Shick Art—as well as dance and the occasional music performances. A typical Line piece is a well-crafted student response to an art exhibit, focusing on the emotions inspired in the viewer.

Club co-presidents Allison Gretchko and Daniel Kapp, both members of the class of 2017, are currently working to improve the magazine. “It’s great because you can have someone who just loves to write join the club, or someone who just likes art join the club,” Gretchko says. Line is currently looking to involve more members in all aspects of the process of the magazine, including writing articles and designing the print edition. Anyone is encouraged to join, especially those who enjoy writing or have experience with InDesign.

“Our club members [are] passionate, quirky, intellectual, silly, and dedicated,” Kapp says. The dynamic group has been successfully transitioning the publication into a “more sleek [and] professional” form, the co-president elaborates.

At the moment, Line’s 2015 edition is still coming together. The magazine will be completed about mid-March and presented at a launch party on April 9 in the Tang Teaching Museum. The catered event will showcase spoken-word poetry as well as performances by campus bands and a cappella groups.

The club plays a vital role in the art scene on campus by encouraging and facilitating conversations about art. “I think if more people understood the Tang, then more people would appreciate it,” Kapp explains. “Our goal is to reach out to as many people as possible—to make it easy to join something cool.” To read Line Archives or to learn more about the publication, click [here](#).

The club meets in Tisch most Thursdays from 7-8 p.m. and every other Monday from 7-8 p.m. To keep up to date about specific meeting times and location, email Gretchko or Kapp ([agretchk@skidmore.edu](mailto:agretchk@skidmore.edu) or [dkapp@skidmore.edu](mailto:dkapp@skidmore.edu)).

## Skidmore ProArts Channels Talents into active Love: Creating a New Mural Where an Old One had been Destroyed



YouTube Video: [YouTube.com/watch?v=d5zQOxB9wg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d5zQOxB9wg);feature=youtu.be" width="641" height="352" /> From the Skidmore ProArts Mural Video, YouTube Video: [YouTube.com/watch?v=d5zQOxB9wg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d5zQOxB9wg);feature=youtu.be

By Jessica Kong '16, News Co-Editor

Saratoga Center for the Family is an agency that serves children who are victims of domestic violence, neglect, and other forms of abuse. On May 5, 2013, the Family Center was engulfed by a fire that destroyed the basement which houses its Child Advocacy Center- which provides counseling and medical services, among other forms of support, to children who have experienced abuse. After the entire staff temporarily relocated to the Nolan House, a Presbyterian Church on Circular Street, they came back to their original location in September 2013 with the help of funds raised by local restaurants. Although the walls were repainted with bright colors, they were blank.

The walls stayed that way until they caught the attention of Rene Alpert '15, who visited the Family Center for the first time in January 2014. She knew that a mural created by Skidmore students had existed in the Child Advocacy Center before the fire and was eager to put up another one just as beautiful in its place. Alpert took the initiative to reach out to Skidmore Pro Arts, an on-campus club dedicated to the fine arts.

In January, Alpert contacted Lily Reinhold '15—a studio art major and member of the Skidmore Pro Arts club—asking for her assistance in planning out ideas for the mural. With the help of other Skidmore artists, they started to blueprint the images during club meetings while keeping in mind the suggestions of a cityscape theme from the kids at the Child Advocacy Center.

“We wanted to create an image that was calming and comforting for children when they came in, one that reflected a community and all the possible interests that a child might have,” Reinhold said.

Pro Arts members Camilla Busby '15, a studio art major and creative writing minor, and Elizabeth Stone '15, a studio art major, art history and religion double minor, sketched the scenes on the walls. The next day, Reinhold and a dozen other Skidmore Pro Arts club members completed the mural.

Painted with hues that conjure up the nostalgia of classic carnival games, the mural stands warm and welcoming in the Child Advocacy Center waiting room. In the mural, a pink and white striped sweet shop cheerfully resides next to a bookstore, over which

a painted parchment sign is inscribed as “The Book of Wonders.” A smiling unicorn stands beside the bookstore entrance, the floor of which is plaid pink and leads into the book sanctuary. Next door, a grinning green dinosaur serves a swirl of ice cream to a tiny clown out of a mint green ice cream stand spotted with plum purple. Adjacent is the pet shop, where another dinosaur, a bunny, a dog, a cat, a bird, and a fish await their next owners. A bright yellow flower shop looks over a beautiful pasture of hilly green, where butterflies roam and sunflowers grow tall. Finally, rows of brand new toys can be seen through the window of a bright blue toy store.

Child Advocacy Center Coordinator Jennifer Wormley was very pleased with the students' efforts. “The mural is what brings everything together. We bring the kids over to the mural and it instantly makes them feel comfortable,” Wormley said.

The walls at the Child Advocacy Center are soon to be filled with more Skidmore art. Busby and Stone expressed excitement about a new mural they are planning to put up this spring semester.

## Skidaiko in Debt



Photo courtesy of Skidmore.edu

By Bryn Hsu '16

Running a club is an admirable task as it takes time, effort, and dedication. For the current Skidaiko club leaders however, it will take even more than that, as they have to overcome debt issues they inherited.

Last year, Skidmore hosted The East Coast Taiko Conference, the gathering of taiko teams from universities across the region. However, it was badly planned and led to overspending of the club's budget. At the time, the club was led by a senior who has since graduated. The conference caused Skidaiko's finances to begin going downhill. Currently, Skidaiko has a deficit of \$4,066.66.

Funding for clubs comes from the Student Government Association (SGA) budget. The SGA is responsible for deciding how much money is given to each club and the Skidmore SGA Financial Guidelines states that the SGA “serves only to subsidize the costs of clubs/committees,” but “not to cover all expenses.” This is to discourage “excessive spending for personal benefit.” However, there appeared to have been a loophole, which allowed the Skidakio club leader at the time of the conference to maneuver around these guidelines. The leader of the club was also a member of the SGA executive board, and this led to a conflict of interest.

To solve the problem, Sam Harris '15, SGA Vice President for Financial Affairs, proposed installing a new policy stating that the Vice President of Financial Affairs and the Vice President of Club Affairs could no longer hold an officer position on a club e-board. A special election was held in November of this year allowing students to vote on the policy, which was approved.

Harris, along with the Budget and Finance Committee is also working with Skidaiko's new leaders to figure out an amiable solution to the deficit, so that Skidaiko can remain a strong and successful performance group.

“It's just a bad situation for everyone involved, and they're good people trying to fix the problem,” said Harris.

Members of Skidaiko declined request for comment on this issue.

## Tang Museum Receives 1 Million Dollar Grant



Photo courtesy of Skidmore.edu

By Noa Maltzman '18, News Editor

Last Thursday Feb. 12 it was announced that the Skidmore College Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery received a one million dollar grant from the Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund. This grant will support the expansion of the museum's programming and will help to build the Tang's endowment.

Considered a “challenge” grant, it's “a challenge to other donors to match the grant and create a two million dollar endowment,” said Ian Berry, Dayton Director at the Tang museum.

“The Tang's interdisciplinary approach, which has become a model for university art museums across the nation, will be strengthened by the Tisch Illumination Fund grant,” said a press release for the grant that can be found [here](#). “We are grateful to the Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund for their continued support and for their recognition of our work, fostering meaningful exchange and dialogue in our community, and new ways of learning for our audiences here in Saratoga and beyond,” Berry says in the press release.

This is not the first time that The Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund has given money to the Tang. In 2008, they also gave a 1.2 million dollar challenge grant. Money, such like these grants from the Laurie M. Tisch Fund is critical to the Tang as it helps to grow the museum's endowment. “Our endowment is the solid base of support for the museum. It is the money we use each year to do everything we do at the Tang,” said Berry.

Laurie M. Tisch, President of the Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund, says in the press release: “We are proud to expand our support of the Tang Teaching Museum.”

## AOD Policy Under Review

**Actions and Sanctions for Violations of Skidmore College's Policy on Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD)**  
**Corresponding Point System to the Alcohol and Other Drug Policy Grid**  
 (Policy Subject to Change)

**Level I Violations**

- Open container (under 21 and/or in public area)
- Possession or consumption of alcohol (under 21 or in a residence hall)

1st Offense	2nd Offense	3rd Offense
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parental notification</li> <li>• \$25 Fine</li> <li>• Educational sanction e.g. BASICS (at student's expense)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parental notification</li> <li>• \$75 Fine</li> <li>• <b>One point</b></li> <li>• Educational sanction e.g. BASICS (at student's expense)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parental notification</li> <li>• \$150 Fine</li> <li>• Educational sanction e.g. BASICS (at student's expense)</li> <li>• A 4th Level I violation will be referred to the Student Conduct process e.g. Integrity Board, Administrative Hearing Board, etc.</li> <li>• <b>Two points</b></li> </ul>

**Level II Violations**

- Public intoxication/disorderly conduct (including public urination)
- Possession or consumption of alcohol (possession of 6 or more standard drinks)
- Possession of alcohol paraphernalia (e.g. funnel, keg, beer pong table, etc.)
- Permitting underage drinking in residence
- Possession of a false ID
- Possession of drug paraphernalia (e.g. pipe, bong, hookah, etc.)
- Hosting an unauthorized event with alcohol present (e.g. Apartments, etc.)

1st Offense	2nd Offense	3rd Offense
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parental notification</li> <li>• \$100 Fine</li> <li>• Educational sanction e.g. BASICS (at student's expense)</li> <li>• <i>Apartment event requests may be rescinded for all apartment residents for a specified period of time</i></li> <li>• <b>Two points</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parental notification</li> <li>• \$200 Fine</li> <li>• Alcohol and/or drug assessment by certified provider and recommended treatment (at student's expense)</li> <li>• <i>Apartments with a second violation: All residents of apartment may be held accountable and sanctioned as a 2nd offense</i></li> <li>• <b>Three points</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parental notification</li> <li>• <b>Referral to the Student Conduct process e.g. Integrity Board, Administrative Hearing Board, etc.</b> sanctions may include removal from campus residence, suspension, or dismissal from college</li> <li>• <b>Four points</b></li> </ul>

**Level III Violations**

- Participation in and/or permitting mass consumption of alcohol (including games)
- Possession or use of marijuana (less than 25 grams)
- Use or manufacturing a false ID
- Public intoxication at any academic or social event sponsored by Skidmore
- The use of any substance in a way that was not intended for the purpose of altering mood, perception, and/or performance without medical advice

1st Offense	2nd Offense	3rd Offense
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parental notification</li> <li>• \$200 Fine</li> <li>• Educational sanction e.g. BASICS (at student's expense)</li> <li>• Alcohol and/or drug assessment by certified provider and recommended treatment (at student's expense)</li> <li>• <i>Apartment event requests may be rescinded for all apartment residents for a specified period of time</i></li> <li>• <b>Three points</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parental notification</li> <li>• \$400 Fine</li> <li>• Alcohol and/or drug assessment by certified provider and recommended treatment (at student's expense)</li> <li>• <i>Apartments with a second violation: All residents of apartment may be held accountable and sanctioned as a 2nd offense</i></li> <li>• <b>Four points</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parental notification</li> <li>• <b>Referral to Student Conduct process e.g. Integrity Board, Administrative Hearing Board, etc.</b> sanctions may include removal from campus residence, suspension, or dismissal from college</li> <li>• <b>Five points</b></li> </ul>

**Level IV Violations**

Signs explaining the current AOD policy hang in bathrooms around the school. Photo by Noa Maltzman '18, News Editor

By Noa Maltzman '18, News Editor

A few times this semester, Skidmore students have received requests to share their opinions on the current Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) policy, here at Skidmore. The first request came in the form of an email from Jennifer McDonald, Director of Health Promotions. McDonald asked that students attend an open forum on Jan 29 so they could voice their opinion heard on the future of the AOD policy. The second request came a few weeks later, and this time students were urged to fill out a survey on their opinions on the AOD policy.

“We were disappointed that the turnout to the open forum was really low 'cause [sic] that was a great opportunity we would have had to chat with students, and very few people actually came,” said McDonald. Though attendance might have been low at the open forum, so far about 400 students have filled out the survey.

“We review the policy continually and then every five years or so it is time for a really thorough look at it and sort of an overhaul,” said McDonald. The last time the policy went under a thorough review was five years ago.

McDonald wrote in an email to the students that, “the AOD Task Force is currently reviewing the College's alcohol and other drug policies and procedures with a goal of launching a new policy at the start of the fall, 2015 semester.” They are currently working on what exactly these changes will entail.

“This is our semester where we are actually drafting a new policy. Towards the end of the semester we will have opportunities for students to actually give feedback before we actually go live with the policy,” said McDonald. With this in mind, the exact changes to the policy are unknown, but those working on the new policy do have some clear goals for it. “We want the policy to have harm reduction framework. So, basically an aim towards minimizing risks. So, if students are going to engage in these behaviors there is a way to do it in safer ways and ways that is higher risk [sic]. So we want our policy to catch that,” McDonald said. Other goals include wanting the amnesty policy to be really clear, and something that is well utilized and understood by students.

With the changes to the policy, McDonald said, “We want basically a community of care and responsibility. Where people look out for one and another. Where help seeking is encouraged and students feel comfortable doing that.”



“We are a little limited [in what we can do] because we are a part of the United States, so we have to function under state and federal laws, but there is ways that we can do that [sic] and still make [the policy] feel fair and reasonable, and harm reduction based,” said McDonald.

In an interview, McDonald also talked about how they are hoping to put something together that feels fair to students. In hopes of doing this, McDonald really wants students to know that “we are taking everything under consideration. We really want to know what students are thinking.”

All things considered McDonald stated that, “I just want it to be a safe community for students. I am hoping the policy can help us to get there.”

## Horoscopes

By: Marie Civitello, '17, Contributing Writer

### PISCES

The possibility of true love awaits you around every corner, dear Pisces. The saucy beat of a tango might be playing in the background when you lock eyes with ‘The One’. Perhaps your eyelashes will be sparkling with fresh snowflakes when you bump into them on the way to class. You may be sitting alone in D-hall, struggling to lift a quivering forkful of peas to your mouth when they suddenly appear at your side. This is your month to shine, Pisces, but do not smile too bright—you have a pea stuck between your front teeth.

### AQUARIUS

Beware of the trashcans, Aquarius. They contain spiteful, football-sized squirrels. These freaks of the rodent kingdom plot against you.

### TAURUS

Taurus, have you called your mother recently? She has not heard from you in a while and figured you had finally left the nest for good. Uncle Lester (yes, the one with the obstructed nasal passageways) is moving into your room, but do not worry, you can have the trundle bed.

### CANCER

A Hallmark card from your grandmother featuring an ominously grinning pony and the words “Happy Heart Day” is waiting in your mailbox, Cancer. Happy Valentine's Day.

### VIRGO

Your next-door neighbor just purchased new subwoofers, metallic purple leggings and a full-length mirror. Dear Virgo, your nights of restful sleep are over.

### SCORPIO

Remember that humorous email you sent your RA about raising a gopher colony in your room, Scorpio? Well, they took it seriously. You thought you were friends, but that was just too much, too soon. Res Life is now keeping a file on you, and is closely watching your comings and goings.

### LIBRA

Your enthusiastic claims to “love winter” will falter this month, Libra. But not to worry - only two more months of bitter arctic winds and patches of reptilian, wind-chafed skin.

### GEMINI

Yes, your metallic purple leggings look fantastic and the late-night dance sessions are a great way to boogie your troubles away—but can you keep it down? Sleep-deprived Virgo next door is seeking revenge.

## ARIES

The smell of D-hall veggie burgers will trail you like an evil aura this month, Aries. Expect concerned glances from strangers.

## LEO

Thanks to your dislike of vacuuming, the apple from last semester that you forgot behind your fridge has sprouted. A lucrative apple business is foreseen in your near future.

## CAPRICORN

You might think stomping in the room above you is inconsiderate; it's actually Morse code. Stay tuned for important announcements.

## SAGITTARIUS

Your parents are planning a trip to Barbados for spring break, Sagittarius. With Crystalline waters, sun-soaked beaches and not a snowflake to be seen; they are so glad they have you to watch the cats while they are away!

## Blurbs Overheard



By Cara Dempsey, Pulp Co-Editor

“PB&J Tacos. Yes?” Overheard in Case

“As a concept, eyeliner eludes me.” Overheard in the atrium

“You have enough allergies for all of us.” Overheard in Northwoods

“What goes on a resume? I think folding neat omelets says a lot about me.” Overheard in the library

“It's like, that's him. That's my guy. Number three. Like basketball, y'know?” Overheard in Case

## Ariadne's Ambivalence (A poem contributed by Folio)



By Halley Furlong-Mitchell,

I warned you: I would snore.  
You could have just rolled me over in the night.

No need for abandonment.

Now I am haunted by Meadowlands, gray Subarus, black hair—

A god has come. I am to be his wife.

He knows nothing of half-lives or untangling.

I fuck him

but I still feel the imprint of your palm on my back.

Tell me: is it just the rain outside or did I hear you

breathe there just now, my old shadow—

Folio is Skidmore's oldest student-run literary magazine. We accept and publish work digitally on a rolling basis, and we publish a print issue at the end of every academic year. The submission deadline for this year's reading period is March 23, 2015. Submissions of any type (fiction, poetry, non-fiction, photography, art, etc.) should be sent as separate attachments to [folio@skidmore.edu](mailto:folio@skidmore.edu). Learn more about Folio and the work we produced from our Facebook page and our publication website, and keep your eyes peeled for our print publication, which will be distributed in April.

## Reel Talk: Oscar Predictions 2015



Photo by Matt Sayles/Invision/AP, File

By Sean van der Heijden

Here are my official Oscar predictions for the 2014-2015 season. Last year I only got one wrong, but this year's way harder. It's basically come down to *Birdman* vs. *Boyhood* for both Best Picture and Best Director, so those categories are a complete toss-up. As for the acting categories, I'm judging based on on-screen performance alone. I'll try to be as unbiased as possible.

That being said, in addition to who I think will win (WW), I've occasionally included two subjective categories of who I think should win (SW), and who I think should have been nominated (SN). If you want to check out the full list of nominations, click [here](#).

### BEST PICTURE

WW: **Boyhood**

SW: *The Grand Budapest Hotel*

SN: *Gone Girl*; **Interstellar**

### BEST ACTOR:

WW: **Eddie Redmayne**, *The Theory of Everything*

SW: **Eddie Redmayne**, *The Theory of Everything*

SN: **Jake Gyllenhaal**, Nightcrawler; **Ralph Fiennes**, The Grand Budapest Hotel

BEST ACTRESS:

WW: **Julianne Moore**, Still Alice

SW: **Rosamund Pike**, Gone Girl

SN: **Scarlett Johansson**, Under The Skin

BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR

WW: **J.K. Simmons**, Whiplash

SW: **J.K. Simmons**, Whiplash

SN: **Riz Ahmed**, Nightcrawler

BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS

WW: **Patricia Arquette**, Boyhood

SW: **Laura Dern**, Wild

SN: **Tilda Swinton**, Snowpiercer

BEST DIRECTOR:

WW: **Alejandro González Iñárritu**, Birdman SW:

**Alejandro González Iñárritu**, Birdman

SN: **Pawel Pawlikowski**, Ida; **James Marsh**, The Theory of Everything

BEST ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY

WW: The Grand Budapest Hotel, Wes Anderson and Hugo Guinness

SW: The Grand Budapest Hotel, Wes Anderson and Hugo Guinness

BEST ADAPTED SCREENPLAY

WW: The Imitation Game, Graham Moore

SW: Whiplash, Damien Chazelle

SN: Gone Girl, Gillian Flynn

BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY

WW: Birdman, Emmanuel Lubezki,

SW: Ida, Lukasz Zal and Ryszard Lenczewski

SN: Selma, Bradford Young; Under the Skin, Daniel Landin

BEST EDITING:

WW: Boyhood, Sandra Adair

SW: Whiplash, Tom Cross

BEST COSTUME DESIGN: The Grand Budapest Hotel

BEST PRODUCTION DESIGN: The Grand Budapest Hotel

BEST SOUND EDITING: American Sniper

BEST SOUND MIXING: Whiplash

BEST VISUAL EFFECTS: Interstellar



BEST MAKEUP AND HAIRSTYLING

WW: The Grand Budapest Hotel

SW: Guardians of the Galaxy

BEST ORIGINAL SCORE:

WW: The Theory of Everything, Jóhann Jóhannsson,

SW: Interstellar, Hans Zimmer,

SN: Gone **Girl** Trent Reznor & Atticus Ross; Under the Skin, Mica Levi

BEST ORIGINAL SONG

WW: “**Glory**,” Selma

SW: “**Lost Stars**,” Begin Again

SN: “**Big Eyes**,” Big Eyes

BEST DOCUMENTARY

WW: CITIZENFOUR

SW: CITIZENFOUR

SN: Life Itself

BEST FOREIGN LANGUAGE FILM

WW: Ida

SW: Ida

SN: Deux jours, une nuit (Two Days, One Night)

BEST ANIMATED FILM: How to Train Your Dragon 2

BEST ANIMATED SHORT: Feast

BEST DOCUMENTARY SHORT: Crisis Hotline: Veterans Press 1

BEST LIVE ACTION SHORT: The Phone Call

## Skidmore to present 2 honorary degrees at Commencement 2015



Chisholm (left), Bond (right). Chisholm photo courtesy of American University, by Jeff Watts

Sallie W. (Penny) Chisholm, 1969 Skidmore grad, and Julian Bond, civil rights activist, to speak at May 16 ceremony  
By the Office of Communication

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y. — Two distinguished guests will participate in Commencement 2015: Sallie W. (Penny) Chisholm '69, the Lee and Geraldine Martin Professor of Environmental Studies at MIT, and Julian Bond, a longtime activist in the civil rights, economic justice, and peace movements who is on the faculty of American University.

Both will address the approximately 640 members of the Class of 2015 at Skidmore's 104th Commencement on May 16, and each will receive an honorary degree at the ceremony, which starts at 10:40 at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center.

Chisholm, who is also an MIT professor of biology, majored in biology at Skidmore, but was not planning to pursue a career in the field until her academic advisor encouraged her to apply to graduate school and earn a Ph.D. degree. Her decision to follow that advice would be life-changing for her and game-changing for the scientific world. A pre-eminent biological oceanographer, she has long studied the dominant photosynthetic organisms in the sea. Her findings have revolutionized scientists' understanding of life in the world's oceans. Those studies have taken her to MIT and to the White House, where she was presented with a National Medal of Science by President Barack Obama in 2013.

She has said that Skidmore was where she discovered a passion for science. After earning a Ph.D. in biology at the University at Albany, State University of New York, she pursued postdoctoral research at Scripps Institution of Oceanography. She joined MIT's Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering in 1976 and in 1978 began to also work at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute as a visiting scientist.

In 1988, while serving as the MIT director of the MIT/Woods Hole Joint Program in Oceanography, she and a team of scientists discovered *Prochlorococcus*, the world's smallest, yet most abundant photosynthetic organism. In the years since, she has studied these tiny bacteria on every possible level. They play a critical role in keeping ocean ecosystems healthy and the earth habitable. They exist in astonishing numbers and serve as the base of the ocean food chain. Through photosynthesis they produce as much as 20 percent of the oxygen replenishing the atmosphere each year.

Although much of her work is shared with the academic and scientific communities through her teaching and research, Chisholm also shares her passion for science and knowledge of the earth's ecology with younger students. She is a collaborator (with illustrator/author Molly Bang) on three children's books. The first, *Living Sunlight: How Plants Bring the Earth to Life* (Scholastic, 2009), was named the 2010 Best Children's Science Picture Book by the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Chisholm's honors are numerous. She is the recipient of a fellowship from the Guggenheim Foundation, the Alexander Agassiz Medal for original contribution in the science of oceanography, the Huntsman Award for Excellence in Marine Science, and the Rosenstiel Award in Oceanographic Research. She is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Teacher, author, and activist Julian Bond has been a civil rights leader for more than 50 years, involved in such issues as voting rights and engaged with groups such as the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Born in 1940 in Nashville, Tenn., Bond enrolled in Morehouse College in 1957. There his interests included varsity swimming, an internship at *Time* magazine and the campus literary magazine, *The Pegasus*, which he helped to found. He also founded the Committee on Appeal for Human Rights, the Atlanta University Center student civil rights organization that directed three years of nonviolent anti-segregation protests that won integration of the city's movie theaters, lunch counters, and parks.

On Easter weekend 1960, Bond and several hundred students from across the South founded the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and he became its communications director. Bond left Morehouse one semester prior to graduation to join the staff of a new protest newspaper, *The Atlanta Inquirer*, which he later served as managing editor. He returned to Morehouse in 1971 to complete his degree, a B.A. in English.

In 1965 Bond started his career in politics with election to a one-year term in the Georgia House of Representatives. He won two subsequent elections over the next year but was barred by the Georgia House from being seated because of his outspoken opposition to the Vietnam War. A 1966 unanimous ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court found that the Georgia House had violated Bond's civil rights by refusing him the seat to which he was elected. Bond eventually served four terms in Georgia's House and six in its Senate. During this time he sponsored or cosponsored more than 60 bills that became law.

Bond served as president of the Atlanta branch of the NAACP for 11 years, and from 1998 to 2010 chaired the NAACP national board. He was the first president of the Southern Poverty Law Center and has been an advisory board member with other organizations including the American Civil Liberties Union, the National Federation for Neighborhood Diversity, the Harvard Business School Initiative on Social Enterprise, and the Nicaragua/Honduras Education Project.

He hosted *America's Black Forum*, the oldest black-owned show in TV syndication, and has narrated numerous documentaries, including the acclaimed PBS series *Eyes on the Prize*. He has written a nationally syndicated newspaper column titled "Viewpoint," and is the author of *A Time to Speak, a Time to Heal*, a collection of essays. His poems and articles also have been published in *The Nation*, *Life*, and *The New York Times*.

Bond's recognitions are numerous and include the 2002 National Freedom Award and being named a "Living Legend" in 2008 by the Library of Congress. He holds 25 honorary degrees and currently teaches in American University's Department of Government.

Bond has recently been speaking about the Oscar-nominated movie *Selma*, which depicts the struggle for voting rights and has been criticized for its depiction of the role of President Lyndon B. Johnson. In a recent interview (KVUE, Feb. 8, 2015), Bond asserted, "LBJ is treated as an enemy of the Civil Rights movement, and LBJ was the best Civil Rights president America has ever had." Bond also believes the film is unfair in its characterization of student organizers. Nevertheless, "With those exceptions it's a movie that every American should see," he said.

## Potatoes Over South Park



Potato launching is serious. Photo sourced from <http://potato-spud-cannon-gun.blogspot.com>

By Rhe Civitello

This past Saturday, Feb. 14, the snow banks of Skidmore's South Park were pelted by an onslaught of Irish potatoes. Armed with sleek launchers made of PVC pipes, members of the Skidmore Space Cadets and Skid Builds met to observe the wonders of physics in action. "This is no huge science experiment, as much as it is a fun activity involving thermodynamics and classical mechanics," explained Porter Hall '16. The base of each apparatus was filled with hairspray, which—with the help of a barbecue sparker—caused combustion upon firing. One by one, students took careful aim at the frigid wasteland that is South Park. With a bang, the starchy missiles were sent hurtling through the air, covering an extraordinary distance at a startling speed. Hall attributes this powerful result to a chain of events involving the transfer of heat, mechanical work, and kinetic energy, working together "to create quite a boom." Although cut short by an encounter with Campus Safety, the launch was an exciting event for all who attended.

Still in its beginning stages as a club, Skid Builds is currently under review by the Student Government Association. By forming the group, the founders of Skid Builds are seeking to cater to all those interested in exploring invention—science majors or not. So far, the club has organized a number of daring projects, including the construction of hovercraft. With SGA approval, Skid Builds hopes to take an active role in the Skidmore Community and beyond, possibly inviting local high schoolers to engage in their future projects.

Update 2/19/15: Skid Builds has been denied a charter by the SGA

## Skidmore Hockey Gears Up for First Round of ECAC East Tournament



Photo by Skidmore Athletics

By Quint Turner

The Skidmore Men's Hockey team will play in the quarterfinals of the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) East Hockey League this Saturday, Feb. 21 at 7:00 pm against the sixth ranked UMass Beacons at UMass. The winner of the three-round tournament will move on to the NCAA tournament, alongside ten other teams for the Division III Hockey National Championship.

Skidmore finished the season with a record of 4-18-3, but is currently on a six-game losing streak. The Thoroughbreds have played UMass twice this year, losing 6-1 at UMass and then losing 3-1 at home.

“We have shown improvement in every game and we expect the same thing to happen on Saturday against UMass,” said Coach Neil Sinclair. UMass finished the year in second in the ECAC East division with a record of 21-3-1, and are riding a seven-game winning streak.

## Skidmore College considers divestment from fossil fuel companies



Divestment Hearing February, 25 2015 Photo by Ryan Davis, Co-Art Director

There has been increasing momentum in addressing the mounting issue of climate change in recent years. Since 2013, the Task Force on Divestment (TFD) at Skidmore College has been conducting research on the possibility of divesting the College's investments from fossil fuel companies at the behest of student activists and the Student Government Association (SGA). In February of 2015, the TFD released the first assessment of a two-part process which ends with a recommendation to the Board of Trustees concerning divestment from fossil fuels. Their Divestment Review details the ethical significance of divestment from fossil fuels and provides a cost-benefit analysis done by Colonial Consulting, Skidmore's investment advisor.

The TFD upholds the environmental and social responsibilities of the College as a corporate citizen of the world. The report states:

“Skidmore has recognized the important role that institutions of higher education must play in major societal issues, and this is reflected in our institutional strategic goal of preparing every student to make the choices of an informed, responsible citizen at home and in the world. Furthermore, we acknowledge the deep connection between our commitment to responsible citizenship and our institutional behavior - especially in the realm of environmental awareness and sustainability.”

The TFD is responding to the urgency of reducing carbon emissions in order to prevent the irreversible negative impacts of global warming. These consequences were delineated by 44 scientific institutions from over a dozen countries in The Emissions Gap Report 2013. The report warns that if carbon emissions are not substantially cut by 2020, global temperatures will rise beyond the two degrees Celsius which the scientific community uses as the threshold beyond which global warming will incur irreversible ecological damage. Divestment is a strategy that, although would have little effect on the market value of fossil fuel companies, would send a message to these companies and to the general public. The report states:

“Arguments cited in favor of fossil fuel divestment... focus more on financial risk (to the investor), matching investment decisions with values, creating sustained public pressure and visibility, and finally, fostering an informed public debate.”

The TFD recognizes that the college is undergoing a moral as well as a financial deliberation. Skidmore is not alone nor is it the first; a large number of colleges and universities in the United States and elsewhere have decided on the issue of divestment from fossil fuels. Among those who chose divestment are Pitzer College, Stanford University, Hampshire College, University of Dayton, and Unity College. Reasons cited for the decision to divest include a desire for global sustainability, to support sustainable local enterprises, and to reduce environmental social inequality. Among those who chose not to divest are Vassar College, Bates College, Harvard University, Brown University, and Wellesley College. Reasons cited for the decision to not divest were primarily financial: divestment was seen as too difficult due to the complex and conglomerated nature of the investments and/or comparable non-fossil fuel investment alternatives were unable to be found.



Skidmore's investment portfolio is also complex and conglomerated, containing many hedge funds with multiple investments in fossil fuel companies. Divestment would not be as straightforward as pulling out from fossil fuel companies directly. Since hedge funds are generally unwilling to tailor a portfolio for a specific client, divestment would require removing all funds from these hedge funds. The report states:

“Skidmore's total investment funds of about \$377 million are actively managed by 40-50 managers in largely comingled funds, and our endowment income supports everything from scholarships to personnel to collaborative research. Based on an analysis by Colonial Consulting, we currently invest between 3-5 percent of our endowment in fossil-fuel assets.”

Although research has been undertaken to explore the effects of divestment on the finances of other colleges and universities that made the decision to divest, the results are inconclusive due to the recent nature of these divestments and the time-lag between the decision to divest and divestment actions.

Colonial Consulting “forecasts that full divestment would reduce the financial return on the endowment (over the next 10 years) from 8.3 percent annually to 6.4 percent annually, resulting in an endowment value that is \$120 million lower than it would have been without divesting from fossil fuels.”

The TFD requests that the public keep in mind the assumptions underlying the assessments of Colonial Consulting. Colonial Consulting remains optimistic about investing in fossil fuel use and simultaneously protecting the environment. In addition, Colonial Consulting believes that the best and most experienced investment managers invest in fossil fuels, and diverting funds to a different manager, even if environmentally conscious, would mean a lower rate of return on investment.

The TFD expresses hopes that the Skidmore community will participate in this momentous deliberation. Open forums are expected to be held on Wednesday, Feb. 25. Times and places are to be announced shortly.

To read the full report, view:

[file:///home/chronos/u-656d88bce741d62fed8dc984d84fb72a2147bdf8/Downloads/Final%20Phase%201%20Report%20Feb%2013%20\(1\).pdf](file:///home/chronos/u-656d88bce741d62fed8dc984d84fb72a2147bdf8/Downloads/Final%20Phase%201%20Report%20Feb%2013%20(1).pdf)

## Editorial: We Should Not Divest



Skidmore solar array, a better sustainable project. Photo: Saratoga.com

By the Editorial Board

This week, Skidmore released the [Phase 1 report](#) of its review of divestment from fossil fuels. The report explains the implications of divestment for Skidmore, which the Editorial Board has since reviewed.

Phase 1 was the process of evaluating what divestment would mean for Skidmore, and what the implications are for divestment on a global scale. After reading the 32-page report, we identified some tension between the Skidmore Task Force, which is clearly advocating for divestment, and Skidmore's investment advisors, Colonial Consulting, who state that divestment would be incredibly difficult and damaging for Skidmore. Colonial specifically states that divestment “would be challenging, costly, and would likely impact the Colleges ability to fund student financial aid, academic and related program support, employee pay and benefits, capital projects and other expenditures that are essential to carrying out the College's educational mission.”

The report also states numerous times that the act of divesting from fossil fuels ultimately would not have a significant impact on the larger issue of climate change, but would instead be more of a symbolic move to aid stigmatization of fossil fuel companies. So, where does this leave Skidmore?

Skidmore College has a reputation to uphold as an environmentally aware institution. It also has an obligation to stay true to its goals of social responsibility, and its endeavor to produce globally conscious citizens. As President Glotzbach stated in a meeting with the Skidmore News, while discussing divestment, the College is addressing the “most important issue that humans have ever faced,” namely, climate change.

However, full divestment would have drastic negative implications for Skidmore. Of all Skidmore's total investments, only 4% of its assets are connected to fossil fuels. However, because Skidmore's endowment is invested in outside-managed investment funds that almost all contain fossil fuel holdings, Skidmore would have to liquidate and relocate about 100% of their endowment. Thus,

in-turn, Skidmore would be forced to reallocate funds to less reputable and less capable investment managers, described by Colonial as “simply not the best investors,” causing significant long-term and short-term losses to investment returns. According to Colonial Consulting, the college would lose about \$127 million in returns over 10 years, which is a significant loss, since the endowment currently stands at \$335 million. This means that in enacting a primarily symbolic move of divestment, Skidmore would have to sacrifice its financial security

Significant endowment funds go to financial aid. In forfeiting some of this endowment money, Skidmore would compromise the opportunity to admit large numbers of students from different socioeconomic backgrounds. In this process, Skidmore would lose sight of one of its core missions, which is to have a [“diverse population of students.”](#) So, while the school would certainly be setting an environmental precedence, it would be neglecting other social responsibilities—such as having a diverse study body, and providing opportunities to less privileged students.

Skidmore would also be forgoing other opportunities for sustainability—such as sustainable infrastructure, or further educative programs in the field of sustainability. Skidmore could instead allocate the money it would be losing in divestment towards a sustainability minor, or to the Skidmore Environmental Action Club. Middlebury College has taken a similar approach. They decided not to divest from fossil fuels, but they chose to allocate \$25 million of their endowment towards “investments focused on sustainability business such as clean energy, water, climate science, and green building projects.” They also allowed \$150,000 to be managed by their Socially Responsible Investment Club, a student-run organization. We believe an approach like this would be ideal for Skidmore.

Skidmore College is not a large enough institution to lead the charge in addressing climate change or divestment. The damage divestment would cause to Skidmore as an institution does not make divestment a reasonable option right now, or in the near future. However, Skidmore should maintain its role as a socially responsible school, and must respond the best it can to climate change, be it not full divestment from fossil fuels.

While we believe that divestment from fossil fuels is an unrealistic goal for Skidmore at this time, we certainly recognize the institutions need to act responsibly, act quickly and act sustainably. We hope that ultimately, Skidmore does revisit the issue of divestment, at a time when it is a more realistic accomplishment.

## Michael Bérubé Comes to Skidmore, Talks Value of Humanities



Photo by Danielle Rubin '17

By Allison Trunkey '18

Michael Bérubé is a leading scholar of American literature and disability studies, Professor of Literature and Director of the Institute for the Arts and Humanities at Penn State, author of soon-to-be eight books, including *Life As We Know It: A Father, A Family, and an Exceptional Child*. He is altogether an esteemed member of the academic community, and “one of academia's most wanted,” as Professor Barbara Black terms him in her welcoming monologue at Bérubé’s lecture on campus on February 12.

The atmosphere in the crowded Filene Hall grew anticipatory as Professor Bérubé walked to the podium and smiled affably. He began with a casual anecdote about a graduate professor with a hamartia for square white ties, garnering several laughs from the audience, and promptly dove into the presentation: The Value—And the Values—of the Humanities.

Bérubé made clear throughout his lecture that he is a strong supporter of the humanities and the creative discourse that is so essential to a liberal arts education. He teasingly referred to himself as “a humanist with an asterisk and a twenty-page annotation.”

Perhaps the most interesting and speculative portion of his lecture concerns what he calls, “the Universal,” meaning universal values, which we typically understand to transcend societal boundaries. Bérubé claims that on the contrary, the concept of the Universal, with roots in the Enlightenment, has imposed perimeters on values and on what we consider human, and that this ultimately degrades our collective society.

Bérubé suggests that our current understanding of universalism is not quite universal enough. Debating the “value of values,” in a sense, has been the missing component in the development of the concept. While many Western civilizations might admit we need expanded human rights, such a pursuit becomes murkier when we have to consider what constitutes a ‘right.’ What makes something universal? Bérubé notes that for centuries, the Divine Right of Kings might have been considered universal, and yet today, few in the West would acknowledge the legitimacy of that ideology. Rather, we debate women's rights, gay rights, disability rights, and animal rights, to name a few.

This kind of discussion has rallied people for centuries: we might consider war an extreme manifestation of humanity's inability to reconcile opinions over values, or the debate over welfare in our country a tragic one. Who decides which values are substantial enough to warrant the term ‘universal?’ We will likely never know, or else we will find it somewhere around a “children's theme park at the border of Israel and Palestine,” as Bérubé notes sardonically.

And yet, he concludes, the only platform on which we can openly discuss such ideas as universalism, the only way we can criticize it effectively and with purpose, is in the context of universalism itself. We are condemned to forever debate the system of values that govern our societies, but in the end, perhaps we are better for it.

## Comfest Reactions: Gentlemen Party and Baby Wants Candy



Photo from [Gentlemen Party Official Facebook Page](#)

By Janine Kritschgau '18, Features Editor

My experience at the 26th Annual Comfest was pretty good. I attended the very last show, on Sunday Feb. 15, in which professional groups Gentlemen Party and Baby Wants Candy performed. Gentleman Party, a Chicago-based troupe made up of six males and a female, opened the event. The group performed a handful of prepared sketches. One of the most popular-- based on the audience's reaction—was their very first. The skit was a playful take on mind-trickery in which the audience is convinced a man is addressing his children as “little mangoes,” but the mangoes are actually fruit. The hilarious skit closed with the words “you're crazy!” projected on the set. The audience went wild.

Crowd members seemed more divided during other sketches. For example, one sketch, where a pastor is attempting to baptize a child but becomes feverishly concerned about some rancid room-temperature shrimp he had just consumed, was so repetitive and feverish that some audience members were not left laughing.

Baby Wants Candy, however, delivered a strong performance from start to finish. By inviting a random volunteer to the stage and conducting a short interview about their life, the cast improvised a series of scenes that satirically replicated the volunteer's life story. This seemed impressive enough, but ultimately was just a warm-up for the lengthy, completely improvised musical the group went on to perform.



Photo from [Baby Wants Candy's Official Facebook Page](#)

Audience suggestions for the title of the musical were plentiful. The group led an audience cheer contest to decide between two options: “The True Meaning of the Color Blue” (which was an audience suggestion used in a recent Ad-Lib performance at JKB), and “Downton Rabbi.” The latter won.

What followed was an impressive forty-five minute performance. The actors were surprisingly good singers, who artfully created spontaneous songs including choruses sung in unison and various verses. An equally impressive improv band accompanied the actors during each song. Horse impersonations and proclamations of love for a ‘Lady Mary’ played by troupe member Rachel Wenisky highlighted the performance. The crowd was consistently entertained throughout the musical, and left the theater with the satisfaction of a night well spent.

## Student Athlete Profile: Samantha Skott '15

By Mia Merrill, Sports Editor



Samantha Skott '15 hits the ball!

**Q: Where are you from?**

A: I'm from Hoosick Falls, NY, a little town about an hour away from here.

**Q: What's your major? What do you plan to do after Skidmore (the dreaded question!)?**

A: I'm a biology major with an education minor, and I've been accepted to Union Graduate College to pursue my master's in education for biology next year. I'm also applying for a teaching fellowship opportunity, so ideally I'll be very busy next year!

**Q: What position do you play? When did you start playing softball?**

A: I'm an outfielder, and I actually didn't start playing softball until I was 11 — my little brother joined little league and I got jealous that he was having all the fun, so I had to sign up, too.

**Q: Why do you love softball?**

A: The thing I love most about softball is simply that anything can happen on any given day. Nothing is ever certain. You may end up scoring a bunch of runs in the seventh inning to overcome a huge deficit and win the game!

**Q: How are you preparing for your upcoming season? Do you feel good about the prospects?**

A: Well, we've already been practicing for about a month, and while it's hard to get a realistic practice in a gym, we're certainly doing everything we can to be ready for our season opener next month. I think we have a lot of talent on this year's roster, and we've started a solid foundation for the program. I'm really excited to see what happens this season.

**Q: How does the softball team bond with their new members?**

A: As with just about any team you'll find, we have certain traditions that we like to maintain. Just the other day, we made locker room signs for the season. But for us, our spring break trip to Florida is probably when the most bonding happens. It's hard to not learn a few things about each other when you're living together for a week!

**Q: What's one thing you want the student body to know about your team?**

A: I think one thing that everyone should know about Skidmore's teams in general is just how hard everyone works, and how much effort is put into a team's success. It's a big time commitment, and I think Skidmore's athletes really embody what it is to be [a]



collegiate athlete.

**Q: What's a favorite memory you have from being on the team? What's been your greatest accomplishment?**

A: It's almost impossible to pick just one memory. But I know at the end of the year when it's all said and done, what I'm going to remember most is all the teammates that I've had over the past four years that have really made this experience worthwhile. That being said, our greatest accomplishment was probably reaching the Liberty League playoffs last year for only the second time in [program's] history.

**Q: Do you have any advice for students who are thinking about joining a team but are worried about balancing schoolwork and athletics?**

A: Honestly, I think being on a team really makes me value the free time that I have. I know when I need to get my work done, so it really forces me to manage my time well.

## BANFF Film Festival Review



By Hannah Fowler '18, Contributing Writer

Thirty-five hundred miles, two men, and one boat. James Addair and Ben Stenning attempted the seemingly impossible: to row across the Indian Ocean without a support boat. This was just one of the incredible stories in the film productions featured at the Banff Film Festival World Tour. The Outing Club hosted the event on Friday, Feb. 15 in Zankel, featuring a total of 10 film productions.

It opened with a brief voice-over announcing the mission of the film festival: "...To reveal and protect our amazing planet..." The films then displayed breathtaking views and images of people performing all types of stunts such as flipping, paragliding and purely appreciating the outdoors.

The first film was from Sweet Grass Productions. "Afterglow" captured the sensational feat of skiers in neon suits skiing down all types of Alaskan slopes at crazy speeds. It was all filmed at night and the skiers wore custom-made light emitting diode (LED) suits that contained over 7,000 LEDs. It took nine planes to haul all the equipment to the mountains. One of the skiers commented on how they couldn't even see where they were going because it was so bright. The film truly demonstrates not only the amazing effects of technology through the LED suits and innovative filming experience, but the pure love the skiers have for the mountains and sense of trust they place within the environment and themselves enough to ski down the dangerous slopes practically blind to demonstrate the beauty of them.

The next film was an Uncage the Soul production called "Mending the Line." The film told the story of Frank Moore, a 90-year-old World War II veteran and an exceedingly talented fly fisher. The story shares his journey back to Normandy to return to the rivers he saw as a soldier to fly fish.

The two other films presented were "Happy Winter" and "Touch," which were great and had beautiful aesthetics. But the film featured right before intermission, "And Then We Swam," told the incredible story of James Addair and Ben Stenning. Having never rowed before, it was almost comical at the beginning thinking that these two relatively unexperienced men were going to row 3,500 miles across the Indian Ocean with no back up or support. Following the ups and downs of their travel as their set sail from the west coast of Australia, one could not help but root for them every step of the way as they pressed on despite broken equipment, only being able to listen to the call to prayer on the radio and a huge wave that knocked them both off the boat forcing them to swim three miles to a nearby reef. Experiencing hypothermia and all types of shock and exhaustion, the two almost didn't make it until a rescue boat picked them off the reef. They both discussed the awe and wonderment they now have for the water, environment around them

and their lives in general. Addair stated, "It gives us a new focus to life."

The festival concluded with five more film productions all of equal wonder, breathtaking scenery and life changing meanings. The event was an overall success and the Outing Club did an excellent job hosting and facilitating the event.

## Marta Brunner Announced as New College Librarian



Photo by Scout Calvert, CLIR/DLF fellow, Photo sourced from <http://www.clir.org/pubs/issues/issues103>

By Noa Maltzman '18, News Editor

Skidmore College recently announced that Marta Brunner would be the new college librarian. Brunner will be replacing Ruth Copans, who will be retiring this year. Copans has been at Skidmore since 1991 and has served as the college librarian for over a decade.

Brunner, who is originally a graduate of Goshen College in Goshen Indiana, is coming to Skidmore from the University of California Los Angeles. Currently, she is the head of Collections, Research, and Instructional Services at the Charles E. Young Research Library at UCLA.

Brunner was one of forty people who applied for the job. The search committee—made up of students, faculty, and staff—worked with Storbeck/Pimentel to conduct a national search and narrow down the list of forty candidates. Out of the forty candidates, ten were invited to do Skype interviews. “We spent more than an hour talking to each candidate,” said Linda Hall, professor of English and member of the search committee. Four of the ten candidates, including Brunner, were invited to campus this past December. Ultimately, of the four of them, the search committee choose Brunner to be the new librarian.

Everyone on the committee was looking for something different in the new librarian, but Sam Harris '15, a student member on the committee, said that “it was clear that the new head librarian needed to be someone with a strong vision of where libraries and academia are going, someone who works very well managing others, and someone who really fits into our very specific community.”

Bringing a student perspective to the committee, Harris said that he and Shannon Keane '15 “were focused on finding someone who prioritized student involvement in the direction of the library, as well as someone who was invested in student research. The library is an incredible resource, and we wanted someone who wanted to help students utilize the library in the best way possible.”

Copans had the unique opportunity of meeting one-on-one with each of the four candidates who were brought to campus, and when asked if she had any advice for Brunner she said, “I guess my one piece of advice would be to take whatever time she needs to understand the local culture, and what our students, faculty, and staff expect of the library.”

Though Brunner is coming “from a large university system, she has a keen interest in the digital humanities that will serve her

Skidmore News Online: February 2015. Retrieved from <http://www.skidmorenews.com> on 7/28/2015.

well at Skidmore,” said Bill Duffy, the Chief Technology Officer.

“Despite my rewarding experiences at UCLA and other large universities over the past fifteen years or so, the prospect of continuing my career at Skidmore College feels like coming home for me,” said Brunner in her cover letter. Brunner will officially be joining the Skidmore community in July. “Marta has some rather large shoes to fill, though everyone on the search committee is confident in her ability to even exceed our expectations,” said Harris.

## Journalist Ta-Nehisi Coates to Speak at Skidmore Next Week



By Tara Lerman '15

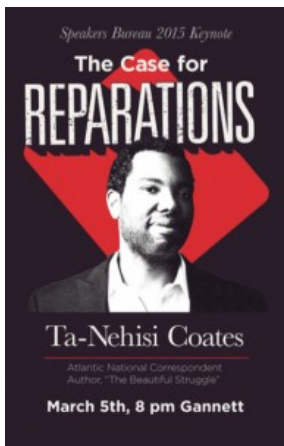
Ta-Nehisi Coates, a celebrated American journalist, will deliver the Student Government Association (SGA) keynote speech on Thursday, March 5 at 8p.m. in Gannett Auditorium. Coates is a national correspondent and blogger for The Atlantic, where he covers significant social and political issues such as poverty, drug abuse, and racial discrimination. In 2008, Coates published his memoir *The Beautiful Struggle: A Father, Two Sons, and an Unlikely Road to Manhood*, a moving story about inner-city adolescence and the power of family. Coates served as the Martin Luther King visiting associate professor at MIT for the 2012-2013 academic year and held the position of Journalist-in-Residence at CUNY Graduate School of Journalism this past fall.

But before Coates was a nationally renowned author, educator, and journalist, he was just a student who loved to read and write. After high school, he matriculated at Howard University but later dropped out to pursue a career in journalism. He began working as an intern at the *Washington City Paper* under the mentorship of David Carr, the editor-in-chief at the time. Coates eventually went on to work for *The Village Voice* and *TIME*, and has contributed to *The New York Times Magazine*, *The Washington Post*, and *O, The Oprah Magazine*. Coates' recent articles include "King David," a piece commemorating David Carr and "The Broad, Inclusive Canvas of Comics," an investigation of the lack of diversity in Hollywood adaptations of comic book characters.

The SGA Speaker's Bureau has worked hard to provide funding and logistical support for this event. "The piece that brought Mr. Coates to my attention was 'The Good, Racist People,' written after Forest Whitaker was accused of shoplifting in a deli near his NYC apartment in 2013, about the impact of well-meaning white people. He's been on my radar since, and I always thought he'd be an incredible voice to hear on campus," said Hope Spector, the elected Chair of Speaker's Bureau (who is also an Op-Ed Editor for *The Skidmore News*).

Coates was awarded the Hillman Prize for Opinion and Analysis Journalism in 2012 and the 2014 George Polk Award in Commentary for his in-depth study of institutionalized racism in housing and development, "The Case for Reparations." Coates is also well respected for his investigative skills and innovative prose throughout the sphere of professional journalism. In an article featured in The New York Observer, Jordan Michael Smith writes, "Mr. Coates is the single best writer on the subject of race in the United States." Hendrik Hertzberg, political commentator for *The New Yorker*, calls Coates "one of the most elegant and sharp observers of race in America." And Rachel Maddow of MSNBC has admitted that she "doesn't know if, in U.S. commentary, there is a more beautiful writer than Ta-Nehisi Coates."

At the lecture, Coates will discuss how race is lived in the United States. This event is free of charge and open to the public.



Poster Courtesy of Speakers Bureau

## Letter to the Editor: Financial Impacts of Divestment are Uncertain - Climate Impacts Less So



Divestment is an incredibly timely issue. This past week, Skidmore's Task Force on Divestment held an open forum on to answer questions and receive input from the community.

by Silas Phipps-Costin '16

The Skidmore News recently ran an [editorial](#) suggesting that a proposal to divest from the top 200 fossil fuel reserve holders is unrealistic. The plan, which calls for the liquidation of all assets including these companies, has been the topic of over a year's work by the Skidmore Task Force on Divestment, a committee of students, faculty, staff, and a trustee. The committee was formed in response to a petition signed by 498 students, and 58 others, demanding that the college "withdraw from direct investment in fossil-fuel companies and withdraw from direct ownership and from comingled funds including fossil-fuel equities and corporate bonds within five years," ([Skidmore Divestment Petition to President Glotzbach and Board of Trustees](#)). This petition was endorsed by the SGA.

The main objection that the editorial raises is that divestment would result in a massive loss of returns on our endowment. This is a valid concern - this endowment fuels Skidmore's ability to provide financial aid to underprivileged students, to teach and prepare students, and to work on local sustainability initiatives. It would be foolish to ignore the potential risk to these extremely important goals.

At the same time, it would be just as foolish to assume that such losses are inevitable. Colonial Consulting, the firm that assessed the financial implications of divestment, provided the estimate of a \$127 million loss. This seems like a dire consequence, and would [almost certainly](#) make divestment a highly irresponsible decision. However, this value is not a precise prediction of the actual cost. Even within the model used for analysis, the firm acknowledges that it "prefers to focus on potential worst case scenarios," ([Colonial Consulting LLC](#)).

More importantly, their model is based off the fact that the majority of Skidmore's endowment is invested in comingled funds, run by managers for whom Skidmore is but one of many clients. This means that Skidmore would need to liquidate all of its assets in the fund. In making their predictions, Colonial assumed that this money would then be invested in unmanaged funds, which would track the market as a whole (managed funds often do 1-3% better than the market). This is where their predicted losses come from - there is nothing inherently less profitable about portfolios without fossil fuels (in fact, [a MSCI-ACWI index](#) suggests that over the past 10 years, the market without fossil fuels has had 1.2% better returns than the market as a whole).



There is absolutely no reason to trust this assumption. It is an absolute worst-case scenario, in which the endowment is unguided and dependent on the whims of the market. This would absolutely not be the case in a divestment scenario. Although Colonials report did no research on managed funds that exclude fossil fuels, they do exist - a cursory search yielded 19 Asset Management Firms and 8 Mutual Funds with fossil free portfolios. Even if Colonials unfounded assertion that these are "simply not the best investors" were true (which would certainly call for some actual data), as trained financial analysts, they are almost certainly able to produce returns greater than market average. This means that, in addition to being an extremely poor model of actual outcomes, Colonials predictions are exaggeratedly conservative, giving the false impression of catastrophic endowment loss. It is disconcerting that Skidmore News is citing this deeply flawed, highly tenuous report as absolute fact.

Additionally, the editorial suggests that divestment would prove purely a symbolic gesture. The 4% of our current \$377 million dollar endowment that is in fossil fuel reserves represents a [volume of oil](#) with the potential to release about [129 million pounds of CO2](#) - the equivalent of [driving three and a half million miles](#) (around the world [144 times](#)) in an average passenger car. To fail to divest In the name of funding a bike share program is absurd.

Moreover, the nominal value of divestment does not necessarily represent its impact - in addition to depriving the fossil fuel industry of capital, which would allow exponential expansion of their harvesting efforts, it would also be providing demand for fossil-fuel free managed funds, and setting a precedent for ethical action with academic endowments. Even the smallest endowment represents an enormous increase in demand in the burgeoning impact-first investment industry, and the potential to attract top managers who will improve its viability.

It's important to acknowledge the limitations of our ability to predict the financial impact of divestment. It will almost certainly be less than the worst-case figure provided by Colonial Consulting. It could be anything between that value, and an improvement in return on investment (like what happened at Unity College when it divested). Divestment may be somewhat of a risk - but it is not the only risk at play. We also cannot evaluate what the consequences of failing to act now will be — and in a world where our actions have far-reaching consequences, we must also have far-reaching perspective. Stuck dealing with uncertainties as we are, we should act with precautions against the greatest potential threat. Nowhere in the Skidmore mission is the size of our endowment mentioned - but it is quite clear on the need to "make the choices required of informed, responsible citizens."

## Open Letter to the Community



Logo by Gabe Snyder '18

Dear Friends, Peers, Classmates, and all Skidmore Community Members,

As members of this community, we are writing in support of the recent efforts to bring attention to sexual and gender-based misconduct (SGBM) at Skidmore. This is an issue we have been working as SGA to address since the start of the academic year. Through the It's Happening Here campaign and our work with the Advisory Council on SGBM, we have made strides to effect concrete policy changes that prioritize student safety and promote a zero-tolerance environment. Reina Kiefer's readmission hearing protest on March 13 is one of the many examples of activism we have been calling for this year. We urge students to attend this peaceful protest to show our Student Body's support for survivors across our campus. SGBM happens far too often at Skidmore and, as students, we must stand up together and work to prevent it.

It is time to become the zero-tolerance campus we wish to be. When a community member commits a sexual crime, we should not welcome that person on our campus. SGA has been working with the Advisory Council, the Vice President/Dean of Student Affairs, and other parties to make significant revisions to the SGBM policy, including:

1. Changing sanction language to state that the College expects the SGBM Hearing Board to expel students found in violation in all cases of SGBM.
2. When the Board does not choose expulsion, it must justify its decision in a written rationale for the case's official record, which would be available to both parties.
3. Expanding definitions of SGBM to include types of misconduct Skidmore does not currently account for, such as emotional and financial abuse.

Thanks to the work of the many student leaders and the responsiveness of the Advisory Council to our serious recommendations, we are happy to announce that changes along these lines and more are likely to be added to the official policy very soon.

We know the numbers. Too many students of all genders experience SGBM while at college. Furthermore, the statistics available to us at this moment suggest that offenders will take advantage of other individuals more than once. According to Jed Rubenfeld in his 2014 New York Times article, *Mishandling Rape*, "Research suggests that more than 90 percent of campus rapes are committed by a relatively small percentage of college men — possibly as few as 4 percent — who rape repeatedly, averaging six victims each. Yet these serial rapists overwhelmingly remain at large, escaping serious punishment." At the start of this year, we knew we needed to work toward practices that acknowledge this reality and adequately sanction all sexual offenders.

We are proud to say that progress has already been made so that students will not have to go through what Reina is going through moving forward. However, at this moment, there are wrongs that must be corrected if Skidmore truly does hold its community

values to a high standard. We are here to represent and stand by each and every student on this campus and to advocate for what is right.

As student leaders -- but most importantly, as Skidmore students -- who have taken on this task of advocating for changes to our policy and culture, we have been heartbroken and humbled to hear stories from our friends and peers who have experienced SGBM at Skidmore. Whatever our policies may state, in the very real experiences of these innocent survivors, Skidmore does not always appear to prioritize their needs over those of the individuals found in violation.

To Hearing Board administrators and faculty: We implore you to remember the voice of the student body and the changes we have been advocating. Do not allow rapists to be a part of our community.

To the students: We urge you to take notice of this issue, educate yourself, and take steps to establish yourself as our ally against SGBM. We look forward to changes not only to our policy, but also to our culture, and we need your commitment to achieve that end.

To survivors: We admire your strength, and we offer you our advocacy as peers and friends. Please know that you have the support of an overwhelming majority of students and their representatives through SGA. We respect the difficult burden that you must bear, and we hope that the increased attention drawn to this issue will serve to combat without causing further harm.

We hope that our friends, peers, and classmates become our allies in setting Skidmore's community standards on sexual and gender-based misconduct to a level as high we believe they should be.

Sincerely,

Soraya and Addison

Soraya Attia  
Senior Class President

Addison Bennett  
Student Government Association President

## Editorial: Facing Sexual Assault on Campus



Photo by Jacob Reiskin, Editor-In-Chief

By the Editorial Board

Sexual assault is often considered a distant issue, something that happens anywhere except at Skidmore. It happens at large, party-oriented universities, like Duke, Stanford, or USC. It happens at schools with a strong Greek life. It happens at places where students can get away with anonymity. But not here, right? Skidmore is a tight-knit community and its liberal bubble can often be deceiving. The SGA is working to dispel the notion that sexual assault is out of our realm of concerns with their new campaign, '[It's Happening Here.](#)' This campaign is a "program designed for Skidmore students by Skidmore students to bring our community together and face the issue" of sexual assault.

It is happening here; sexual assault is a pervasive issue that no school is immune to, and Skidmore has taken strides in the past few years towards addressing it. [The Sexual and Gender-Based Misconduct Policy](#) has undergone numerous revisions over the years. Skidmore has also adapted a restorative justice approach to incidents of student misconduct, whether it is an instance of physical assault, sexual misconduct, or plagiarism. Restorative justice is an approach that's main concern is an attempt to resolve matters between the perpetrator and the individual who was most harmed by the incident. Associate Dean of Student Affairs and Director of Campus Life David Karp is a firm believer in restorative justice, and is part of a national movement towards restorative justice on campus.

However, the Editorial Board does not believe that restorative justice is an appropriate approach towards handling incidents of sexual misconduct. This kind of interactive, reparative approach is too complicated and has too much potential for harm when used in situations as sensitive as sexual assault.

We also take issue with one of Skidmore's options for sanctions. Skidmore's Sexual and Gender-Based Misconduct Policy offers an opportunity of readmission for a student who has been expelled or suspended, if the student presents his or herself as eligible to reenter the college. The possibility of readmission presents a fundamental issue in Skidmore's approach to sexual misconduct. Why would a student who was found guilty of misconduct and worthy of suspension or expulsion be somebody Skidmore would want among its student body? Where does the willingness to re-welcome this student stem from?

Readmittance of a sexual assailant is not only unfair and potentially damaging to the survivor of the assault, but it also presents a threat to the entire student body. The school cannot be sure that an individual who committed a harmful crime in the past will not commit wrongdoing again. Although Skidmore may be inclined to take a restorative justice approach in attempt to give the assailant

and victim an opportunity to work through trauma and rehabilitate, the (slim) potential for a positive outcome in that scenario is not worth the risk of placing a potential repeat-offender back on campus.

Furthermore, the fact that a student found guilty can be readmitted to Skidmore does not reflect well on the school's role as a trustworthy entity with student interests in mind. Readmittance of a student who is a threat to the Skidmore community is not reassuring to other victims of wrongdoing, and most likely makes students less inclined to report incidents.

In going forth with policy changes, the Board recommends that Skidmore do away with the option of readmittance. A clear cut set of consistent, irrevocable sanctions would be much more beneficial to the student body, and would reflect more positively on the administration's approach to sexual assault.

Update, 2/25/15: After further reviewing Skidmore's sexual misconduct policy and interviewing relevant administrators, we have found that our opinion is not in line with certain facts. Please look forward to a more extensive piece early next week that will explain and evaluate the sexual misconduct policy, as well as critique the student response. Thanks, Jacob Reiskin,  
Co-Editor-In-Chief

## Student Athlete Profile: Sukie Emerson '16

By Mia Merrill, Sports Editor

Q: Where are you from?

A: Norwich, Vermont

Q: What is your major? What do you plan to do after Skidmore?

A: I'm a business and management major and a Chinese minor. I plan to attempt to find a job after college and earn some money before hopefully going to graduate school.

Q: When did you start rowing?

A: I started rowing freshman year of high school.

Q: Why do you love crew?

A: There are many aspects I love about this sport, from the intensity, to [my] teammates, to the fluidity of every stroke. I love that, for me, [crew] really is the definition of a team sport, because when we cross the finish line everybody is in it together. In other sports, people can stand out, and people can still stand out in crew. However, when it comes to race day we are all put in a boat together and with every stroke, we are moving as one to make the boat go as fast as possible.

Q: How are you preparing for your upcoming season? Do you feel good about the prospects?

A: I am preparing for the upcoming season by trying to get on a regular and healthy sleep and work schedule, since crew practice is, for the most part, in the mornings. As I was abroad last semester studying in China, I had difficulty staying on a good workout routine. However, [after] coming back in December, I tried as hard as I could to make up for lost ground.

I feel good about the prospects because every season brings the good prospects of winning and working hard and, inevitably, the not so good ones.

Q: How does your team bond with their new members?

A: Since I was not here when new members initially came onto the team [this year], I am somewhat out of the loop. However, as I have been the new member since coming back (with those who joined while I was abroad), I would say team bonding has been slow but steady, and has picked up since official practice started.

Q: What is one thing you want the student body to know about your team?

A: I want the student body to know that my team is accepting of everyone, and once you're accepted to the team, you're part of the family. There is something truly special about having the support of teammates.

Q: What's a favorite memory you have from being on the team? What's been your greatest accomplishment?

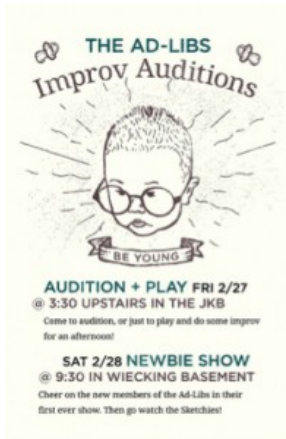
A: My favorite memory of being on a team has been spring breaks, when we go to Tennessee for a week of spring training. To say the least, it is far from a break because we are training heavily each day. But we use the time off well, by telling stories and cooking and relaxing and bonding.

I think my greatest accomplishment was a couple years ago, at New York State Championships, when my boat was competing in one of the final heats. We somehow managed to pull into second in the end, through the tears, the pain, and the passion.

Q: Do you have any advice for students who are thinking about joining a team but are worried about balancing schoolwork and athletics?

A: I would just say, try it. You won't know if you don't try, and yes, there will be hard times, but the good ones often outweigh the bad. So just give it a try—if it's not for you, then it's not for you, but balancing schoolwork should not be a huge factor impeding a new passion that you may truly come to love.

## Weekend A&E Briefing



### Ad-Libs Improv Audition

Feb. 27, 3:30 p.m., JKB upstairs studios

### Newbie Show

Feb. 28, 9:30 p.m., Wiecking Basement

Try some improv, audition to join the Ad-Libs, or just enjoy the newbies in their first mini show.



### American Flute Performance

Feb. 27, 8 p.m., Zankel

A concert of American flute music is to be performed by Jan Vinci and pianist Reiko Uchida. It is free and open to the public.



## The Penelopiad

Feb. 27 - March 4, 8 p.m. (Sunday at 2 p.m.), JKB Theater

Written by Margaret Atwood and directed by Emily Moler, the Penelopiad is a play that takes on a modern twist of The Odyssey. Atwood has chosen to give a voice to Penelope, wife of Odysseus, and to her twelve maids. In this dazzling, playful retelling, the story becomes as wise and compassionate as it is haunting, and as wildly entertaining as it is unsettling. With wit and verve—drawing on the story-telling and poetic talent for which she herself is renowned—Atwood gives Penelope new life and reality, and sets out to provide an answer to an ancient mystery. Tickets are \$8 for students and \$12 for the general public.



## South Asian Festival

Feb. 28, 3 p.m.-6 p.m., Tang Museum

Come celebrate South Asian culture, organized by Hayat Skidmore College and the Tang in conjunction with the exhibition “Realms of Earth and Sky: Indian Painting from the 15th-19th Century.” There will be performances by Veena Chandra and Devesh Chandra, as well as art-making activities, Henna, and Indian food!



## Sketchies Sweet Sixteen

Feb. 28, 10:30 p.m., Gannett Auditorium

The Sketchies present their Alumni in a one-night only performance.



## "Dance Delight" Illuminates Skidmore's Best Performers

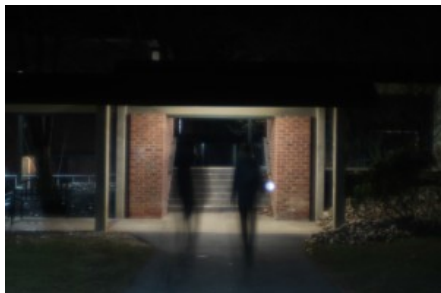


By Madeleine Freundlich, Contributing Writer

This past Saturday, Skidmore students got to experience an impressive array of incredible dancers. Performance groups and soloists joined forces to create the spectacular show, "Dance Delight." This collaboration was the first of its kind, and included every student-run dance group on campus, as well as a talented hip-hop group from Siena College. After the first half of the show, Skidmore and Siena dancers independently faced off in one-on-one dance battles. Officiated by break-dancer and hip-hop pioneer "Crazy Legs," dancers of all different styles each had a minute to improvise their best moves to a variety of pop, dance, and hip-hop music. The competitors primarily performed in a style that could be categorized as a fusion of hip-hop and breakdance, although jazz and even ballet influences could be seen.

The show was designed and executed by Daniel Li of 213 Crew. When asked about the performance, Li said he was very happy with how the event turned out, and the best part was to watch the dancers "communicate and inspire each other with their moves, and free themselves within diverse styles." Every competitor was in fact quite unique, from Prince Tsabedze's impressive micro-isolations to Michaela Ritz's funky and graceful moves. All of the competitors exuded joy and confidence, responding to each other with playful mimicry. John Li, well known for his sensual yet sharp style, was crowned champion of the competition after several very intense battles. Li's performance showed off both his technique and passion. Students watching the dancers said they were surprised and impressed by the sheer amount of talent displayed. Daniel Li says he would love to make this show an annual tradition, to "teach the history, concepts, and foundation of hip-hop" to Skidmore students for years to come.

## Skidmore Madlibs "My Friday Night"



By Nicole Smith, Pulp co-editor

### My Friday Night

It began when I invited my \_\_\_\_\_(noun)\_\_\_\_\_ over to my house at around 7 p.m. I was \_\_\_\_\_(adverb)\_\_\_\_\_ cooking a dinner of \_\_\_\_\_(food)\_\_\_\_\_ for the both of us when my friend asked us what we should \_\_\_\_\_(verb )\_\_\_\_\_ tonight. I decided to text \_\_\_\_\_(person)\_\_\_\_\_ to see what they were doing tonight. They replied that they were going to \_\_\_\_\_(place)\_\_\_\_\_ and suggested that we come along. Once we arrived, we immediately began \_\_\_\_\_(verb ending in -ing)\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_(verb ending in -ing)\_\_\_\_\_. We soon become bored of this and decided to go to \_\_\_\_\_(place)\_\_\_\_\_. So we called a \_\_\_\_\_(noun)\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_(verb)\_\_\_\_\_ there. When we arrived, everyone was \_\_\_\_\_(verb ending in -ing)\_\_\_\_\_. We stayed all night and had a lot of \_\_\_\_\_(noun)\_\_\_\_\_. Everything turned into a \_\_\_\_\_(adjective)\_\_\_\_\_ mess. We had no idea where we were or how to get home. We ended up getting lost in \_\_\_\_\_(place)\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_(number)\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_(unit of time)\_\_\_\_\_. Finally! We arrived at home, were both of us had a \_\_\_\_\_(adjective)\_\_\_\_\_ night sleep, until tomorrow.

## Which Skidmore Sports Team Do You Belong On?



### Which Skidmore Sports Team Do You Belong On?

1) Which of these is more important to you?

- a) Booty
- b) Beer
- c) Bitches
- d) Global Warming

2) Area of study?

- a) Self-declared Film Studies
- b) Gender Studies/ Environmental Studies with a focus on the testing of Covergirl Clump Crusher Mascara on small female rodents
- c) Culinary Arts
- d) Defense Against the Dark Arts

3) Favorite euphemism for breasts?

- a) Cans
- b) Melons
- c) Jugs
- d) Coconuts

4) Buddy the elf! What's your favorite color?

- a) Primary. Wait, did you say kind of color or did you want a specific color?
- b) Covergirl Clump Crusher in the shade Brownish Black

- c) Aubergine
- d) Green

5) Can you even catch?

- a) Dad wasn't around much when I was young, so the neighbor taught me how to catch. It wasn't until last year that I found out about him and Ma.
- b) Yes, but I'd prefer not to.
- c) Honestly? Not so much.
- d) I can only catch things with my mouth.

6) What team do you want to be on?

- a) Real talk? I don't even know what sports teams we have here.
- b) I wanted to go out for women's lacrosse but I'm a man and they have, like, zero respect for my gender expression. I guess men's lacrosse.
- c) The one with the ponies!
- d) Umm, duh, the one where I get to fly around on a motha-truckin broomstick! Huh? Wait... what do you mean? Then how do they even? Oh, fuck it.

If you answered mostly A...

Hockey! Looks like you know a thing or two about a thing or two when it comes to pucks. Try it! If that doesn't work out, you could always try something else, like Netflix.

If you answered mostly B...

Congrats! You were practically born to wield a lacrosse stick. Start growing your mullet and head to the Skid Shop to purchase some of that Vineyard Vines gear all the kids are wearing these days.

If you answered mostly C...

Honey, this is your mother. I know things have been hard for you socially this semester. I think that joining the soccer team is a great idea. You'll meet so many friendly people. In the meantime, try bringing cookies to your classes! That seems like a neat way to make friends!

If you answered mostly D...

You're the Chosen One. No, not chosen to defeat the dark lord or take me to prom. You've been chosen to join the Quidditch team! Fly like an eagle!

## The Perception Painter



Danielle Rubin 2017, Skidmore News photographer

Story By: Douglas Patrick '18, Contributing Writer

"The Perception Painter"

Molly listened as Adam told his friends at his lunch table of his English teacher's stupidity. Adam had been given a week to write a poem about something he found either particularly beautiful or disturbing. His clumsily peach-fuzzed chin and neck moved dumbly while he explained his taking of a poem off the internet nearly word-for-word. He, then, followed by saying he had received a superior mark on "his work."

The way he put it, as he pushed his mopy dark hair out of his brown eyes, was "poetry sucks, why should I write more of it for the world to not read?" His friends laughed around Molly while she sat silently. Her arm began to press down more tightly over her light blue covered notebook that laid on the table full of stanzas and rhyme.

...

"Ah, yes." The painter's face of wisdom glowed while he said his thoughts aloud. A delicate stroke of black is given as his gift to the easel. His canvas stood within a cloudy, white room. On two wooden stands that created a "U" with the easel, were an array of paints; the painter stood between them. On the right side of the painter were beautifully vibrant full containers of blues, purples, yellows, whites, and greens that stood proudly. On the left, half-used containers of dark reds, deceitful blacks, and sad grays awaited their inevitable use. After putting his brush down, he took a small, careful step back and looked upon his work with an expert eye. Satisfied, he turned to the door and walked out into the pink hallways of Molly's brain.

...

The bell interrupted Adam's rant on poetry to signal that lunch was over. The tables of people sprang into action. Molly pulled her backpack up off the floor by its right strap. Halfway through her forceful tug she realized, much too late, that the big pocket was left unzipped and the contents flipped out on to the cafeteria tiles.

Adam heard the splashing of papers and realized what had happened. He walked quickly over to Molly and, while standing over her, asked, "Need any help Molly?"

...

The painter stopped in his tracks during his trek down the walkway. "Oh, of course, I must add that!" He thought aloud once more. He rushed to the door he had just shut and threw it open while the block letters that read "Adam" flew past his face while the door flew open. The easel awaited him and he nearly jumped to the bright wooden stand to his right to make his addition. He picked up his brush and dipped it—but the bristles didn't wet with a light blue. They hit the paint like a wall. The painter tried again and again. The black quills just pushed back up to the handle, refusing to dip into the paint.

...

Molly looked up from her gathering of books and loose papers off the floor and into the dark brown eyes of Adam. She replied,

“No. I’m perfectly fine without any of your help.” And a confused Adam made no attempt to insist and walked away.

Molly knew one thing for certain, the paint had dried.

## Campus Safety Reports Feb. 20 - Feb. 26



### Friday Feb. 20

Drug Law Violation at Moore Way 9:07 PM: Officers report a drug law violation.

Suspicious Odor McClellan 10:46 PM: Officer reports a drug and alcohol violation.

### Saturday Feb. 21

College Violation Dayton Drive 1:28 AM: RP reports noise complaint. Dispatched officers. Occupants agreed to lower music.

Suspicious Odor Jonsson Tower 9:17 PM: RP reports a suspicious odor outside the basement. Officer dispatched. Unfounded — no odor present upon their arrival.

College Violation Moore Way 11:37 PM: RP reports a loud party. Disp. Officers who report locating two apartments with loud music. Both were asked to lower the volumes and both complied without further incident.

### Sunday Feb. 22

Criminal Mischief Kimball Hall: 12:27am - Officer discovered the vending machine in the first floor lobby had been tipped over or rocked as the items were dislodged from their holders. Photo taken. No known witnesses at this time.

Criminal Mischief McClellan Hall 2:21am - RP states residents just woke her up stating a loud group of males put a very large hole in the hallway wall. No known suspects and no descriptions available. Advised Officers.

Criminal Mischief McClellan Hall 2:36am - RP contacted Campus Safety stating he just observed a male punch a hole in the wall on the 2nd floor. Disp. Officers.

Suspicious Activity Perimeter Road 2:22am - RP observed a male walking in the middle of the Perimeter Road, staggering and feels that he may get hurt. Disp. Officer who conducted a search of the area as well as Clinton Street to no avail. Subject apparently GOA at this time.

Criminal Mischief Wiecking Hall 11:56am: RP reports broken light bulb and cover. Officer dispatched. Advised Housekeeping and Maintenance as well for clean-up and repairs.

Fire Alarm Sussman Apartments 6:15pm: Fire alarm sounded on the DMP Computer for Sussman B. Disp. Officers, Maintenance and advised SSFD. Resident called stating the alarm is due to them cooking and there is no problem.

Suspicious Odor Jonsson Tower 11:36pm: RP called stating there is an odor of marijuana on the second floor. Disp. Officer who reports unable to locate any source of the odor at this time.

### **Monday Feb. 23**

Fire Alarm Sussman Apartments 6:33 PM: Fire alarm activation received. Disp. Officers, Maintenance and advised SSFD.

Suspicious Odor Campus Wide 9:00 PM: RP called to report problematic emails that are being sent to the class of 2015 list. Disp. officer.

Fire Alarm Sussman Apartments 10:38 PM: Fire alarm activation received. Disp. Officers, Maintenance and advised SSFD. Officers report alarm due to cooking.

Suspicious Odor McClellan Hall 11:21 PM: Suspicious odor report received. Disp. Officers.

College Violation Penfield Hall 10:47 PM: RP called to report a noise complaint. Disp. Officers reported upon arrival found a person in the area reading. No further problems at this time.

### **Tuesday Feb. 24**

Accident Wilmarth Hall 3:30 pm. RP reports a window was broken accidentally. Disp. Officer.

### **Wednesday Feb. 25**

College Violation Wait Hall 1:10 AM: RP stated loud noise. Officer dispatched.

Criminal Mischief McClellan Hall 7:49AM: RP reports a hole in the wall in the stairwell. Officer dispatched and took photos. Canvassed area for witnesses or perpetrators with negative results.

Fire Alarm Sussman Apartments 1:29PM: Received a fire alarm. Dispatched Officers, Maintenance and advised SSFD. Source found to be cooking.

Fire Alarm Sussman Apartments 3:46 pm Received a Fire Alarm. Dispatched Officers, Maintenance and advised SSFD. Resident reports cooking was the cause of the alarm. Advised Officers, Maintenance and SSFD.

### **Thursday Feb. 26**

Suspicious Odor Jonsson Tower 4:50 PM: RP reports suspicious odor in north stairwell. RP cannot locate source. Disp. Officer who could not locate source.

Suspicious Odor Wait Hall 10:31 PM RP reports a suspicious odor. Disp. Officers.