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Faculty & Staff Newsletter

Vol. 1, No. 4 - February 7, 2002

Welcome -- The Skidmore *Intercom* Faculty-Staff Newsletter 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.

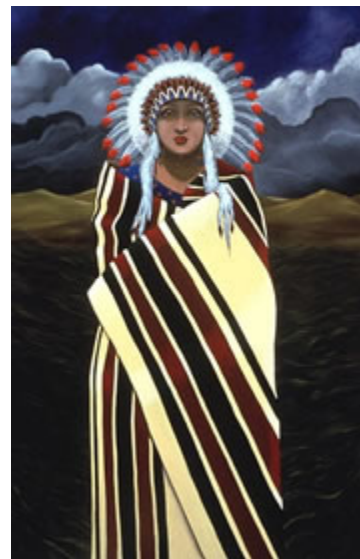
We hope you enjoy this electronic newsletter and encourage you to share your impressions via email or telephone.



Rogier van der Weyden, *Saint Mary Magdalene*, (circa 1452-3), topic of 2002 Edwin M. Moseley Faculty Research Lecture on Feb. 12. (Image courtesy of the Louvre, Paris)



Spike Lee will speak to the College community on Feb. 8.



Judith Lowry, *My Aunt Viola*, (1996), in "Staging the Indian," at the Tang Teaching Museum.

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Jolly's Moseley Topic: Maternity Clothing as Metaphor in 15th-Century Netherlandish Art



**KENAN PROFESSOR
OF LIBERAL ARTS
PENNY HOWELL JOLLY**

"Pregnant Moments: Maternity Clothing as a Metaphor in 15th-Century Netherlandish Art" is the title of this year's Edwin M. Moseley Faculty Research Lecture, to be given at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 12, by art historian Penny Howell Jolly, Kenan Professor of Liberal Arts and professor of art history at Skidmore.

Free and open to the public, the lecture will be in Gannett Auditorium of Palamountain Hall. A reception will follow. Each year the Skidmore faculty chooses one of its own to deliver the Edwin M. Moseley Faculty Research Lecture. Selection as the Moseley Lecturer is the highest honor the Skidmore faculty confers upon a colleague.

Jolly's talk will reflect her current research interest -- late Medieval and Renaissance images related to marriage and childbearing. She will focus on 15th-century paintings by Rogier van der Weyden of Mary Magdalene in clothing that could be construed as signifying pregnancy. Van der Weyden uses subtle details of dress -- in particular, a cote with

spreading lacing (a cote was an underdress worn by women during this era that could be loosened during pregnancy) -- to demonstrate that Mary Magdalene is "spiritually pregnant."

Jolly explains, "Although there are no accounts of Mary Magdalene actually being pregnant, there are many analogies to pregnancy in her cult. Her conversion and penance are essential elements of her legend that result in her own rebirth and her symbolic bearing of Christ in her womb -- and her suffering is described as being like labor." Following her conversion, Mary Magdalene is described as being like the Virgin Mary: filled with Christ and full of grace. Based on these visual and textual clues, Jolly concludes that Mary Magdalene is "metaphorically pregnant."

Van der Weyden's depiction of Mary Magdalene was a calculated effort to connect with his audience, Jolly asserts. Painters during this period often incorporated numerous references in their works to appeal both to the learned members of the public, as well as those with little or no education. Several other artists during this era incorporated similar elements in their portrayals of Mary Magdalene, extending the motif for close to a century, until the start of the Reformation. Suddenly these images disappeared, a development that Jolly attributes to vastly different religious influences in that era.

Jolly's examination of Van der Weyden's portrayal of Mary Magdalene stems from what she calls her "family values" study of pregnancy, birthing, and breast feeding. She was intrigued by how these typical aspects of many women's lives were reflected in the artworks of the period. "Such events are usually shown in terms of what happened to the Virgin Mary or the saints, not 'typical' women," she explained. Jolly wanted to know what would indicate pregnancy during this era -- when the "ideal" female form was of a woman with a big belly. Given this ideal, what would be a clue to reality? Jolly reports that there are a number of hints, not all subtle. "Some artists would paint Mary with a rounded belly, and a tiny baby painted right over the womb." Other artists used sewing metaphors, showing women engaged in thread-making or weaving.

Jolly began earnestly researching this topic during her 1997-98 sabbatical, when she spent two months in Europe. "It was absolute heaven" to have the time and access to churches and museums to see the paintings in person, she recalled. To take maximum advantage, she packed a number of tools for viewing details, such as magnifying glasses and scopes. "This is why I go blind," Jolly said ruefully. Only by poring over the paintings, studying tiny details, can she begin to discern the artist's bigger message. "I like to see everything" Jolly enthusiastically reported. "And you see things differently in person than you do in a reproduction," she added.

Jolly combined her examination of the artworks with additional research, such as a review of late-Medieval medical texts, to develop a context of birthing during this time frame.

Since her sabbatical, Jolly has presented her scholarship to students in her classes and to colleagues in the field of art history. Two articles have been completed. One, "Learned Reading, Vernacular Seeing: Jacques Daret's *Presentation in the Temple*," published in the September 2000 edition of *The Art Bulletin*, is a meticulous examination of altarpiece panels from the Benedictine abbey of St. Vaast in Arras, France, created in the 1430s by painter Jacques Daret. A second article, "Marked Difference: Earrings and 'the Other' in 15th-Century Flemish Art," will be included in *Encountering Medieval Dress and Textiles: Object, Text, and Image*, edited by D. Koslin and J. Snyder and scheduled to be published this spring by Palgrave.

A *cum laude* graduate of Oberlin College, where she earned a B.A. degree in art history and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, Jolly received master's and doctoral degrees in art history at the University of Pennsylvania. She joined the Skidmore College faculty in 1976 and was named Kenan Professor of Liberal Arts in fall 2001.

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Vol. 1, No. 4 - February 7, 2002**Spike Lee to Address Campus Community**

Filmmaker Spike Lee will speak to the Skidmore community Friday, Feb. 8, in a gathering to celebrate Black History Month. The talk is scheduled at 4 p.m. in the intramural gym of the Sports and Recreation Center. Admission is free and open to any member of the College community who has obtained an advance ticket. Tickets are available in the Office of Leadership Activities, Case Center.

Lee has directed and produced 10 feature films from 1986 to 1997. These include "She's Gotta Have It" (1986), which earned the Prix de Jeunesse Award at the 1986 Cannes Film Festival; and "Do the Right Thing" (1989), which was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay and won the Los Angeles Film Critics Association's award for Best Film and Director.

In addition to feature films, Lee has directed and produced music videos for such artists as Miles Davis, Chaka Khan, Tracy Chapman, Anita Baker, Public Enemy, Bruce Hornsby, and Michael Jackson. His TV projects have included a documentary for HBO titled "4 Little Girls: Bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church Birmingham, Alabama," and an Emmy Award-winning piece on former Georgetown basketball Coach John Thompson for HBO/Real Sports.

In addition, Lee has written six books on the making of films. He also wrote *Best Seat in the House: A Basketball Memoir* (Crown Publishers, Inc., 1997), a chronicle of Lee's love affair with basketball and in particular, the New York Knicks. His newest book is a children's story due this year from Simon & Schuster and titled *Please, Baby, Please*.

A native of Atlanta, Ga., who was raised in Brooklyn, Lee is a 1979 graduate of Morehouse College and earned an MFA in film production at New York University.

Lee's visit to Skidmore is co-sponsored by the Student Speakers Bureau, Ujima, the Multicultural Student Affairs Office, the Office of the President, and the Convocations and College Events Committee.

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Vol. 1, No. 4 - February 7, 2002**2 New Trustees Named****OSCAR TANG**

Oscar Tang of New York City and Elliott Masie of Saratoga Springs have been named to the Skidmore College Board of Trustees. Each will serve a four-year term.

Tang is an investment manager and philanthropist who has long supported educational and cultural pursuits. He and his first wife, the late Frances Young Tang (a 1961 Skidmore graduate) -- for whom Skidmore's Frances Young Tang '61 Teaching Museum and Art Gallery was named -- raised four children. Their daughter Kristen is a 1992 Skidmore graduate who also served on the College's board of trustees.

A native of Shanghai, Tang came to the United States at the age of 11 and graduated from Phillips Academy in Andover, Mass. He then enrolled at Yale University, where he earned a B.S. degree in engineering in 1960. He obtained an M.B.A. degree at Harvard in 1962.

Tang began his career in the field of finance at Donaldson Lufkin & Jenrette. In 1970, he founded the investment management firm of Reich & Tang L.P., where he served as president, chief executive officer, and treasurer. In 1993 the firm combined operations with Nvest, L.P., (formerly New England Investment Companies) of which Tang was a director until its 2001 sale. He is now a private investor and chairman of KOA Holdings, Inc., a private holding company for Kampgrounds of America and Sir Speedy Inc.

Tang has been a longtime supporter of programs that promote Asian-American understanding. For more than two decades, he has been a trustee of the China Institute of New York City. He is a former board chair and treasurer of the organization, whose goal is to promote U.S.-China understanding through art, educational, and cultural programs.

In addition, he is a founder and governor of the Committee of 100, a national organization of Chinese-American leaders in the arts, academia, public service, business, and the sciences committed to Asia-American understanding.

Tang is a trustee of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, where a new gallery in the recently refurbished Chinese art area was named for Frances Young Tang. Oscar Tang also recently gave 11 major Chinese paintings -- one of the most important such gifts ever, according to Metropolitan officials -- to the museum. He is also a trustee and treasurer of Phillips Academy, Andover, a private prep school in Massachusetts.

**ELLIOTT MASIE**

Elliott Masie is a pioneer in the fields of technology, learning, and organizational development. Over the past 27 years, he has provided leadership, insight, and perspective to major corporations as they integrate technology into their operations.

Masie has focused on demystifying technology for organizations and has emphasized quality learning and communication in the use of new informational tools. He has developed models for disseminating technology throughout an organization, providing workforce literacy on computers and developing approaches to changing information systems. In the course of his work he has consulted for more than 3,000 organizations ranging from the CIA to the Walt Disney Co.

He has developed several conferences with the technology industry. Masie hosts TechLearn, a conference that gather senior training and human resource professionals from around the world to explore issues related to learning and technology-based learning. The conference explores issues relating to the strategies and implementation of training products on the web and video.

In 2001 Masie opened the Masie Center in Saratoga Springs. The facility has a lab with many products for electronic learning, as well as a high-end video editing studio and video conference suites.

Masie has participated in conversations with various U.S. government agencies that are exploring new methods of delivering training about technology. He was appointed by President Clinton and reappointed by President Bush to a White House task force on technology futures.

Masie is the author of a dozen books, including *The Computer Training Handbook*. He edits *TechLearn Trends*, an Internet briefing read by more than 41,000 business executives and also writes for *Learning Decisions*, an interactive newsletter from the Masie Center.

He is a graduate of Binghamton University, where he earned a B.A. degree in sociology in 1972.

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Hoffmann's Research Focus: India-China Relations

Professor of Government Steve Hoffmann's research took him to India and China during 2001 to complete work on a research project titled "India-China Relations: U.S. Perceptions and Policy."

Jointly sponsored by the Asia Society of New York City and the Woodrow Wilson Center of Washington, D.C., the project involved assessing India-China relations as a basis for policy development and dialogue with the two countries. Hoffmann is also one of 12 members of the project's steering committee, which is co-chaired by former U.S. Ambassadors Winston Lord (China) and Frank Wisner (India). The editors of the planned research volume, to be derived from the project and published during 2002-03, are Harry Harding, George Washington University, and Francine Frankel, University of Pennsylvania.

Hoffmann's contribution is an analysis of the place China holds in India's world view. He presented his research to members of the Washington policy community before his group of chapter writers and editors traveled last summer to India and China, where the drafted material was presented both to scholars and government officials. The American group did so by means of seminars that lasted up to nine hours a day. Said Hoffmann wryly, "These seminars helped me develop a real sympathy for my students." A wrap-up session for Washington analysts and officials took place in late November at the Woodrow Wilson Center.

In conversations with academic and governmental representatives of both China and India, Hoffmann discovered that improved relations between the world's two most populous countries is entirely possible. There are a number of long-standing negatives between the two -- an unresolved border dispute; China's strong economic growth (as compared to India's); and China's alliance with Pakistan, India's worst enemy. But, says Hoffmann, "The world views of the two countries coincide in significant ways since both are rising powers having to deal with American world dominance. There are both problems and tremendous opportunities for India in developing a relationship with China, including some potential for collaboration."

The contrast among representatives meeting with the group of American experts was interesting, says Hoffmann. "Although we met primarily with defense and security people, in India, most of the representatives were scholars -- some of whom were fairly independent in their thinking and not total proponents of the government's policies. In China, however, the scholars were strong advocates of government positions. A Chinese vice foreign minister that we saw seemed to know everything we'd said at sessions he had not attended -- and it felt as if he were talking at us, instead of engaging in an academic exchange."

The announcement that Beijing had been selected as the location of the 2008 Olympics was made on the night before Hoffmann's group left Beijing. He observed "very lively celebrations following the announcement, which was treated as a validation that China was modern, advanced, and enough of a first-world nation to be able to do this."

Hoffmann added, "As a group, we were overwhelmingly impressed with all that China had done to make Beijing and Shanghai contemporary, modern cities. But the old color of the cities seems to be disappearing. Some of us wished that as India does the same thing for its major cities, more slowly, much of their fascinating color and life can be maintained."

Although the seminars were insightful, Hoffman reported that "some of the best information I got was during dinner conversations." He attended two banquets each in Shanghai and Beijing, and one each in Delhi and Bangalore. A special guest at one of the Shanghai events was former Carter Administration Treasury Secretary Michael Blumenthal.

At another dinner, Hoffman talked with an Indian diplomat who told him that his book, titled *India and the China Crisis* (1990, University of California Press), was most helpful to India's Ministry of External Affairs in gaining domestic Indian support for a set of treaties with China, signed in the 1990s, to promote "peace and tranquility" on the China/India border.

Hoffmann returned to India for much of January 2002 on a new research mission. He spent the time in Delhi studying "The Role of the Print Press in U.S.-India Relations," which he hopes to publish as a book chapter.

Graham Ensemble Residency to Culminate in Feb. 8 & 9 Performances

The Martha Graham Dance Ensemble, the performing troupe of the Martha Graham School in New York City, will complete its weeklong Skidmore residency (Feb. 3-10) with two dance concerts at the College's Dance Theater. The performances will begin at 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 8, and Saturday, Feb. 9. General admission is \$10, \$8 for senior citizens and members of the Skidmore community, and \$5 for students. For reservations, call 580-5392.

The program, which will be the same for both performances, will showcase the ensemble's 10 young dancers in eight works created in the Graham tradition by former premiere Graham dancers Yuriko, Bertram Ross, Ethel Winter, Linda Hodes, Virginie Victoire Mencene, and Kenneth Topping '84, the company's artistic director. Among the program highlights will be Topping's *Affirmation: A Dancer's Ritual*.

Besides the two dance performances, the company also presented three master dance classes and a lecture-demonstration during its residency.

Topping performed with the Martha Graham Dance Company for 10 years before directing the Graham junior troupe. Coming to Skidmore as a pre-med major, he had never danced or even seen a dance concert until a friend suggested he try a modern-dance class taught by Isabel Brown. A natural, Topping learned Graham technique in classes with Moss Cohen, a former Graham dancer then in residence at Skidmore. After graduating Phi Beta Kappa, Topping joined the Graham company and danced such major roles as Oedipus in *Night Journey*, the Minotaur (*Errand into the Maze*), and the Preacher (*Appalachian Spring*).

The Martha Graham Dance Ensemble was founded by Graham dancer Yuriko in 1983, at Graham's request, to bring fresh energy, passion, and forward vision to the choreographer's brilliant tradition. As *The New York Times* has noted, "These fresh young performers bring to this distinctive style a welcome boldness and clarity." The ensemble tours and performs the works of choreographers within the Graham tradition and conducts outreach programs in New York City public schools.

Credit Union Plans Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Skidmore Employees Federal Credit Union (SEFCU) will start at 4:45 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 13, in the Faculty-Staff Club. All SEFCU members are welcome.

The agenda includes election of members to the board of directors. The board is the legal guardian of SEFCU and is responsible for the management and security of SEFCU funds. Board meetings take place monthly.

Founded in 1974, SEFCU currently has 1,018 members and assets in excess of \$5 million. The organization offers a wide range of savings and loan plans, including free share draft (checking) accounts, and payroll withdrawal for savings. Membership is open to all members of the Skidmore community and their families.

SEFCU is located on the first floor of Dana Hall, near the purchasing office. Hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily.

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Paul Arciero, associate professor of exercise science, will make a presentation titled "Comparison of Green Tea, Caffeine, and Ephedrine Combinations on Energy Expenditure in Humans" May 29 at the annual meeting of the American College of Sports Medicine in St. Louis. Co-authors of the study are B.C. Nindl of the U.S. Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine and Skidmore students R. Quigley and D. Pecchia, Class of '01; and M. Ormsbee, M. Tiede, and N. Taveras, Class of '02.

Katharine Cartwright, lecturer in geosciences, was recently awarded the W. Parker Dodge Award for her watercolor painting titled "Mail Order Madness" at the Artists of the Capital Region Fine Art Exhibition 2001.

Roy H. Ginsberg, professor of government, gave a series of talks on U.S. foreign policy and U.S.-European Union relations after September 11 in the Czech Republic and Germany over winter break. His lecture tour was organized and sponsored by the U.S. Department of State. In Prague, he spoke to groups of Czech foreign ministry and other officials and to students at Charles University and the University of Economics. While in Prague, he joined 13 Skidmore students participating in the 15th annual international intercollegiate simulation of the European Union. In Germany, he spoke to German-American Institutes in Heidelberg and Stuttgart; as well as to the University of Munich; the German Council on Foreign Relations; the Institute on International Politics; and officials in the Green Party, the Social Democratic Party, and the Bundestag in Berlin.

James Kennelly, assistant professor of management and business, and **Aldo Vacs**, Palamontain professor of government, served as resource experts during the Jan. 24 meeting of the Saratoga Chapter, League of Women Voters, on the topic of world trade policy.

Jill Sweet, professor of anthropology, has received a Resident Scholar Fellowship from the School of American Research (SAR). Fellows are scholars who have completed their research and "need time to think and write about topics important to the understanding of humankind." Sweet will spend eight weeks in residency at the SAR in Santa Fe next summer. She will work on a new edition of her book, *Dances of the Tewa Pueblo Indians: Expressions of New Life*. More information about the SAR and its Resident Scholar program is at: <http://www.sarweb.org/n4.htm> News of the SAR fellowship closely follows the opening of Sweet's exhibition at the Tang Teaching Museum, "Staging the Indian: The Politics of Representation."

Publications & Exhibitions

Paul Arciero, associate professor of exercise science, has several new publications. He is lead author of "Comparison of Creatine Ingestion and Resistance Training on Energy Expenditure and Limb Blood Flow, published in *Metabolism*, Vol. 50, December 2001. Co-authors are B.C. Nindl, U.S. Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine (USARIEM); and M.D. Vukovich, South Dakota State University; and Skidmore graduates N.S. Hannibal '99, C.L. Gentile '00, and J. Hamed '00.

A second article, "Overnight responses of the circulating IGF-1 system after acute, heavy-resistance exercise," appeared in *Journal of Applied Physiology*, Vol. 90, 2001. Authors were Arciero, and W.J. Kraemer, B.C. Nindl, and J.O. Marx, all of the USARIEM.

A third article, titled "Circulating Leptin concentrations experience a delayed reduction after acute heavy-resistance exercise in men," will appear in a forthcoming issue of the *American Journal of Physiology*. Authors are Arciero, Nindl, and Kraemer.

Doretta Miller, professor of art, had a solo exhibition titled "Signs of the Times: New Paintings of China" at the First Street Gallery, 526 W. 26th St., New York City, during January. Last September, Miller was juror for the first Schoharie County Arts Council 11-County Regional. In March she will make a presentation on gouache painting at the Albany League of Artists.

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