

I

Highlights

[Asian Studies
Conference Upcoming](#)

[Panel Focus:
Islam, War and Terror](#)

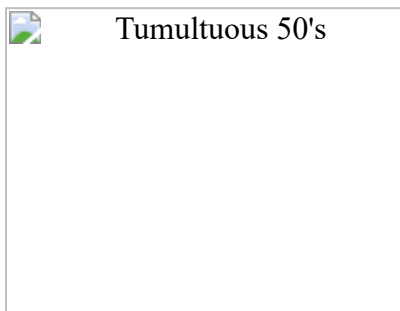
[Tang's Fall Shows
Sparkle](#)

Printable Version

Skidmore Intercom

Faculty & Staff Newsletter

Vol. 2, No. 3 - October 16, 2002



Tumultuous 50's

Tumultuous 50's Photo Exhibition
Opening at the Tang. [View here](#)



"Asia: Image, Imaging, and
Imagination" scheduled Oct. 25-26
on campus (Doretta Miller image)
[View here](#)



Fred Wilson Exhibition at the
Tang this fall. [View here](#)

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

Skidmore College
815 North Broadway
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
518.580.5000
intercom@skidmore.edu

I
HOME

Highlights

[Asian Studies
Conference Upcoming](#)[Panel Focus:
Islam, War and Terror](#)[Tang's Fall Shows
Sparkle](#)

Printable Version

Skidmore Intercom

Faculty & Staff Newsletter

Vol. 2, No. 3 - October 16, 2002**Skidmore to Host Major Asian Studies Conference**

International scholars will gather at Skidmore Friday and Saturday, Oct. 25 and 26, for the annual meeting of the New York Conference of Asian Studies (NYCAS).

Skidmore Trustee Oscar Tang will be among the dignitaries addressing the approximately 200 participants of the event, which has as its theme "Asia: Image, Imaging, and Imagination." Also attending the conference will be David Ludden, professor of history at the University of Pennsylvania and a specialist in South Asian studies, who currently serves as president of the Association for Asian Studies. He will give the presidential address at Friday evening's dinner.

A number of panels and discussion groups over the two days will be devoted to analyzing such questions as the images outsiders have of Asians and the images Asians present to themselves and others; the technologies that render Asia and Asians into images - and the impact of such media as documentaries and feature films on the teaching of Asian Studies; and the different traditions of imagination in Asia, including the literary, poetic, artistic, philosophical, religious, and political.

Mao Chen, director of Skidmore's Asian Studies Program and chair of the conference, explained, "Our conference theme encourages an interface between disciplines and geographical interests, and we hope it will bring a broad range of scholars from various academic fields to this meeting.

"Asia has been defined in the imagination of the West with different images — some demonized, static or passive; some idealized, exotic or spiritual. I believe that our imagination of the other is very often determined by the historical givens and by the need of the self. It is my hope that the conference will provide a forum for participants and our students to learn about many myths and realities of Asia and ultimately deepen our self-knowledge and cultural understanding."

Each day will have a highlight event. The conference banquet, scheduled Oct. 25 at the Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery, will feature Ludden's address, "Maps in the Mind and Mobility of Asia." Following his talk, guests will move to the Dance Theater for "Bridge of Souls," a performance by the Chamber Music Society of Minnesota with guest soloist Xiao-fen Min, who plays the pipa, a Chinese four-stringed lute.

A University of Pennsylvania faculty member since 1981, Ludden is the former director of Penn's National Resource Center for South Asia and past chair of the university's Department of South Asia Regional Studies. His research has focused primarily on India and its political, economic, and cultural developments. His most recent book, titled *India and South Asia: A Short History*, is forthcoming from OneWorld Publishers. Ludden has received a number of Fulbright grants and fellowships to support his research.

At 1 p.m. Oct. 26, in Gannett Auditorium, Oscar Tang will give the event's plenary address. He is expected to provide a personal perspective on the Asian-American experience and include discussion of the two great waves of Chinese immigration to the United States, in the 1800s and in the late 20th century. President Jamiene S. Studley will introduce Tang.

Best known at Skidmore for the Tang Museum, named for his first wife, the late Frances Young Tang '61, Oscar Tang is also the father of Kristen Tang '92. A native of Shanghai, with a Yale B.S. and a Harvard M.B.A., he founded the investment firm of Reich and Tang, which later combined with Nvest. He is now a private investor and chair of KOA Holdings.

A longtime trustee of the China Institute of New York City, Tang is a founder of the Committee of 100, a national organization committed to Asia-America understanding. He is also a trustee of, and art donor to, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, where a new gallery for Chinese art was recently named for Frances Young Tang.

Conference panels begin during the afternoon of Oct. 25 and continue throughout the day on Saturday, Oct. 26. Panels will cover a wide range of topics, including images from Taiwan and Indonesia of civil society, human rights, and political change; social values and ethics; the religion, politics, and environment of India; recent politics in the People's Republic of China; the 1989 Tian'anmen protest; gender issues in China and Hong Kong; Japanese cinema; and military history in Northeast Asia.

Throughout the conference, an exhibition titled "36 Ancient Strategies of China" by artists Liming Tang and Xiaohuan Lee will be displayed in the Tang Museum, and a book exhibition of Asian Studies texts will take place in the lobby of Palamountain/Dana halls complex.

Skidmore participants and their topics include the following:

- Joel Smith, associate professor of philosophy, who will chair the panel on "India: Religion, Politics, and the Environment" and present the paper, "Gandhi, the Goddess and the Ganges: Liquid Shakti in the Indian Himalayas."
- Mao Chen, director of Skidmore's Asian Studies Program, Birgit Linder, Asian Studies teaching fellow, and Jack Ling, director of the Office of Diversity and Affirmative Action, who will be discussants at the panel on "Teaching Images of China."
- Doretta Miller, professor of art, who will discuss "The Languages of Visual Space in Contemporary Chinese Painting" in the panel "Interpretations and Applications of 36 Strategies of Ancient China."
- Charles Joseph, interim vice president of academic affairs and dean of the faculty, who will introduce David Ludden at Friday's banquet.
- Margaret Pearson, associate professor of history, will present "Images of Women in Early China" and Megan Rhodes '03 will present "Gender in Contemporary China," both as part of the panel, "Gender Images: Examples from China and Hong Kong."
- Virginia Murphy-Berman, visiting professor of psychology, and John Berman, professor of psychology, who will present "Difference in Western and Non-Western Construals of Fairness and Duty: An Example from Indonesia," as part of the panel, "Constructing Images of the Other: Views from Indonesia and the Philippines." Murphy-Berman also will moderate that panel.
- Rob Linrothe, associate professor of art history, will chair the panel "Aesthetic Encounters in the Himalayas" and present his paper, "Patriarchs and Patrons: Images of Ethnicity in Tibetan Religious Painting."

The New York Conference for Asian Studies is the regional chapter of the national Association for Asian Studies. NYCAS includes colleges and universities located in New England, upstate New York, and southeastern Canada. View the conference [web site](#) for detailed information.

Skidmore Intercom

Skidmore College
815 North Broadway
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
518.580.5000
intercom@skidmore.edu



Highlights

[Asian Studies](#)[Conference Upcoming](#)[Panel Focus:](#)[Islam, War and Terror](#)[Tang's Fall Shows](#)[Sparkle](#)[Printable Version](#)

Skidmore Intercom

Faculty & Staff Newsletter

Vol. 2, No. 3 - October 16, 2002

Panel Focus: "Islam, War, and Terror"

The relationship between Islam and terrorism and the role Islamic political movements play in the contemporary world will be discussed by a panel of distinguished guests Oct. 24 for a discussion titled "Islam, War, and Terror."

Scheduled at 8 p.m. in Gannett Auditorium of Palamountain Hall, the discussion is free and open to the public. Laury Silvers-Alario, visiting assistant professor of religion, organized the panel, which features the following participants:

- Jonathan Brockopp, assistant professor of religion at Bard College and national co-chair of the section for the study of Islam at the American Academy of Religion. Author of books on Islamic ethics and early Maliki law, he is the co-author of a book on Islam and Judaism with Jacob Neusner and Tamara Soon. He holds graduate degrees from Yale University and also took graduate courses at Tuebingen University and the American University in Cairo.
- Frank Griffel, assistant professor of Islamic studies at Yale University. A specialist in the field of classical and contemporary Muslim theology, he is the author of a book on the development of the judgment of apostasy in Islam and is now focusing on contemporary Muslim thought and its exchange with modernity and globalization. His most recent article, "Muhammad Atta, Modernity, and the Secular State: How Important will Muslim Fundamentalism be for the 21st Century?" appeared in the April 2002 issue of *The Politic*.
- Rabia Terri Harris of the Muslim Peace Fellowship. Founder and coordinator of the Muslim Peace Fellowship, an influential forum for progressive Islamic thought, Harris also edits an international newsletter and regularly speaks on a variety of Muslim issues. She also serves as associate editor of *Fellowship* magazine, the bimonthly publication of the Fellowship of Reconciliations, the oldest, largest interfaith peace and justice organization in the world.

The panelists will approach the topics from the perspectives of the Islamic legal tradition, Islamic fundamentalism and its role in emerging democracies, and the nonviolent tradition in Islam.

Skidmore Intercom

Skidmore College

815 North Broadway

Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

518.580.5000

intercom@skidmore.edu



Highlights

[Asian Studies](#)[Conference Upcoming](#)[Panel Focus:](#)[Islam, War and Terror](#)[Tang's Fall Shows](#)[Sparkle](#)[Printable Version](#)

Skidmore Intercom

Faculty & Staff Newsletter

Vol. 2, No. 3 - October 16, 2002

Tang's Fall Offerings: A New Take on History

Fall exhibitions at the Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery will provide a compelling photographic history of the 1950s, organized by alumnus Douglas Derishpoon '76 and offering a rare look at the original manuscript of Jack Kerouac's novel *On the Road*. Take a look at "[The Tumultuous '50s: A View from The New York Times Photo Archives.](#)"

A second exhibition this fall showcases the work and philosophy of Fred Wilson, activist museum educator known for mounting provocative exhibitions that challenge viewers' perceptions of traditional museum fare. [See the preview.](#)

Skidmore Intercom

Skidmore College

815 North Broadway

Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

518.580.5000

intercom@skidmore.edu

I
HOME

Highlights

[Asian Studies
Conference Upcoming](#)[Panel Focus:
Islam, War and Terror](#)[Tang's Fall Shows
Sparkle](#)

Printable Version

Skidmore Intercom

Faculty & Staff Newsletter

Vol. 2, No. 3 - October 16, 2002

Theater to Present "Mound Builders"

The Theater Department will present Lanford Wilson's "The Mound Builders," directed by Carolyn Anderson, professor of theater and chair of the department. Set against an archeological dig, this award-winning drama presents a world of greed, lust, and survival and examines the human need to build.

The production will be in the Studio Theater. Performances are scheduled Thursday through Sunday, Oct. 17-20, at 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, with 2 p.m. matinees Saturday and Sunday.

Tickets are \$10 general admission; \$7 for students/senior citizens. Group rates are available. For reservations, call the Theater Box Office at ext. 5439.

Sculptor to Launch Visiting Art Lecture Series

Sculptor Ellen Driscoll will kick off the Studio Art Visiting Lecture Series with an illustrated talk at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 22, in Emerson Auditorium.

Admission is open to the public.

Driscoll is a professor of sculpture at Rhode Island School of Design. Her work includes installations such as "The Loophole of Retreat" (Whitney Museum at Phillip Morris, 1991) and "Passionate Attitudes" (Threadwaxing Space, New York, 1995); public art projects such as "Mum's the Work" (a public banner project in collaboration with the Aphasia Support Group at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital, Boston, 1998), "Meanderlink" (an airborne banner flying over Frederick Law Olmsted's Emerald Necklace in Boston, 2000); and "Ahab's Wife," a theater production done as part of the 1998 International Puppet Festival at Snug Harbor Cultural Center, Staten Island.

Driscoll has been awarded fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, Anonymous Was a Woman, and Harvard University's Bunting Institute. Her work is included in major private and public collections such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Whitney Museum of American Art, and in such public spaces as [Grand Central Terminal](#), where "As Above, So Below," her glass tile, bronze, and digitized images are incorporated into a breathtaking mosaic design.

Lecturer to Address Economics of Solution to Palestinian-Israeli Conflict

Writer Joel Bainerman will discuss "How Economics Will Impact a Solution to the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict" when he visits the Skidmore campus Wednesday, Oct. 23.

Free and open to the public, the talk will begin at 8:15 p.m. in Davis Auditorium. Sponsors include the Intercultural Center, the Chaplain's Office, the Department of Government, and the Jewish Student Union.

Bainerman will examine the specific economic problems that the Palestinian economy will face if and when a political solution with Israel is reached. He will focus on what will be required in terms of financial resources for a Palestinian entity to prosper and develop and where the fiscal resources can be located. Additional issues to be considered are the challenges associated with erecting a suitable industrial, social, and economic infrastructure on the West Bank and Gaza and what must be done to facilitate the rehabilitation of the local refugee population.

A Toronto native who immigrated to Israel in 1981, Bainerman has since spent more than two decades as a journalist and writer on Israeli and Middle East affairs, researching and writing on such topics as the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Israeli economy, Palestinian politics, and economic dimensions of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

Formerly the business editor at the Jerusalem-based *The Israel Economist*, Bainerman is the former Israel correspondent for Canada's national press service. He also served as economics editor of *The Jerusalem Post*. In 1996 he established *The Israel Technology Letter*, reporting for foreign investors on unique investment opportunities in Israel's high tech sector, and developments between Israel and the Palestinian economies.

He is the author of *Broken Promises: The Rise and Fall of Israel's Technology-Based Industries*, an in-depth study published in 2001. His book, *What Every Jew and Arab Should Know about the Arab-Israeli Conflict*, will be published this winter by ZBC Publishers, Jerusalem.

Davis to Read from Versailles

Professor of English Kathryn Davis will read from her newest book, the novel *Versailles*, beginning at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 6, in the Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery.

Free and open to the public, the reading will be in the Payne Presentation Room.

Versailles, published in August, is, according to [The New York Times Book Review](#), a "splendid novel."

In the News

Skidmore faculty and staff recently featured in mainstream media include the following:

Roy Ginsberg, professor of government, was a guest on WAMC's "Roundtable" program Sept. 26, discussing the results of the recent German elections.

Charles Joseph, interim vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty, was interviewed for "Rooting for Truffles with Igor," published in the Oct. 11 edition of *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. The story details new scholarship on the composer Igor Stravinsky, including Joseph's two recent books, *Stravinsky Inside Out* (2001, Yale University Press) and *Stravinsky and Balanchine: A Journey of Invention* (2002, Yale University Press).

Joanne Devine, associate professor of English, was interviewed by *The Sunday Gazette* for "Soda? Pop? Words tell where you come from," published Oct. 13, 2002.

Michael Sposili, director of alumni affairs and college events, was interviewed by *The Times Union* for "Colleges try to offer a degree of reassurance," a story on family weekends published Oct. 13, 2002. Several Skidmore families were featured in the story.

President Studley is profiled in the latest issue of the *Harvard Law Bulletin*, Vol. 1, No. 54, Fall 2002. She is a 1975 graduate of Harvard Law School.

Jennifer Delton, assistant professor of history, was interviewed by *The Saratogian* for "Prof: Terrorists scarier than nuclear threat," (Oct. 13, 2002), on the 40th anniversary of the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Skidmore Intercom

Skidmore College
815 North Broadway
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
518.580.5000
intercom@skidmore.edu



Highlights

[Asian Studies](#)[Conference Upcoming](#)[Panel Focus:](#)[Islam, War and Terror](#)[Tang's Fall Shows](#)[Sparkle](#)[Printable Version](#)

Skidmore Intercom

Faculty & Staff Newsletter

Vol. 2, No. 3 - October 16, 2002

Faculty-Staff Activities

Jeff Beachy, director of advancement services, was named a "faculty star" for his presentation early this year at the District 1 regional meeting of the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education.

Robert Foulke, professor emeritus of English, gave the closing paper at the international conference of the Joseph Conrad Society, United Kingdom, July 6 at the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich. His topic was "Maritime Contexts: Nuances and the Ironies in Conrad's Voyage Fiction." Later in the day he led fellow conferees through a tour of the square-rigged ship Cutty Sark, built in 1862 and now preserved in dry dock at Greenwich as the last surviving clipper ship.

Catherine Golden, professor of English, gave an invited lecture titled "Reading Illustrations: The Art of the Victorian Illustrated Book" Oct. 3 at The Hyde Collection in Glens Falls.

Penny Jolly, professor of art history, accepted an invitation to participate in an international symposium last summer in conjunction with the exhibition "Van Eyck, Early Netherlandish Painting and Southern Europe." The event took place June 26-27 at the Groeningen Museum in Bruges, Belgium. She lectured on Rogier van der Weyden and Magdalene imagery.

Publications and Exhibitions

John Cunningham, Davidson Professor of Art, has an interior exhibition of his work now showing at the Memorial Student Center of Texas A&M University. The show includes work he calls his "peristyle series" as well as his arachnid sculpture. In connection with the show, he gave a paper titled "Mechanical Advantage and Locomotion," derived from observations made while creating art. Among other things, he theorizes that Tyrannosaurus rex was actually a very fast runner and that it might not be very difficult to make walking machines. Cunningham credits colleagues Bernie Possidente, Monica Raveret-Richter, and Roy Meyers for their help in with his presentation.

Jay Rogoff, lecturer in English and liberal studies, has recently had the following poems accepted for publication: "Book Burning" in *The Progressive*; "Flemish Adorations" in *Salmagundi*; "Horoscope" in *The Texas Review*; and "Death's Love" and "Pyramid of the Sun" in *Witness*.

David Vella, associate professor of mathematics, is co-author of the paper "Support Varieties for Algebraic Groups" in *Journal für die reine und angewandte Mathematik*, Vol. 547, June 2002. His collaborators are Brain Parshall of the University of Virginia and Daniel Nakano of the University of Georgia.

Skidmore Intercom

Skidmore College
815 North Broadway
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
518.580.5000
intercom@skidmore.edu