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Faculty & Staff Newsletter

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The College's Centennial celebration is launched in a big way with this weekend's installation of President Glotzbach. [Story](#)



Ceramic artist Rick Hirsch will deliver the Rosanne Brody Raab Lecture Thursday, Oct. 30. [Story](#)



David Porter, president emeritus, and Richard Hihn, senior artist-in-residence, are the first artists to perform in a special series of musical events at the Tang. (photo by Phil Haggerty). [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.

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Vol. 3, No. 3 - October 17, 2003**Centennial-Inauguration Weekend Gets Under Way**

One of the biggest celebrations of Skidmore's first century gets under way Oct. 17-19 with Centennial-Inauguration weekend. The College will officially launch its centennial celebration with the installation of Philip Glotzbach as its seventh president.

Approximately 1,800 guests will be on hand for the weekend, which combines the College's traditional fall Family Weekend with the fall meeting of the College's Board of Trustees and the inauguration festivities.

Mike Sposili, director of alumni affairs and college events, explained that the weekend is "an opportunity for us to bring together a number of important groups: students, parents, faculty, alumni, and special friends of the college. We're expecting close to 2,000 people, making this one of our larger events ever." Despite the size of the crowd, there are some economies of scale that will be realized by combining festivities, according to Sposili. "Our fall Family Weekend is a traditional big event, and it made sense to combine it with the centennial celebration and the inauguration instead of hosting several separate celebrations," he said.

Among the concerts, dance performances, panel discussions and art exhibits, one of the weekend's highlights will be the installation of President Glotzbach in a ceremony that begins at 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 18, in the main gym of the Sports and Recreation Center. Special guests at the event will include Jeanne O'Farrell Eddy '03, extending greetings from the College community; Charles M. Joseph, extending greetings from the faculty; Beverly Harrison Miller '67, extending greetings from the alumni; Mayor Ken Klotz, extending greetings from the Saratoga Springs community; Scott Minkoff '04, extending greetings from the students; and Nancy E. Carrick, vice president for academic affairs at the University of Redlands, extending greetings from the university and college community. Mary A. Burgan, general secretary, American Association of University Professors, will deliver remarks at the ceremony.

Other Saturday activities include the Family Weekend Minicollege, featuring a number of faculty members. Sposili said that again this year, "it is a popular draw for our families." In addition, there will be a Centennial Tree Planting ceremony at noon on Saturday off Case Green. An upright oak – symbolizing strength and hope for the future – will be added to the campus landscape.

All members of the College community are welcome to participate in the weekend's events.

Read an [overview](#) of the weekend.

View the complete, current [schedule](#) of weekend events.

Can't be on campus the whole time? Visit the [Centennial web site](#) for streaming audio of the ceremony and a photo gallery.

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Fall Season at the Tang

"Bio-inspired" art by Alyson Shotz and contemporary paintings by Chinese artists, along with a decade of work in a variety of media by Nayland Blake highlight the fall season at the Tang Museum. An assortment of special events accompanies each exhibition. [Read more about it](#)

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Ceramic artist Richard Hirsch will present the Rosanne Brody Raab Lecture at 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 30, in Davis Auditorium of Palamountain Hall. The event is open without charge to the public.

A professor in the School for American Crafts at Rochester Institute of Technology, Hirsch has earned a number of international honors, including winning a 2002 Fulbright grant for research in Taiwan; presenting invited lectures at the Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing and at Shanghai University in Shanghai; serving as judge at the World Crafts Competition Kanazawa in Japan; and working as the international coordinator of the International Raku Symposium in Korea. He also recently received grants from the New York Foundation for the Arts and the National Endowment for the arts.

Museum collections featuring Hirsch's work include the Taipei Country Yinko Ceramics Museum in Taipei, Taiwan; the Renwick Gallery of Art at the Smithsonian Institute; the George R. Gardner Museum of Ceramic Art in Toronto; and the American Crafts Museum in New York City.

Over the past decade Hirsch has had work in a number of exhibitions in the U.S. and abroad, including "Contemporary American Ceramics" at Sotheby's in New York City; "American Clay Art in Shanghai," China; "Standing Room Only," the 60th Scripps Ceramics Annual at Scripps College in Claremont, Calif; and "Grete Nash Retrospective" in Norway. In addition, his work has appeared in a number of books, including *Ceramics: Ways of Creation* by Richard Zakin; *Clay and Glazes of the Potter* by Daniel Rhodes, *Contemporary Ceramics* by Susan Peterson, and *Ten Thousand Years of Ceramics* by Emmanuel Cooper.

The Rosanne Brody Raab Lecture was endowed at the College by Raab, a member of Skidmore's Class of 1955, as a way to showcase artists working in clay, fiber, metal, and wood.

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New Music Series Upcoming at the Tang

Many visitors to the Tang Teaching Museum have admired the extraordinary piano that resides in the museum's Payne Room. Built in 1904, around the same time as the founding of the Young Women's Industrial Club, this magnificent Steinway has long been associated with both the College and its founder, Lucy Scribner. The piano has recently been completely restored, thanks to the generosity of Trustee Emerita Jean Poskanzer Rudnick '44, who fondly recalls this piano's central place in the College's original Skidmore Hall, where students often gathered around it to sing together, sometimes with President Henry Moore as their accompanist.

Her hope in restoring the instrument to its former glory was that it would not only be admired but also played. That wish is about to be realized in a series of informal Sunday afternoon recitals, the first of which is scheduled for 3 p.m. Sunday Nov. 9, when Richard Hihn, senior artist-in-residence and chair of the Music Department, and David Porter, president emeritus, will perform four-hand piano works by Mozart, Schubert, and Poulenc. Tritonis, an ensemble consisting of Skidmore faculty members Joel Brown (guitar), Ann Alton (cello), and Kristin Bacchiocchi (flute), will offer a second program on Sunday, Dec. 7, and plans are in the works for further recitals this winter.

Like the Tang's popular rooftop series, these Sunday afternoon programs in the Tang's Payne Room will be open to the public without charge. Light refreshments will be served.

Joseph's Book Wins New Honor

Stravinsky and Balanchine: A Journey of Invention (Yale University Press, 2002) by Charles M. Joseph, interim vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty, has received the Deems Taylor Award from the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP).

Each year ASCAP presents five awards for outstanding achievement in print, broadcast, and news media. The Deems Taylor Award is given annually to an American author for excellence in writing about a subject in music. ASCAP winners last year included Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Ned Rorem, National Public Radio's program *Fresh Air*, and the public television program, *Evening at Pops*. This year's winners will be recognized at an event in December at Lincoln Center.

Stravinsky and Balanchine: A Journey of Invention was chosen in the symphonic books category. Now in its fourth printing, the book considers the background and psychology of the two men, the dynamics of their interactions, their personal and professional similarities and differences, and the political and historical circumstances that influenced their work.

Elizabeth Kendall, writing in *The New York Times Book Review*, called Joseph "a master of an elegant and refreshingly courteous prose" in a page-one review published in August 2002.

ASCAP is a membership association of more than 160,000 U.S. composers, songwriters, lyricists, and music publishers of every kind of music. Through agreements with affiliated international societies, ASCAP also represents hundreds of thousands of music creators worldwide.

Ultimate Frisbee Team to Be Recognized

A recognition ceremony for the Ultimate Frisbee team members who rescued a 19-year-old accident victim earlier this fall is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 21, on the main floor of Case Center (near the Burgess Café). State Assemblyman Paul D. Tonko (D-Amsterdam), the New York State Police, the Greater Amsterdam Volunteer Ambulance Corps Inc., and Hagaman Volunteer Fire Department will jointly recognize the five students who rescued the victim from her vehicle before it exploded and caught fire.

During the morning of Saturday, Sept. 13, Jennifer Martin was driving west on State Highway 67 in Montgomery County when she hit head-on with a tow truck just past the intersection of Morrow Road. Seconds after the accident occurred, a car carrying Skidmore students David Williamson, 21, a senior; Ian Williamson (no relation), 19, a sophomore; David Frazier, 24, a senior; Matthew Gershun, 19, a sophomore; and Davin Lyons, 19, a sophomore, came upon the scene. The students stopped and pulled Martin from her vehicle moments before the car burst into flames.

The recognition ceremony will take begin promptly at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday. In addition to the agencies listed, Ms. Martin and her family will also attend.

Members of the campus community are welcome at the event.

Erchak to Be on TV

An upcoming program on National Geographic TV will feature commentary by Gerald Erchak, professor of anthropology. *Taboo—Body Perfect* will air at 9 p.m. Monday, Nov. 10, will include Erchak's remarks on body modification. *Taboo* is a multi-part series on cultural anthropology produced by National Geographic TV.

There will be an on-campus venue to view the Nov. 10 program: the Case entertainment lounge (lower level, Case Center) has been booked for anyone interested to stop in and watch the show.

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Faculty-Staff Activities

Terence Diggory, Ross Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies and chair, Department of English, delivered a paper titled "Hartigan's Modernism" at a symposium organized in conjunction with the exhibition *Grace Hartigan: Painting Art History* Oct. 8 at Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pa.

Publications

Reg Lilly, associate professor of philosophy and chair, Department of Philosophy and Religion, translated Reiner Schürmann's *Broken Hegemonies* which has just appeared from Indiana University Press. This text, originally written in French, is the two-volume *magnum opus* of Schürmann, who was German born and French educated, and taught most of his tragically shortened career at the New School for Social Research.

Susannah B. Mintz, assistant professor of English, has published *Threshold Poetics: Milton and Intersubjectivity* (University of Delaware Press, 2003), a study of encounters between selves in "threshold space" in *Paradise Lost* and *Samson Agonistes*. Using feminist and relational psychoanalytic theory, the project examines representations of looking, working, eating, conversing, and touching, to argue that Milton repeatedly dismantles the binary oppositions that support categorical thinking.

Associate Professor of English **R. Parthasarathy's** translation of the Old Tamil epic, *The Tale of an Anklet: An Epic of South India*, published by Columbia University Press in 1993, has been accepted in the "Penguin Classics" series and will be published by Penguin Books in 2004.

In addition, poems of Parthasarathy ("Aubade," "The Traveler," "Who Needs the Gods?" "The Seal," and "A Word of Advice," translated from the Sanskrit; "Song of a Former Courtesan," translated from the Pali *Therigatha* [Songs of the Elder Nuns, 6th c. BCE], possibly the earliest anthology of women's religious verse; and "When Will You Come, Beloved?" translated from the Hindi Padavali [Songbook, 16th c.] of Mira, a celebrated religious poet) appear in the Summer 2003 issue of *Modern Poetry in Translation* (London).

Also, three poems of Parthasarathy ("At Ghalib's Tomb," "Homage to Muhammad Ibrahim Zauq," and "You, Amir Khusrau") appear in the September-October 2003 issue of *Indian Literature*, published by the National Academy of Letters, New Delhi. Khusrau (1253-1325), Zauq (1788-1854), and Ghalib (1797-1869) are three of the greatest poets in Urdu.

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