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# Skidmore Intercom

## Faculty & Staff Newsletter

**Vol. 1, No. 1 - November 28, 2001**



*Ngady a Mwaash Mask*  
Featured in "[Africa Embodied](#)," opening at the Tang.

**Welcome** -- The Skidmore *Intercom* Faculty-Staff Newsletter is making its debut in a new, electronic format. The newsletter will be updated bimonthly and archives will be kept to enable readers to retrieve back issues.

*Intercom* is a production of the Office of College Relations. All members of the campus community are invited to submit story ideas or news items, using the contact information provided below. Department chairs and office directors are asked to please print a copy of this document to share with colleagues who do not have regular access to a computer.

We hope you enjoy this electronic newsletter and encourage you to share your impressions via email or telephone.



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## Highlights

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Skidmore has received \$224,000 from the Clare Boothe Luce Program to fund scholarships for women majoring in science.

The funds will provide financial support over the next three years to women majoring in chemistry, computer science, mathematics, or physics. The merit scholarships will cover the complete cost of attending Skidmore for two years: tuition, room, board, mandatory fees, and other related educational expenses.

Special emphasis will be placed on areas of science in which women are underrepresented nationally. In particular, applications from computer science majors will be favored, while majors in pre-med and the biological sciences are ineligible to apply.

"We are delighted to join the select list of those institutions that have received funding from the distinguished Clare Boothe Luce Program," said President Jamiene S. Studley in announcing the grant. "As a liberal arts college with a strong tradition of preparing women for scientific careers in academia and the professions, Skidmore is very excited to be able to support our highest achieving women in pursuing careers in mathematics and the sciences. A commitment to close faculty-student interactions and collaborative research make Skidmore an excellent choice for undergraduate science study."

Clare Boothe Luce was a Renaissance woman. Her career spanned seven decades and nearly as many professional interests — journalism, politics, the theater, diplomacy, intelligence. In each of those fields, she broke new paths. By the time of her death in 1987, she had become a national symbol of women's accomplishments and potential.

In her will, she declined to restrict her vision to the fields in which she had established her reputation, choosing instead to establish a legacy to benefit current and future generations of women with talent and ambition in areas where they are underrepresented — the sciences and engineering.

The Clare Boothe Luce Program was established by the Henry Luce Foundation to encourage women to enter, study, graduate, and teach in fields where there have seemingly been obstacles to their advancement. The program provides undergraduate scholarships, graduate fellowships, and support for tenure-track appointments on the college level.

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[Clare Boothe Luce Scholarships Funded](#)['Africa Embodied' To Open](#)[Christopher Hitchens to Visit](#)[Choral Concert Upcoming](#)**Vol. 1, No. 1 - November 28, 2001****'Africa Embodied' to Open at Tang**

"Africa Embodied: The Language of Adornment," the first student-organized exhibition at Skidmore's Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery, opens Thursday, Nov. 29, in the museum's Winter Gallery.

The exhibition showcases a range of textiles, masquerades, sculpture, beadwork, brass jewelry, pottery, and even a few African barbershop signs. An opening reception featuring a dance and drum performance and refreshments is scheduled from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Nov. 29. The public is welcome. Admission is free. The show will run through Dec. 14.

The objects in the exhibition illustrate how various African cultures use body art to communicate ideas and beliefs related to social organization, spirituality, and gender roles. All of the objects in this exhibition address the body, either by providing surface decoration or in some way representing the human form.

Many of the objects communicate the status of their owner within his or her community, while others help to clarify the gender role of the wearer. Some works provide a means of communication with the spiritual world, while others aid communication within society by allowing people to express themselves non-verbally.

"Africa Embodied" was curated by students in Professor Lisa Aronson's "African Body Arts Seminar." Entrance to the exhibition is free and open to the public. The Tang is open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays and closed Mondays and public holidays.

In connection with "Africa Embodied," Ghanaian weaver Gilbert "Bobbo" Ahiagble will visit Skidmore and the surrounding community for a series of lecture-demonstrations.

Ahiagble, a master kente cloth weaver, comes from the Ewe area in the Volta region of southeastern Ghana. Well-known for weaving Ewe-style kente (a ceremonial cloth hand-woven on a horizontal treadle loom), Ahiagble has gained international recognition for his exceptional work both as a weaver and a teacher. Using his own equipment, he explains the various parts of the West African loom, its heddles, treadles, beater, and wooden frame. He talks about how the loom works, and demonstrates the weaving process, including how to make the colorful weft-float patterns, and how the feet and hands function while weaving.

While in the Saratoga area, Ahiagble will visit the Greenfield and Schuylerville elementary schools, as well as Albany's Giffen Memorial Elementary School, for demonstrations with pupils. He will be a featured guest at the Dec. 8 Tang Family Saturday Program, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. at the museum. Tang Family Saturday Programs are free and open to the public.

For more information on Bobbo's artistry, click here:

<http://www.africancraft.com/artist/bobbo/>

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**Vol. 1, No. 1 - November 28, 2001****Author Christopher Hitchens to Speak on Terrorism, War Crimes**

Author Christopher Hitchens, a regular columnist for *The Nation* and for *Vanity Fair*, will visit Skidmore Thursday, Nov. 29, for an interview on the events of Sept. 11, the American "war against terrorism," and the concept of war crimes.

Free and open to the public, the interview will begin at 7 p.m. in Gannett Auditorium of Palamountain Hall. Hitchens will be interviewed by a three-member panel consisting of Jim Miller, editor of *Daedalus* magazine, and faculty members Tim Burns, assistant professor of government, and Robert Boyers, Tisch Professor of Arts and Letters.

One of the most controversial political commentators in the country, Hitchens is the author of *The Trial of Henry Kissinger* (which builds a case against Kissinger as a war criminal for actions involving Vietnam and Chile during the Nixon administration), *No One Left to Lie To* (an attack on former President Clinton), and *The Missionary Position* (an unfriendly look at Mother Theresa and the institutions associated with her name).

Hitchens is a regular guest on such TV shows as "Hardball," "Nightline," and "Charlie Rose."

Most recently, Hitchens has been involved in an exchange in the pages of *The Nation* and *The Guardian* with the thinker Noam Chomsky over the meaning of the events of Sept. 11.

In the last two months Hitchens has spent time in Pakistan and other countries very much involved in the current conflict. In his most recent book, titled *Letters to a Young Contrarian*, Hitchens charts the meanings and the costs associated with "confrontation," "opposition," and "civility."

The Hitchens visit is sponsored by *Salmagundi* magazine and the Student Speakers Bureau. For details on the Hitchens/Chomsky debate, click on this link to the online version of *The Nation*: <http://www.thenation.com/special/20010911debate.mhtml>

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Upcoming](#)**Vol. 1, No. 1 - November 28, 2001****An American Vocal Celebration Planned**

The Skidmore Community Chorus and Vocal Chamber Ensemble, under the direction of Janet McGhee, will present "An American Celebration," a program of music by Aaron Copland, Samuel Barber, Daniel Pinkham, Alice Parker, plus shape note music and African American spirituals, at 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 8, in Filene Recital Hall. Admission is open to the campus community at no charge.

The same program will be repeated for the general public at 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 9, at the Saratoga United Methodist Church on Henning Road. Admission will be \$7 for the general public, and \$5 for students and senior citizens.

The Community Chorus is a 70-voice un-auditioned ensemble of students, faculty and community members, of mixed abilities and majors, while the College Vocal Chamber Ensemble is a 15-voice auditioned choir, selected from the Community Chorus, which performs a wide and varied repertory of choral music, both accompanied and a cappella. In addition to concerts on campus, the Vocal Chamber Ensemble tours other college campuses, concertizes in the greater Capital District, and collaborates with other choirs to present major choral works and festivals.

Janet McGhee, lecturer in music and director of Skidmore's choral program, came to this area from Boston, where she held leadership positions in choral music at the New England Conservatory of Music, Clark University and Simmons College, and the Berklee College of Music. She also directed a Boston-based community chorus that made four concert tours to the former Soviet Union and has subsequently appeared in Russia as a solo vocal recitalist.

McGhee has prepared choirs for Seiji Ozawa, Gunther Schuller, Michael Tilson Thomas, and Vladimir Vais (Bolshoi Theatre conductor). Her choirs have performed at Carnegie Hall and Symphony Hall in Boston, as well as numerous concert halls throughout the former Soviet Union.

An adjunct professor of music at Bennington College, McGhee also is founding artistic director of the Battenkill Chorale, Washington County's premiere choral ensemble, and chair of the board at Southshire Community School in North Bennington, Vt.

McGhee is a graduate of the New England Conservatory of Music, where she earned a bachelor of music degree in piano and a master of music degree in choral conducting, both with honors.

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## Faculty-Staff Activities

**Bill Jones**, sports information coordinator, was one of four people honored Nov. 13 as a "Hometown Hero" by the Saratoga County Convention and Tourism Bureau. The event recognized local people who actively worked to bring large conventions and meetings to the Saratoga Springs area for at least 100 room nights within the past year. Tourism industry experts note that convention delegates spend an average of \$752 over a three-day stay for such items as lodging, food, transportation, and admission to attractions. Jones, president of the Eastern College Athletic Conference-Sports Information Directors Association, coordinated the group's conference June 4-8 at the Holiday Inn in Saratoga Springs. Approximately 200 attended.

**David Karp**, assistant professor of sociology, gave the keynote address, "Images of Community Restorative Justice," at the seventh annual Vermont Corrections Institute meeting in July at Vermont Technical College. Last May in Albany, he gave an invited presentation titled "Restorative Community Justice" at the annual conference of the New York Association of Alternative Sentencing Programs and the New York Association of Pre-Trial Service Agencies. He gave a second invited presentation, "What's Going on Around the Country in Juvenile Justice?" (with Janelle Cleary and Patti Donohue) during Dispute Resolution Week sponsored last May by the Ulster-Sullivan Counties Mediation Program in Kingston, N.Y. Also during May he led community restorative board training at the Berrien County Juvenile Court in St. Joseph, Mich. At the spring annual meeting of the Justice Studies Association at Wheaton College in Norton, Mass., Karp; **Beau Breslin**, assistant professor of government; and Matthew Ufford '02, a sociology major; made a presentation titled "Restorative Justice in the Classroom and on Campus."

**Reg Lilly**, associate professor and chair, Department of Philosophy, was co-director of the International Phenomenological Symposium July 15-21 in Perugia, Italy. At the conference he delivered a paper titled "The Topology of Disparates." In addition, he attended the Heidegger Conference in New York City last May. His web site, "Resource Page for Readers of Maurice Blanchot," ([Click here for Resource Page](#)), was featured by Andre Chabin in La Fete de l'Internet, organized by the French Ministry of Culture and Communication.

**Joel Smith**, associate professor of philosophy, presented a workshop on "Kierkegaard and Buddhism" June 11 at the Fourth International Kierkegaard Conference at St. Olaf College.

**Sheldon Solomon**, professor of psychology, was invited by Prime Minister Said Musa of Belize to visit that country Sept. 17 to discuss how examining human motivations might promote peace. The trip was the culmination of an initiative launched in May by Solomon and Greg Bennick of Seattle aimed at understanding human behavior in order to promote world peace. Titled "The World Leader's Project," the effort involved letters by Solomon and Bennick to every world leader on the planet, requesting a meeting to discuss the psychology of human motivations toward violence. The WLP draws on the work of the late cultural anthropologist Ernest Becker. Solomon, a foremost researcher of "Terror Management Theory," and Bennick, a longtime human-rights activist, believe that discussing Becker's concepts at the highest levels of government will create a trickle-down effect that could significantly affect life on earth. Thus far, leaders from Ecuador, Israel, and Croatia have expressed interest in meeting with Solomon and Bennick.

**Gordon Thompson**, associate professor of music, read his paper "Orientalist Rock" at the annual meetings of the Society for Ethnomusicology in Detroit, Mich. The paper deals with Edward Said's ideas about a Western pattern of defining Asia and the blossoming of "raga rock" in mid-60s London. At the same meetings, the board of the Society for Asian Music promoted Thompson to vice president, with primary responsibility for membership.

**Robert C. Turner**, assistant professor of government, and Gregory Thall '02 presented a paper (funded by a Skidmore Collaborative Research Grant) at the Northeast Political Science Association Panel on Presidency Research, titled "Reforming the Electoral College: The Political and Partisan Implication of the District System (or Maybe Nebraska and Maine Have the Right Idea)." Turner also presented a paper, "The Political Economy of Industrial Recruitment Strategies: Do Smoke-Stack Chasing and Vote-Chasing Go Together?" at the Midwest Political Science Conference Panel on State-Level Comparative Public Policy.

## Publications &amp; Exhibitions

**Roy Ginsberg**, professor of government, is the author of a new book, *The European Union in International Politics: Baptism by Fire*, published by Rowman & Littlefield. For details, [check the Rowman & Littlefield web site](#)

**Catherine Golden**, professor of English, published "No Good Deed Goes Unpunished? Victims, Villains, and Vigilantes in Gilman's Detective Novel" in *Clues: A Journal of Detection*, Vol. 22, No. 1, September 2001. Denise D. Knight is co-author.

**Deb Hall**, assistant professor of art, has a number of past and new works on exhibit at Aimie's Lobby Gallery, 190-194 Glen St., Glens Falls, through Dec. 31, 2001. The exhibition features earlier traditional photographic works and new "technological combines" -- such as digital Iris prints -- which include photographs, often with the addition of drawings, paintings, found objects, and type.

**Mark Huibregtse**, professor of mathematics, has had a paper, "A description of certain affine open subschemes that form an open covering of Hilb," accepted for publication by the *Pacific Journal of Mathematics*.

**Charles Joseph**, professor of music and associate dean of the faculty, is the author of a new book, *Stravinsky Inside Out*, published by Yale University Press. For details, click here: <http://www.yale.edu/yup/books/075375.htm>

**David Karp**, assistant professor of sociology, is the author of "Harm and Repair: Observing Restorative Justice in Vermont," to be published in a forthcoming issue of *Justice Quarterly*.

**Deborah Rohr**, associate professor of music, is the author of a new book, *The Careers of British Musicians, 1750-1850: A Profession of Artisans*, published by Cambridge University Press. For details, click here: <http://uk.cambridge.org/music/catalogue/0521580951/>

**Gordon Thompson**, associate professor of music, is the author of an article titled "Let Me Take You Down...to the Subdominant: Tools of the Establishment and Revealing the Establishment," published in *Beatlestudies 3: Proceedings of the Beatles 2000 Conference* (University of Jyväskylä, Finland). The article outlines changes in the song "Strawberry Fields Forever" between John Lennon's original sketches, through the different recorded versions, and to the final composite edit, with a discussion of how different individuals contributed to the song's evolution.

**Robert C. Turner**, assistant professor of government, published a policy paper with the Rockefeller Institute titled "A Framework for Cluster Based Economic Development Policies," available at <http://www.rockinst.org/>

The next issue of *Intercom* will be posted on the Web during the week of Dec. 10, 2001. We will send you an email alert when the issue is available. Please submit news items to [intercom@skidmore.edu](mailto:intercom@skidmore.edu).

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