

Student Athlete Profile: Tyler Phillips '17



Tyler Phillips '17

By Mia Merrill, Sports Editor

Q: Where are you from?

A: Marblehead, Massachusetts

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

A: I'm a studio art major and a business minor. I want to get into advertising after I graduate.

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

A: I play midfield (attacking and defense) and center (taking draws). I first picked up a stick in 6th grade, but didn't start getting serious about the sport until high school.

Q: Why do you love lacrosse?

A: I love lacrosse because it's such a high-paced game. I also love being a part of a team and being able to share the season with such a great group of girls.

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

A: This year, in our preseason and in-season, we've been working with our new strength and conditioning coach, Matt Chatham. Because of this, the team has become so much stronger and faster. We also practice every day of the week, aside from Sundays. Our team is extremely dedicated, and can also be found working out or playing wall-ball outside of practice. We have all grown together as a team, and since we only lost one senior last year, our team dynamic has only become stronger. I think we're going to have a very successful season.

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

A: We bonded right away with our new team members by simply including them in anything we do. For me, it was important to bond with them and make them feel like they had a group of friends right off the bat. Having good chemistry outside of lacrosse translates to the field and makes for a great playing environment. We also love playing Cards Against Humanity...

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

A: Our record last year doesn't show our team's true ability. We held our own against top 10 teams, and lost many games by only one goal. We are also a much stronger team this year. Also, we love fans!

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

A: My favorite memory of being on the team so far was our spring break trip to Florida last year. It was so much fun to be in a beautiful place with friends, and to be able to bond and just enjoy ourselves. My greatest accomplishment was personally winning Liberty League rookie of the year and All-Region second team. But in regards to the team, our greatest accomplishment was losing to RPI, the best team in our conference, by only one goal last season, then beating them by more than 6 goals in our play-day this fall.

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

A: Personally, playing a sport helps me manage my time better. With a set schedule, it is easier to plan out your class and homework schedule. Also, taking the two hours out of the day to practice is actually a great stress reliever. I would encourage everyone who is thinking of playing a sport to at least give it a try!

American String Quartet returns to Skidmore for string festival; will participate in College's Beethoven project March 7



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photo © Peter Schaaf

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y. — The world-renowned American String Quartet (ASQ) returns to Skidmore College for the third time as artists-in-residence during the weekend of March 7-8 for the 11th annual Skidmore String Festival, which is part of the college's ELM Chamber Music Residency. The ASQ will also participate in Skidmore's continuing Beethoven project while on campus.

The festival features a performance by the ASQ at 8 p.m. Saturday, March 7, in Arthur Zankel Music Center. Tickets are on sale in advance. A second concert, the festival finale, features ASQ and Skidmore faculty joining the student performers. Scheduled for Sunday, March 8, at 2 p.m., also in Zankel, the festival finale is free.

Saturday's concert by the ASQ is will feature an all-Beethoven program as the concert is part of Skidmore's ongoing Beethoven project in which six internationally renowned guest artist are presenting the full cycle of Beethoven's 16 string quartets over the

course of two years. The ASQ will perform the Quartet in G Major, Op. 18, No. 2; the Quartet in E-flat Major, Op. 74; and the Quartet in C-sharp Minor, Op. 131. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$5 for seniors and the Skidmore community, and free for students and children. For ticket information for the March 7 American String Quartet Concert, please visit the Skidmore College web site, <http://www.skidmore.edu/zankel/>

Festival activities include individual and group coaching with the dynamic quartet and Skidmore faculty. Michael Emery, senior artist-in-residence at Skidmore, invited established high school string quartets to join Skidmore students for a weekend of individual, non-competitive coaching with members of the ASQ and Skidmore faculty as well as a performance in the Arthur Zankel Music Center's Helen Ladd Concert Hall.

Internationally recognized as one of the world's foremost quartets, the ASQ is celebrating its 39th season this year. Quartet members are Peter Winograd (violin), Laurie Carney (violin), Daniel Avshalomov (viola), and Wolfram Koessel (cello). Over nearly four decades of touring the quartet has performed in all 50 states and appeared in the world's most important concert halls. The group's presentations of the complete quartets of Beethoven, Schubert, Bartók, and Mozart have won widespread critical acclaim, and its MusicMasters Complete Mozart String Quartets, performed on a matched set of instruments by Stradivarius, are widely considered to have set the standard for this repertoire.

In addition to quartets by European masters, the ASQ performs works by American composers and also champions contemporary music. The quartet has commissioned and premiered works by distinguished American composers Richard Danielpour, Tobias Picker, and George Tsontakis, among others.

Women's Basketball Wins First Ever Liberty League Title

By Skidmore Athletics



The Skidmore College women's basketball team secured the program's first ever Liberty League Championship on Saturday afternoon in Canton, N.Y., with a hard fought 67-62 double overtime win over top-seeded St. Lawrence.

“The amazing journey continues for us,” said Skidmore College head coach Darren Bennett. “I’m so happy for our entire team and program. We were the absolute picture of resilience today. Coming back from a double-digit second-half deficit and pushing through two overtimes was awesome.”

Senior guard Molly McLaughlin was named the tournament's Most Outstanding Player, after tallying a game-high 21 points. The Saints were led by Allison Cady's 18 points and 10 rebounds.

“Molly McLaughlin was something else on both ends of the floor,” Bennett added. “Fifty minutes, not a minute of rest, and she was able to make great decisions for our team and hit huge free throws down the stretch.”

Skidmore heads to the NCAA Tournament after earning the automatic bid with a 17-10 overall record. Kelly Donnelly '18 (14 points, 13 rebounds) and Angela Botiba '15 (13 points, 16 rebounds) added double-doubles to land All-Tournament Team honors. Meanwhile, St. Lawrence finished the year at 20-7 Saturday's loss continues a league nine-year streak in which the No. 1 seed in the conference tournament has failed to win the automatic bid.

Skidmore finished the game with a 61-54 rebounding advantage, and shot 17 more free throws than St. Lawrence, which settled for perimeter jumpers throughout the game. The Thoroughbreds managed to earn the win despite a 1-for-19 mark from behind the arc, as the Saints weren't much better at 6-of-34.

The Saints put together a 10-point run to snag the early lead, as the team had eight different players chip in on the offensive end in the half. Kara McDuffee and Cady led the way with a combined 14 points, and Samantha Godfrey hit a key three and Olivia Mathieu scored on a contested layup to keep the home team on top. Despite Skidmore struggling to score with an 8-of-34 mark from the floor, the Saints missed a few opportunities to stretch the lead, taking a 29-19 lead into the break.

Kaelyn Kohlasch hit a three early in the second half, giving St. Lawrence a 13-point lead, but Skidmore refused to cave, with McLaughlin hitting several jumpers from the elbow while continuing to involve Botiba in the post. The Saints held the lead throughout the entire second half, until back-to-back jumpers by Donnelly and Amber Holgate '16 tied it at 46-46, with 1:51 to play. Skidmore had the best chance to win the game in regulation, but McLaughlin's last-second three hit iron and sent the game to overtime.

The Thoroughbreds never trailed in the first overtime, but never lead by more than two. McDuffee's layup with 41 seconds left tied it at 52-52, answering a bucket by Botiba. After Holgate missed for Skidmore, Kohlasch had two open looks from three to win it, including one at the buzzer, but failed to convert.

Skidmore finally built some separation in the second overtime, using a 7-0 run capped by a McLaughlin layup to take a 59-54 lead with 2:03 left. Cady answered right away with an and-one, keeping the lead at 59-57, but that would be the last field goal by the Saints. McLaughlin converted free throws down the stretch, leading the Thoroughbreds to the program's first Liberty League title.

“Amber Holgate came off the bench with a huge and-one to give us the overtime lead [and] was incredible,” Bennett added. “Botiba inside, Donnelly with her ability to get to the rim and hit the mid-range shot, everything just clicked for us today. It was a lot of fun to be a part of it all.”

Cady and McDuffee both posted double-doubles, earning All-Tournament honors. Cady finished with 18 points and 10 boards, while McDuffee compiled 10 points and 14 rebounds.

“Our goal was to minimize their 3-point shooting, keep them off the free throw line, and, lastly, keep them off the offensive rebounds,” Bennett said. “We did those things, and were able to hold off an incredibly talented and well coached team. I've got so much respect for Dan and his team. His two seniors, Kara McDuffee and Allison Cady, are great leaders and class acts. We are enjoying this experience and look forward to continuing our journey into our first ever NCAA tournament.”

Skidmore, which knocked off St. Lawrence for the third time this season, will play St. John Fisher College at Tufts University on Friday, March 6.

A Note from The National Residence Hall Honorary Program



Official Poster for Skidservice Celebration, courtesy of the event's Facebook Page

Hi Everyone,

The National Residence Hall Honorary and The Office of Community Service Programs are hosting an event, SkidService Celebration, in the Spa on Thursday, March 5th to honor and recognize service and leadership on our campus.

Eleven service clubs or groups on campus are coming together to share information about themselves and their upcoming events. There will also be seven performance groups, free Esperanto's pizza, raffles for group memorabilia, and a raffle for a chipotle gift card.

So come join us in learning more about these amazing groups, while enjoying free food and good

entertainment!

If you would like to know more about the event, find us on Facebook [here](#).

We look forward to seeing you there!

Gavin Berger and Kate Bridgham

Co-Presidents of NRHH

Securing Its Future or Shooting Itself in the Foot? China's Strict Censorship and Its Returning Students



Beijing's current skyline, juxtaposed with its proposed future skyline. (Photo Credit: AP Photo/Andy Wong)

by Niki Deininger '15

Over the last few weeks—on the Internet, in college classrooms, and in business offices—Chinese citizens are sighing in frustration at what many believe to be the Communist Party's toughest censorship regulations in decades. Taken out of context, the government's clampdown might not seem out of place. Yet, considering General Secretary of the Communist Part of China Xi Jinping's continued efforts to snuff out Party corruption, including last month's ousting of former provincial party leader Su Rong, tighter censorship reveals a heightened sense of state instability. While the country's economy and private sector may continue to grow miraculously, the substantial increase of state limitations on foreign-educated citizens may ultimately shoot the Communist Party in the foot.

For several weeks now, stricter controls on Internet use, academic curriculum, and business applications all seem to be a result of the Party's fear of outside influences threatening the legitimacy of the Chinese government. Amid state investigations to root out corruption—an endeavor that has already implicated thousands of government officials, including 70 high-ranking party Members—Xi Jinping is seeking to maintain stability by tightening the leash on censorship. And the number of restrictions is still growing. In addition to expelling all Google services last year, as of last month, bloggers and chat-room visitors are required to register their full names on websites, as well as provide written affirmation that they will not challenge the political system. In the weeks to come, new regulations may require foreign companies to hand over intellectual property and products under the guise of “security checks.”

While some Western observers may shake their heads at this turn of events, many others are more struck by China's nontraditional model of development and growth. China's support and effort to fuel economic activity, Xi Jinping's campaign against corruption, the country's greater availability of educational opportunities abroad, the government's encouragement for innovative ideas and technology, and China's growing middle class all seem to suggest that democracy is somewhere in their attainable future. Classic modernization theory in particular asserts that a prominent middle class will lead to democracy. However, the government's recent crackdown on censorship quells hopes of a China that can embrace civil liberties, such as free speech, in years to come. China's model of development differs from that of more liberal democratic countries. The government's desire to remain firmly in control is troublesome and clashes with the country's rapid economic growth in the private sector and its increasing number of foreign-educated middle class citizens.

In addition to China's astounding economic growth over the years, the United States' desire to accept international students into U.S. Skidmore News Online: March 2015. Retrieved from <http://www.skidmorenews.com> on 8/26/2015.

colleges and universities, combined with China's surplus of knowledge-seeking students has created a profitable market for an American education. While Chinese students have continuously represented the largest number of international students studying in America, the rate of Chinese student enrollment is still on the rise. In 2014, Chinese student enrollment surged 17 percent from the previous year, reaching a total of 274,439 students, about 31 percent of all international students studying in America. Yet unlike in past years, more American-educated Chinese graduates are returning home for employment. According to the Ministry of Education, in 2011, 187,300 Chinese graduates returned home after completing their studies. However, a year later, that number skyrocketed to 272,900 graduates. Part of the explanation for this drastic increase lies in how difficult it is for Chinese citizens to obtain a U.S. work visa. These figures also highlight China's tremendous economic growth, its expanding private sector, and the opportunities for skilled jobs that come with economic growth.

With more and more American-educated Chinese graduates returning home to join China's blossoming private sector, its bilingual, bicultural workforce has the potential to pump new ideas and innovations into China and spur further economic development. While this is good news for the Communist Party's hopes of maintaining sustained economic growth, the consequences of encouraging students to return home with foreign Western ideas could pose a real, tangible threat to China's attempts to stifle political dissent. The Chinese government refuses to let in information it deems threatening to the nation, and yet it wants to encourage innovation in the private sector from its foreign-educated citizens. China cannot have both, or else it will set itself on a collision course with democracy.

The Newest Clubs on Campus



Unicef Cambodia, John Vink, 2004, Accessed through ARTstor.

By Noa Maltzman '18, News Editor

Last March a group of students began working to start a UNICEF club here at Skidmore. The UNICEF Campus Initiative became an official Student Government Association (SGA) club on Feb. 3 this year, but it was after a lot of time, work and dedication from the club leaders.

“Starting a club is just as everyone says it is, it's hard,” said Monica Villegas '16, who is the current president of Amici D'Italia. Amici D'Italia is another group that is in the process of working to hopefully become an official club here at Skidmore.

Villegas who was born and raised in Italy speaking Italian wanted to start Amici D'Italia “because I want people to learn about the Italian culture and know it as I know it.”

The founding members of UNICEF wanted to make it an official club on campus for many reasons. One of their main reasons was that UNICEF USA requires that any UNICEF Campus Initiative be an official club on its respective campus. Another reason was so they would have their own funding and because they felt, “people might not want to be a part of something that is not already established [as an official club] because they fear that the club might disappear one day and their active participation might not be recognized later on,” said Alexandra Palthey '16, UNICEF Club President.

“Being an SGA club gives you SGA's full support, commitment, and backing. The club also gets a budget through SGA funds,” said Megan Schacter '17 Vice-President for Club Affairs, when she was asked about the advantage of being a full club.

The process for becoming a club begins when those hoping to start a club meet with the Vice President for Club Affairs. After this meeting, the club fills out an intent to organize form and works to collect 300 signatures from members of the student body. Recently Big Brothers Big Sisters was in the D-hall Atrium tabling to get people to sign their name on their club list in hopes of helping them to become a club.

Once the club has the 300 signatures, they meet with the Club Affairs Committee (CAC). Here, they explain issues like why they want to start a club and their plans for the club. The CAC then votes to put them on an eight-week trial period or not. During this time, they function as a full SGA club. Four weeks into the trial process, the club leaders meet with the Vice President for Club Affairs for a check in meeting to discuss how things are going. Then, at the end of the eight weeks, the club goes back to CAC to prove that they are ready to be a full club. CAC then votes to endorse the club to senate or not. With or without the endorsement, the club can then go to senate, where the senators vote on whether to provide a charter.

Amici D'Italia just ended their trial period on March 4. During their trial period, they hosted bi-weekly meetings and a showing of the best foreign film of 2014, the Italian film "The Great Beauty."

This isn't how the process has always been. During Schacter's term as Vice President for Club Affairs, she has been working to change the process. "This year, I lengthened the trial period to eight weeks from the original four weeks, in order to give groups more time to prepare and strengthen themselves before coming to CAC and Senate for charter approval."

Additionally, Schacter said that she is working to change the current policies; so that on the same day Senate approves the club charter, they will also approve the club's budget. "This will eliminate any lag time between when a group is chartered and when they receive their budget," said Schacter.

UNICEF's process for becoming a club took a longer time than usual and differed from the typical process described above because when they began the process of becoming a club, "we went to SGA asking to be a club, and they assigned us under Benef-Action, citing that we are a community [service] club," said Anh Vu L Nguyen '17, a co-founder of UNICEF at Skidmore. The founders of the club though soon realized that Benef-Action was pretty different in their approaches and aims compared to UNICEF, so UNICEF club founders went back to SGA in late April to become their own official club. SGA told Unicef to come back in the fall though, as they were too late in the year.

At the beginning of this school year, UNICEF got to meet with the CAC and SGA and begin a trial period for their club. The trial period lasted almost the entire fall 2014 semester, and during this time the club hosted many events and collaborated with other clubs. "One of the most successful series of events that we did was the Halloween week," said Nguyen.

Not only did UNICEF have to prove that they could host events and operate as a club during their trial period, but they also had to show that the club could be sustainable. "We had a change in leadership, and that showed that there were people other than the e-board then who want to be with the club," said Nguyen.

Hard work by the UNICEF leaders paid off and the club became an official SGA club in early February, but it is currently unknown if hard work will pay off for Amici D'Italia, like it did for UNICEF, and if SGA will vote in favor of making them a club.

The Six Mental Stages of Winter: A Steady Decline from Childlike Wonder to Bitter Disgust



Photograph: Winter:Time of the Hawk, Romare Bearden, 1985, collage on board. Accessed through ARTstor.

By: Marie Civitello, '17, Contributing Writer

1. November: By day, you greet the first chilly notes of winter with excitement. By night, you dream of sleigh bells, jolly fat men and singing snowmen dancing under geysers of hot chocolate.
2. December: You frolic through the freshly fallen snow, clambering over gargantuan snowbanks as if they were the grassy Austrian hills of “The Sound of Music.” Merry Christmas, winter!
3. January: Smiling with effort at the towering grayish snow piles around campus, you attempt a half-hearted snow angel but realize this is impossible in four feet of snow.
4. February: Staring in bewilderment at the snow falling sideways outside the window, you count the number of days since you last saw the sun on your swollen, frostbitten finger nubs.
5. March: Snowed in for five days, you begin to worship an orange—the only object remotely resembling the star you have heard (apparently) exists at the center of our solar system.
6. April: Crazed and vitamin D deficient, you burst outside as soon as temperatures soar to 40 degrees. Wearing nothing but a Hawaiian shirt, you run through campus screaming in rabid glee.

The Replacement



Photo Credit: Couch, France, 1740-50, Accessed through ARTstor

By: Anonymous Contributor

Slam the door crashed behind him as he walked out, leaving behind a faint echo that reverberated through the cramped, but nearly empty studio apartment.

With a sigh of relief she sank down into the old couch and shut her eyes, replaying the events of the day. Slowly, a crooked, malicious smile appeared on her lips as she applauded her efforts in the conversation that just ensued.

You see, she had been trying to master the art of manipulation for the past five years, and after hours of endless fights and arguments, she realized that she had succeeded. This had been a tough test of her abilities, but she applied all of the knowledge and tricks that she had mastered and she had succeeded, and it felt good. No, it felt more than good—it felt magnificent.

Her eyes sprung open and she looked around the room as if in deep thought. Slowly, she lifted herself from the rustic couch, as it was not an easy couch to lift oneself out of. She stared longingly at the rips in the seams, and the stains that reminded her of the long years they had spent together. Spaghetti sauce, wine, and soda created its own pattern on the fabric that nearly covered the surface of the cushions.

Walking to the kitchen, she tied her long hair in ponytail and opened a drawer to grab a knife. She held it before her eyes as if inspecting it for any imperfections. She twisted it in her hands and then looked back toward the couch.

Heading for the homely thing, she held the knife high above her head. When she arrived at her destination she brought her hand down fast and hard into the upholstery. Repeatedly, she stabbed the knife in the cushions, the arms, the pillows and the back of the couch. Her eyes emitted a type fierce rage that would make you want to run away. She didn't stop menacingly slicing the couch until the thing was nothing but scraps of stuffing and fabric and pieces of wood scattered about the room.

Just as she finished cleaning up the mess, her husband burst through the doors completely out of breath. He stared at his wife questioningly after he saw the empty spot where his beloved and precious couch once sat. Just as he was about to speak, three men burst through the door behind him carrying a new, lovely leather couch, and placed it down where the ugly old one used to sit.

Reel Talk: Spring Film Preview



By Sean van der Heijden

With the awards season just having come to an end, the spring isn't exactly known for its good releases. However, things have been changing lately—last year, both Wes Anderson's, *The Grand Budapest Hotel* and critical darling, *Under the Skin* premiered in March. This year too, there are a couple of promising releases that may have gone under your radar:

Kumiko, the Treasure Hunter: dir. David Zellner, starring Rinko Kikuchi

This one's a bit odd. Based on a true story, it's about a lonely Japanese woman who discovers a copy of the film *Fargo*, and then heads to the U.S. to hunt down the large case of money that appears in the film. Kikuchi was mesmerizing in *Babel* all the way back in 2006, and looks just as haunting and atmospheric in this. It opens in limited release on March 18.

Ex Machina: dir. Alex Garland, starring Domhnall Gleason, Alicia Vikander, and Oscar Isaac.

About a researcher who gets involved in an artificial intelligence experiment and must evaluate the human-like qualities of a female robot, this film looks like a cross between drama, sci-fi, and psychological thriller. It's getting really positive feedback right now, and looks way smarter than it's making itself out to be. *Ex Machina* goes wide on April 10.

While We're Young: dir. Noah Baumbach, starring Ben Stiller, Naomi Watts, Amanda Seyfried, and Adam Driver.

Centered on a middle-aged couple (Stiller and Watts) whose lives get upended upon meeting a much younger couple (Driver and Seyfried), this movie looks like a witty, hilarious dramedy. Dealing with the generation gap between the two couples, Stiller and Watts—who's won raves for her performance—slowly descend into childish hipsters as their relationship with the younger couple grows. This one comes out on March 27.

Other wide releases include the Kenneth Branagh adaptation of Disney's *Cinderella* and the Liam Neeson thriller *Run All Night*, both of which come out on March 13. The Will Ferrell-Kevin Hart prison comedy *Get Hard* comes out on March 27, and *Furious 7* premieres on April 3. Another promising sci-fi thriller, *Self/less*, opens on the April 17, and is definitely one to check out. Lastly, the Blake Lively romance *The Age of Adaline* comes out on April 24 and definitely looks like a decent date movie.

Theater Review: The Penelopiad



By Andy Shi, Managing Editor

You're left with the unsettling knot in your gut that you have misunderstood not only one of antiquity's most famous works, but the nearly three thousand years of history subsequent to its first telling. That, of course, was the intent of *The Penelopiad*, Emily Moler '15's rendition of Margaret Atwood's famous feminist work, itself a reinterpretation of Homer's *The Odyssey*.

The Penelopiad tells the story of Penelope, Odysseus's wife, during her husband's twenty-year absence—a story that Homer himself only offers snippets of during his epic. The play follows Penelope's story from her marriage to Odysseus to her faithful attempts to delay remarriage to one of the many suitors who come to her while Odysseus is lost at sea and presumably dead. The story ends with his return, although not under the joyous circumstances found in the original.

While Penelope narrates the play, it eventually becomes clear that the story is not about her, but rather her 12 handmaids—the ones who are hanged in *The Odyssey* for licentiousness, connivance with the suitors, and betrayal of Penelope and Odysseus. However, in this rendition we learn the handmaiden's connivance with the suitors was instead reconnaissance at Penelope's request so that she could thwart their plots against her and keep them behaved. Their promiscuity was not depravity, but sexual assault, misperceived by Odysseus's son and faithful maid, Telemachus and Eurycleia, respectively. Rather than the opportunistic whores they're made out to be in *The Odyssey*, in this retelling they are epitomes of loyalty, innocence, and martyrdom. Their sacrifices are made to buy Penelope time while Odysseus takes his time returning, making a one-year pit-stop with the beautiful enchantress Circe and a seven-year dalliance with the nymph Calypso.



Thus, the 12 maids not only sacrifice their bodies for Penelope but also their lives for a guilt borne by Odysseus. Penelope, too, is guilty, culpable for not only allowing their torture, but encouraging it so that she can remain faithful to a faithless man.

The lugubrious Penelope was wonderfully played by Lily Donahue '15, who deftly carried the narrative through its hour-and-half-plus run and movingly delivered some of the most heart-wrenching and dismal scenes. She displayed an immense comfort with the focal role and did justice to the leading lady.

Skidmore News Online: March 2015. Retrieved from <http://www.skidmorenews.com> on 8/26/2015.

Special attention must also be given to Evy Yergan '16, who portrayed the arrogant Odysseus and provided the much-needed comic relief along with the brutish and boisterous suitors, most notably Antinous, played by Rebecca Zipursky '15. Their caricature male behavior—exaggerated ball-scratching, nose-flicking and Neanderthal-like swagger—was some of the show's most memorable and enjoyable moments.

And one would be remiss to not give due consideration to the production staff. The stage (designed by James Barber '15), with its chipped edges and faded mosaics, invoked the Attic amphitheater where the original *Odyssey* might be presented. Costumes, skillfully designed by Alli Green '15, aided greatly in delivering the Hellenic authenticity, and along with carefully cued music (Margo Chanin '16) and lighting (James Kuzio '15), generated a powerful experience for the audience.

The *Penelopiad* was a masterfully mixed cocktail of humor, intelligence, and tragedy. The terrible fate of the 12 maids, unjustly vilified, has echoes in a contemporary world that is encountering its own transforming social narrative. Those marginalized, silenced, and slandered—blamed for crimes they did not commit, but were in fact the very victims—are speaking up. The justice which the 12 maids call for, delivered from the dark shadows of Hades where they have been abandoned, is perhaps finally being heard in the twenty-first century.

The *Penelopiad* ran from Feb. 27 to March 4 in the Black Box Theater. Congratulations to Ms. Moler and the cast and crew for a smart and dazzling performance.

Investigating Sexual Misconduct: Skidmore's Policy (Part 1)



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By Jacob Reiskin '17, Co-Editor-In-Chief

This article marks the beginning of a multi-week series that will detail sexual assault and the conversation surrounding it at Skidmore. This first week will focus on the College's protocol for responding to sexual misconduct, including its reporting and hearing process. In the coming weeks, my co-editor, Billie Kanfer, and I, will publish on a weekly basis, articles addressing the handling of sexual misconduct.

First, I want to detail the process, as David Karp, Assistant Dean of Campus Life and Mariel Martin, Director of Student Diversity Programs/Title IX Deputy Coordinator outlined to me.

Once a student files a case of sexual misconduct with a source obligated to report (such as Campus Safety), whether it be an inappropriate note or a rape, the report is sent to Martin. Her job is to enforce Title IX law, which was created and is overseen by the federal Justice Department's Civil Rights Division. The law is intended to eliminate gender discrimination at institutions of higher education. To uphold the law, Martin is responsible for investigating any incident. She explained, "A trained partner and I act as neutral fact finders." Both Martin and Karp are trained in investigating sexual assault and receive training at least one a year.

The investigation is a very in-depth process that will go as far as evidence allows. Sometimes victims do not say enough to conduct a full investigation; therefore, ending investigations quickly. However, if victims are forthcoming, then all relevant people, including witnesses and the person accused are interviewed. If hard evidence exists—such as a rape kit, cellphone records, or door swipe records—it is collected. All of this information is then compiled into an investigation report which will eventually be handed over to the sexual misconduct committee in advance of a hearing. The report will highlight agreements and disagreements between the reporting individual (student making a claim) and the responding individual (student that has been accused). Both students are allowed to voice their opinions on the report prior to the hearing. By highlighting these agreements and disagreements, the hearing board is better able to question the reporting and responding students when the hearing occurs.

In any case of sexual misconduct, the goal of the policy is to stop the behavior, especially if the reporting student reports repeated abuse. The second goal is to "remedy the behavior," meaning that reporting (and responding) students should be guided through the aftermath of an event, whether they need counseling, law services or other help, including housing relocation or class changes. The last goal is to prevent the behavior from happening again, so if necessary, students are removed from campus before hearings occur.

This also explains why green posters go up on campus, so students can be aware that misconduct is happening and

that the college is responding. These posters are required by the Cleary Act in order to make sure students are aware of dangers on campus so that they can take action to protect themselves; such as locking their doors or avoiding dangerous situations.

To achieve these three goals, there will be a hearing where both students are allowed to voice their concerns. The hearing board is made up of trained faculty who have been selected through a willingness-to-serve process. Martin noted that all members undergo a six-week intensive training process in the fall. In addition, as of October 2014, students are allowed to have a lawyer (or any advisor, friend, counselor they choose) present in the hearing room, so long as the lawyer does not speak—this would make the hearing too much like a court case. Students are also allowed specific accommodations. For example, if they desire, students are not forced to look at each other during the hearing. A screen can be placed between the reporting and responding sides of the room. These hearings tend to be incredibly adversarial because according to David Karp, “nearly 100% of responders deny responsibility.”

This leaves the board in a tough place. “Most cases come down to word vs. word,” Martin said. So to find students responsible, the boards use a preponderance system. Students can be found responsible beyond reasonable doubt (99.9% sure), clear and convincing (75% sure), or confident (51% sure). The board, after deliberation, reaches a level of confidence to determine culpability, but does not share their confidence level with either student. However, even if a student is found responsible at the lowest level, only 51%, they are still assigned sanctions the same as if they had been found responsible beyond reasonable doubt, a standard practice dictated by the Justice Department. As a comparison, the U.S. justice system must find those charged guilty beyond reasonable doubt in order to convict. This is important to understand because these hearings are not court cases. Dean of Students and Vice President for Student Affairs Rochelle Calhoun underscored that the objective in these cases is simply to establish whether a responding individual has violated Skidmore's code of conduct. “We are establishing responsibility by the lowest standard, which has been critiqued, but we are trying to find a basic breach.”

If students are found responsible, they are assigned sanctions by the hearing board, although Calhoun is responsible for reviewing suggestions of suspension and expulsion. As explained in the [sexual misconduct policy](#):

Sanctions preserve individual and institutional safety and integrity and, whenever possible and appropriate, help offenders repair the damage to the individual and community for which they have been found responsible. Individuals found to be in violation of sexual and gender-based misconduct offenses involving penetration will likely face a recommended sanction of suspension or expulsion. Individuals found to be in repeat violation for sexual and/or gender-based misconduct offenses will likely face a recommended sanction of suspension or expulsion.

When asked about whether students should be expelled for all violations of misconduct (as Student Government Association President Addison Bennett suggested in his recent open letter), Calhoun responded with ambivalence: “The big question is what should we do [to respond to those found guilty of sexual misconduct] and we don't have an answer at this time.” She continued, “I'm taken by how varied the answer is in our community...there is an assumption that all victims want a bright line. It's a very nuanced issue though.” She explained, “it's discussed in a very binary way, but when we have conversations in the community, it's not this.”

When asked what the chief misconceptions of sexual misconduct are, Martin responded, “why are institutions of higher education handling this?” Martin explained that members of the Skidmore community are always held accountable to the code of conduct and when they violate it, they are held liable, whether it be rape or theft. Students always have a right to file outside complaints and students will do what's best for them. Although, responding individuals may be better off having their cases heard on campus. As Karp said, “the criminal justice system does not often [file] charge[s] because there is no evidence.” This stresses why Title IX boards are so important: They pose the only real likelihood of consequences for perpetrators of sexual misconduct. Martin made clear that students are encouraged to file complaints with outside bodies if they desire and that the school will direct reporting students to whomever they would like to talk to, including the police. She stated that “for some, not filing complaints may be the best option, for others, it's pursuing their case through the justice system.” She put her role best: “my job is make folks aware of

the options and resources.” And she emphasized, “this is an administrative policy that is well vetted and up to par with all federal standards.”

After spring break, we will publish the next piece on individual stories of sexual assault and how the hearing process worked out. We hope this series encourages discussion of this incredibly important issue.

Men's Basketball Set for NCAA First Round

By Skidmore Athletics



The men's basketball team celebrates their Liberty League Championship / Photo by Ed Burke

The Skidmore College men's basketball team will continue its run at a national championship when it takes on Wesleyan University in the NCAA Division III Tournament first round on Friday, March 6, at 5:30 p.m., at Johns Hopkins University.

Skidmore captured its third Liberty League title in five years with a 68-64 win over Clarkson in Saturday's championship game. Junior guard Erik Sanders was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player, after scoring 25 points on 8 of 9 shooting against the Golden Knights. Senior forward Connor Merrill had 14 points, seven rebounds, and four blocks, and junior guard Aldin Medunjanin added 13 points and four boards. The Thoroughbreds shot 53.3 percent (24-45) from the field, marking the seventh time this season that they have shot over 50 percent.

Medunjanin, who was named the Liberty League Player of the Year, holds a conference-best 2.2 assist-to-turnover ratio. He ranks second in the conference in assists per game (4.1), third in steals per game (1.7), sixth in scoring (14.8 ppg), and seventh in 3-pointers per game. He has averaged 15.3 points, 5.7 rebounds and 4.2 assists per game over the last nine games.

Merrill's shot-altering ability has played a vital part in Skidmore's defensive success this season. The four-time All-Liberty League selection has blocked four or more shots in eight games this season, averaging a league-best two blocked shots per game. He has also been a key contributor at the offensive end of the floor, leading the conference in field goal percentage (48.6 percent) and ranking ninth in scoring (14.1 ppg).

Sanders, who was named to the All-Liberty League Second Team, has made a habit of getting to the basket, as indicated by his 133 free-throw attempts this season. He ranks second on the team in points per game (14.3), assists per game (2.2), steals (26) and 3-pointers per game (1.4).

Freshman guard Royce Paris has been the team's unsung hero down the stretch, averaging 13.6 points and 5.2 rebounds per game in Skidmore's last 10 games. He tied a career-high, with 19 points in the Thoroughbreds 69-53 win over Clarkson in the final game of the regular season to help Skidmore clinch its first regular season conference title. He also contributed eight points, eight rebounds, and three assists in the championship game. He is averaging 9.0 points and 3.8 rebounds per game off the bench this season.

Skidmore, which is currently riding an eight-game win streak, has established one of the nation's top defenses this season. The Thoroughbreds rank fifth out of 417 Division III teams in field-goal percentage defense (37.6 percent); 11th in blocked shots per game (4.8); 19th in defensive rebounds per game (28.3); and 39th in scoring defense (62.3 ppg). Skidmore has held its opponents to under 40 percent shooting in 16 of 27 games. The Thoroughbreds are 16-2 over their last 18 games.

Editorial: Educating Students on Sexual Misconduct



Skidmore College

Sexual and Gender-Based Misconduct Policy 2014-2015

Have you ever seen this?<http://www.skidmore.edu/sexualmisconduct/>

By The Editorial Board

As an educational institution, Skidmore is required to teach its students - not only about history or science, but also about how to be good global citizens. We are put in various situations that require us to act as responsible students and members of a community. Standards are set by the school: follow the honor code, abide by drinking and drug laws, respect one another - yet Skidmore does not do enough to discuss sexual assault. It seems that students have been producing the most conversation. Between hearsay emails and Facebook groups - it is clear that the reins are in the hands of the student body, not the administration. Granted, there are green posters that are in every room on campus; however, those green signs are often overlooked and simply state the steps one can take in managing sexual assault, post-occurrence. Most students are well-versed in the AOD policy. They understand preventative measures one can take to avoid acquiring points here and there because the AOD system is written in chart form and placed within all residential hall bathrooms. Unlike sexual misconduct, the AOD policy is driven into our minds.

Sexual assault does not have the same set of educational measures instituted. The preventative measures are not discussed enough; therefore, students lack education on this matter. We are programmed to comprehend what is considered “right” or “wrong,” yet at an institution where “wrong” has consequences, it seems only fair that students be educated on sexual misconduct, just like they are with the AOD policy. Due to the nature of offenses and the less concrete sanctions, the sexual assault policies are much harder to find than the AOD policy. Rather than being posted in bathrooms around campus, the sexual assault policy lives online in [long-form PDF](#). Students don't know the repercussions of violating sexual misconduct policy

The editorial board was in agreement that Skidmore should emphasize preventative measures in the domain of sexual assault within the first year experience.

Skidmore has increased programs this year including that of the Social Norms Campaign and “The First 6 Weeks.” Employing all of these aspects are fantastic, but their focus centralizes around addressing broad themes of alcohol education and only briefly detail sexual and gender-based misconduct and do not mention sanctions.

Yes, if you investigate Skidmore's, “[The First 6 Weeks](#)” webpage you will see a statement that, “Skidmore College is committed to promoting a campus environment where sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and exploitation are not tolerated;” however, these few paragraphs are not satisfactory enough to be claimed as a “discussion” about sexual assault.

The editorial board believes that added discussions across campus through lectures, debates and mandatory class sessions would emphasize better behavior on campus. The board felt that the fourth credit hour of the Scribner Seminar would benefit from devoting a mandatory class session to sexual assault. Many times that fourth hour is disregarded, but it can be used for something better - a look at sexual assault and certain preventative measures.

Skidmore should make the campus more aware of preventative measures when it comes to sexual assault. Campaign posters for various other first year programs are in surplus, so why not add another component? If Skidmore can inform us of the repercussions of drinking under the age of 21 (which we all know is illegal), than Skidmore can inform us of sexual misconduct--preventative aspects and potential consequences for violated Skidmore's code of conduct. Creating posters is always a creative, yet captivating way to catch a student's attention, or adding a mandatory fourth credit hour conversation on the matter would benefit students facing such a tough topic. Perhaps if Skidmore worked harder to make these policies more apparent in our everyday life, then sexual assault would decrease. "Racy readers" might further some knowledge regarding the matter, but they can only be so effective. Despite their quick read - they do not do enough to establish methods for informing students about preventative measures. Skidmore needs to take charge and stop the problem at the root.

As students approach the "real world" it is necessary that we are able to have discussion about topics such as sexual assault, and it is necessary that Skidmore help to furnish these talks. Discussions like these would lead to students becoming respectful and intelligent citizens in their own communities.

For more information on sexual misconduct policy:

[Investigating Sexual Misconduct: Skidmore's Policy \(Part 1\)](#)

Also, we encourage participation in an on-going [gender and sexual based misconduct survey](#) being conducted by the Office of Health promotions.

Skidservice Celebration

A promotional poster for the Skidservice Celebration. The background is teal with several light blue balloons. The title "SKIDSERVICE CELEBRATION" is written in large, bold, yellow and red letters. Below the title, a white box contains the text "Co-Sponsored by NRHH and the Office of Community Service Programs". To the left, a white box lists performers and other groups. To the right, a red box contains the text "Come learn about Skidmore's many community service organizations and see your favorite groups perform!". In the center, a large light blue balloon contains the text "THURSDAY 3/5 6 - 8PM SPA". At the bottom left, a red box contains the text "FREE PIZZA! And a raffle for Chipotle and other prizes throughout the night!".

Co-Sponsored by NRHH and the Office of Community Service Programs

Featuring performances by:
ACCENTS
STOMPING SOLES
RITHMOS
UJIMA
GOSPEL CHOIR
AKT

And info about:
FIGHT CLUB
SARATOGA MENTORING
BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS
FEEL GOOD
BENEF-ACTION
HER CAMPUS
ACTIVE MINDS
NEWMAN CLUB
SAFE PASSAGE
FEEDMORE
AND OTHERS!

Come learn about Skidmore's many community service organizations and see your favorite groups perform!

THURSDAY
3/5
6 - 8PM
SPA

FREE PIZZA!
And a raffle for Chipotle and other prizes throughout the night!

Thursday night at the Spa was a memorable one. A variety of clubs dedicated to improving the local and broader community were represented at Skidservice Celebration on March 5, 2015. This event was sponsored by the Office of Community Service programs and NRHH, the National Residence Hall Honorary. Free pizza was served and tickets were handed out to all purveyors for entrance into a Chipotle raffle. Live performances by some of Skidmore's best talent, including the Accents, the Stomping Soles, Rithmos, Ujima, AKT, and the Gospel Choir entertained a crowd curious about what community outreach opportunities our campus has to offer.

Julia Diamond '15, a sociology major, was at the event to share information about Fight Club. Fight Club is a campus mediation service provided by students trained in conflict resolution strategies. They offer a safe and confidential space for their fellow peers who are going through difficulties in their interpersonal relationships and would like to come to a resolution. Said Diamond, "I just love watching people work through things logically and knowing that I helped them do that."

Students participating in one of this year's Alternative Spring Break programs called Safe Passage were present at the Celebration to fundraise for their service trip to Guatemala, as well as to recruit any individuals interested in participating in the future. In March of 2015, a handful of volunteers will be journeying to this South American country to mentor 4th and 7th grade Guatemalan children through an afterschool program. They have been meeting regularly throughout the spring semester in preparation for their trip; during these meetings, the volunteers have been planning lesson plans for the children. Jessa Henschel '17, a psychology major, shared her excitement about being able to reach out. Said Henschel, "We're going to be doing team building activities, leadership activities, and teaching some of our own skills to the kids." They are still fundraising for the trip and have a place online for

supporters to donate: <http://www.gofundme.com/Skidmoreinguatemala>

Club members from Skidmore's branch of UNICEF were promoting an iPhone app called the UNICEF Tap Project. This app tracks how much you play with your phone, and donates a day's worth of clean water to deprived areas for every fifteen minutes you don't touch your device. Jamie Scherzer '17, studio art and business double major, vice president of UNICEF, spoke about how much of a difference a little more clean water can make in some places. Scherzer explained, "Water-borne diseases are a huge problem. Sometimes all people have access to is really dirty water and they get ill from it. Also, governments in some countries that have water crises are making water a private utility, and so they're putting even more restrictions on the access to local clean water." To learn more about the Tap Project and to download the app, visit <http://www.unicefusa.org/mission/survival/water/tap-project>.

Jingling Zhang '17, a psychology and business double major, is a member of NRHH who was at the Celebration. Zhang said, "I think Skidmore has a lot of community service clubs, and some of them I had never known before. I definitely checked out some new clubs tonight."

Other clubs that were represented at the Skidservice Celebration were Saratoga Mentoring, Big Brothers Big Sister, Feel Good, Benef-Action, Her Campus, Active Minds, Newman Club, and Feedmore.

How Likely was it for Boston to Win Nine Championships in Thirteen Years?

By Derrick Yam '17



Coming off of the most recent Super Bowl victory for the New England Patriots, Boston fans took full advantage of the opportunity to boast about their incredibly successful sports teams. But is it really that impressive for Boston to win nine combined championships among the Red Sox, Patriots, Celtics, and Bruins over 13 years? In MA204 with the great Professor Dr. Michael Lopez, we used the computer software “R” to find out.

In order to conduct this simulation, we had to make certain assumptions. It is essential that we inferred that each team, out of the 30 teams in the NBA, MLB, and NHL, as well as the 32 teams in the NFL, had an equally likely chance of winning. There are numerous variables that people want to attribute to winning percentage, such as payroll, and the previous year's performance. Nevertheless, a scatterplot of payroll and winning percentage presents convoluted and indefinite results.

To the right is an example of the correlation between money spent and wins in the MLB in 2009.

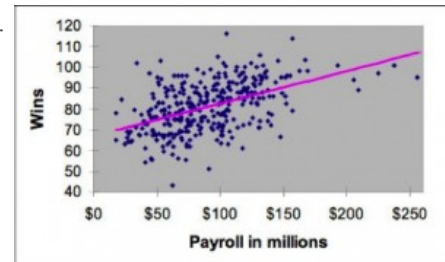


Photo by quora.com

Although the least squares regression line displays a positive correlation, the regression coefficient which proves the strength of the relationship is very weak—in fact, the value was less than .4 (For those of you who are not familiar with statistics, a regression coefficient value of 1 indicates a perfect relationship, and a value of 0 indicates no relationship at all).

Similarly, accounting for the previous year's performance offers just as inconclusive tendencies. For instance, following the Red Sox World Series Championship in 2013, the team pulled off a .438 win percentage in 2014 and did not make the playoffs.

Following this analysis of variables and deciding on an equal chance of winning for all teams within each league, we ran the simulation. In “R,” we ran 100,000 trials of 13 years, with the probability of each Boston team winning a championship for each of those 13 years, to be 1 in 30 for the Red Sox, Bruins, and Celtics, and 1 in 32 for the Patriots. Our results proved that Boston is truly a professional sports powerhouse (no bias at all, as I am a resident of Massachusetts). Our simulation gave us an average number of championships within those 13 years to be only 1.70271, and the probability of winning 9 championships to be 4 out of 100,000—or .00004%. The simulation did not give any possibility for winning nine championships in 13 years.

What this proves is that Boston truly did accomplish an incredibly challenging feat. Now, further studies can be made accounting for certain underlying variables, or considering that there are only twelve cities in the United States with four professional sports teams. However, this does not diminish the task that Boston has completed. Boston has the best sports team in the world, and I am 100% not partial to the tremendous state of Massachusetts.

Campus Safety Reports Feb. 27 - March 5



Friday Feb. 27

College Violation Wait Hall 12:09am RP reports a group of people being loud. Officer dispatched reports people were gone on arrival.

College Violation Penfield Hall 1:08am: RP reports a group of people being loud. Officer dispatched report students advised to quiet it down. They complied.

Accident Campus Grounds 11:16am: RP called stating she fell and injured herself on a campus walkway. Disp. Officer who took a report and filled out an accident report. Advised Grounds who salted the walkway.

Suspicious Activity Sports Center 6:00 PM: RP called to report a male acting in a suspicious manner. Disp. Officers who requested assistance from S.S.P.D. S.S.P.D. en route and subject was arrested.

Larceny From Buildings Penfield Hall 5:32 PM RP in office to file a report of larceny. Report taken.

College Violation Willmarth Hall 9:33 PM: RP reports loud music. Disp. Officer reports subjects will turn music down.

Saturday Feb. 28

Fire Alarm Sussman Apartments 12:27 AM: Fire alarm. Disp. Officers and Maintenance and advised SSFD.

College Violation Dayton Drive 1:10 AM: RP reports loud music. Officers dispatched.

Disorderly Conduct Spa 1:30 AM: RP states a male was yelling and screaming. Dispatched Officers report subjects separated and issue resolved.

Dating Violence Jonsson Tower 1:50 AM: RP reports people arguing. Officers dispatched. Non-student escorted off campus. Report taken.

College Violation Cane Crossing 2:47 AM: RP complained of loud noise. Officers dispatched.

College Violation Wait Hall 2:49 AM: RP complained of loud noise. Officers dispatch.

Fire Alarm Starbuck Center 7:20am: Fire alarm activated. Disp. Officers, Maintenance and advised SSFD.

Fire Alarm Sussman Apartments 7:00 PM: Fire alarm. Officers, Maintenance and SSFD dispatched. Alarm due to smoke from cooking.

Graffiti Wiecking Hall 9:41 PM: RP reports graffiti on the second floor. Housekeeping dispatched.

Sunday March 1

College Violation Moore Way 1:08 AM: RP reports a noise complaint. Dispatched Officer reports loud music. Volume lowered.

College Violation Penfield Hall 2:09 AM: RP reports loud noise. Dispatched Officers report loud talking. Voices lowered.

College Violation Kimball Hall 2:18 AM: RP reports loud noise. Dispatched Officers report group of students talking. Voices lowered.

Falsely Reported Incident McClellan 2:59 AM: fire alarm. Dispatched Officers, Maintenance and contacted SSFD. Cause of activation due to false activation of pull station.

Fire Alarm Whitman Way 4:45AM: Fire alarm activation. Officers, Maintenance and SSFD advised. Cause determined to be from cooking error.

Criminal Mischief Wiecking Hall 12:35PM: Officer noticed fire door broken. Spoke with adjacent residents. Report generated.

Monday March 2

College Violation Dinning Hall 04:35 PM: RP called to report subjects smoking at the top of the stairs and when advised the smoking area is at the bottom of the stairs they became belligerent. Disp. Officer who reports no one in area at this time. GOA.

Fire Alarm Moore Way 7:15 PM: Fire alarm received. Disp. Officers, Maintenance and advised SSFD. Student called stating alarm due to cooking.

Criminal Mischief Dana 6:19 PM: RP states suspicious activities occurring in some labs and would like periodic checks. Notified Officers.

Fire Alarm Sussman Apartments 9:32 PM: Fire alarm received. Disp. Officers, Maintenance and advised SSFD.

Suspicious Odor Wait Hall 8:30 PM: RP reports a suspicious odor. Disp. Officers who report subjects GOA.

Tuesday March 3

College Violation Moore Way 12:06am RP reports loud base. Officer dispatched.

College Violation Cane Crossing 12:18am: RP reports loud music. Officer dispatched and advised resident to lower volume.

College Violation Penfield Hall 1:21am: RP reports people being loud. Officer dispatched.

Suspicious Activity Dana 9:25am: RP to report of a couple of suspicious incidents. Disp. Officer. Report made.

Wednesday March 4

College Violation Penfield Hall 1:34am - Report of loud noise. Officer reports students playing tag. They have now dispersed. Area quiet at this time.

Suspicious Odor Jonsson Tower 10:47 PM: RP called to report a suspicious odor. Disp. Officer who was unable to determine the source of the odor at this time. Odor dissipated.

Thursday March 5

Graffiti Penfield Hall 9:14am: RP reports graffiti on a poster. Disp. Officer who took photos and report made.

Majora Carter to present Skidmore's Harder Lecture on March 10



Official Carter Headshot, 2014

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y. — Urban revitalization strategist Majora Carter will discuss “The Department of Home(town) Security” when she presents Skidmore's F. William Harder Endowed Lecture on Tuesday, March 10. Free and open to the public, the talk begins at 5:30 p.m. in Gannett Auditorium, Palamountain Hall. A reception will follow the lecture.

Carter is also a real estate developer and Peabody Award-winning broadcaster. She is responsible for the creation and successful implementation of numerous green-infrastructure projects and policies, and job training and placement systems.

After establishing Sustainable South Bronx and Green for All (among other organizations) to carry on that work, she built on this foundation with innovative ventures and insights into urban economic developments designed to help move Americans out of poverty.

Her long list of awards and honorary degrees includes accolades from groups as diverse as Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation, John Podesta's Center for American Progress, Goldman Sachs, and the MacArthur Foundation, which awarded her a “genius” fellowship in 2005. Her 2006 TED talk was one of the first six videos to launch its groundbreaking website. Carter is a board member of the U.S. Green Building Council and the Andrew Goodman Foundation.

She earned a B.A. degree at Wesleyan University and an M.F.A. degree at New York University.

Skidmore's annual F. William Harder Lecture in Business Administration was inaugurated in 1985 through the generosity of F. William Harder, a Skidmore parent who served as trustee from 1968 to 1980. The lecture brings together students and faculty with industry leaders to explore the current business environment and upcoming challenges.

New Student Constitution Passes



Photo by Ryan Davis '17, Art Director

By Noa Maltzman '18, News Editor

On Thursday March 5, voting began for the [New Student Constitution](#) created by the Skidmore Student Government Association. The new constitution was created with the hope that “it will allow us [SGA] to more effectively do our job of creating programs and supporting the policies that build our vibrant campus life,” said SGA President Addison Bennett '16.

To boost voting turnout, SGA offered many incentives, including giving out free hot chocolate at a voting station in Case, handing out free pens and entering all students who voted into a raffle for gift cards to Chipotle and the Skid Shop. A final incentive to get people to vote was the announcement that the residential dormitory or apartment complex with the highest percentage of voters would win a prize. SGA's push to encourage voting was necessitated by a self-imposed minimum turnout of 800 students. “In most regular elections, we get between 400 and 600 votes, so we wanted to raise the bar a bit, challenge ourselves to get more student voice, and show that this constitution is actually supported by a large amount of students,” Bennett said.

On Friday March 6, at the final show of Rey and Lemay, a comedy sketch group by seniors John Lee-Rey and John Lemay, Bennett and SGA Vice President for Financial Affairs Sam Harris '15 went to the microphone. They mentioned how their original plan was to come up here and ask everyone to vote, but that they no longer needed to do that because they were proud to announce that 850 people had voted and that the constitution had passed. The constitution passed with 95.5% of the voters being in favor of the new constitution. The new constitution will go into effect the first weekday following this year's commencement, May 18.

Africa Focus Week



Photo from Africa Heritage Awareness Club Facebook Page.

By Allison Trunkey '18

Last week, March 1-6, Skidmore celebrated Africa Focus Week, promoted by African Heritage Awareness Club (AHA). The Club hosted several events, namely the Taste of Africa Potluck on Wednesday a documentary showing of *Mo & Me* in the library on Thursday, and a public discussion of the spiritual practice, Voodoo, and a dance at Falstaff on Friday.

These events celebrated the nuance and beauty of African cultures, and sought to highlight the development of international recognition of African and Afro-Caribbean influences. As the week advanced, AHA events related progressively more to our own campus: Wednesday's potluck celebrated rich African flavors and cooking traditions, Thursday's documentary remembered a significant African icon who brought global recognition to African peoples, and Friday's spiritual discussion and dance integrated African traditions directly into student life.

Thursday's documentary, *Mo & Me*, follows Salim Amin's poignant exploration of the life his father, Mohamed “Mo” Amin, influential Kenyan photojournalist and martyr. Amin exposed the suffering of the 1983 Ethiopian Famine to a global audience, prompting Live Aid's “We Are The World” response, and launching him into worldwide prominence that lasted through his coverage of Idi Amin's Uganda, and until his untimely death in a hijacked Ethiopian plane in 1996. For examples of Amin's work, visit [here](#), and for information on charity work done in his honor, visit [here](#).

AHA Club, as it says on their Facebook page, is dedicated to increasing “awareness of African cultural practices and diaspora by sharing knowledge among the Skidmore and Saratoga Springs community” through interactive events and discussions. The Skidmore campus regularly offers opportunities to celebrate its own cultural diversity, and this focus week joins the ranks of past focus and awareness weeks organized through the Office of Student Diversity, including Culture Fest, Coming Out Week, Hispanic/Latino Heritage Month, and Black History Month.

The Importance of Play



Photo Credit: Deklofenak

By Brittany Dinger, '17

As we enter the season of tests, papers, presentations, and projects, it becomes all too easy to allow feelings of guilt to build during lapses between working or studying. As a result, we often couple fewer, poorer quality breaks with longer, less productive study sessions. This causes our work to suffer and our well-being to take a hit. However, there is a simple solution that many of us neglect: playing. Play is important for productivity, mental health, creativity, and overall well-being, yet few Skidmore students seem to do it.

Many of us consider it a good day when we're able to exercise and finish our homework, but it's unlikely that the cardio at the sports center really fits the criteria of playing. Although exercise is certainly a crucial component of a balanced life, slaving away at the gym alone is not a substitute for play. The members of Quidditch, Humans vs. Zombies, and any of our sports teams certainly have the right idea. One Skidmore senior on the varsity softball team, for example, values her sport as "the most fun part of [her] day" and admits that it "gets [her] energy up." Although these are all great outlets, you do not have to be in a club or on a team to play. During the snow day, it was certainly a relief to see so many students leaving their books behind to lose themselves in the snow for a few hours by sledding, enlisting in snowball battles, building snow families, and constructing an igloo. As the icy conditions and negative temperatures hinder such activities, however, indoor options could include rock-climbing (such as Rocksport in town), dancing (anywhere, anytime), or gathering some friends for a dodge ball fight in the gym.

While spending a few hours each week in the toddler room of Greenberg Child Care Center for a psychology class, I find myself growing jealous of the incredible balance these two-year-olds have. They spend their days playing outside, reading books with student-helpers, and engaging in pretend-play by themselves or with others. Their seemingly endless energy and creativity during these bouts of play leads me to believe that, although few of us have the time to replicate the toddlers' idyllic schedule, we could all certainly stand to take a page from their playbook.

SGA Announces Polo Club Proposal



Photo courtesy of Skidmore Polo Facebook page

By Noa Maltzman '18, News Editor

Over the past few months, the Student Government Association (SGA) has been reviewing the Skidmore Polo Club (Skidmore News has previously reported on the situation in two articles, published earlier this academic year, that can be found [here](#) and [here](#)), but as of March 8, SGA has come up with a proposal.

The eight parts to the proposal are as follows:

- 1) For the next 4 academic years, the Skidmore Polo Club will continue as an SGA-affiliated club, and it will receive a \$30,000 budget from SGA during that time. The budget is not eligible to be increased at any time for any reason, and the club will not be eligible to receive supplemental funding allocations at any time.
- 2) The team and its alumni will immediately begin the process of transitioning the program to an independent 501(c)(3). SGA will work in coordination with the Offices of Advancement and Leadership Activities, in addition to the team, to assist in this transition. By June 1, 2019, the team must be fully transitioned to this independent organization. SGA will amend the Polo Club's charter to transition the Club to an unbudgeted status. SGA will administer the Polo Club's endowment, and transfer the annual interest from the endowment to the 501(c)(3), but no funding from the Student Activity Fee will be allocated to the Polo Club. The Polo Club will be eligible to receive administrative support and all other benefits associated with being a chartered club from both SGA and Skidmore College and will be able to compete on behalf of the Skidmore.
- 3) Mr. Orthwein and/or other willing and able supporters of Skidmore Polo will enter into a legally binding agreement with SGA, the Office of Advancement, the Office of Finance & Administration, and the Office of Leadership Activities. These supporters will act as guarantors and agree to cover any expenses above \$30,000 that the team is unable to cover through its fundraising activity.
- 4) SGA may be willing to establish a contingency fund to cover unexpected costs throughout the next four academic years in case of emergency to ensure that, in the event Mr. Orthwein is unable to perform the terms of the contract, emergency and/or horse care related expenses will be paid. In the event that the contingency fund is utilized, the Polo Club will be automatically dechartered. The debt must be covered, in full, by the end of each fiscal year.

5) SGA will require the Polo Club to increase its endowment to \$200,000 by June 1st, 2018, and \$300,000 by June 1st, 2021. SGA will administer the endowment in conjunction with the Office of Advancement and the Office of Leadership Activities. This is to create a sustainable source of revenue for the team that is dependent on neither a continuous donor base nor SGA's willingness to fund the team.

6) Any other applicable requirements set forth by the Offices of Advancement, Student Affairs, and Finance & Administration to allow the team to compete on behalf of Skidmore College.

7) The SGA Senate will empower the SGA President, Vice President for Financial Affairs, and Vice President for Club Affairs to enter into a legally binding contract on behalf of SGA that satisfies the agreed upon terms with the Polo Club and its leaders, those individuals acting as guarantors, and Skidmore College via relevant offices and administrators.

8) SGA retains the right, by a 5/6th majority vote by the SGA Senate, or by a determination of the SGA Judicial Board, to revoke the Polo Club's charter for any reason afforded to those bodies by the Student Body Constitution or applicable SGA policies.

If the following conditions or events were to occur, it would trigger an automatic dechartering of the Skidmore College Polo Club: The

Polo Club's failure to achieve fundraising goals included in this agreement by the agreed upon dates. The SGA VP for Financial Affairs, will, having confirmed all fundraising benchmarks with the Offices of Advancement and Leadership Activities, and Finance & Administration, report such a failure to the SGA Senate, SGA Executive Committee, and VP for Club Affairs, and the club will automatically lose its recognition and support from SGA.

The failure to successfully create an independent 501(c)(3), registered with the Internal Revenue Service, by the agreed upon date.

A vote by a 5/6th majority of the SGA senate or a determination by the SGA Judicial Board to revoke the club's charter for any reason afforded to those bodies by the student body constitution and applicable SGA policies.

The failure of any Polo Club guarantors to pay an outstanding balance the club incurs and the club's inability to fundraise to pay the excess costs by the end of the fiscal year in question.

This proposal was brought up for discussion at SGA's weekly Senate meeting on Tuesday, March 10. It is currently unknown when, or if there will be a vote on this proposal. SGA President Addison Bennett '16 commented, "I continue to hope that we will soon reach a point where all parties agree on a workable solution that ensures we are taking care of the financial risks, the administrative involvement, and the long term future of the program."

Skidmore Women's Tennis Edges #12 Case Western, 5-4

By Skidmore Athletics

The 20th-ranked Skidmore College women's tennis team wrapped its spring trip with a 5-4 win over 12th-ranked Case Western Reserve on Sunday, March 22, in the Blue/Grey Invitational at University of Mary Washington.



Photo by Bob Ewell

Skidmore (7-7) won two of three doubles matches to earn the 2-1 edge going into singles. Danielle Ginannetti '18, Brianna Greene '18, and Michelle Fuca '18 won their singles matches to preserve the win.

Fuca came back to beat Surya Khadilkar 4-6, 7-6 (8-6), 6-3 at number five singles in the deciding match.

“I have nothing but pride and admiration for this group,” said Skidmore coach Curt Speescheider. “They were put through the ringer a bit this week, with six tough matches in nine days, but kept coming back with more and more toughness. They gritted out two big wins over two very good nationally ranked programs in the last three days. This team loves to compete, and it shows every time they step on the court.”

Skidmore Softball Spends Spring Break With Their New Family

By Lizette Roman-Johnston '18



Lizette Roman-Johnston '18 writes about the softball spring training trip

After a long week of finicky weather and midterms, the rest of Skidmore Softball and I found ourselves in sunny, ninety degree weather, playing the sport we love. In Winter Haven, Florida, we battled against some of the most highly ranked teams in the country, ultimately beating schools such as Kean University and McDaniel College. We finished with a 4-6 record, giving us a solid foundation for the remainder of our season. Considering we played ten games in five days in heat and humidity, the rest of our schedule should be doable in the perpetual tundra that is the northeast. Furthermore, without the restraint of gym walls, we could execute and further improve upon the skills we have been working on since the fall. My fellow infielders and I could field grounders on dirt rather than wood, our pitchers could throw against batters they had never seen before, and our coaches could talk (or yell if necessary) us through high-stress situations. Overall, things flowed naturally. The team that had never played together worked like a machine. It may have not been well-oiled at all times, but we did a pretty good job of tightening up loose screws when necessary. Though getting some wins under our belt contributed to our overall satisfaction with the trip, nothing compares to the inevitable team bonding that comes with spending a full week together on the field, on the road, and in the houses. Up until I boarded the bus Saturday morning, I was worried about being in such close quarters with a team I had spent only a few months getting to know. On our way to the sports center, one of my sophomore teammates had told me how essential the Florida trip was to fully enjoying her college softball experience. I believed her to an extent, though I was skeptical that she was just saying anything to make sure I got on that bus.

However, after seeing my teammates surrender all their energy to the Florida heat; after listening to a new friend open up to me for the first time; after sharing a gluten free pizza with my coach, I learned that she was right. You can have the best record in the country, but if your team feels uncomfortable belting out karaoke in front of their coaches and family, then where is the fun in playing? In a Division Three program, nobody is forcing you to play—nobody is being held against his or her will by a signed contract. When we step onto the field with “Skidmore” across our chests, it’s because we are proud to represent the program we all make up. Some teams in Florida may have never even heard of us, but after executing our playing philosophies, letting our energy vibrate through the field, and having fun with people we can all call family, nobody can forget us.

Skidmore to host March 29 program on cultural and cinematic representation of Italian Jews



Risa Sodi, Official Headshot

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y. — *Italian Jews: An evening of cultural history and cinematic representation*, is scheduled Sunday, March 29, in Gannett Auditorium of Palamontain Hall at Skidmore College.

Yale University scholar Risa Sodi will discuss “Pitigliano, the (Italian) Little Jerusalem” at 4 p.m. A reception will follow at 5 p.m. At 5:30 p.m., Ferzan Ozpetek's 2004 film *Facing Windows* will be screened followed by a Q & A session with Professor Sodi.

Admission is free and open to the public. Skidmore's departments of Foreign Languages and Literatures and History are sponsors of the program, with funding from the Jacob Perlow Fund.

Pitigliano, a small, rural Italian hill town just about halfway between Florence and Rome, was known for centuries as *La piccola Gerusalemme*, the Little Jerusalem, for its flourishing Jewish community, the learning of its inhabitants, and its unusually cordial interfaith relations. Sodi's talk will investigate this unusual town and community, also renowned for its stunningly beautiful silhouette, and provide answers to some questions. What made Pitigliano unique? What was Jewish life like in rural Italy? How did the Jewish and Catholic communities interact? What does 1492 have to do with Pitigliano? How did the Jewish community fare during the Holocaust? What is Pitigliano like today?

Tying together the rural with the urban, attention will shift to Rome, the setting of Ferzan Ozpetek's 2004 *La finestra di fronte* (*Facing Windows*). The personal becomes political in this film as Ozpetek — a Turkish director residing in Italy — explores themes of love, commitment, loyalty, and amnesia of several different sorts. Along the way, he gives a “window” into the acute dangers that stalked the wartime Roman Jewish community.

Risa Sodi holds a B.A. *magna cum laude* in history and Italian from Smith College, an M.A. in French and Italian from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, and M.Phil. and Ph.D. degrees in Italian language and literature from Yale. From 1995-2013, she served in the Yale Italian Department as the Senior Lector II and Language Program Director, where she taught undergraduate and graduate courses on Jewish Italy, opera, film, modern literature, and foreign language pedagogy. She also regularly taught courses abroad in Sardinia, Umbria and Tuscany in conjunction with Yale Summer Session.

In 1990, Sodi published *A Dante of Our Time: Primo Levi and Auschwitz*, the first monograph on Levi in English, which drew on her 1987 Partisan Review interview; the book was reprinted 2012. She is also the author of *Narrative and Imperative: The First Fifty Years of Italian Holocaust Literature, 1943-1993* (2007) and, with Millicent Marcus, *New Reflections on Primo Levi: Before and*

After Auschwitz (2011). Her most recent publication is a chapter in the Modern Language Association volume, *Approaches to Teaching Primo Levi* (2015).

Sodi has lectured in Canada, England, France, Italy, and the United States on the Jewish Italy and Italian Jewish authors, Holocaust in Italy, and Italian film. She has also published many articles on these topics.

Since 2013, Sodi has served as the inaugural director of academic advising for Yale College. In that role, she supports the work of the residential college deans, freshman and sophomore advisers, and directors of undergraduate study, and develops new academic advising programs. Since July 1, 2014, she has also held an appointment as associate director of the Yale Center for Teaching and Learning, where she develops and leads programs for faculty members, postdoctoral scholars, and graduate students.

Redemption and restorative justice to be April 1 Skidmore topic



Bryan Stevenson, Courtesy of New York University

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y. — Attorney Bryan Stevenson will give a talk titled “Mercy: Redemption and Restorative Justice for the Condemned” at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 1, at Skidmore College. Free and open to the public, the talk is sponsored by Skidmore's Speakers Bureau and the program In Our Name.

America has the largest prison population in the world — and the criminal justice system that puts the men, women, and children in these prisons is broken. Excessive punishment and abuse are widespread, and the collateral consequences are devastating lives and communities. Stevenson will talk about defending some of America's most rejected and marginalized people. The stories he tells are heartbreaking yet inspiring and have been known to motivate audiences to make a change.

Stevenson is the founder and executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative. His memoir, *Just Mercy*, is the story of a young lawyer fighting on the front lines of a country in thrall to extreme punishments and careless justice. It is an inspiring story of unbreakable humanity in the most desperate circumstances, and a powerful indictment of a broken justice system and the twisted values that allow it to continue.

Nobel Peace Laureate Desmond Tutu has called Stevenson “America's young Nelson Mandela.” His work on individual cases has generated national attention and his efforts have reversed death penalties for dozens of condemned prisoners. Stevenson's 20-minute TED Talk on the subject of injustice has been viewed 1.25 million times on the TED web site and another 150k times on YouTube; *The New Yorker* named it one of five essential TED talks.

After graduating from Harvard Law School in 1985, Stevenson moved to the South, a region on the verge of a crisis: the states were speeding up executions, but many of the condemned lacked anyone to represent them. On a shoestring budget he started the Equal Justice Initiative, a law practice dedicated to defending some of America's most rejected and marginalized people. The cases he took on changed his life and transformed his understanding of justice and mercy.

Stevenson is the recipient of numerous awards, including a MacArthur Foundation “Genius” grant and the NAACP Image Award for Best Non-Fiction, and is a tenured law professor at New York University School of Law.

Student Suspended for Two Years after Readmission Hearing



March 13, readmission hearing photo by Janine Kritschgau '18, Features Editor

By Noa Maltzman '18, News Editor

On the Friday before spring break, March 13, a readmission hearing was held for a sexual assault case that happened in April of 2014. On Wednesday, March 25, the results of the hearing were announced by reporting student, Reina Kiefer '17, who released a statement on Facebook with the results of the hearing.

Kiefer shared the following:

Hi everyone,

My apologies for the delay. I did hear from the board today. They determined that he is not ready to return to the rigors of the Skidmore community. He has been suspended for the following two years, but has the opportunity to request another readmission hearing in the spring of 2017 to reapply for the fall semester of 2017, after I've graduated. Although their decision feels a bit incomplete, it is certainly a victory. I'm so thankful for everyone who supported me throughout this difficult process. This truly would not have been possible without all of you.

Thank you,
Reina

Andrea Wise, Director of Media Relations, provided the Skidmore News with the following statement (she has given this statement to all press who have inquired today), when asked for comment on the decision.

Skidmore College remains firmly committed to maintaining a safe environment for our students and to policies that are fundamentally fair. Federal privacy laws and institutional practice—which are designed to safeguard student confidentiality and the integrity of our hearing process—prohibit public comment on cases that are being handled in the campus conduct system.

Club Profile: Raíces



Photo Courtesy of the [Raices Official Facebook](#)

By Janine Kritschgau, '18, Features Editor

Diversity is often a subject that people subconsciously shy away from out of fear of unintentionally offending others. But by not taking part in conversations about race and culture, we as a community are overlooking one of the greatest opportunities we have here at Skidmore; to learn and to teach one another about what makes us who we are. Raíces, one of the diversity clubs on campus, confronts these opportunities head-on, and hopes to make others feel more comfortable—and competent—when talking about race and diversity.

The club, whose primary focus is educating others about latino culture and heritage, is far from exclusive. In fact, “one of our biggest accomplishments is how we've managed to create a larger audience this year,” says club member of Public Relations Wilson Espinal, '17. “Everyone's opinion counts,” elaborates Angela Paulino, '17, another member of the Public Relations team. Espinal offers words of encouragement to students who may feel uncomfortable or ambivalent about joining the conversation: “A lot of people tell us that they don't have roots worth exploring. We like to emphasize that your roots are what shape you into who you are today.”

What students may not realize is that even by attending a meeting, they are making a sizable impact towards the goals of the club. This year, a specific focus has been educating students about micro-aggressions, which are essentially unintentional racist comments that may seem appropriate to the speaker. By fostering conversations about what micro-aggressions look like and how they affect others, the club hopes to stop the behavior.

Recently, the club hosted a week of events called *Mis Raíces Son Week*. There were film screenings, as well as hands-on art projects like painting the windows in the dining hall and constructing a tree out of paper in Case Center. The most successful event was the dining hall painting, because the location made it possible to reach out to a great number of students, and gave people ways to express their identities in a creative and fun way. “Many students and staff members were excited to take advantage of such an opportunity,” reflects club President Keldwin Taveras, '17.

The campus community can look forward to an array of exciting Raíces events in the future. Currently, the club is planning a talent show where students can perform. In addition, Raíces will host a parade-themed party before Fun Day called *Vivir Mi Vida*. Collaborations with the dining hall regarding a themed dinner are also a possibility. In any case, the club will continue to strive according to its mission, “primarily to act as a resource to students of Latino backgrounds, and secondarily to promote awareness of Latino culture, history, philosophies, people and other facets.”

Ta-Nehisi Coates Urges Students to Take Action



Photo by Jacob Reiskin, '17, Co Editor-in-Chief

By Tara Lerman, '15

When I walked into Gannett Auditorium, just about every seat was filled with students, professors, and members of the Saratoga community eagerly awaiting Ta-Nehisi Coates' keynote address. Coates is a national correspondent for *The Atlantic*. He won the George Polk Award for commentary for his 2014 feature "The Case for Reparations," which was the subject of Thursday's talk. The evening began with an introduction from Hope Spector, chair of the SGA Speakers Bureau and Dr. Jenny Mueller, Assistant Director of the Intergroup Relations program at Skidmore.

Coates began the lecture by discussing one of the most relevant instances of racism in America today: the shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri. Coates explained that citizens see the police force in Ferguson as a gang as opposed to an authority, due to their fining of citizens for financial gain. This corrupt relationship breaks the unwritten contract that exists between the government and its people.

Coates claimed that in order to truly change the state of race relations in America today, it is important to understand its origins. "People say that slavery is a bump in the road," Coates said. "But slavery is not a bump in the road, slavery is the road." He went on to explain that during the 19th century, slaves were human property worth 3.5 million dollars, more than the production of banks, ships, and railroads combined. The period of American enslavement lasted longer than the period of freedom in America has thus far.

And while blacks in America are of course freer than they were during the Civil War era, there is certainly much more work to be done. Coates explained that the dialogue about race that we have initiated is based on manners. The real problems are found in the discussions we aren't having.

"We have a choice," Coates tells us. "We can continue to pretend that everything is okay, or we can start doing the hard work." Coates compared the love of our country to the love of a family. "Love demands hard conversations and even harder actions."

But how can we turn these actions into a reality? Coates urges America to stop making jokes about racism and discrimination. He tells us to start informing others about the issues surrounding race in the United States. The sooner we know what exactly is wrong with our nation, the sooner we will be able to fix it.

However, Coates recognizes that what he is proposing is not an easy task. He has accepted that we are several generations away from a society free of racism. He knows that he will probably never live to experience a free America, and he is okay with that. The reality, he tells us, is that “very few people live to see the fruits of their struggles.” But he continues to fight for freedom today so that future generations might one day know the liberty and equality that America was supposedly founded on.

Ta-Nehisi Coates has challenged us to begin to initiate these difficult conversations, and we must rise to the occasion. In our society, we are often more inclined to fight for our own rights than to protect the rights of others. But whether we choose to realize it or not, racial discrimination in America is something that impacts us all. It has injured the way we view our country and our relationships with one another. It has divided America rather than united it. With every racist action, with every racist word uttered, with every racist thought, the citizens of this country continue to distance themselves from true unity. The issue of racism in America is not just something we should talk about; it is something we must talk about.

Changes to the 2015-2016 Academic Year Calendar



Photo by Ryan Davis '17, Art Director

By Noa Maltzman '18, News Editor

Recently the official academic year calendar for next year (2015-2016) came out. The calendar is very similar in many ways to this year's calendar but there were some major changes; the fall study day was removed and classes will be held on Yom Kippur (the holiest day in the Jewish calendar).

This change was made for a number of reasons. First, the 2015 holidays fell in such a way that caused Skidmore to have a late start to the semester and an early end. "This required us to add an additional Wednesday and Friday in order to ensure compliance with New York State contact hour requirements," said Bill Lewis, the chair of the Committee on Educational Policies and Planning (CEPP).

To add an additional Friday to the calendar, the fall study day was removed. To add the additional Wednesday to the calendar, the decision was made to hold classes on Yom Kippur. "We made this change [holding classes on Yom Kippur] with much more reluctance than we did the change to study break. This is because, unlike the study day change, the loss of Yom Kippur will differentially impact members of our community who wish to spend this holiday with family and or with their religious community," said Lewis.

Had these changes not been made to the calendar, then students would not have been able to leave until as late as Dec. 24. "These decisions were made as a last resort and only after all other options were evaluated by CEPP and by the Administration," said Lewis.

The Overlooked Benefits of Exploremore



Listen closely. Photo by Jacob Reiskin, Co-Editor-In-Chief

by Allison Trunkey '18

A trademark of the Skidmore community is collaboration between students and faculty in the pursuit of personalized, productive knowledge bases. In concurrence with this principle, Skidmore hosts “Exploremore” discussion meetings throughout this week and next week, aimed to provide opportunities for freshmen and sophomores to explore various majors and minors of interest.

At Skidmore, we are privileged to have professors who sincerely want to advance our educational experiences, but during these stressful final weeks of the semester, it becomes easy to forget that support and information are readily available. Exploremore connects students not only with faculty but also with other students who hold leadership positions within the departments. These students are willing and eager to help undecided students make the critical decision of what subjects they want to pursue.

Students at Skidmore receive what might delicately be referred to as an extreme number of emails each day, but out of the bulk that we receive, those about Exploremore are worth investigating. Particularly for those of us who entered college with vague (at best) expectations about our future major and job prospects, Exploremore meetings are advantageous. The opportunities these meetings facilitate, to have direct contact with potential professors and advisors is extremely valuable. The events often encourage students to share their past and future course interests within the department, while declared majors speak on behalf of their notable experiences.

However, for fair warning, professors are inherently advocates for their own departments, and they can be charming, brilliant spokespersons toward these ends. Attend many Exploremore meetings, attend just one, or attend all of them, but be prepared to walk away with a burning desire to major in roughly all of the departments.

Editorial: A Policy of Administrative Silence on Sexual Misconduct



Photo by Janine Kritschgau '18 Features Editor / The Skidmore News

By the Editorial Board

Throughout the past month, the public controversy surrounding sexual misconduct policy at Skidmore College has escalated. Students have been speaking out against Skidmore's current policy via social media platforms, at the widely attended Readmission Protest on Friday, and at the open forum on Tuesday, March 24. However, the school administration has remained strangely silent in direct response to the protest.

It is commonplace for Skidmore students to learn more about the happenings on their own campus through local news reports, rather than from their school's administration. This is not the first time Skidmore has remained quiet throughout conflict--this summer's campus safety officer's arrest for sexual assault went unaddressed by the school for months. The recent student break-in and robbery of Case Gallery and Skidshop went without comment, as well. And now, Reina Kiefer's sexual misconduct case and readmission protest have been met largely with silence.

We recognize that Skidmore College is in a very challenging situation. No official statement will come anywhere close to resolving the issue at stake, but saying nothing is also saying something. The school's silence insinuates a disconnect between the student body's concerns and the administration's awareness.

This lack of acknowledgement is because Skidmore is legally constrained in what they can and cannot say. Regarding ongoing investigations on campus, the school cannot confirm or deny that these investigations are even occurring. This is understandable. What is perplexing is why Skidmore doesn't just very clearly express to its community that they cannot say much. If they simply explained why they couldn't elaborate more on the issue, the Skidmore community would likely be far less critical of what the administration does say.

For example, on the evening of March 15, the day of the readmission protest, Skidmore's official Facebook page posted the following [update](#): "Today, Skidmore students gathered to raise awareness about sexual and gender-based misconduct on campus. We are proud of our students when they give voice and visibility to issues they feel strongly about. Skidmore has a strong sense of community, as evidenced by today's gathering."

This status update was met with a largely negative response. In response to the school describing the protest as a "gathering to raise awareness," Facebook commenters said the wording was "opportunistic and disingenuous" and "appalling," and

that they were “controlling words” but “too little too late.” They mocked Skidmore's mention of their “strong sense of community” in light of the protest being an expression of students' mistrust and dissatisfaction with the administration. Commenters also noted that sexual and gender-based misconduct on campus is an issue portrayed as something “they” (the students) care about, not something the administration cares about. Commenters also noted that actions speak louder than words, so the school being proud of students is irrelevant, and is simply “soft-pedaling” the issue. A few commenters agreed that the post was a “PR nightmare.”

This is an incredibly negative response to what appears to be a fairly vague, harmless Facebook update. If this were not the first time many students, community-members, and alums had heard a peep from Skidmore about the issue, it likely would not have received so much vitriol.

In a comment responding to the question of what the result of the readmission hearing was, Skidmore said “Federal privacy laws prohibit us from commenting on any specifics related to proceedings such as these.” So, why make a vague post skirting around direct acknowledgement of the issue? Why open up a conversation about the protest when they are aware they cannot follow through? And furthermore, why not just address these federal law constraints in a post itself--not in a comment?

Furthermore, it seems that many of Skidmore's students and alumni do not recognize that according to Skidmore's policy, they must offer suspended students a chance at readmission. The hearing held on March 15 was not a unique situation--it was done because of Skidmore's protocol. Skidmore should acknowledge and explain this too. The Skidmore News recently published an [article](#) explaining Skidmore's Sexual Misconduct Policy in detail, since we felt students were widely misinformed and confused about the school's policy. More deliberate full disclosure on behalf of the school would surely dilute some of the animosity directed at Skidmore and would help students feel less in the dark about the goings-on of our own campus.

In the Facebook post, Skidmore addressed the protest about as supportively as they could have. However, without the knowledge of Skidmore's legal constraints, the post did come across as exploitative of the protest, condescending to its participants, and certainly opportunistic in the way they did not acknowledge it as a protest directed towards the school, but still used it to reflect positively on the school's student body and “sense of community.”

Skidmore has not altogether neglected to take action in the wake of student outcry. The school is hosting an [online conversation](#) about their sexual misconduct policy with alumni and parents on March 31, and they hosted an open forum for students on Monday, March 24. They have responded well to the student body's concerns, but we would all benefit from more transparent statements from the school.

Blurbs Overheard



by Cara Dempsey, Pulp Co-Editor

“You're looking Chef-Boy-Ar-Deeeelicious!” Overheard in Palamountain

“She's like human head lice.” Overheard in Case

“I wanna strap a tiny camera to a chicken finger, see what goes on in there.” Overheard in Spa

“Forget everything you think you know about Judaism.” Overheard in Palamountain

“They played guitar with a dildo. No lies.” Overheard outside JOTO

Making Changes That Last: From Self-Help Kicks to Habits



By Brittany Dingler, '15, Peer Health Educator Correspondent

The changing of seasons often accompanies the rise of self-help kicks - perhaps there's just something about the looming warmth and summer freedom that makes us want to eat differently, exercise differently, wake up earlier, or start flossing...again. Whatever we choose to do, we likely do it because we get a “rush” from starting over or starting new, even in small aspects of our lives. “This will change everything” we often tell ourselves, when emerging from a rut (such as this long, hard winter) or when simply yearning for a fresh change of pace. It certainly feels good to think that everything will be different but, unfortunately, our reinvented selves hardly ever last - and that's not our fault.

Why don't self-help kicks stick? Usually because, as we've all seen and experienced around New Years, our self-improvement goals are too big and multifaceted. For example, USA.gov states that “quitting smoking” is the third most popular resolution in the US. However, to quit smoking for good involves addressing a physical addiction, changing or removing oneself from triggering environments, and creating substitute behaviors in response to stressful situations. Dan Diamond from Forbes, however, suggests that self-improvement goals like these are largely unsuccessful because they are complicated, intangible, full of loop-holes, and are so ambitious that we often lack the confidence in our ability and the patience to achieve them.

The key, therefore, seems to be to throw out our lofty, convoluted resolutions in favor of a few simple, small, surmountable *habits* that can be integrated into our daily life over time. Once it becomes a habit, it joins a cohort of approximately 40% of our actions that we repeat every day, according to the self-help guru, Gretchen Rubin, (2015). This integration is particularly rewarding if the new, positive habit replaces a pre-existing, negative habit - a flip, which is more easily said than done.

So why are habits so powerful? Let's turn to neuroscience for some insight. In Charles Duhigg's book *The Power of Habit*, he indicts the basal ganglia and the brain stem as the hubs of a dopamine-driven loop that forms and maintains certain repeated behaviors. This loop works as a result of the slight boost of pleasure we feel from the dopamine released in response to a perceived positive behavior. One of the best examples of this from daily life is the compulsive nature many of us have to check texts and Facebook

notifications. In these instances, whether or not we're aware of it, we give ourselves a miniature shot of dopamine telling our brain "Hey, that felt good. You should do that again." It should therefore be no surprise that you hardly ever find anyone looking up in this smartphone era - the boredom of doing nothing, even for one minute, just doesn't feel as good. Similarly, many of our negative habits overpower our new, positive ones because the latter likely haven't formed that powerful dopamine-powered circuit that the former have. This internal battle is also helped by the fact that solid, formed habits tend to be somewhat automatic whereas newer efforts tend to be hindered by all the conscious thought processes we go through before we actually carry out the behavior (e.g., "I could get up now to eat breakfast before class but pressing the snooze button to give myself an extra twenty minutes of sleep will make all the difference."). So how long do we have to wait to make these new habits stick? How long do we have to wait until getting up early without a snooze button no longer feels so painful? A recent study conducted by the European Journal of Social Psychology shows that, on average, participants took **66 days** to incorporate a new habit. So, in conclusion, science seems to suggest that to turn a resolution into a long-lasting habit we must break our goals down into small chunks, be disciplined on a daily basis, and - as painful as it might be - wait.

Steve Weatherford's Abs Don't Give Him a Leg Up

By Katie Peverada, Skidmore Alum Class of 2014



Steve Weatherford / Photo by New York Post

My friends and I long ago discovered the physical specimen that is Steve Weatherford. Way back in January of 2012, as the Giants and Patriots were about to square off in the Super Bowl, we ogled over his abs. After we got over our initial fascination, our main rumination was: “Wow. For a kicker, he sure is jacked.” Had he been a receiver or running back, it wouldn't have amazed us as much.

One Monday night this past NFL season, during one of Rick Reilly's weekly segments on ESPN's pregame show, Weatherford was the subject of the interview, and he gave us an inside look at his workout routine and habits.

Weatherford's habits include lifting every day, which is fine. But they also include extremely eccentric practices such as regularly sleeping in a hyperbaric chamber, which is a bit much.

It got me thinking, though. Sure, Weatherford has the title of most aesthetically pleasing punter in the NFL, but where does he rank in terms of performance? In other words, do his practices warrant acclaim on the field, or are his less-physically-refined fellow punters just as accomplished?

In his eight full seasons in the NFL, Weatherford has cracked the top 10 in yards per punt only twice. In 2012, he was ninth, with an average of 47.5 yards per punt, and his 46.9 average in 2013 put him seventh. Weatherford has kicked one of the top 10 longest punts of the year only three times. A 66-yarder in 2007 put him seventh, a 68-yarder in 2012 put him ninth, and in 2013 he was 10th with another 68-yard punt. His career long punt of 71 yards came this year in week six against Philadelphia, which puts him in a four-way tie for seventh.

A punter that is—somewhat—physically the opposite of Weatherford is Shane Lechler, who is 6'6”, 225lbs (Obviously as a professional football player he has some semblance of a workout routine, but as best I can tell he doesn't go as far as sleeping in a hyperbaric chamber or taking over 30 vitamins a day). Lechler, who spent his first 13 seasons with Oakland before going to Houston in 2013, has better numbers than Weatherford.

Lechler has a career average of 47.6 yards per punt, which is more than three yards further than Weatherford's 44.4, and his career long punt of 80 yards is nine yards more than Weatherford's. Lechler has punted the ball at least 70 yards in seven of his 15 seasons, while Weatherford has done that only once.

ProFootballReference.com uses a metric called “Approximate Value” to try to assign the value of a player's season (it's obviously difficult to have a WAR statistic like in baseball, but this is somewhat similar). The highest AV that Weatherford has ever achieved in a season is three, which he did in 2012 and 2013. Lechler, on the other hand, achieved a six in 2009, and has earned a five on three occasions and a four in six seasons. And that top 10 in yards per punt that Weatherford has only reached twice? Lechler has led the league four times, is the career active leader, and only missed that list once, in 2012. And he still manages to look not ripped.

Weatherford isn't a bad punter by any means, but his obsession and pride of working out so much and taking such meticulous care of his body is not producing the results. His effort isn't giving him a leg up on the competition.

The Best of Yik-Yak



By: Nicole Smith, 16', Pulp Editor

“I'm great in bed.... I can sleep for hours.”

“About to take a blow dryer onto the green and melt the snow myself since nature wants to take its damn time.”

“You think I'd be in better shape after all this time spent running away from my obligations.”

“Trying not to break out in hysterical laughter as someone right next to me lights up the stall.”

“Told a professor on Monday that I was sick and couldn't come to our meeting, but really I was just unprepared. Saw her today and she said I still look under the weather. I thought I looked good today.”

“Nothing like drooling over a photo of a guy until you realize that he is actually young Stalin. You know, before the murderous dictatorship.”

“It's the kind of day where I put on eyeliner but forgot mascara.”

“She must be a 14 on the pH scale, cause she's basic as fuck.”

Explore the history and legacy of Indian painting at the Tang



The Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery at Skidmore College announces tours, talks and workshops in conjunction with the exhibition *Realms of Earth and Sky: Indian Paintings from the Fifteenth to Nineteenth Century*. All events are free and open to the public.

Public Tour

Thursday, April 2, 6 p.m.

Tour of *Realms of Earth and Sky* with Gabriela Perez-Dietz '15 as part of her spring 2015 Independent Study with Saleema Waraich, Assistant Professor of Art History. An Art History and Anthropology double major, Perez-Dietz has been exploring museum education and the *Realms of Earth and Sky* exhibition.

Lecture with Molly Aitken and Dipti Khera

Thursday, April 2, 7 p.m.

Two leading scholars of Rajput painting—Molly Aitken, Associate Professor of Art History at The City College of New York, and Dipti Khera, Assistant Professor of Art History at New York University—will lecture on pleasure in Rajput painting, and will discuss how pleasure was both invoked within and also extended beyond the confines of the page. Made possible by the Alfred Z. Solomon Residency Fund.

Curator's Tour

Tuesday, April 14, noon

Rachel Seligman, Assistant Director for Curatorial Affairs, and Saleema Waraich, Assistant Professor of Art History at Skidmore College, lead a tour of *Realms of Earth and Sky*.

Talha Rathore and Hiba Schahbaz

Talk: Thursday, April 16, 7:30 p.m.

Workshop: Friday, April 17, 12-2 p.m. and 2:30-4:30 p.m.

Artists Talha Rathore and Hiba Schahbaz will speak about the traditional techniques in *Realms of Earth and Sky* and the ways in which each has modernized and personalized the miniature tradition in their practice. Made possible by the Alfred Z. Solomon Residency Fund. Reservations are required for the workshops and may be made by calling 518-580-8080.

About Molly Aiken

Molly Emma Aitken Ph.D. is a specialist in Asian art history, in particular the arts of South Asia. She has curated traveling exhibitions on South Asian jewelry and contemporary folk quilts, and has published numerous articles on Mughal and Rajput painting. Aitken received CAA's Charles Rufus Morey book award in 2011 and the AAS Ananda Kentish Coomaraswamy Book Prize in 2012 for her book *The Intelligence of Tradition in Rajput Court Painting* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2010.) Currently focused on the late 16th and early 17th centuries, she is looking at Mughal receptions of Rajput court arts in the context of social pleasure. She teaches at the City College of New York.

About Dipti Khera

Dipti Khera earned her Ph.D. in South Asian art history. She has published articles and essays on 19th century Indian metalwork and early 19th century Rajasthani painting. She has worked with several museums including, most recently, the Arthur M. Freer and Sackler Galleries, Washington, D.C., and the City Palace Museum, Udaipur, India, with which she is developing an exhibition that reveals the major shift in Indian art represented by Udaipur painters' engagement with conceptualizing place and representing reality in large-scale works in the 18th and 19th century. She teaches at New York University.

About Talha Rathore

Talha Rathore graduated from the National College of Arts, Lahore, Pakistan in 1995, specializing in the art of miniature painting. Currently based in Brooklyn, her work explores a variety of anxieties and dichotomies that emerge out of the immigrant experience and the quest to belong, poignantly articulated in a series of works made on New York subway maps. Her work has been exhibited widely, including at the Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, Japan; the Asian Art Museum, San Francisco; the Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, Connecticut; and World Bank Art Gallery, Washington DC. Her paintings have been shown in various galleries in Pakistan, India, Nepal, China, Malaysia, Japan, Morocco, Dubai, Germany, Canada, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

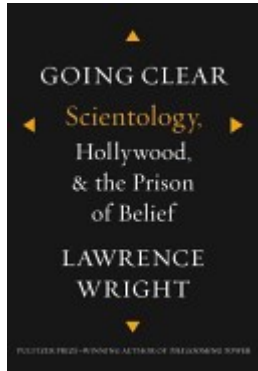
About Hiba Schahbaz

Hiba Schahbaz trained in the art of miniature painting at the National College of Arts (Lahore, Pakistan) and graduated in 2003. In 2012, she completed a Master of Fine Arts in Painting and Museum Studies from Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, NY. Through the language of miniature painting, she pursues issues of self-identification, and in the process, she contemporizes and re-contextualizes "traditional" miniature painting. The subjects of her work derive from personal narratives and her relationship with her surroundings. Merging the symbolism and iconography of the contemporary world with the traditional techniques and styles she learned at NCA, her paintings fuse the real with the imagined, resulting in fantastical landscapes. She has exhibited her work internationally, in addition to curating exhibitions of miniature paintings in Pakistan and India.

About *Realms of Earth and Sky*

From the opulence of the Mughal court to stories of gods in human form, from battle scenes to intimate depictions of courtly love, the historic South Asian paintings in *Realms of Earth and Sky* offer visitors a chance to explore important cultural narratives that remain central to living belief systems on the Indian subcontinent. Portraiture, religious and literary texts, ragamala paintings, and works from both Mughal and Rajput traditions are represented in meticulously rendered tableaux contained in the small scale of manuscript or album pages.

Scientology exposed in new documentary



By Sean van der Heijden '16, Staff Writer/Copy Editor

We all know scientology as that weird religion Tom Cruise and John Travolta follow, but how much more do you really know? In *Going Clear: Scientology and the Prison of Belief*, Oscar-winning documentarian, Alex Gibney explores the religion's origins in the 1950s, all the way through its transformation into one of the biggest cults ever. It's fascinating stuff, and even if you think you know a lot about scientology, it's well worth a watch.

I was personally surprised with how much archive footage they had—inside looks into scientology conventions (which are totally insane and include way too many fireworks), private recordings from scientology founder L. Ron Hubbard, and a bunch of behind-the-scenes photos into how the religion first started. Additionally, they got a ton of people to speak out—from *Crash* director Paul Haggis, to actor Jason Beghe, and four of the former top executives.

All the stories are fascinating and tragic—the church tries to recruit vulnerable people and convinces them it can solve their problems. Then, only once you've invested years of time and thousands of dollars in the church, they tell you about their founding belief—a bizarre science fiction tale involving aliens and ghosts, based on Hubbard's pulp fiction novels from the 50s. It's really weird, but is integrated so sneakily into the church's lessons that a lot of people believe it.

There are also, of course, allegations of abuse on many occasions. There are stories of people being locked up in small rooms together, forced to clean bathrooms with toothbrushes, of children being separated from their mothers and kept in urine-soaked cribs. There are stories of bribery in order to get tax write-offs and donations, of stalking and attacking former members, and one accusation that the church orchestrated the divorce between Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman.

Some of these stories and claims have been heard before, but never have they been compiled together in such a concise way and with such damning evidence to back up all of the claims. The stories of those who have left the church, too, are truly heartbreaking—I was left wondering, in the end, how the church is still functioning today. Why has there been no government

intervention? No official investigation into the church's wrongdoings? They truly are a powerful entity—a whole religion that really is stranger than fiction.

Going Clear premieres on HBO on Sunday, March 29 at 8:00 pm, and opens in select theaters on May 16.

Overall: 9 out of 10.

Weekend A&E Briefing



Breakbeats Final Show

March 27, 8p.m., Filene Hall

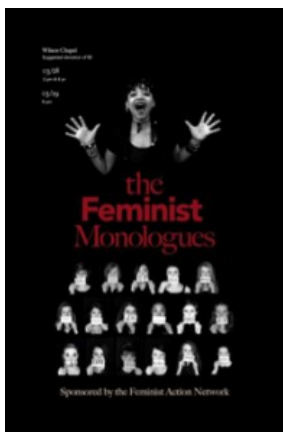
Come by and see a lot of dancing with performances by Skidmore Breakbeats, 213 Crew, Rithmos, Ujima Step Team, Skidmore Sonneteers, Skidmore Circus Club, Stompin' Soles, and Pulse.



The Jacob Perlow Event Series Presents: "Life in a Jar"

March 27, 3p.m. & March 28, 7p.m., Filene Hall

This play is based on the true story of Irena Sendler, a Holocaust hero who saved the lives of 2,500 Jewish children during the Holocaust. It also tells the story of the Kansas students who discovered her story and transformed it into a play. Suggested donations are \$5-\$10 for Skidmore students and \$10-\$20 for the public. Proceeds go to the Life in a Jar Foundation towards the work of Holocaust education and the Children of the Holocaust Association in Poland.



The Feminist Monologues

March 28, 2p.m., Wilson Chapel

Every year the Feminist Action Network (FAN) produces and sponsors a production of Eve Ensler's "The Vagina Monologues." But this year is different. Instead, it is a performance of monologues and poems written by Skidmore students themselves. It is about feminism, sexuality, body image, womanhood, self-love, and survival. Tickets are a recommended \$5 donation and all proceeds go to Wellspring (formerly known as Saratoga DVRC) and GEMS: Girls Educational & Mentoring Services. The Feminist Monologues are directed by Clara Moser, Mariah Guevin, and Isabella León-Chambers.



AKT& Ad-Libs Improv Comedy Mega-Show

March 28, 9-10p.m., Davis Auditorium

Two comedy groups come together in one joint show.



TuftsMORE: An A Cappella Jam

March 28, 10:30p.m., Wilson Chapel

The Skidmore Dynamics and Tufts SQ perform in one must-see show.