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Faculty & Staff Newsletter

Vol. 1, No. 8 - May 8, 2002

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Commencement '02 Honorees



Ken Burns



Arline Fisch '52



Harold Hongju Koh



Sara Lubin Schupf '62

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.

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Skidmore Prepares for 91st Commencement

Approximately 558 members of the Class of 2002 will receive their bachelor's degrees at Skidmore's 91st commencement ceremony, scheduled to begin at 1 p.m. Sunday, May 19, at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center.

Four people will receive honorary doctoral degrees at the ceremony: award-winning documentary filmmaker Ken Burns; Arline Fisch, Skidmore Class of '52, a noted artist who specializes in jewelry making; Harold Hongju Koh, professor of international law at Yale Law School; and Sara Lubin Schupf, Skidmore Class of '62, a trustee of the College. Each degree recipient will deliver remarks to the graduates and their guests. As is tradition at Skidmore, the keynote commencement address will be given by a faculty member selected by the graduating class. This year's selection is Professor of French John Anzalone.

The ceremony also will feature remarks by Skidmore President Jamiene S. Studley; Joan Layng Dayton, Skidmore Class of '63, chair of the College's board of trustees; and Reed Fischer, president of the Class of '02.

Other members of the Class of '02 to be honored at the ceremony include approximately 40 members of the University Without Walls, who will receive their bachelor's degrees, and seven candidates for the master of arts in liberal studies degree.

For more than 25 years, **Ken Burns** has produced popular, comprehensive documentary films that explore American history and culture. The most recent of these, *Mark Twain*, aired in January on the PBS network. *Jazz* is the third in Burns's trilogy of epic documentaries, which began with *The Civil War* and continued with *Baseball*.

His documentary *Empire of the Air: The Men Who Made Radio*, a look at the impact of radio on the 20th century, was based on a book written by Thomas S.W. Lewis, Quadracci Professor of Social Responsibility and professor of English at Skidmore. Lewis and Burns first collaborated on the 1981 film *Brooklyn Bridge*, which was nominated for an Academy Award. The duo also collaborated on the 1985 documentary *The Shakers: Hands to Work, Hearts to God*.

Arline Fisch is a crafter of metal and a jewelry designer whose works have won international acclaim. Now a professor emerita at San Diego State University, Fisch taught for more than 40 years, passing her craft along to younger generations.

Fisch's specialty is metal, and her works are considered as much art as adornment. Her distinctive creations combine metal and textile technologies, resulting in creations that are woven, braided, knitted, or crocheted metal. The structured forms are also soft and pliable -- dramatic in scale yet comfortable to the wearer.

She is represented in a number of prestigious permanent collections, including the American Craft Museum in New York City; the National Museum of Art in Kyoto, Japan; the Victoria and Albert Museum in London; and the Vatican Museum in Rome. A multiple Fulbright Fellowship winner, she earned a master's degree in art at the University of Illinois-Urbana.

Harold Hongju Koh is a leading authority on international law and human rights. A member of the Yale Law School faculty since 1985, he left Yale briefly in 1998 to serve as assistant secretary of state for democracy, human rights, and labor -- the department's chief human rights officer. He has received a number of awards for his human rights work, such as his representation of Haitian and Cuban refugees before the U.S. Supreme Court. He returned to Yale last year and is currently the Gerard C. and Bernice Latrobe Smith Professor of International Law.

Koh has written more than 70 articles and several books, including *The National Security Constitution: Sharing Power After the Iran-Contra Affair* (1990, Yale University Press), which won the American Political Science Association's award as the best book on the American presidency.

A graduate of Harvard, Oxford, and Harvard Law School, Koh was named a Marshall Scholar at Oxford in 1977 and was named a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2000.

Sara Lubin Schupf has long demonstrated a commitment to science, to women, and to education through her work on behalf of Skidmore and a number of other organizations. A graduate of the Emma Willard School in Troy, N.Y., and Skidmore, Schupf has served both as a trustee and in a number of other volunteer roles. She is a former president and former chair of the American Committee of the Weizmann Institute of Science, a multidisciplinary center devoted to research and teaching in the natural sciences, located in Rehovot, Israel. In 1997, the organization presented Schupf with its Chaim Weizmann Philanthropic Leadership Award for her dedication and singular commitment to the American Committee for the Weizmann Institute of Science.

One of Schupf's major interests is increasing the role of women in the sciences. Toward this goal, she has worked in leadership positions at a number of organizations: as a trustee of the New York Academy of Science and the New York Hall of Science, and as a member of the President's Circle of the National Academy of Science. She was recently elected a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the nation's preeminent scholarly society and research institution. At Skidmore, where she has been a trustee since 1993, Schupf and her family endowed the Charles Lubin Family Professorship for Women in Science, an endowed chair currently held by astrophysicist Dr. Mary Crone.

Keynote speaker **John Anzalone** was this year named the first recipient of Skidmore's Ralph A. Ciancio Award for Excellence in Teaching. (The award is named in honor of Ciancio, who retired in 2001 after a distinguished career as a professor of English at Skidmore.)



A Skidmore faculty member since 1985, Anzalone is known for an animated teaching style that brings some of the most difficult material to life for his students. His methods and style have had a remarkable impact, as demonstrated by this observation from one of Anzalone's students: "He changes the way you think about your work. Once you've had the experience of learning like this, you can't go back."

Anzalone earned a B.A. degree in French language and literature at the University of Massachusetts and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees, also in French language and literature, at Tufts University.

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Faculty & Staff Newsletter

Vol. 1, No. 8 - May 3, 2002**Presidents' Day Awards Presented**

President Studley presented Presidents' Day Awards to a selection of Skidmore community members in a campus ceremony April 26.

The awards honor individuals and groups who have embraced the educational mission and progressive spirit of the College through exemplary commitment to personal excellence, campus pride, and community service. This year's award recipients, and information from their award citations, follows:

Juan Martinez '03

A founding member and president of the student-activist club Turn Left, and a vigorous political campaigner since his sophomore year, Martinez dedicated himself to increasing Skidmore student voter registration and turnout in last November's Saratoga Springs elections. The pre-election candidates' night and Case Center voter registration table he organized ensured that the city's newest election district — the Skidmore campus — had a powerful impact. Martinez's exceptional commitment and tireless effort have raised student consciousness about voting and generated engagement among students in local politics.

Elyssa and Rebecca Brand, both Class of '02

Elyssa and Rebecca Brand are well known around campus for "giving 110 percent in everything they do," as a fellow student put it, and for quietly and consistently putting the needs of others above their own. Actively involved in many aspects of campus and community life, the Brands work in Skidmore's Writing Center and Early Childhood Center, coach Special Olympics swimmers, and volunteer as Big Sisters to two local children. They also organized a student-teaching buddy program, guided campus tours, and served as LS1 tutors while maintaining highest honors and a place on the dean's list for four years. Their generosity and unfailing energy for the good of the community are an inspiration to students and faculty.

Susan Rosenberg, editor of *Scope*

As chair of the Campus Environment Committee, *Scope* Editor Susan Rosenberg has lent her trademark humor, editorial excellence, and persuasive powers to CEC issues large and small, from e-mail alerts on upcoming lawn pesticide applications to recycling tips for the CEC Web site, from a new recycling internship to a full-scale stewardship plan for the North Woods. Under her leadership, the committee's efforts have won consideration for environmental issues in every aspect of the College's decision-making. Rosenberg's good sense, appreciation of complex issues, and commitment to recycling and preservation make her an inspired and inspiring champion of the Skidmore environment.

**Cheryl Towers, administrative assistant,
Department of Chemistry and Physics**

Outstandingly well-organized and famously willing to handle new challenges, Towers is noted for her high level of job competence and sound administrative experience. But she is even better known for the above-and-beyond support she offers faculty, students, and community members—staying after hours to receive late-day course evaluations, serving on the College's Affirmative Action Committee, attending student activities ranging from dance recitals to each year's Honors Convocation, keeping information files for pre-med students, and much more. Her unflagging loyalty, generosity, and powerful work ethic make Towers an outstanding member of the Skidmore community.

Frank Clark, lecturer, Department of Mathematics and Computer Science

An adjunct instructor and head tutor at Skidmore for 22 years, Clark teaches computer science and quantitative reasoning, and assists with exam preparation and test administration. But his greatest asset is his extraordinary ability to help math-challenged students feel more at ease with the subject. Clark often spends hours beyond his scheduled work day helping struggling students, even those not enrolled in his own classes. One faculty member describes him as "our department's best weapon against math phobia." With his unselfish dedication and unstinting efforts to bring understanding to math students, Clark is a vital resource for his department and the College.

Phyllis Roth, professor of English

For more than 25 years Roth has embodied the ideal of service to Skidmore. An accomplished Nabokov scholar and a widely recognized Dracula expert, Roth has served as professor and chair of the English Department, as dean of the faculty, and as both acting and interim president of the College. As dean, her ability to attend to the details of administration while keeping her eye on the grand vision has seen the College successfully through assessment and reconfiguration, the inauguration of the Tang Teaching Museum, and increasing excellence in teaching and scholarship. Roth's service also includes work on the current athletic review, decades of mentoring, and the Dracula exhibition on campus. Enthusiastic, energetic, supremely confident of Skidmore's achievements and potential, she is a model of dedication and commitment.

The V-Day/*Vagina Monologues* Team

The 19 student members of Skidmore's V-Day team were honored for organizing the College's first V-Day observation, featuring performances of Eve Ensler's off-Broadway play, *The Vagina Monologues*. Produced in conjunction with the international V-Day movement to stop violence against women and girls, the Skidmore event raised money for the Saratoga Rape Crisis Center and benefited V-Day's Spotlight on Afghan Women.

Their exceptionally hard and dedicated work created close bonds, an extraordinarily professional production, and a provocative contribution to our community.

The Faculty/Staff Club Staff

The Faculty/Staff Club's fine food is garnished with the service of a staff whose attentive, impeccable care makes the Faculty/Staff Club and Case Center's Burgess Café extraordinarily pleasant places to dine. Distinguished for their good cheer and fine humor, thoughtfulness and kindness, the team of Karen Stevens and Mary Ellen May, supported by the wonderful staff who work with them, cheerfully greet newcomers and "regulars," unfailingly remembering who likes spicy mustard and who appreciates extra potato chips. Their ebullience, warmth, and attention to detail reflect the best of the Skidmore spirit.

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Vol. 1, No. 8 - May 8, 2002**In the News**

Skidmore's faculty and staff were featured in a number of stories in the general media this spring, as demonstrated by the following list:

Sandy Baum, professor and chair, Department of Economics, was included in stories in *Education Daily* ("National Panel Seeks to Improve Financial Aid System," March 8, 2002), *The Wall Street Journal* ("Colleges Clamp Down on Financial Aid," April 11, 2002), *U.S. News & World Report* ("Should You Study Part Time?" April 15, 2002), the *Albany Times Union* ("College Smart Loans face uncertain future," May 1, 2002), and *The Los Angeles Times* ("College Further from Poor's Grasp, Study Shows," May 2, 2002).

Robert Boyers, Tisch Professor of Arts and Letters and professor of English, was in *Newsday* ("Filling the Void," April 10, 2002); Government Professor **Roy Ginsberg** was a guest March 15 on "Roundtable," a program on WAMC-FM, a National Public Radio affiliate in Albany, discussing his participation in the German Green Party's annual conference in Berlin (the segment aired a second time during the station's March 17 news broadcast).

Timothy Harper, visiting instructor in the Department of Management and Business, in *The Sunday Gazette* ("Reparations Pick Up Steam," April 28, 2002); **Mary Stange**, associate professor of women's studies and religion, in *USA Today* ("Female priests provide answer," April 4, 2002), Professor **Jeffrey Segrave**, chair of the Department of Exercise Science, Dance, and Athletics, in *The Chronicle of Higher Education* ("Dancing from Classroom to Locker Room," May 3, 2002) and in the Danish newspaper *Politiken* in an April 13, 2002 article on sport and politics; **Robert Shorb**, director, Student Aid and Family Finance, in *The Post-Star* ("Bush loan proposal riles Schumer," May 1, 2002); and Professor **Jill Sweet** and Tang Museum Curator **Ian Berry**, in an April 19 segment of "Roundtable" on WAMC-FM, discussing "Staging the Indian: The Politics of Representation," currently on exhibit at the museum.

Skidmore Yard Sale to Benefit Community Groups

Every spring at Skidmore, as students hurry to move out and head home, they inevitably leave behind clothes, lamps, furniture, bathroom and kitchen supplies, small appliances, and other items. This spring, those goods will be made available — at bargain tag-sale prices — to the Saratoga Springs community.

The nonprofit group Dump & Run Inc., a veteran sponsor of such events, has partnered with campus and community volunteers to collect unwanted items and sell them in a gigantic yard sale for the benefit of local charities.

Among the participating groups, whose volunteers will staff the sale and bring home a share of the proceeds, are the CAPTAIN Youth and Family Services, the Shelter of Saratoga, the Salvation Army's Youth-at-Risk Program, the Saratoga Center for the Family, and Transitional Services Association. Skidmore recycling intern Mary Patterson, who is organizing the dormitory clean-out and sale, says the volunteers will also include Skidmore students, faculty, and staff.

The Dump & Run yard sale is scheduled from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sunday, May 26, rain or shine, at the Saratoga Farmers' Market pavilion on High Rock Avenue. The event is free and open to the public.

Dump & Run founder Lisa Heller held her first college-based recycling sale three years ago at the University of Richmond. Since then, colleges from Tufts and Columbia to Bates and Acadia have partnered with Dump & Run to raise money for a wide array of nonprofit service organizations.

To support the Skidmore effort, Morr-is-Stored has donated storage lockers, and Patterson is negotiating with local truck-rental agencies as well. Skidmore's residential life and facilities services offices will help with the clean-out as usual — but this year, their labors will contribute to the community instead of to the landfill.

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Faculty-Staff Activities

A project coordinated by **Megan Baumgartner**, assistant director of the annual fund, has earned mention in *Successful Fund Raising*. She instituted a Senior Gift Challenge this year to encourage more members of the graduating class to become first-time contributors to the annual fund. The goal is to get 80 percent of the senior class to contribute. If the goal is met, two anonymous donors (both alumni) will make up the difference so that a \$10,000 scholarship named for the Class of '02 will be presented to a member of the Class of '03. Although the goal has not yet been met, Baumgartner is optimistic that it will be by commencement. *Successful Fund Raising* is a monthly newsletter published by Stevenson Communications, Sioux City, Iowa.

David Domozych, professor of biology, and students Rachael Roberts '04 and Becca Flitter '02 presented a paper titled "Plasmolysis, hechtian strand formation and protoplast production in the desmid, *Closterium*" at the 41st annual Northeast Algal Symposium April 19-21 at the University of New Hampshire, Durham. The society —the oldest regional botanical society in the country — will have next year's symposium in late April at Skidmore.

Robert Foulke, professor emeritus of English, has been lecturing on sea literature and maritime history on board sailing vessels frequently during the past year. Voyages on board Royal Clipper, a new 430-foot five-masted fully square-rigged ship, include a transatlantic crossing from Barbados to Cannes and a cruise through the Caribbean Lesser Antilles. On board the Star Clipper, a 360-foot barquentine, he lectured during a cruise along the Tyrrhenian coast of Italy and another transatlantic crossing from Civitavecchia, port for Rome, to St. Maarten. In July, he will present the closing paper in another nautical venue, the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich, as part of an international Joseph Conrad conference focusing on Conrad and the sea.

Susan Kress, Class of 1948 Professor for Excellence in Teaching and professor of English, has several activities from the past academic year: in March she was invited to review the English Department of Lynchburg College; in November 2001, she chaired the team reviewing the English Department of Yeshiva University. At the December 2001 Modern Language Association Convention, she was the invited respondent for a session related to the MLA Forum on "Understanding Teaching." In June 2001 at the Association of Departments of English Seminar, Kress (along with Iain Crawford, dean of the University of Southern Indiana) was invite to run a full-day workshop for newly appointed chairs of English departments from a variety of institutions across the country. She also moderated a series of panels on faculty evaluation and development.

Murray Levith, professor of English, was a visiting fellow last fall at the Shakespeare Institute, Stratford-Upon-Avon, England. The Institute is administered by the University of Birmingham. He gave a series lecture titled "Journey to the East: The Early History of Shakespeare in China" to fellows, faculty, and graduate students while there.

Publications & Exhibitions

Mary Crone, Lubin Family Professor for Women in Science and assistant professor of physics, has two new publications. She is co-author (with Regina E. Schulte-Ladbeck, Ulrich Hopp, and Laura Greggio) of "The Star Formation History of the Blue Compact Dwarf Galaxy UGCA 290," in *The Astrophysical Journal*, Vol. 567, March 2002. She also is a co-author (with D. Kahler '02, and Schulte-Ladbeck) of "The Star Formation History of SBS 1415 +437" in *Bulletin of the American Astronomical Society* 199, January 2002.

Mary Ann and Hugh Foley, professors in the Department of Psychology, have a new paper titled "Adapting a Memory Framework (Source Monitoring) to the Study of Closure Processes" accepted for publication in the April issue of *Memory & Cognition*. Co-author is Lisa Korenman '97. Mary Ann Foley also has a paper soon to appear in the *Journal of Cognition and Development*. This paper, "Anticipations and Source Monitoring Errors: Children's Memory for Collaborative Activities," was co-written with Hilary H. Ratner, associate dean of Wayne State University, and A. Tanner House '00.

Robert Foulke, professor emeritus of English, reports that his *The Sea Voyage Narrative* (1997, Twayne) was selected for republication in paper by Routledge and appeared in January. In addition, Foulke and his wife, Patricia, have published their ninth and 10th travel books, *Daytrips and Getaway Weekends in Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts*, and *Daytrips and Getaway Weekends in Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine* (both 2001, Globe Pequot Press).

Deb Hall, assistant professor of art, had her work selected for inclusion in a juried exhibition, "Digital Art 2002," through May 10 at Kentucky State University.

Susan Kress, Class of 1948 Professor for Excellence in Teaching, is the author of "Course Evaluations: The Roles and Needs of Students, Faculty Members, and Administrators," in the Fall 2000 issue of the *ADE Bulletin*.

Murray Levith, professor of English, has the lead essay titled "Shakespeare's *Merchant* and Marlowe's *Other Play*," in *The Merchant of Venice: New Critical Essays*, edited by J.W. and E.M. Mahaon and due in July from Routledge.

John Moore, senior artist-in-residence, Department of Art, curated an exhibition titled "Altered: Installations by Sam Kraus, Paolo Pelosini, and Steve Staso," exhibited Jan. 19 through March 9 at Art in General, New York City's leading nonprofit arts organization, as part of its yearlong anniversary program celebrating 20 years of exhibitions, artists residencies, education, and public programs in lower Manhattan.

In addition, a painting by Moore, "Harold, Martin & Sam," (1988, oil on canvas) owned by the High Museum of Art in Atlanta, Ga., is included in the book *In the Spirit of Martin: The Living Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.* (2002, Tinwood Books), created and developed by Gary Miles Chassman. Moore is one of a number of artists and writers (including Robert Indiana, Philip Guston, Andy Warhol, Robert Rauschenberg, Gwendolyn Brooks, Nikki Giovanni, and Julius Lester) whose work is featured in the book.

Christine Page, assistant professor of marketing, received a High Commendation Award for her paper, "The impact of consumer environments on consumption patterns of children from disparate socioeconomic backgrounds," for being one of the four best papers published in the *Journal of Consumer Marketing* in 2001. Nancy Ridgway is co-author.

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