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Skidmore Intercom

Faculty & Staff Newsletter

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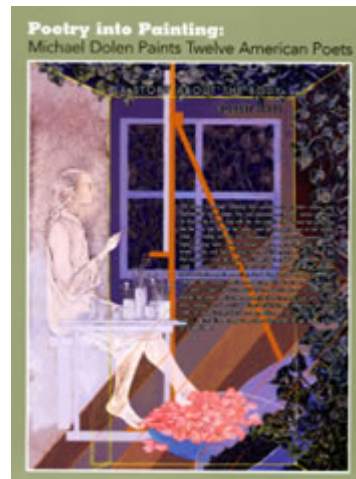
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Sonnabend at the Tang
 Jeff Koons - *Rabbit* (1986)
 Stainless steel, 41 x 19 x 12 in.
 Courtesy of the Sonnabend Collection



Summer Jazz Institute
 July at Skidmore means Jazz!
 Come hear Chucho Valdes on campus July 9.



NYS Summer Writers Institute
 Poetry into Painting - New exhibition to showcase NYS Writers Institute poets.

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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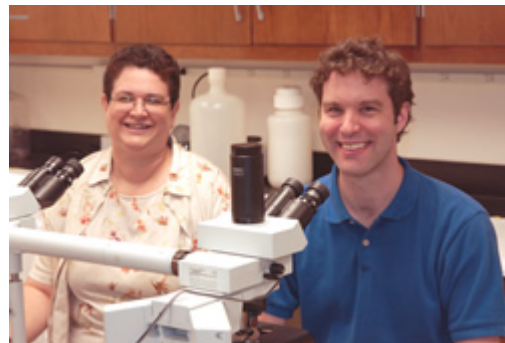
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\$900K NIH Grant to Support Estrogen Research



Assistant Professor of Biology Marc J. Tetel's research on the action of estrogen in the brain has garnered \$892,000 in funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), through its National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases. Funding has been awarded to Tetel and Skidmore for four years, beginning with \$219,000 in the academic year 2002-03.

"This is wonderful news, and needless to say, important work," said Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty Charles Joseph, adding that it is work such as Tetel's that helps Skidmore continue to develop "an enviable reputation as a research institution."

Tetel studies ovarian steroid hormones, estradiol and progesterone, particularly the way in which they act in the brain to regulate gene expression and female reproductive behavior. His research will focus on how estrogen interacts with its receptor and other proteins, known as nuclear receptor coactivators, to activate specific genes in the brain. Results of his research, begun with an earlier grant of \$100,000 from NIH and the Office of Research for Women's Health, have implications for hormone-influenced diseases and disorders, including depression and breast cancer.

The grant will support research equipment, supplies, and personnel — a full-time technician, three student research assistants, and possibly a postdoctoral researcher as well. In the mode of Skidmore collaborative research, each student will have an independent project. About 20 percent of the grant will go to the College in support of Tetel's research.

Tetel joined the College as assistant professor of biology in 2001, concurrent with the start of a new major in neurosciences. "I was looking for a school that valued teaching and research, in a liberal arts environment with bright students," says Tetel, who says he was also drawn to the college by "the way Skidmore is supporting and developing the sciences." He teaches an introductory course in neuroscience and an advanced course in neuroendocrinology, in addition to serving as part of the faculty team for Liberal Studies 1, the course taken by all first-year Skidmore students.

A graduate of Northwestern University, where he earned a B.A. in biological sciences, Tetel earned a Ph.D. in neurosciences and behavior at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Prior to coming to Skidmore, he did postdoctorate work in molecular endocrinology at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center and was visiting assistant professor at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. His work has been published in the Journal of Neuroendocrinology, Molecular Endocrinology, Endocrinology, and the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Photo above: Marc Tetel and research assistant Cheryl Jenks, a 1999 Skidmore graduate, share a light moment in the lab.

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"From Pop to Now:" A Summer Spectacular at the Tang

The Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery is presenting "From Pop to Now: Selections from the Sonnabend Collection," an extensive exhibition of works from the private collection of gallery owners Ileana and Michael Sonnabend. The exhibition runs through Sept. 29.

Organized by the Tang Museum and curated by Charles Stainback, Dayton Director of the Tang, the exhibition will travel nationally after it closes at Skidmore. The exhibition features key works originally shown at the Sonnabends' Paris and New York galleries, together with rarely seen pieces from their private collection. Fifty-four artists are represented, including Jasper Johns, Robert Rauschenberg, Claes Oldenburg, Roy Lichtenstein, and Andy Warhol, Bruce Nauman, Anselm Kiefer, Jeff Koons, and Christian Boltanski.

Ileana and Michael Sonnabend have been a seminal force in the contemporary art world for more than 40 years, identifying emerging artists and introducing their work to wide audiences in both Europe and the United States. The Sonnabend galleries were among the first to present such artistic breakthroughs as Pop Art, *arte povera*, Minimalism, Conceptualism, Neo-geo, and video art. Recently widowed, Ileana Sonnabend continues to collect artists who work in traditional and nontraditional media such as photography, video, and site-specific installation.

Organized chronologically and in thematic groupings, "From Pop to Now" addresses the intersection of a range of artistic styles explored since Abstract Expressionism. "By looking at the progression of artistic activity since 1960 through the eyes of a unique collector, this exhibition serves as a prologue to the future of contemporary art," said Stainback. "From day one, the Tang has been committed to looking beyond what is expected of an art museum, and the vision of Ileana Sonnabend — her passion for being daring and looking forward — clearly reflects our goals for this young museum."

"From Pop to Now: Selections from the Sonnabend Collection" has been made possible with the support of Mr. and Mrs. Edgar J. Wachenheim III, Beverly Beatson Grossman '58 and Felix T. Grossman, the Edward J. Noble Foundation, AT&T, *The Times Union*, and the Friends of the Tang.

Public Events

A daylong community-wide opening reception is planned for Saturday, June 29; featuring gallery tours, live music, light refreshments, and children's activities. "From Pop to Now" will be augmented by an array of free public programs and events, including gallery tours, lectures, evening "Dialogues" featuring exhibiting artists, a video and documentary film series, and a series of "Family Saturday" workshops. An illustrated catalogue will be available at the museum store.

After closing at the Tang Museum in the fall, "From Pop to Now" will travel to the Wexner Center for the Arts at Ohio State University, the Milwaukee Art Museum, and additional venues around the country.

The Tang Museum is open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday, and is closed on Mondays and major holidays. Admission to the Sonnabend exhibition is free for members of the Skidmore community. The suggested donation for other visitors is \$5 for adults, \$3 for children ages 12 and older, and senior citizens. Children less than 12 years old are admitted free. For more information, please visit hudson2.skidmore.edu/tang or call 518-580-8080.

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Summer Programs Appeal to a Variety of Interests

Summer scheduling by the Office of the Dean of Special Programs is well under way. Music fans will welcome the latest information on the wildly popular free concerts offered as part of the [Summer Jazz Institute](#), while lovers of literature are sure to find the season's schedule of special events in connection with the [New York State Summer Writers Institute](#) to be most appealing. All events are free and open to the public.

Writers Institute Art Exhibit

Something new on this summer's calendar is an exhibition of digital prints by area artist Michael Dolen in conjunction with the New York State Summer Writers Institute. The exhibition will run for the duration of the summer institute, through July 26 in the Payne Presentation Room of the Tang Museum.

The prints, each one 48 by 36 inches, are built around poems by a dozen poets who have been closely associated with the institute, as teachers and as visiting writers. The poems appear inside the prints themselves, with each print creating a vivid interaction between image and text.

Among the poets involved in the exhibition are former U.S. Poet Laureates Robert Pinsky and Robert Hass; *English Patient* author Michael Ondaatje, Pulitzer Prize winners Richard Howard, Carl Dennis, C.K. Williams and Louise Gluck; and other prominent poets who teach at the institute, including Frank Bidart, Carolyn Forché, and Lucie Brock-Broido.

Writers institute Director Robert Boyers writes in his brochure essay that the Dolen prints demonstrate "some of the unexpected uses to which the relatively new print medium may be put, so that it is not at all misleading to speak of the works in the exhibition as both 'prints' and 'paintings.'"

"Of course," Dolen has said of his works, "I was working with two computer programs, Photoshop and QuarkXpress, and so there was no question that I was making prints. But I wanted to make prints that look like paintings, and that have many of the sensuous qualities of oil paintings, including texture and depth. Equally important, I wanted to create for each poem a visual image that would complement the text and inspire the viewer of these prints to stand in front of them and take in not only the image but the poem."

A number of writers institute public events will be held in the Payne Presentation Room of the Tang in July, so that audiences will sit surrounded by the Dolen prints. The first of these events is the opening night poetry reading by Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award-winner Richard Howard, at 8 p.m. Monday, July 1. Both the poet and the artist will be present at the reception immediately following the event at the Spa in Case College Center. The public is welcome.

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\$50K Gift from AT&T Foundation Supports Tang Exhibition

The Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery at Skidmore has received a \$50,000 grant from the AT&T Foundation to support "From Pop to Now: Selections from the Sonnabend Collection," open through Sept. 29 at the museum.

In announcing the grant, AT&T Regional Vice President John Ryan said, "AT&T remains committed to learning through the arts. It's an honor to team with Skidmore College to provide students and the entire community with this world-class exhibit." College President Jamiene S. Studley, noting the Tang as an example of "a new form of teaching," expressed appreciation to AT&T for its "understanding of innovative teaching." Said Studley, "We value your imagination in seeing what is possible."

An array of free public programs and events has been organized throughout the summer to celebrate the exhibition. Activities will include gallery tours, lectures, evening "Dialogues" featuring exhibiting artists, a video and documentary film series, and a series of "Family Saturday" workshops. Details about "From Pop to Now" activities are available via the [Skidmore online calendar](#).

Tuition Exchange Program Celebrates Anniversary

Robert Shorb, director of Student Aid and Family Finance, was Skidmore's representative at the June 6 annual meeting of the Tuition Exchange Board of Directors, where the program's 50th anniversary was celebrated.

Tuition Exchange (TE), a reciprocal scholarship program for children and other family members of faculty and staff employed at more than 520 participating institutions, was launched March 16, 1952, in Albany, N.Y., where 18 presidents, deans, and other officials representing 15 colleges and universities started the Exchange of Tuition for Faculty Children. The motivation behind the association was the need to attract professors to teach growing student numbers at colleges and universities. Within a year, 41 institutions were participating. TE was chartered in 1954 and expanded to include dependents of non-faculty staff. The Ford Foundation provided funding.

Skidmore's then-business manager, Dr. Fenton Keyes, was one of the five members of the original TE executive committee. Skidmore was a member of TE for three years, dropping out in 1955. In April 1992, the College rejoined the TE and has maintained its membership since then.

This year more than 3,000 students received a TE scholarship. For more information on the program, [click here](#).

Mexico's Water Problems Topic of Professor's Book

La Purificación Tepetitla: Agua potable y cambio social en el somontano (Drinking Water and Social Change in the Foothills), by **Michael C. Ennis-McMillan**, assistant professor of anthropology, has been published by Universidad Iberoamericana and Archivo Histórico del Agua, México, 2001.

Providing safe and adequate drinking water supplies to a growing population has become one of Mexico's most pressing social issues. To better understand the cultural and political dimensions of Mexico's water problems, Ennis-McMillan analyzes the relationship between drinking water management and social change in *La Purificación Tepetitla*, a foothill community in the Valley of Mexico. Based on the author's ethnographic and archival research conducted since 1993, the book explores how communities use traditional civil and religious institutions to address conflicts over local control of water supplies. Ennis-McMillan's work highlights the importance of community-based resource management strategies for creating sustainable drinking water systems in developing countries.

He completed the book during a sabbatical leave for academic year 2001-02 while he was a visiting research fellow at the Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies, University of California at San Diego. Ennis-McMillan teaches courses in anthropology, environmental studies, international affairs, and Latin American studies.

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Jacqueline Azzarto, associate professor of social work and director of the Social Work Program, received a National Community Action Award this spring from the Saratoga County Economic Opportunity Council. One of five community leaders to be honored, Azzarto was recognized for her work on behalf of low-income families in Saratoga County over the years. Her leadership within the EOC, as well as her work with other community agencies to develop programs to serve the poor, were cited. In addition, Azzarto's encouragement of numerous students to work in Saratoga County community agencies was recognized.

Jay Rogoff, lecturer in English, spent eight weeks in residence at Yaddo, Jan. 10-March 7, where he also served as special assistant to the president.

He presented his Speakers in the Humanities slide talk, "No Place Like Home: Ballparks, Cities, and Visions of Paradise," several times this spring: March 24 at the Preservation Foundation of Erie County in Buffalo; April 11 at Mohawk Valley Community College in Utica; and April 28 at the William K. Sanford Town Library in Colonie. The talks were sponsored by the New York Council for the Humanities. On April 9, in anticipation of the Utica presentation, he was interviewed on Utica radio about baseball, ballparks, and communities.

On April 2, in celebration of National Poetry Month and the Tang Teaching Museum's "Chain Reaction" Rube Goldberg exhibition, Rogoff participated in a Poetry Chain Reaction as part of the Tang Dialogue series, along with **Peg Boyers**, executive editor of *Salmagundi*; **Barry Goldensohn**, professor of English; and six Skidmore student poets.

David Vella, associate professor of mathematics, was one of the organizers of the annual Hudson River Undergraduate Mathematics Conference (HUMC) April 27 at Hamilton College in Clinton, N.Y. Also attending the event from Skidmore were **Mark Hofmann**, associate professor of mathematics, and **Mark Huibregtse**, professor and chair of the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, as well as several Skidmore students. The conference drew more than 300 participants from more than 40 colleges and universities in the Northeast.

In addition to designing and maintaining the [HRUMC](#) web site, collecting the abstracts for the talks on-line, and helping to schedule more than 120 talks, Vella chaired one of the sessions in abstract algebra and presented a lecture, "The Overlap Index of a Coupled Parabolic System." Three Skidmore students also gave talks: Adam Lahti '02 presented "Coxeter Groups in Nature"; Jason Dolmetsch '03 gave a talk on "Liebniz's Formula for pi/4"; and Kendrah Murphy '03 gave a talk titled "Euler's Formula for pi-squared/6." Skidmore has hosted the conference twice — in 1996 and in 2001. Next year marks the 10th anniversary of the HRUMC, which will convene at Union College.

Alan Wheelock, visiting associate professor of English, was the advertised speaker at Colonie Library's book discussion series, "The John Steinbeck Centennial Celebration: 1902-2002," funded in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities. He spoke on Steinbeck's 1936 best-seller, *In Dubious Battle*, whose publication raised accusations of communist sentiments in the author. After delivering a short overview of the rise of radical literature during the 1930s, Wheelock joined the group for a roundtable discussion of the novel and its issues.

Publications

Catherine Golden, professor of English, published "Late 20th-Century Readers in Search of a Dickensian Heroine: Angels, Fallen Sisters, and Eccentric Women" in *Modern Language Studies*, Vol. 30, No. 2, (Autumn 2000), which was released this spring. Her essay received the 30th Anniversary Northeast Modern Language Association Prize. Golden's review of Oscar Wilde's *Decorated Books* has been published in *Victorian Studies*, Vol. 44, No. 1 (Autumn 2001). In addition, her LS2 101H class, titled "The Victorian Illustrated Book," put on an exhibition, "Dressed to Express: Costume in Victorian Illustration," March 18 to April 14 in the Winter Gallery of the Tang Museum.

Jay Rogoff, lecturer in English, has had several poems published recently: "The Hildesheim Doors" appeared in *The Progressive*, Vol. 65, No. 12 (December 2001); "Death in Waiting" in *The Comstock Review*, Vol. 15, No. 2 (Winter 2001); "The Field," "Scenery," and "The Soul" in *Many Mountains Moving*, Vol. 4, No. 3 (Winter 2001); "A Ghost," "My Grandmother in the Home," and "Toll Road, Winter" in *Metroland*, Vol. 25, No. 3 (Jan. 17, 2002), as that weekly paper's first-ever poetry feature; and "Mennonites by the Sea" in *The Southern Review*, Vol. 38, No. 1 (Winter 2002). Two of his poems from *The Cutoff* have been reprinted in *Line Drives: 100 Contemporary Baseball Poems*, edited by Brooke Horvath and Tim Wiles (Carbondale: Southern Illinois UP, 2002). In addition, Rogoff has had the following poems accepted for publication: "First Dance" and "Last Dance" by *Green Mountains Review*; "Donne's Effigy" and "The Glass of Fashion and the Mold of Form" by *The Paris Review*; and "Memorial Chapel" by *The Progressive*.

Rogoff also contributed the essay "Abstracting Anne Diggory" to the catalog of the painter's retrospective exhibition, *Anne Diggory: Twenty-Five Years, 1977-2002*, which showed at the Saratoga County Arts Council Gallery April 4-27, 2002.

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