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Highlights

Parthasarathy to Give Moseley Lecture

Nathan Gunn Named Filene Concert Artist

Kara Walker to Present Malloy Talk

Frank Wu to Lecture
On Race Issues

Printable Version

Skidmore Intercom Faculty & Staff Newsletter

Vol. 2, No. 6 - January 28, 2003



Associate Professor of English R. Parthasarathy will deliver this year's Edwin M. Moseley Faculty Research Lecture. <u>Story</u>



Frank Wu, author of *Yellow: Race in America Beyond Black and White,* will discuss his book during a Feb. 13 visit to Skidmore. <u>Story</u>



The Return of Lot's Wife will be presented this month by the contemporary dance troupe Sara Pearson/Patrik Widrig and Company. 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

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



Highlights

<u>Parthasarathy to Give</u> Moseley Lecture

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Politics of Translation Subject of Skidmore's Annual Moseley Lecture

Poet and translator R. Parthasarathy will present this year's Edwin M. Moseley Faculty Research Lecture, "Writing Between the Lines: The Politics and Poetics of Translation."

Free and open to the public, the talk will begin at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 12, in Gannett Auditorium of Palamountain Hall. A reception will follow. Each year Skidmore's faculty chooses one of its own to deliver the Moseley Lecture. Selection as the Moseley Lecturer is the highest honor the Skidmore faculty can confer upon a colleague.

Parthasarathy's lecture will examine the ways that politics shape and direct translation. "The British in India, in the 18th and 19th centuries, used translation as an instrument of policy, since a first-hand knowledge of Indian traditions would be invaluable in governing the country," he explained. "English enabled India to become a province of European thought. Initially, only Sanskrit texts were translated into English. Translations from other Indian languages followed later. With the end of British rule in 1947, the focus shifted. Britain's legacy was the English language, and English-speaking Indians began to translate the literatures of India into English. My own translations have a political bias: to gain recognition for Indian literature. The translator unearths long-forgotten classics and puts them into orbit, thus redrawing the literary map. He is a 'hidden persuader'," Parthasarathy added.

Parthasarathy's examination of these issues stems from his own practice as a translator from four – Sanskrit, Tamil, Hindi, and Urdu – of the 18 languages recognized by the Indian Constitution as official. His translation of the Tamil epic, *The Tale of an Anklet* (fifth century) won several international awards, including the 1994 PEN/Book-of-the-Month Club Translation Citation, a 1995 English translation prize from the National Academy of Letters in India, and the 1996 A.K. Ramanujan Book Prize for Translation from the Association for Asian Studies. *The Tale of an Anklet* translates an ancient epic poem whose importance in Tamil culture, notes Parthasarathy, is like that of Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey* in Western cultures. "Tamil, the oldest surviving classical language of India, is spoken by 56 million people, mainly in southeastern India," he said. "It has, with the exception of Sanskrit, the richest literature of any Indian language."

Parthasarathy's other works include *Rough Passage*, a long poem, and two as-yet- unpublished manuscripts, *A House Divided* and *The Forked Tongue*. The first is a sequence of poems that bears witness to the political uncertainties of contemporary times, and the second is a work on Indian poetics.

Parthasarathy was educated at the University of Bombay, Leeds University, and the University of Texas at Austin, where he earned a Ph.D. degree in English. Before joining the Skidmore faculty in 1986, he was a literary editor with Oxford University Press, New Delhi. A former director of Skidmore's Asian Studies Program, he is an associate professor of English.

Skidmore Intercom

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



Highlights

Parthasarathy to Give Moseley Lecture

Nathan Gunn Named Filene Concert Artist

Kara Walker to Present Malloy Talk

Frank Wu to Lecture
On Race Issues

Printable Version

Skidmore Intercom Faculty & Staff Newsletter

............

Vol. 2, No. 6 - January 28, 2003

Baritone Nathan Gunn to Present Filene Gala Concert



Nathan Gunn, recognized as one of America's most exciting young baritones, will present this year's Filene Gala Concert at 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 7, in Filene Recital Hall.

The program will include French and American songs by Duparc, Poulenc, Ibert, John Musto, Samuel Barber, and Charles Ives, as well as a selection of American ballads and folk songs. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$2 for students and senior citizens.

Skidmore Senior Artist-in-Residence Anne Turner calls Gunn "a fresh and exciting" artist, noting that he has had a number of impressive performances to date. Gunn has already made important debuts at

the Lyric Opera of Chicago and the Metropolitan Opera, and has sung with many other prominent opera houses both in the U.S. and abroad. He has appeared as soloist under Robert Shaw, and with many important American orchestras, including the New York Philharmonic and the Chicago and Boston symphony orchestras.

A prolific recitalist with a deep commitment to art song, Gunn has made recital debuts in New York and in London at Weill Recital Hall and Wigmore Hall, and was featured in John Wustman's seven-year project of Schubert song performances, which concluded in 1997. Turner recalled that Gunn's appearance in one of these programs at the University at Albany featured an "unforgettable" rendition of "Erlkönig."

Gunn's first recital disc, *American Anthem* (EMI), includes the works of exciting young American songwriters as well as traditional American folk songs.

He received a bachelor's degree in music from the University of Illinois. The winner of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Competition in 1994, he also received the 1998 ARIA award, a 1997 Tucker Foundation Career Grant, the 1996 Marian Anderson Award, the Pope Foundation Music Award, and the St. Louis Symphony Young Artist Competition in 1992.

At Skidmore, Gunn will be accompanied by his wife, Julie, who has arranged a number of selections for the performance. In addition to the Feb. 7 recital, Gunn will lead a free master class starting at 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 8, in Filene Recital Hall.

Skidmore Intercom

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



SKIDMORE

Highlights

Parthasarathy to Give Moseley Lecture

Nathan Gunn Named Filene Concert Artist

Kara Walker to Present Malloy Talk

Frank Wu to Lecture
On Race Issues

Printable Version

Skidmore Intercom Faculty & Staff Newsletter

......

Vol. 2, No. 6 - January 28, 2003

Kara Walker to Present Malloy Lecture Jan. 31

Artist Kara Walker, best known for elegant and unsettling cut-paper panoramas depicting powerful images of race, sex, and slavery, will visit Skidmore Friday, Jan. 31, to deliver this year's Malloy Visiting Artist Lecture. Free and open to the public, the talk begins at 5:30 p.m. in Bernhard Theater.

Read more about it.

Skidmore Intercom

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



Highlights

<u>Parthasarathy to Give</u> <u>Moseley Lecture</u>

Nathan Gunn Named Filene Concert Artist

Kara Walker to Present Malloy Talk

Frank Wu to Lecture
On Race Issues

Printable Version

Skidmore Intercom Faculty & Staff Newsletter

......

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Howard University Professor, Author to Lecture on Race Issues

Frank H. Wu, the first and only Asian American professor at the Howard University School of Law, will discuss his book *Yellow: Race in America Beyond Black and White,* (2002, Basic Books) when he visits the Skidmore campus Thursday, Feb. 13.

Free and open to the public, his talk will begin at 8 p.m. in Gannett Auditorium of Palamountain Hall.

In the tradition of W.E.B. DuBois, Cornel West, and other intellectuals who confronted the "color line" of the 20th century, Wu offers a unique perspective on how changing ideas of racial identity affect race relations in contemporary America. Both provocative and thoughtful, Wu's book addresses some of the most controversial contemporary issues: discrimination, immigration, diversity, globalization, and the mixed-race movement, introducing the example of Asian Americans to shed new light on current debates.

Yellow: Race in America Beyond Black and White has been reprinted once and a paperback edition also is planned. Wu's other writings include a textbook titled Race, Rights and Reparation: Law and the Japanese American Internment (2001, Aspen), which he co-wrote, and more than 200 articles in academic, professional, and mainstream publications.

A visiting professor at the University of Michigan during the current academic year, Wu also is teaching a course at Columbia this year. Before beginning his academic career, Wu held a clerkship with the late U.S. District Court Judge Frank J. Battisti in Cleveland, Ohio. Wu then joined the civil litigation practice group at the law firm of Morrison and Foerster in San Francisco.

Wu earned a bachelor's degree at Johns Hopkins University and a law degree from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. He was a teaching fellow at the Stanford University Law School during 1994-95.

Skidmore Intercom



Highlights

Parthasarathy to Give

<u>Moseley Lecture</u>

Filene Concert Artist

Nathan Gunn Named

Kara Walker to Present Malloy Talk

<u>Frank Wu to Lecture</u> <u>On Race Issues</u>

Printable Version

Skidmore Intercom Faculty & Staff Newsletter

Vol. 2, No. 6 - January 28, 2003

Trisha Brown Exhibition to Open; Brown to Visit Campus for 'Dialogue'

Trisha Brown: Dance and Art in Dialogue 1961-2001 will be on view Feb.1-June 1 at the Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery. Interdisciplinary to its core and multimedia in its presentation, Dance and Art in Dialogue achieves the nearly impossible: pinning to a museum wall not only the transient beauty of Brown's dance works but also the collaborative process she shared with the visual artists whose costumes and sets helped shape and clothe her dances.

Brown will be on campus for a public "Dialogue" with exhibition curator Hendel Teicher. Read more about it.

FIT Curator's Topic: The Corset

"The Corset: Fashioning the Body," is the title of a lecture to be given by Valerie Steele, chief curator of the historic costume collection at the Fashion Institute of Technology on Tuesday, Feb. 3.

Sponsored by the Department of Art and Art History, the talk gets under way at 5:30 p.m. in Davis Auditorium, Palamountain Hall. Admission is free.

Steele, who received a Ph.D. degree in cultural history at Yale University, is the author of nine books on clothing and fashion, including *The Corset: A Cultural History* (2001, Yale University Press). In a review of the book, *Publisher's Weekly* noted, "For 400 years, women wore corset that controlled their shape and constricted, and sometimes crushed, their ribs and organs....Shortly after the turn of the 20th century, the corset became less popular and gradually faded almost completely from use, though recently, it's come back into fashion as sexy outwear....Valerie Steele challenges the popular view that corset-wearing women were merely the victims of fashion, and delves into the complex gender politics surrounding the corset controversies of the past." Steele's other books include *50 Years of Fashion: New Look to Now* (1997, 2000, Yale University Press), and *Fetish: Fashion, Sex and Power* (1996, Oxford University Press). She also is editor of the quarterly journal *Fashion Theory: The Journal of Dress, Body and Culture*.

Campus Bloodmobile Upcoming; Web Scheduling Introduced

The second visit by the Red Cross Bloodmobile of the academic year is scheduled Tuesday, Feb. 4, in the multipurpose room of the Sports and Recreation Center.

Associate Professor of Psychology Holley Hodgins, coordinator of the Bloodmobile, reports, "Thanks to Leo Geoffrion, college webmaster, and Mac Oswalt, professor of psychology, we now have a website where you can view available appointment times and sign up for one of your choice. Despite the wonderful technology, no one has invented a substitute for donated blood. So please consider giving blood by clicking on this address and then showing up at the Sports Center on Feb. 4."

Fifty people have registered to donate thus far; there is room for 50 more to participate. Schedule (http://cfsrv.skidmre.edu/web/redcross) your appointment.

Eco-Justice Communities to Be Topic

Larry L. Rasmussen, Reinhold Niebuhr Professor of Social Ethics at Union Theological Seminary in New York City, will lecture on "Eco-Justice Communities: A Report from the Field."

Sponsored by the Office of the Chaplain, the free talk begins at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 5, in Emerson Auditorium of Palamountain Hall.

Rasmussen is a long-time scholar and prolific author whose current work in Christian ethics includes analysis of power, methodological issues in Bible and ethics, technology and ecology.

A member of the Union Theological faculty since 1986, Rasmussen earlier was professor of Christian ethics at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C. His most recent books include *Earth Habitat: Eco-Injustice and the Church's Response*, co-edited with Dieter Hessel (2001, Fortress); *Ethics for a Small Planet*, with Daniel Maguire (1998, SUNY Press); *Earth Community, Earth Ethics* (1996, Orbis Books and the World Council of Churches), which won the 1997 Grawemeyer Prize in Religion; *Moral Fragments and Moral Community* (1993, Fortress); and *Reinhold Niebuhr: Theologian of Pubic Life* (1991, Fortress; 1989, HarperCollins).

Rasmussen is a past president of the Society of Christian Ethics and a past editor of The Annual of the Society of Christian Ethics. He was co-moderator of Unit III (Justice, Peace, Creation) of the World Council of Churches from 1991 to 1998 and currently serves on the Justice, Peace, Creation Advisory Committee of the WCC.

A 1961 graduate of St. Olaf College, where he earned a B.A. degree, Rasmussen earned the B.D. from Luther Theological Seminary in 1965 and the Th.D. from Union Theological Seminary in 1970.

Jay Rogoff to Share New Poems in Campus Reading

ay Rogoff, lecturer in English and liberal studies at Skidmore, will read from his poetry at 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 6, in Emerson Auditorium of Palamountain Hall. The reading will feature his new book of poems, *How We Came to Stand on That Shore*, which will be issued Feb. 15 by River City Publishing.

Rogoff won the 1994 Washington Prize for *The Cutoff*, his debut book of poetry set in the world of minor league baseball, published by The Word Works in 1995. His chapbook, *First Hand*, a winner of the Poetry Society of America's John Masefield Award, appeared from Mica Press in 1997.

Of Rogoff's new book, poet Andrea Hollander Budy has written, "In a series of compelling narrative

and lyric poems, How We Came to Stand on That Shore examines not only the lives of Rogoff's European forebears who emigrated to America, but also the circumstances and depths of his own life —he is both 'the best thing' his father has done and nothing . . . going nowhere." Poet and editor Ronald Wallace says the book "embraces a past that enwraps and enraptures us, a past replete with scatter and leakage that is nonetheless comforting and bright."

Born in Queens, N.Y., and educated at the University of Pennsylvania and Syracuse University, Rogoff

taught writing and literature at Syracuse University and LeMoyne College, and for 10 years worked as an administrator and teacher in Skidmore's Inmate Higher Education Program. His other prizes include an Academy of American Poets Award, the Delmore Schwartz Poetry Prize, and a New York State Council on the Arts grant. A frequent fellow at MacDowell and Yaddo (where he is currently in residence), he was honored as Yaddo's Sloane and Solomon Writer in Residence in 1991.

His poems have appeared in many journals and magazines, including Agni, Crazyhorse, DoubleTake,

The Georgia Review, The Hudson Review, The Kenyon Review, The New Republic, The Paris Review, Partisan Review, The Progressive, Salmagundi, The Sewanee Review, Shenandoah, The Southern Review, and The Yale Review. His poetry has also been featured on-line by Poetry Daily and on National Public Radio. He has published reviews and critical essays in The Georgia Review, The Kenyon Review, The Mississippi Review, Salmagundi, The Sewanee Review, Shenandoah, Southern Humanities Review, and elsewhere.

New contemporary dance from Sara Pearson/Patrik Widrig and Company Sara Pearson/Patrik Widrig and Company, widely acclaimed for an original and energetic style of

contemporary dance-theater, will present two performances of their newest work, *The Return of Lot's Wife*, Friday and Saturday, Feb. 7 and 8. Both concerts will begin in the college's Dance Theater at 8 p.m. General admission is \$10; \$8 for Skidmore community members, senior citizens and students; and \$5 for Skidmore students. The box office opens 45 minutes before each performance and seating is first-come, first-served. For more information, call the Dance Theater at 518-580-5392.

The Return of Lot's Wife premiered in mid-January at the Altogether Different Festival in New York City's Joyce Theater, where it was described as "an edgy and heartbreakingly funny dance/theater/salt epic [in which] Lot's wife finally confronts God in a 1950s Brooklyn kitchen as she looks back again and again." The work also features the recitation of Persian poetry and is performed to original music by Carter Burwell, a composer known for his film scores of movies such as Fargo, Three Kings, and Being John Malkovich.

The Skidmore concerts are the culmination of a dance residency jointly supported by the College and

Emma Willard School in Troy, New York. During the residency, the company will teach two classes open to area dancers: intermediate modern dance (3:40-5:30 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 4) and advanced modern dance (4-5:50 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 5). Both classes will take place in the Skidmore College Dance Center; admission is \$10 at the door. For more information, call 518-580-5360.

Over the past 16 years, the New York City-based dance company has gained an international

According to Pearson and Widrig, their work "pushes rituals of the familiar toward the mysterious, the subversive, and the intimate." Dreaming of Timbuctoo tells of 19th-Century Black Farmers in the

reputation for "American dance theater at its funniest and most compelling" (Neue Zurcher Zeitung).

More than a decade before the Civil War, black Americans were offered an unusual opportunity to farm their own land in the Adirondack wilderness. Those who took up the offer and created North Country farms and communities—one named Timbuctoo after the fabled 15th-century West African city—are the subject of an exhibition opening Feb. 7 in the Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery. On view through March 9, Dreaming of Timbuctoo tells a dramatic story that began in 1846, with New York land speculator and abolitionist Gerrit Smith. Read more about it.

New York land speculator and abolitionist Gerrit Smith. Read more about it.

Religious Women, Human Rights Topic of Upcoming Talk

"Religious Women and Human Rights: When the Human Rights Construct May be an Inappropriate

Free and open to the public, the talk begins at 6:30 p.m. in Emerson Auditorium, Palamountain Hall. The lecture is sponsored by the Chaplain's Office.

Framework for Achieveing Human Rights," will be discussed by the Rev. Alison L. Boden Wednesday,

Boden, dean of Rockefeller Memorial Chapel and senior lecturer in the College and Divinity School at the University of Chicago, teaches the formational issues and practical skills of ministry as well as human rights and religion.

She earned a B.A. degree at Vassar College, a diploma in acting from the Neighborhood Playhouse School of the Theater in New York City, an M.Div. degree from Union theological Seminary in New York, and the M.Phil. in peace studies form the University of Bradford in England, where she is completing a dissertation on human rights and gender, with special emphasis on conflicts between

rights to religious expression and the human rights of women. In 1994 she was an official observer

of the Salvadoran national elections as part of a joint U.S.-U.N. mission.

Adirondacks

Feb. 12.



Highlights

<u>Parthasarathy to Give</u> <u>Moseley Lecture</u>

Nathan Gunn Named Filene Concert Artist

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Frank Wu to Lecture
On Race Issues

Printable Version

Skidmore Intercom

Faculty & Staff Newsletter

Vol. 2, No. 6 - January 28, 2003

Faculty-Staff Activities

Sandy Baum, professor of economics, went to London in November to consult to the Prime Minister's Office and the office of the Chancellor of the Exechequer on university tuition and student aid policies.

Terence Diggory, Ross Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies, presented a paper titled "'Peacefully Hammering': Williams's Urban Pastoral" in a session on "[William Carlos] Williams and the Urban Environment," at the annual convention of the Modern Language Association Dec. 27-30, 2002, in New York City.

Jeffrey Segrave, professor of exercise science and athletics director, presented an invited paper titled "The Modern Olympic Games and Ritual Invention" at the American Historical Association annual meeting Jan. 3, in Chicago.

Gordon Thompson, associate professor of music, presented a lecture as part of the Albany Institute of History and Art's exhibition, *The Beatles: Now and Then, Photographs by Harry Benson*. Thompson's lecture, "Twist and Shout: British Beatles and American Roots" dealt with the songs by American rock and rhythm-and-blues artists that the Beatles recorded.

Publications

Skidmore's Advancement Office has been honored with "Accolades" awards in communications by District II (Mid-Atlantic) of the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education. The awards will be presented Feb. 3 at CASE's regional conference in New York City.

College Relations staff members won a Gold Award in the category of "Quality of News Writing." The pieces submitted were written by **Bob Kimmerle**, director of college relations; **Barbara Melville**, staff writer; and **Andrea Wise**, director of media relations.

Scope, the Skidmore magazine, won an Honorable Mention in the category of "Periodical Staff Writing." Four College Relations writers were cited: **Barbara Melville; Peter MacDonald,** director of publications; **Sue Rosenberg**, Scopeeditor; and **Maryann Teale Snell**, Scope associate editor.

Advancement's Friends of the Tang brochure took both a Gold Award in the category "Fund-Raising Publications" and a Bronze Award in the category "Visual Design in Print, Single-Page Publications." Project manager for the brochure was **Mary Jo Driscoll,** leadership gifts officer; the graphic designer was free-lancer Beth Laub.

Erica Bastress-Dukehart, assistant professor of history, is the author of *The Zimmern Chronicle: Nobility, Memory, and Self-Representation in 16th-Century Germany,* published in November by Ashgate Press, London.

The book brings the history of the Zimmern family to English readers for the first time with an examination of the most famous noble family chronicle to come out of 16th century Germany. The work is distinctive because of its representation of the collective memory of the Southwest German nobility. The Zimmern authors included not only their own recollections, but also those of their noble contemporaries. By memorializing relationships within their community, they drew attention to the increasingly important issue of how their lineages had been historically constituted.

Bastress-Dukehart relates the history of the chronicle and introduces the long-standing mystery surrounding the text's authorship. She then draws attention to the importance of inheritance and the obligation for ancestral memoralization that property devolution demands, setting the stage for the history that the chronicle tells. She portrays the Zimmern Chronicle as more than a family history, arguing that because the authors filled their work with legends, sexual tales, and farcical stories of daily life in Southwestern Germany, they proved themselves adept at stimulating the curiosity of their readers, thus ensuring that the audience would read the work to its conclusion.

Bastress-Dukehart came to Skidmore in the fall of 2002 from the University of Oregon, where she earned several citations for her teaching. She graduated *magna cum laude* from the University of Oregon, where she earned a B.S. degree in history and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. She earned M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in early modern European history at the University of California at Berkeley.

Hédi Jaouad, associate professor of French, is the new editor, and **Marc-André Weisman,** associate professors of French, and **Charlene Grant,** lecturer in Spanish, are new associate editors of *Revue CELAAN Review,* the journal of the Center for the Study of the Literatures and Arts of North Africa. Published three times a year, the journal presents scholarly articles on Maghrebian authors and French authors from the Maghreb (North Africa) and occasional notes on North Africa's role in the work of authors from France and elsewhere. Jaouad has been associated with the publication since its inception 20 years ago, while a graduate student at Temple University. The Center was founded by Eric Sellin, a former professor there. When Sellin (who was a professor of Jaouad's) retired, Jaouad accepted his invitation to become editor of the review.

Reg Lilly, associate professor of philosophy and chair, Department of Philosophy and Religion, is the author of an article, "Foucault and the Disappearance of the Visible Subject" included in the recently published collection, *Panorama: Philosophies of the Visible*, edited by Wilhelm Wurzer and published by Continuum Press.

Linda Simon, professor of English, is the author of an essay, "William James: The European Connection," forthcoming in *William James in Russian Culture*, edited by Joan Delaney Grossman and Ruth Rischin, due in March from Lexington Books.

Skidmore Intercom