SKIDMORE more stories | faculty-staff activities | event calendar | archives | intercom home

# I

#### Highlights

English Professor Wins APS Fellowship

2-Person Faculty Art Show to Open

New Faculty Books Announced

GE Fund Supports Tang Program

Printable Version

# Skidmore Intercom Faculty & Staff Newsletter

Vol. 1, No. 6 - April 3, 2002



GE Vice President Mark Little and Skidmore President Jamienne S. Studley join children from the Academy of Culture and Communications at Pleasant Valley School in Schenectady at Skidmore's Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery. (Michael Hemberger photo) <u>Story</u>



Captain Terry Diggory, Sue Rosenberg, and Sarah Goodwin (from left) of the Skidmore team celebrate after winning the seventh annual Community Spelling Bee sponsored by Literacy Volunteers of America, Saratoga County Inc. (Maria M. Bucciferro photo) Story

**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.

#### **Skidmore Intercom**

English Professor Wins APS Fellowship

2-Person Faculty Art Show to Open

New Faculty Books Announced

GE Fund Supports Tang Program

Printable Version

### **Skidmore Intercom**

Faculty & Staff Newsletter

Vol. 1, No. 6 - April 6, 2002

#### Simon's APS Fellowship to Support New Book



Associate Professor of English Linda Simon has received an American Philosophical Society (APS) Sabbatical Fellowship for the Humanities and Social Sciences that will enable her to spend academic year 2002-03 writing a book about the cultural anxiety surrounding the coming of electricity during the second half of the 19th century.

Based in Philadelphia, the APS is this nation's first learned society. It promotes the acquisition of knowledge in the sciences and humanities through scholarly research, professional meetings, publications, and community outreach and sponsors several programs that support faculty research.

By focusing on the 30-year period from the commercial use of the telegraph in the late 1860s until the discovery of X-rays in 1896, Simon will consider a wide range of responses to the introduction of electricity. She explains, "Electricity was a force at once titillating and dangerous, exciting and morally suspect — a force of energy that could be generated and manipulated by humans, yet existed, unfettered, as the most powerful force in nature." Because it was such a mystery and yet so interconnected to the spirit, electricity spoke to the ethical, moral, and religious beliefs of the population. As a result, said Simon, "You couldn't neutrally turn on a light bulb."

Knowledge about electricity and its effect on the body was unsophisticated, a key reason for consumer resistance to the technology. In addition, the technology was not perfected before it was marketed. Asked Simon, "Why have — in your home — something that could crackle, catch fire, that few people could repair? Gas lamps, which provided a softer glow and were considered safer, were preferred for home lighting."

People needed to be convinced that there were practical aspects to having electricity in their homes. As a result, the first home electrical gadgets were doorbells and burglar alarms, because they were innovative and useful to the growing urban population.

Simon's book also will focus on electrification's connection to the mind and the body. During this period, a person's only encounter with electricity was likely to be via electrotherapy. Every hospital had an "electrician" — a physician trained to do electrotherapy, which was used to treat a wide range of ailments, including impotence, "female complaints," even teething.

According to Simon, "Electricity, as both cause of illness and cure, was implicated in prevalent assumptions — among physicians, scientists, and the lay public — about psychology and physiology; about ways of perceiving and articulating feelings of health and illness, pain and suffering; about the very nature of the life force." X-rays were a popular amusement offered at fairs of this era. People would exchange them as tokens of affection, because it was widely believed that X-rays penetrated to the very essence of an individual.

Simon became interested in this topic while researching her 1998 biography on William James, *Genuine Reality -- A Life of William James* (Harcourt Brace & Co.). Sources related to psychical research, neurasthenia, medical education and such philosophical issues as 19th-century approaches to the mind/body connection provided a foundation for the project.

Over the past two years, Simon has built upon that foundation by completing additional research at the Bakken Library on Electricity and Life in Minneapolis. While a scholar-in-residence at New York University last year, she continued her research at NYU's Bobst Library, the New York Historical Society, and the New York Public Library's Science, Technology, and Business Research Library. Simon is excited about the project. "I can't wait to write," she said. She hopes to complete the book next year, following additional research at Harvard University. Harcourt will publish the volume.

#### **Skidmore Intercom**



English Professor Wins APS Fellowship

2-Person Faculty Art Show to Open

New Faculty Books Announced

GE Fund Supports Tang Program

Printable Version

### **Skidmore Intercom**

Faculty & Staff Newsletter

Vol. 1, No. 6 - April 6, 2002

#### **Faculty Work to Be Featured in Schick Art Show**



John L. Moore



Paul Sattler

Senior Artist-in-Residence John Moore and Assistant Professor of Art Paul Sattler will have paintings and drawings included in a two-person exhibition scheduled to open Thursday, April 11, in the Schick Art Gallery.

An opening reception is planned from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. April 11 at the gallery. The campus community is welcome.

This is the second show this year for Moore, who recently concluded a solo exhibition of paintings and drawings at the Howard Scott Gallery in New York City.

Moore's recent work involves a palette of vibrant reds and blues, combined with blacks and/or whites. For many years, he has used black oval shapes as surrogates for the presence of human figures. In more recent works, these ovals represent vacant mirrors, and, rather than being concerned with reflections, they address that which is not seen. Dark and unyielding, the shapes often appear to be on the verge of either entering or exiting the arena of the painting. It is possible to interpret the images as carriers of missing

information.

The artist acknowledges the existence of a "sly, cartoon-like" spirit in some of these works, whose names -- such as "Black and Blue" (2001) -- can be both descriptive and a comment on work's psychological mood. Moore has described his large oil paintings as "gestural and conceptual, hard-edged and loosely brushed. My intent is always to keep the paintings ambiguous, yet buried inside each is layers of personalized content."

Recent honors for Moore include fellowships form the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York Foundation for the Arts, and the Joan Mitchell Foundation. He was awarded the Cleveland Art Prize in 1995 and has taught at Skidmore since 1993.

Paul Sattler, a Skidmore faculty member since 1998, is known for creating complex, ambiguous paintings that are both mystifying and fascinating.

A recent review by Paul Parcellin in *Art New England* notes, "For all the ambiguity that hovers around them, Sattler's images are clearly depictions of his inner thoughts. Representing such complex ideas in paintings of real-world settings is a tremendous challenge. It's no wonder that in his paintings the line between his internal and external worlds, and internal and external spaces, becomes blurred."

Sattler's work appears regularly in solo and group shows in this region and beyond, including a solo exhibition at the start of 2002 at the Alpha Gallery in Boston, recent exhibitions at the Saratoga County Arts Gallery and the Schick Art Gallery, and exhibitions at several Midwest locations.

The Schick Art Gallery is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. during the week and from 1 to 4:30 p.m. on weekends. Admission is free.

#### **Skidmore Intercom**

HOME

English Professor Wins APS Fellowship

2-Person Faculty Art Show to Open

New Faculty Books Announced

GE Fund Supports Tang Program

Printable Version

## Skidmore Intercom

Faculty & Staff Newsletter

Vol. 1, No. 6 - April 6, 2002

#### New Faculty Books Focus on Community Justice, Jazz

An analysis of community justice and an overview of jazz history are presented by Skidmore faculty in two new books. Assistant Professor of Sociology David Karp is the co-editor of What is Community Justice: Case Studies of Restorative Justice and Community Supervision (Sage Publications, 2002); while Lewis Rosengarten, lecturer in Liberal Studies and academic advisor in the Higher Education Opportunity Program, has written Jazz in Short Measures (Authors Choice Press, 2001).

Karp and co-editor Todd Clear of the John Jay School of Criminal Justice use case studies to explain how community justice can be integrated into the community and in probation programs. Traditional models of probation and parole have become increasingly ineffective as the numbers of the formerly incarcerated rise. In an examination of six different model programs from around the country, the book presents a practical side of the community justice ideal.

Since 1997, Karp and Clear have studied community justice programs as a new approach to crime that explicitly includes the community in the criminal justice process. The approach emphasizes restoration, reintegration, and community participation. According to Karp, support for community justice has grown in response to the failures of the "get tough" era of criminal justice that has existed for the past 25 years or so. Although tougher laws were introduced and more prisons were built, criminal activity did not decline.

Through community policing programs that began with such small activities as neighborhood foot patrols, minor crime has declined. By dealing with minor crime -- things such as broken windows -- more serious criminal activity may have been avoided.

Karp pointed out that the issue is not one of a causal relationship, but more a matter of correlation. "Neighborhood disorder, and people's fearful reactions to it, can lead to a disempowered community," he said. "It's better to mobilize than to withdraw." Community policing efforts take a proactive approach to solving problems and encourage partnerships among community members and organizations. Community justice includes a range of initiatives such as community policing, adjudication, and corrections.

What is Community Justice is Karp's third book on this topic. His earlier books are Community Justice: An Emerging Field (1998, Rowman and Littlefield) and, with Clear, The Community Justice Ideal: Preventing Crime and Achieving Justice (1999, Westview). Karp teaches courses in criminology and criminal justice and is a member of the New York State Community Justice Forum.

Lewis Rosengarten's book, *Jazz in Short Measures*, is structured as a series of 10 lectures, along with recommendations for videos, readings, Web sites, and CDs. He takes a multidimensional perspective that looks at the musical lives, struggles, and achievements of jazz musicians across a century of evolving styles and idioms.

The book represents the culmination of many years of research for Rosengarten. He was first introduced to jazz by his junior high school band teacher, who had been affiliated with The Tonight Show band when the program was broadcast from New York City.

Rosengarten especially enjoys teaching jazz as an LS course, because "jazz is appropriate from cultural, sociological, or historical perspectives. Jazz gives a particularly interesting snapshot of American history and culture."

In teaching about jazz, Rosengarten stresses that students must be willing to both listen and to read. Toward that end, the selections he recommends in his book can help any reader build or enhance a listening library.

#### **Skidmore Intercom**

SKIDMORE more stories | faculty-staff activities | event calendar | archives | intercom home



Highlights

English Professor Wins APS Fellowship

2-Person Faculty Art Show to Open

New Faculty Books Announced

GE Fund Supports
Tang Program

Printable Version

# Skidmore Intercom Faculty & Staff Newsletter

Vol. 1, No. 6 - April 6, 2002

#### **GE Fund Supports Tang Program**

A \$25,000 grant from the GE Fund is making it possible for urban schoolchildren from Albany and Schenectady to visit the Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery at Skidmore. The grant, targeted to expand the Tang Teaching Museum's innovative Destination: Exploration art outreach program, was presented at the Tang March 19 by GE Power Systems Vice President Mark Little.

In accepting the check, President Jamienne S. Studley addressed some of her remarks to the 30 third-, fourth-, and fifth-graders from the Academy of Culture and Communications at Pleasant Valley School in Schenectady. The children were on hand for a Destination: Exploration tour of *Chain Reaction: Rube Goldberg and Contemporary Art.* After the presentation, the children took part in an exhibition-related movement exercise, directed by Tang Museum Educator Susi Kerr, that set them spinning like the gears of a simple machine — or like a typical Goldbergian contraption. "I hope all of you find something fascinating today, have new ideas, and see things in a different way," Studley told the children.

Since the museum opened in October 2000, Tang educators have brought the "suitcase program" segment of Destination: Exploration to dozens of schools in the region via vintage suitcases packed with slides, videos and hands-on art materials related to Tang art exhibitions. But for school districts beset with budget cuts, class visits to the Tang — also part of the education program — were out of reach.

"The biggest stumbling block was the cost of bus transportation," explained Kerr. "The GE grant will support a hundred museum visits, more than doubling the number of kids we can reach in a year's time."

#### **Skidmore Intercom**



English Professor Wins APS Fellowship

2-Person Faculty Art

Show to Open

New Faculty Books Announced

GE Fund Supports Tang Program

Printable Version

# Skidmore Intercom Faculty & Staff Newsletter

Vol. 1, No. 6 - April 6, 2002

#### **Filene Concert Series to Feature Flutist**

Yvonne Chavez

The Filene Concert Artists Series at Skidmore continues this spring with a performance on Sunday, April 7, by Yvonne Chavez Hansbrough, flutist, and Michael Clement, pianist, presenting a program of music by Bach, Debussy, Aitken, Gaubert, Harbison, and Bartok.

Free and open to the pubic, the concert will begin at 3 p.m. in Filene Recital Hall.

Yvonne Chavez Hansbrough is lecturer of music at the College of Saint Rose, where she teaches flute and conducts the St. Rose Flute Choir. She also conducts the Empire State Youth Flute Choir, teaches flute at UAlbany,

and maintains a private studio.

Before moving to Albany three years ago, she taught flute at Middle Tennessee State University for nine years. While in Tennessee she founded the Middle Tennessee Flute Society and coordinated several festivals. She received numerous grants to fund these festivals and hosted many prominent flutists, including Jean-Pierre Rampal and James Galway. Hansbrough performed on "Live in Studio C" for Nashville Public Radio and was heard on National Public Radio's *Performance Today* program with the Nashville Chamber Orchestra. She has recorded with the Nashville Chamber Orchestra, the Stones River Chamber Players, and the Albany Symphony Orchestra. She recently released her first solo recording titled *American Flute Music: Leaving the Twentieth Century.* 

Michael Clement is an experienced accompanist and vocal coach with a passion for chamber music as well as opera. In addition to accompanying the Tucson Symphony, Arizona Opera, and Orange County (Calif.) Opera, Clement has been a coach and conductor at numerous opera companies. Locally, he has served as music director of Opera Excelsior, a vocal coach and accompanist at Saint Rose and Skidmore, and as pianist for the Roeliss-Janssen Concert Choir.

#### Guest Speaker to Consider German and EU Perspectives on Global Topics

"The Global Environment, International Terrorism, and Trans-Atlantic Trade Wars: German, German Green, and European Perspectives," will be addressed by Sascha Mueller-Kraenner when he visits Skidmore on Tuesday, April 9.

Mueller-Kraenner, director of the Heinrich Boll Foundation in Washington, D.C., will lecture at 8 p.m. in the Intercultural Lounge, Case Center. The event is the latest in the spring lecture series sponsored by the International Affairs and Environmental Studies programs and supported by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

Mueller-Kraenner formerly directed the international department of the German League for Nature Conservation and earlier served as chief of staff to Kornelia Mueller, member of the Saxony State Legislature.

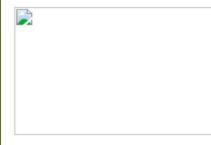
In the 1990s he was spokesperson for the Green Party of Bayreuth as well as a candidate for the Bundestag, the lower house of the German Parliament. He is a principal in the Berlin-based Society for International and European Environmental Research. and has published widely on environmental policy, green politics, transatlantic relations, and global climate change.

Mueller-Kraenner last spoke at Skidmore in January 2000.

#### **Newly Published Poet to Read**

Peg Boyers, executive editor of Salmagundi, will read from her new book of poems, *Hard Bread* beginning at 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 10, in the Surrey Williamson Inn. Admission is free and open to the public. Boyers's book is based on the life of Italian writer Natalia Ginzburg. For more information about the book, <u>click here</u>.

#### **Holocaust Memorial Event Announced**



Oral historian Mark Klempner will present "Just the Human Thing to Do: Dutch People Who Rescued Jews during WWII," at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 11, on campus. The presentation, in observance of Holocaust Memorial Day, will take place in Gannett Auditorium of Palamountain Hall. Admission is free and open to the public.

Klempner with Dutch rescuers Evert and Fenna Siemer.

In 1996, Klempner traveled to the Netherlands to interview 25 Dutch people who had risked their lives to rescue and hide Jews during the Nazi occupation. His presentation includes descriptions of his encounters with the rescuers and

stories that they shared with him. Audio excerpts from the interviews allow the audience to hear the rescuers, in their own words, reflect on their lives and deeds.

Klempner explores the shared characteristics of these rescuers and the influences that enabled them to become the people they are. The choices made by the rescuers in difficult circumstances are both inspiring and challenging, as they reveal the ultimate power of the individual to stand up against evil.

An independent oral historian and folklorist who is the son of a Holocaust survivor, Klempner spent several decades as a musician before pursuing his current interests in the humanities. He graduated from Cornell University in 1997 with an A.B. degree in English and continued his studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he completed a master's degree in folklore in 2000. Klempner's academic honors include a Fulbright Fellowship, the Robinson-Appel Humanitarian Award, and the F. Conger Wood Fellowship. This latter award, presented by the Institute for European Studies at Cornell University, enabled him to conduct the research on which his presentations are based.

Klempner's Skidmore visit is sponsored by the Chaplain's Office; the Intercultural Center; the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work; the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures; the Department of History; the Jewish Student Union; and Students Organized Against Racism.

#### **Skidmore Spellers Victorious at County Bee**

Can you spell "equinoctial"? How about "valetudinarian"? Or "selenian"?

A team from Skidmore successfully spelled these and other words to win this spring's annual spelling bee for the benefit of the Literacy Volunteers of Saratoga County.

Nine teams representing Adirondack Trust, Empire State College, Stewart's, Orenda Elementary School (in Clifton Park), State Farm Insurance, Quad Graphics, the Saratoga Rotary Club, Skidmore, and a team representing Palio and Red Spring Communications participated in the March 13 event. Skidmore's team -- Scope Editor Sue Rosenberg, and English Professors Terry Diggory and Sarah Goodwin -- won the bee by successfully spelling the word "xylem" (a component of the vascular system of plants), defeating the Palio/Red Spring Communications team in the final round.

Jurors were Florence Andresen '57; Connie Jenkins, city editor of *The Saratogian*; and Phil Barrett, Clifton Park town councilman.

Gift baskets were presented to all participating teams; the winners also received a large trophy featuring a bespectacled, mortarboard-wearing cartoon bee.

But the biggest beneficiary was Literacy Volunteers of Saratoga County, which raised approximately \$5,000 at the event. The next Literacy Volunteer fund-raiser is Page Turners — readings by local authors, scheduled from 3 to 5 p.m. April 28 at the Surrey Williamson Inn on North Broadway. Tickets are \$25 per person, and refreshments include a wide array of coffees and desserts. For details, contact the Sue Hensley, executive director of Literacy Volunteers of Saratoga County, 583-1232.

#### Skidmore Intercom



English Professor Wins APS Fellowship

2-Person Faculty Art Show to Open

**New Faculty Books Announced** 

**GE Fund Supports** 

Tang Program

Printable Version

### **Skidmore Intercom**

Faculty & Staff Newsletter

Vol. 1, No. 6 - April 6, 2002

#### **Faculty-Staff Activities**

**Jordana Dym**, assistant professor of history, has followed up participation in last year's NEH Summer Institute, "Popular Cartography and Society," with papers at two national conferences: the Group for Early Modern Cultural Studies last November in Philadelphia, and the American Association of Geographers last month in Los Angeles. The focus of Dym's research is reflected in the title of the Los Angeles paper, "More Calculated to Mislead than Inform: Travelers and the Mapping of Central America, 1821-1950." Dym also organized a panel for the 2002 meeting of the Conference on Latin American History during January in San Francisco, titled "City and Citizenship in 19th-Century Latin America," on which she delivered a paper titled "Municipal Citizenship in Independence-era Central America, 1801-1823."

Michael C. Ennis-McMillan, assistant professor of anthropology, presented two papers at the 62nd annual meetings of the Society for Applied Anthropology March 6-10 in Atlanta. He presented the paper titled "Campus Stewardship of Wooded Areas: Contributions from Undergraduate Student Projects — A Case Study from Upstate New York" in the panel on "Campus Environmental Engagement: Energy and Imagination, Challenges and Constraints." The other paper, titled "It's Our Custom: Community-Managed Drinking Water Systems in the Valley of Mexico," was presented in the session "Environment and Health: Vulnerability and Justice in the Age of Risk, Part I."

Mary C. Lynn, professor of American studies, was the guest speaker March 21 at a meeting of the Historical Society of Saratoga Springs. Lynn's presentation, "Girls Must Wear Hats on Broadway: Town-Gown Relations between Skidmore and Saratoga Springs," focused on the first half of the 20th century and drew on research that Lynn completed for Make No Small Plans, the history of Skidmore College that she wrote and which was published in 2000.

Reinhard Mayer, visiting associate professor of German, has been asked by the president of the American Literary Translators Association to be a judge for the National Translation Award at the association's annual meeting Oct. 16-19 in Chicago.

Steve Stern, professor of English, read from his fiction at the University of Memphis in early March. Currently on leave from Skidmore, the Memphis native now holds the Moss Chair of Excellence (a visiting appointment) in the University of Memphis English Department. Stern's fiction includes Harry Kaplan's Adventures Underground, The Moon and Ruben Shein, Isaac and the Undertaker's Daughters, Lazar Malkin Enters Heaven, A Plague of Dreamers, and The Wedding Jester. He has won a Pushcart Writer's Choice Award, an O. Henry Prize, and the Edward Lewis Wallant Award for Jewish-American Fiction.

David Vella, associate professor of mathematics, has been delivering a lecture series at the Capital Region Algebra and Number Theory Seminar at the University at Albany, State University of New York. The lectures, titled "Dimensions of Support Varieties of Induced Modules for Algebraic Groups, parts I and II," were delivered Dec. 12, 2001 and Feb. 13, 2002. Part III is scheduled for April 4, 2002. The lectures describe one aspect of recent research Vella has carried out in collaboration with Brian Parshall of the University of Virginia and Dan Nakano of the Utah State University. A full report of this work is scheduled to be published later this spring in the journal für die reine und angewandte Mathematik.

#### **Publications and Exhibitions**

Terence Diggory, Ross Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies and chair, Department of English, has learned that his essay "Allen Ginsberg's Urban Pastoral," has been reprinted in The Beat Generation: Critical Essays (New York: Peter Lang, 2002), edited by Kostas Myrsiades. The essay originally appeared in the Winter 2000 issue of the journal College Literature. Diggory's "The Red Wheelbarrow Goes Global — The Value of the Local in William Carlos Williams and Postmodern Art," is available as an online publication in the Australianbased magazine Jacket, No. 16, March 2002. The article features the postcard art of German Wolfgang Kaiser and the video art of New Zealander Bridget Sutherland, with whom Diggory will collaborate in a panel presentation at the upcoming conference of the International Association for Word and Image Studies in Hamburg, Germany, July 2002.

Michael C. Ennis-McMillan, assistant professor of anthropology, is the author of "Anthropologists and Campus Greening" in Anthropology News, Vol. 43, March 2002. The newsletter is a publication of the American Anthropological Association.

Samuel Fee, director of academic technologies in CITS, has co-written a paper titled "IT for the Liberal Arts College" in Educause Quarterly, Vol. 25, No. 1, 2002. Robert E. Martin of Centre College is co-author.

Deb Hall, assistant professor of art, will give a multi-media presentation titled "The Use of Type in Contemporary Art," April 19 at the Pacific Northwest College of Art in Portland, Ore.

Karen Kellogg, lecturer in environmental studies, has had a manuscript and book chapter accepted for publication. The manuscript, "Description of a New Species in the Pseudotropheus williamsi Complex (teleostei: Cichlidae), from Lake Malawi, Africa," was cowritten with Jay Stauffer from Penn State University and will appear in the journal Copeia. The book chapter is a comprehensive analysis of the food supply for the river otter (Lontra canadesis) in North America and will be part of the River Otter Action Plan, a publication organized by the Species Survival Commission of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources. The book chapter evolved from Kellogg's involvement with the reintroduction of the river otter in western New York.

#### **Skidmore Intercom**