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Faculty & Staff Newsletter

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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.



Hard Bread is the title of a new poetry collection by Peg Boyers, executive editor of *Salmagundi*.



James Johnson will deliver this year's F. William Harder lecture on March 20.



Rube Goldberg, *Revolvometer for looking at modernistic art* (circa 1960) at the Tang Teaching Museum.

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Report on the Board of Trustees Meeting Winter 2002

Skidmore's Board of Trustees came to campus Thursday and Friday, Feb. 21-22, for the second board meeting of 2001-02. In addition to formal committee meetings, the agenda included trustee-faculty receptions on Thursday evening in the offices of UWW/MALS, the Honors Forum Lounge, and the Intercultural Lounge. Friday evening featured the annual Scholarship Dinner at the Canfield Casino, an event that brings together scholarship donors, the students who receive scholarship aid, and faculty members chosen by each of the students.

The general meeting of the full board took place Friday afternoon at the Tang. In her introductory remarks, President Studley asked for a moment of silence in memory of Professor Emeritus Erwin L. Levine, who died Jan. 12. The president welcomed this year's new trustees — Linda Toohey, Elliott Masie, and Oscar Tang — and thanked all board members for their service to Skidmore. Among the resolutions passed by the trustees at the full meeting were those pertaining to the operating budget parameters for 2002-03 and to the granting of faculty tenure and sabbatical leaves. Below is additional information and a summary of the resolutions adopted by the board at the Feb. 22 meeting.

Budget and Finance Committee

The board approved the four major parameters for developing the operating budget for the fiscal year beginning June 1, 2002. The final budget, to be approved in May, will be based on an opening enrollment of 2,170 students (which represents a net fiscal enrollment or average enrollment of 2,123); an increase in the comprehensive fee of 4.75 percent (from \$33,925 to \$35,535); a financial aid budget of \$14,990,000; and a compensation pool of \$52,705,000, up 4.3 percent. The 2002-03 operating budget will total approximately \$83 million, up from the current operating budget of \$79 million.

Buildings and Grounds (Committee on Infrastructure)

The trustees approved a resolution authorizing the allocation of up to \$100,000 to develop schematic drawings for a new music building in the vicinity of the current Filene Music Building and for renovations of the existing Filene building to address classroom and space concerns.

The board also voted to change the name and mission statement of the Building and Grounds Committee. The new name is the Committee on Infrastructure, reflecting the addition of information technology to the committee's purview.

Audit Committee

Charles Buchanan, chair of the Audit Committee, reported that the committee had met with the engagement partner of Skidmore's external audit firm, Arthur Andersen, LLP, to discuss recent publicity surrounding the firm and the potential effects on the College's audited financial statements. Following extensive discussion with the firm, and discussions in executive session, the committee concluded that Skidmore was being well served by its current auditors and voted to reaffirm the plan to engage them to conduct this year's audit.

Special Programs Committee

The board approved a resolution to award two B.A. degrees and one B.S. degree to UWW students as approved by a vote of the faculty.

Academic Affairs Committee

The committee approved resolutions for faculty tenure, promotions, and sabbatical leaves as follows:

- Tenure and promotion to associate professor granted to James Kennelly, Department of Management and Business; Kathleen Leavitt, Department of Art and Art History; Eric Lewis, Department of Management and Business; Viviana Rangil, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures; and Susan Walzer, Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work.
- Tenure granted to Linda Simon, associate professor of English.
- Full-year sabbatical leaves granted to Raymond Giguere, professor of chemistry; Francisco Gonzalez, associate professor of philosophy; Doretta Miller, professor of art; Linda Simon, associate professor of English; Joanna Zangrando, Douglas Family Professor of American Culture.
- Fall-term sabbatical leaves granted to Victor Cahn, professor of English; Joanne Devine, associate professor of English; and Barry Goldensohn, professor of English.
- Spring-term sabbatical leaves granted to Giuseppe Faustini, professor of Italian; Anthony Holland, associate professor of music; Richard Linke, associate professor of art; David Miller, Ella Van Dyke Tuthill '32 Professor of Studio Art; Lary Opitz, associate professor of theater; and David Peterson, associate professor of art.
- Full-year untenured sabbatical leaves granted to Corey Freeman-Gallant, assistant professor of biology; Elzbieta Lepkowska-White, assistant professor of management and business; Lynda Vargha, assistant professor of economics; and Mark Youndt, assistant professor of management and business.
- Fall-term untenured sabbatical leave granted to Susan Zappen, associate librarian.
- Spring-term untenured leave granted to Timothy Burns, assistant professor of government; Katherine Graney, assistant professor of government; and Barbara Norelli, assistant librarian.

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"Leadership, Values, and Institutional Success in the 21st Century" is the title of this year's F. William Harder Lecture to be delivered Wednesday, March 20, by James A. Johnson, vice chairman of Perseus, LLC, a merchant banking and private equity firm based in Washington, D.C., and New York City.

Free and open to the public, the event begins at 5:30 p.m. in Gannett Auditorium of Palamountain Hall. Prior to the lecture, Johnson will receive an honorary doctoral degree from Skidmore.

Johnson went to Perseus in 2000 after a decade at the helm of Fannie Mae, the largest non-bank financial services company in the world and the nation's largest source of mortgage financing. Johnson's Fannie Mae responsibilities over 10 years included such positions as vice chairman, chairman, chief executive officer, and chairman of the executive committee. In 1994, he was named "CEO of the Year" by the George Washington University School of Business and Public Management.

He earlier held leadership positions at Lehman Brothers and at Public Strategies, a Washington-based consulting firm he founded to advise corporations on strategic issues. From 1977 to 1981, Johnson was executive assistant to Vice President Walter F. Mondale, advising the vice president on domestic and foreign policy and political matters.

Johnson serves as chairman of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and is chairman of the board of trustees of the Brookings Institution. He was elected last year to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He is on the board of a number of organizations, including Gannett, Inc.; the Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.; Target Corp.; and the National Association on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. He also is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the Trilateral Commission.

A graduate of the University of Minnesota, where he received a B.A. degree in political science, Johnson earned a master's degree in public affairs at the Woodrow Wilson School, Princeton University. He has received honorary doctorates from Howard University and from Colby College.

Johnson and his wife, Maxine Isaacs, a member of Skidmore's Class of '69, live in Washington, D.C., with their son, Alfred.

Skidmore's annual F. William Harder Lecture was inaugurated in 1985 and made possible by 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 the challenges that lie ahead.

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New Books by Campus Poets Published

Two Skidmore alums who share a professional interest in literature as editors of *Salmagundi* will mark this April's celebration of National Poetry Month with the publication of their first books of poetry.

Peg Boyers, a 1975 graduate who is executive editor of *Salmagundi*, has written [Hard Bread](#) (University of Chicago Press, April 2002), a collection of poems "spoken" in the imagined voice of the Italian writer Natalia Ginzburg (1916-1991). Much of the book is based on Ginzburg's life — her upbringing in Turin, her brief marriage to the resistance activist Leone Ginzburg, her experience of Fascism and war, her work as a novelist, playwright, editor, and newspaper columnist — and much of the book is invented.

Former U.S. Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky praised Boyers's originality and wrote, "within a few pages it's clear that this is true poetry, giving voice with unforgettable specificity to the woe, comedy, and heroism of a 20th-century life."

Although poetry is a relatively new pursuit for Boyers, Ginzburg has been a long-standing interest. "I had gone to school in Italy and had studied Italian while attending Skidmore. Ginzburg is a standard in the curriculum of Italian readers. I read her essays, fiction, and plays, and translated a few of them for publication in *Salmagundi*," she explained.

She interviewed Ginzburg for a special issue of *Salmagundi* and wrote a long essay on her for the magazine. Says Boyers, "She wrote everything but poems -- and I wrote the poems for her."

Over a period of about four years, the poems "dictated themselves" to Boyers. "I had a sense of what in her life I wanted to address. The last poem — the one about my interview with her — is the only poem in the book in my own voice. When that was completed, I knew I was done."

Boyers studied aspects of Ginzburg's life to give resonance to the poetry, as in the case of "Ode to Ernest," one of the entries in her book. Ginzburg was Ernest Hemmingway's editor in Italy, according to Boyers, who concludes that the American writer was an important person in Ginzburg's life. "She must have had something to say to him," she asserts. To realistically depict that relationship, Boyers researched Hemmingway's time in Italy and then imagined what the relationship between author and editor must have been. The result is "Ode to Ernest."

In Boyers's view, Ginzburg provided literary "tough love," a theme echoed in the title of her poetry collection. "I wanted a strong image for the title," Boyers explained, "something that was nourishing," but not easily absorbed.

Boyers has worked on her poetry over the years as a student of Frank Bidart in the New York State Summer Writers Institute. "I am a complete addict of his master class and can't imagine giving it up," she says. Over time, a group of women has returned each year to the class, where they draw on the knowledge of their teacher and provide support to each other. "They're a group of really smart, honest readers," explains Boyers -- not unlike Natalia Ginzburg herself.

Woodworth's Collection

[Arcade](#) is the title of a poetry collection by associate *Salmagundi* editor Marc Woodworth, a 1984 Skidmore graduate who is an English Department lecturer. Published by Grove Press, the premier publisher of poetry in the U.S., the book is available this month.

The debut collection contains writing that is both narrative and lyric, love poem and elegy. The opening sequence, titled "The City," is set in an unnamed and compellingly imagined continental metropolis between the world wars. Early poems in the sequence were featured in *The Paris Review*'s new-writers issue. In other poems, Woodworth enters the grieving mind of Sophia Tolstoy as she mourns at her husband's grave and depicts the mythical German filmmaker Herr Soma's strangely generative breakdown before the making of his best film.

In his "Foreword," Summer Writers Institute faculty member Richard Howard cited Woodworth's eloquence, noting, "For him...the significance of an event is not to be found within it, as within a nutshell, but without, enveloping the language which has generated it, as a light generates a vapor."

Poetry, Woodworth points out, meets his need for compatibility in the sound and the texture of his language. His inspiration comes from artists and writers to whom he feels a connection. "The City" is based on some woodcuts of Berlin and Paris created by Frans Magereel between the world wars. Says Woodworth, "After visiting Berlin I gained a greater understanding of the place and realized how evocative the images were."

He, too, writes poems in the voices of other people, primarily artists. "One way of finding my way into being a writer is looking at the world through accomplished writing. It's as if I'm linking to a literary continuum," explained Woodworth. The ability to communicate through another artist's voice is evident in Woodworth's first book, *Solo: Women Singer-Songwriters in Their Own Words* (Dell, 1998). Woodworth and Emma Dodge Hanson '93 collaborated on the volume, which featured his essays and her photographs. In that book, "I was trying to write their stories in their own voices. That book was not about me," he says.

Woodworth feels fortunate to have benefited from the wisdom of teachers like Richard Howard, the award-winning poet who has long been a member of the Summer Writers Institute faculty. As editor of *The Paris Review*, Howard was the first to publish some of the poems from *Arcade*. Woodworth acknowledges, "Richard really helped me. He is such a champion for young writers — and so generous. His encouragement was very important to me. When someone with the literary intelligence of Richard Howard thinks your work is OK, it's very empowering."

Woodworth's first poetry teacher was Skidmore Professor Barry Goldensohn. "I learned a lot from him," says Woodworth. "Whenever I read a poem that I first learned in his class, I still hear his voice. He becomes the sound of the poem for me."

Area poetry fans will soon have two opportunities to hear Woodworth talk about his writing. He has taped an interview with Paul Elisha of WAMC-FM, scheduled to air soon during the station's *Roundtable* program. And on March 20, Woodworth will share his poetry in a public reading beginning at 8 p.m. in the Surrey. For Woodworth, the former student who now teaches, the reading is rite of passage. "It will be a big event for me, having my former teachers in the audience along with my current students," he reflected. "You always think of yourself as a student, always learning."

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Government Professor Roy Ginsberg recently returned from his second trip to Germany in two months — this time, as an invited guest of the German Green Party to its annual foreign policy conference.

Ginsberg was a panelist on "The German Role in European Security Policy" with Daniel Cohn-Bendit, leader of the Greens in the European Parliament, and Daniel Vernet, editor of the French newspaper *Le Monde*.

According to Ginsberg, the Feb. 21-22 conference revealed strains within the Green Party, which is the junior partner in the current Red-Green federal coalition between Gerhard Schroeder (of the Social Democrats) and Joschka Fischer (of the Greens). Ginsberg believes "the fissures within the Greens on foreign policy do not bode well for the Green Party in the run-up to September's elections for the Bundestag" (Germany's parliament).

He explained that the Greens are internally divided over the leadership of Fischer. The left wing of the party (known as the Fundamentalists, or "Fundis") prefers a robust anti-American stance on the war against terrorism, while the party's right wing (the "Realos") supports Fischer's position on the deployment of German troops to help in securing post-war Afghanistan.

Additional complications are the weak German economy and growing government debt. Says Ginsberg, "The Germans will vote with their pocketbooks in September, unless the economy begins to turn around by summer. The Greens need to receive five percent of the national vote to retain seats in the Bundestag."

The Greens started as a social and environmental movement and entered the federal coalition four years ago. Since then, Ginsberg explained, "Party leaders have had to accept the responsibilities of political leadership, which means compromising on many of their core issues — especially with regard to environment — in order to share power in governing Europe's most powerful country. The results of September's parliamentary elections are important to Germany's friends in Europe and America. The central role that Germany plays in the construction of a democratic and stable Europe at a time of international terror is critically important to the capitals of Europe and to those of the new world, as well."

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In the News

Skidmore faculty and staff expertise has been in demand over the past few months, as the following media placements demonstrate:

Mary Lou Bates, dean of admissions and student aid, was a guest Jan. 27 on WGY Radio's Joe Gallagher program. Bates provided tips for high school students wrapping up their college applications. In addition, Bates was a source for a story on college applications published by the Scripps Howard News Service Feb. 12, 2002.

Economics Professor **Sandy Baum** was featured in an article on private college rules for financial aid, published on Bankrate.com, a major financial planning and services web site. To view the story, [follow this link](#).

Ian Berry, curator of the Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery, was a guest Jan. 24 on Roundtable, which is broadcast on WAMC-FM, the NPR affiliate in Albany.

Associate Professor of Exercise Science **Pat Fehling** was interviewed for an article titled "For Muscle Injuries, Many Treatments but Little Evidence," published Feb. 12 in *The New York Times*.

Ken Klotz, academic advisor, UWW; and **Don McCormack**, dean of special programs, were interviewed by *The New York Times* for a Feb. 18, 2002 story titled "Reviving Tradition of Betting Leads to Division in Saratoga."

Professor of Exercise Science **Jeff Segrave** was a source for a number of stories on the Olympics published since December. He was included in five stories in *The Christian Science Monitor*, three stories in *The Salt Lake City Tribune*, and two stories in the Provo (Utah) *Herald*. He also was quoted in *The New York Times*, *USA Today*, *The Minneapolis Star Tribune*, *The Deseret News* (Utah), *The Lawrence (Mass.) Eagle Tribune*, the Utica (N.Y.) *Observer-Dispatch*, and *Politiken*, a well-regarded Danish newspaper. Segrave was interviewed for a report broadcast on the National Public Radio network during *Weekend All Things Considered* (Feb. 10, 2002), and was a guest on several programs that aired on NPR affiliates in Providence, R.I., and in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Associate Professor of Religion **Mary Stange** was interviewed for "Fair Game," published Feb. 20 in *The Chicago Tribune*.

An essay by Palamountain Professor of Government **Aldo Vacs**, "Argentina must resolve its own crisis," was published Feb. 25 by the Albany *Times Union*.

SEFCU Hosts Annual Meeting

The Skidmore Employees Federal Credit Union has announced the results of elections from its Feb. 13 annual meeting.

Those elected to the board were Beth Brucker-Kane, Office of the Dean of Special Programs; Denise Hughes, Department of Art and Art History; Barbara Opitz, Office of the Dean of Studies; and Peggy Welch, Department of Facilities Services.

New officers are Kathleen Guay, president; Victoria Aldrich, first vice president; Mark Bauer, second vice president; Welch, treasurer; Opitz, associate treasurer; Hughes, secretary; and Dean Seneal, associate secretary.

The following prizes were awarded: a compact disk player, to Jeanne Eddy; a DVD player, to Lori Parks; and a TV, to Patricia Dziewit.

Membership in the credit union is open to all Skidmore employees and their families. The office, located on the first floor of Dana Science Center, is open from 9 am. to 4 p.m. daily.

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Faculty-Staff Activities

Sandy Baum, professor and chair, Department of Economics, is a researcher associated with the College Board's Blue-Ribbon Panel for the National Dialogue on Student Aid. Chaired by Gaston Caperton, president of the College Board, and Mike McPherson, president of Macalester College, the panel includes about 20 people (state governors and presidents of higher education organizations, among others). Baum addressed the group on the current status of student aid at its first meeting Feb. 27. On March 8, she will speak to a group from the Education Writers Association at the Michigan Journalism Fellows headquarters in Ann Arbor on the topic of the shifting of higher education costs from states to students.

Beau Breslin, assistant professor of government, and **John Howley**, trustee, were panelists March 2 for a discussion on "The Future of Clemency" during a conference on "The Law and Politics of the Death Penalty: Abolition, Moratorium, or Reform?" Sponsored by the Wayne Morse Center for Law and Politics at the University of Oregon, the national conference featured Charles J. Ogletree Jr. of Harvard University, author of *Black Man's Burden: The Death Penalty in America*, as conference host; noted prison minister Sister Helen Prejean, author of the book *Dead Man Walking*, and Stephen B. Bright of the Southern Center for Human Rights, an attorney who has successfully argued against the death penalty before the U.S. Supreme Court. Breslin and Howley's presentation, "The Politics of the Clemency," will be published in a forthcoming edition of the University of Oregon *Law Review* devoted to the topic of capital punishment.

Michael C. Ennis-McMillan, assistant professor of anthropology, translated and presented a paper titled "The Jose Acosta Field School in Tepetloaxtoc, State of Mexico," by Carmen Viqueira in the session "Long-Term Research Projects in Mexico: A Critical Review," at the 100th annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association Dec. 1 in Washington, D.C.

Christine Page, assistant professor of marketing, gave a presentation titled "Asymmetric judgments: Empirical support for bivariate representations of attitude" at the National Society for Consumer Psychology Conference Feb. 22 in Austin, Texas. Co-author of the study is Paul Herr, associate professor of marketing at the University of Colorado.

Lewis Rosengarten, lecturer, Liberal Studies, and academic counselor, HEOP, has been invited to present a lecture titled "Hard Bop Before Parker's Demise" at the College Music Society Conference April 6 at the Berklee School of Music in Boston.

Publications & Recordings

Sandy Baum, professor and chair, Department of Economics, is the author of the chapter, "College Education: Who Can Afford It?" appearing in *The Finance of Higher Education: Theory, Research, Policy, and Practice*, edited by Michael B. Paulsen, University of New Orleans, and John C. Smart, University of Memphis, and published this year by Agathon Press, New York.

Corey R. Freeman-Gallant, assistant professor of biology, has had two manuscripts accepted for publication. The first, an exploration of parental care in Savannah sparrows during the critical period when young have left the nest but are still dependent on their parents, will appear in the journal *Animal Behaviour*. Nathaniel Wheelwright and Kim Tice (Bowdoin College) are co-authors. The second paper also focuses on Savannah sparrows and characterizes the genetic architecture of the Major Histocompatibility Complex, a family of genes important to immune function in vertebrates. Liz Johnson '02 and Fiorella Saponara and Matt Stanger, both Class of '00, appear as co-authors of the manuscript, to be published in the journal *Molecular Ecology*.

Virginia Murphy-Berman, visiting professor of psychology, and **John Berman**, professor of psychology, are co-authors of "Cross-cultural differences in perceptions of distributive justice: A comparison of Hong Kong and Indonesia," published in *Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology*, No. 33.

Christine Page, assistant professor of marketing, published a paper titled "The impact of consumer environments on consumption patterns of children from disparate socioeconomic backgrounds" in the *Journal of Consumer Marketing*, Vol. 18, 2001. Nancy Ridgway is co-author.

Mark Vinci, lecturer in music, performed on a CD recorded by Michael Feinstein and titled *Romance on Film, Romance on Broadway* (Concord). The recording was nominated for a 2002 Grammy Award.

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