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Faculty & Staff Newsletter

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Elusive Realities, by Shahzia Sikander (2002, vegetable color, dry pigment, watercolor, tea on hand-prepared Wasil paper) included in *Shahzia Sikander: Nemesis*, at the Tang. [Story](#).



Sunday, Women Drying Their Hair, by John Sloan (1912, oil on canvas) featured in *Hair: Untangling a Social History* exhibit, at the Tang. [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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Jihad, McWorld, Modernity: Public Intellectuals Debate the "Clash of Civilizations"

Skidmore will host a conference Feb. 6-8 titled *Jihad, McWorld, Modernity: Public Intellectuals Debate the "Clash of Civilizations."*

The conference will bring together 15 leading thinkers to debate such issues as the conflict between religious/tribal fundamentalism and secular consumerist capitalism, the ethics of globalization, terrorism's challenge to democracy, and the concept of a just war against terrorism.

Rather than presenting prepared lectures, the participants will exchange views, debate, and respond to questions from the moderator and audience.

Much of the discussion will stem from specified readings, including excerpts from *Women and Human Development* by Martha Nussbaum, *Jihad vs. McWorld* by Benjamin Barber, *Globalization and Its Discontents* by Joseph Stiglitz, *Modern Iran* by Nikki Keddie, *One World* by Peter Singer, *The Dream Palace of the Arabs* by Fouad Ajami, and *Just War Against Terror* by Jean Bethke Elshtain.

Sessions include the following:

- 7 to 10 p.m. Friday, Feb. 6, "Jihad vs. McWorld Revisited: The War Between Democracy and Globalization," featuring all panelists and introductory remarks by Benjamin Barber;
- 10 to 11:15 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 7, all panelists will participate in a discussion titled "Arab Dreams and Delusions";
- 11:30 to 1 p.m. Feb. 7, all panelists will discuss "Just War Against Terror," with introductory remarks by Jean Elshtain and Christopher Hitchens;
- 2:30 to 5 p.m. Feb. 7, all panelists will discuss "Ethics and Universal Values vs. the Claims of Diversity," with introductory remarks by Martha Nussbaum;
- 5:30 to 7 p.m., all panelists will participate in an interview, to be conducted by Danny Postel, Lorrie Goldensohn, and Stan Yake.
- 9 a.m. to noon, Sunday, Feb. 8, final conference session titled "How to Think About a World on Fire," with introductory remarks by Martha Nussbaum.

All sessions will be in the Janet Kinghorn Bernhard Theater on campus. The cost (any session or all) is \$25 for the public, free for Skidmore students, faculty, and staff. For reservations, e-mail Peggy Boyers at pboyers@skidmore.edu or call 518-461-3213.

The conference is sponsored by *Salmagundi* magazine in conjunction with the College's Office of the President, Student Speakers Bureau, Honors Forum, and International Relations Program.

The meeting has been organized by Robert Boyers, editor of *Salmagundi* and Tisch Professor of Arts and Letters at Skidmore, with assistance from Martha Nussbaum, the Ernst Freud Distinguished Service Professor of Law and Ethics at the University of Chicago. Conference chairpersons are Boyers and Skidmore Professor of English Carolyn Forché.

In addition to Nussbaum, the following are conference participants:

- * Orlando Patterson, Cowles Professor of Sociology, Harvard University
- * Christopher Hitchens, formerly columnist at *The Nation* and a leading public intellectual
- * Akeel Bilgrami, Johnsonian Professor of Philosophy at Columbia University
- * Elaine Scarry, Walter M. Cabot Professor of Aesthetics and the General Theory of Value, Harvard University.
- * Jean Bethke Elshtain, Laura Spelman Rockefeller Professor of Social and Political Ethics, University of Chicago
- * Carolyn Forché, poet, editor of the poetry anthology *Against Forgetting*, translator, and human rights activist
- * Benjamin Barber, Kekst Professor and director of the Kekst Center for Democratic Studies, University of Maryland
- * Peter Singer, DeCamp Professor of Bioethics, University Center for Human Values, Princeton University
- * James Miller, director of liberal studies, Graduate Faculty, New School University (NYC) and editor-in-chief of the journal *Daedalus*
- * Abduh An-naim, Distinguished Professor at the Emory Law School
- * Danny Postel, on the editorial staff of *Daedalus* and a frequent contributor to *The Nation*.
- * Nikki Keddie, professor of history, University of California, Los Angeles
- * Enrique Krauze, editor of *Lettras Libres* (Mexico City)
- * Vladimir Tismaneanu, professor of politics at the University of Maryland

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Bell Hooks to Launch Skidmore's Black History Month Celebration



Cultural critic, feminist theorist, and author bell hooks will lecture at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 2, in Gannett Auditorium of Palamountain Hall. Admission is free and open to the public.

Hooks has been celebrated as one of the nation's leading public intellectuals by *The Atlantic Monthly* and was named one of *Utne Reader's* "100 visionaries who could change your life." Known for a charismatic speaking style, she divides her time among reading, writing, and lecturing.

Hooks has written a number of books about a broad range of topics, including gender, race, teaching, and the significance of media for contemporary culture. Her most recent book, *We Real Cool: Black Men and Masculinity* (2003, Routledge), is a complex, multi-layered look at black male identity. She also wrote *Rock My Soul: Black People and Self-Esteem* (2002, Atria Books), which *Publisher's Weekly* called "a timely, provocative book" on the lack of significant social progress in the black community. Her earlier books include *Salvation: Black People and Love* (2001, William Morrow & Co.) and *Feminism Is for Everybody: Passionate Politics* (2000, South End Press). In addition, hooks is the author of the children's books *Happy to Be Nappy* (1999, Hyperion) and *Homemade Love* (2002, Jump Sun).

Born in 1952 and named Gloria Jean Watkins, hooks grew up in Kentucky. To distinguish herself from another author named Gloria Watkins, she later took the name "bell hooks," with its distinctive capitalization. Bell Hooks was the name of her great-grandmother, an outspoken woman known for challenging the racist and sexist stereotypes of her age.

A 1973 graduate of Stanford, where she earned a B.A. degree, hooks earned an M.A. at the University of Wisconsin and a Ph.D. at the University of California at Santa Cruz. She has taught at Yale and Oberlin and is currently a Distinguished Professor of English at City College and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York.

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Tang Features 3 New Exhibitions

Large-scale photographs by the late John Coplans, detailed paintings and animations by Shahzia Sikander, and the meaning of hair in western society — all are featured in spring-semester exhibitions at the Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery. An opening reception celebrating all three exhibitions is scheduled from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 31, with a special performance of *Out of Blue*, by Sharmila Desai at 6 p.m. [For details, click here.](#)

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Arciero Revisits Diet/Exercise Study

Associate Professor of Exercise Science **Paul Arciero** this fall received an \$11,000 grant to conduct a follow-up study of individuals who participated in his 2002 research of two well-known nutrition and exercise programs.

The grant, from Experimental and Applied Sciences (EAS) of Golden, Colo., enabled Arciero to contact 29 people from his original study, which took place over three months in late 2002, to see how they were doing a year after the study ended and to assess their ability to maintain some of the significant benefits of having participated in the study.

During the late summer of 2002, Arciero received \$151,000 from EAS to analyze the effectiveness of diet and exercise on body weight and composition (fat and muscle mass), metabolic rate, blood lipids (cholesterol, HDL, LDL), blood pressure, and mood state. He recruited approximately 60 volunteers, male and female, from the campus and the community to participate. Study subjects ranged in age from 28 to 60 years and were divided among three groups: Group One--Resistance training, Cardio-vascular training and High-protein diet (RT+CT+HP); Group Two--Cardio-vascular training and High-carbohydrate diet (CT+HC); and a Control group (C).

All study subjects had baseline tests done to determine weight, total body fat and muscle mass, metabolic rate, cholesterol levels, blood pressure, and mood state. The two treatment groups were given different diet and exercise programs, which they followed for three months. Control subjects had no regular exercise or diet programs. At the end of the program, in November 2002, both treatment groups demonstrated beneficial outcomes from having followed the programs.

In November 2003, Arciero did a follow-up of 29 of his original study subjects to see how well they had maintained the benefits of the diet and exercise programs after being on their own for a year.

Arciero stated that both physiologically and statistically significant beneficial changes had been maintained for over a year. For example, he explained, "It's very unusual to find that people maintain their muscle mass on a weight and fat reduction program," an outcome that he deemed "great."

The most intriguing findings that Arciero noted were that even though Group One had significant improvements in metabolic rate, blood pressure, and blood lipid profiles after 12 weeks, these improvements were no longer statistically significant at the one-year follow-up. However, Group Two had not only a significant lowering in LDL-cholesterol (the so-called "bad" cholesterol) at 12 weeks but was able to maintain this at the one-year follow-up.

In terms of body weight and composition, study subjects maintained their success but with certain of the blood lipid and blood pressure variables they were not as successful. Arciero suggested that body composition changes may be easier to maintain over the long term than some of the other important cardiovascular risk variables such as cholesterol and blood pressure.

Regardless, all of the participants were provided the appropriate lifestyle tools so that once they finished they knew what they had to do to be able to maintain most of the favorable changes that occurred at 12 weeks. People who did not continue with the program once on their own "were probably not willing to maintain the level of intensity necessary to continue these results," he said.

It appears that both the Group One and Group Two exercise and diet programs have demonstrable benefits for people willing to follow them. However, long-term maintenance remains the challenge for most people, according to Arciero. "I am grateful to all the participants who devoted their time and energy to this research study and hope that they feel they benefited as well," he said.

Arciero and his research collaborators - Chris Gentile '00, Heather Wood '01, Roger Martin Pressman and Michael Ormsbee '02, and Lauren Zwicky and Meghan Everett '03 - are in the process of writing an article analyzing the data from their original study and the follow-up for publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

Red Cross Bloodmobile Scheduled

The Red Cross Bloodmobile will visit Skidmore from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 17, in the multipurpose room of the Sports and Recreation Center. Potential donors can use the web to make an appointment by [clicking here](#).

In order to donate blood, a person must weigh at least 110 pounds and have not donated less than 56 days ago. Other general guidelines include waiting at least 12 months after having a tattoo or a body piercing. More guideline information is available at the following [web site](#).

If you have a specific question about your own eligibility, you can contact the Red Cross regulatory manager in Albany: Jody Baker, RN, 462-7461 ext. 801, or the national coordinator at 1-800-212-1659.

Schick Art Gallery Opens Year with Juried Student Exhibition

The annual juried Student Art Exhibition opens this week at the Schick Art Gallery. Mark Wethli of Bowdoin College juried the show. For details, [click here](#).

Battleworks Dance Company to Perform on Campus



Known for its intense musicality and a repertory of quirky, idiosyncratic dances, Battleworks Dance Company will present two evenings of contemporary dance at Skidmore on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 20 and 21.

Both performances will begin at 8 p.m. in the College's Dance Theater. General admission is \$10, \$8 for senior citizens. The program will be the same both nights and will include the following works: *Alleluia*, *Strange Humors*,

Damn, *Rush Hour*, *Mood Indigo*, *Takademe*, and *The Hunt*.

Battleworks residency master classes in the Skidmore dance studios will be open to observers and to advanced/intermediate dancers. Monday and Wednesday classes (Feb. 11-25) will take place 4-5:50 p.m.; classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays (Feb. 10-24) will be offered 3:40-5:30 p.m. Admission is \$10 at the door.

Founded nearly three years ago by dancer and choreographer Robert Battle, Battleworks consists of eight dancers. Many are longtime Battle dancers who helped found and administer the new company.

Battleworks won early critical acclaim. Anna Kisselgoff of *The New York Times* hailed Battle in 2002 as "a choreographer to watch...refreshingly free of the 'isms' that permeate the experimental dance scene." Legendary Alvin Ailey dancer and artistic director Judith Jamison described Battle as "an immensely talented choreographer, mover and shaker, [whose] works are spontaneous, intense, brooding, and eclectic."

Born in Miami, Fla., Battle trained at the New World School of the Arts in Miami, then earned a B.F.A degree in dance from the Juilliard School. A member of the Parsons Dance Company from 1994-2001, he began setting work on that company in 1998. His works have since been commissioned by the Hubbard Street Repertory Ensemble, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and Ailey II, and the Dallas Black Dance Theatre, among others. His work has been performed across the United States and in Europe, South America, and Japan.

For more information, call the Dance Program at ext. 5360.

In the News

Skidmore faculty who recently shared their expertise in the mainstream media include the following:

Sandy Baum, professor of economics, was a source for a Dec. 19 *Chronicle of Higher Education* story titled "Tuition: Rising Expenses Will Lead to Higher Prices," and for a Jan. 6 *Chronicle* story titled "Economists Fault Tuition Information, Saying Reports Overstate Increases and What Students Pay"; a Jan. 14 Gannett News Service story titled "More College Scholarships Go to Wealthy Students," and a Jan. 26 article in *The Digital Collegian* (published independently by students at Penn State) titled "Private loan use up to help cover tuition."

Gerry Erchak, professor of anthropology, appeared as a commentator on National Geographic Channel's *Taboo* Jan. 19. The episode was titled "Extreme Entertainers."

President **Philip Glotzbach** was quoted in a story titled "Academics Discuss How to Explain the Value of the Liberal Arts to Those Who Pay the Bills" in the Jan. 26 online edition of *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.

Katie Hauser, associate professor of art history, was interviewed for a Jan. 22 story in the Glens Falls *Post-Star* titled "A gray issue: Hyde exhibit of Rodin's works brings debate of authenticity to the region."

Mary Zeiss Stange, associate professor of women's studies and religion, contributed an opinion essay titled "Raise cattle naturally, safely on open range" to the Jan. 6 issue of *USA Today*.

Gordon Thompson, associate professor of music, discussed his Beatles seminar and course on British popular music in the 1960s in a Jan. 21 story in the Albany *Times Union*.

Mark Vinci, lecturer in music, performed in a small group with Michael Feinstein during the Jan. 11 NBC TV program featuring Olympic ice skater Scott Hamilton.

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Faculty-Staff Activities

Four Skidmore student recruitment publications have received Accolade awards from the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) District II. "The Skidmore Mind: An Owner's Manual" was voted a gold award, silver awards were voted for the new college view book and recruitment poster ("Creative Thought Matters"), and a bronze award was voted for the admissions postcard series, a collection of seven edgy postcards designed to build awareness. The work has been a collaborative effort involving **Mary Lou Bates**, dean of admissions and financial aid; **Gerry Schorin**, director of strategic communications; **Peter MacDonald**, publications director; and **Mary Parlman**, senior graphics designer; working closely with Mark Edwards & Co. The awards will be presented at the CASE District II annual conference Feb. 7-10 in Philadelphia.

Terry Diggory, Ross Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies and chair, Department of English, attended the annual convention of the Modern Language Association Dec. 27-30 in San Diego, where he participated in a panel titled "The Robinson Jeffers Canon: Jeffers and the Canon."

Michael C. Ennis-McMillan, assistant professor of anthropology, presented a paper titled "I'm More Native than You': Negotiating Identity and Cargo Service on the Outskirts of Mexico City" in the session "Beyond Indio and Mestizo: Alternative Conceptualizations of Sameness and Difference in Mexico" at the 102nd annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association Nov. 20, 2003, in Chicago.

Deb Hall, assistant professor of art, attended the Center for Educational Technology (CET) workshop on Multimedia Narratives Jan. 7-9 in Middlebury, Vt. (with campus colleague **Crystal Moore**, assistant professor of social work), sponsored by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The CET explores and facilitates innovative and effective uses of technology in teaching and learning, both at Middlebury and at selected liberal arts colleges across the country.

Mary Kathryn Jablonski, assistant the to the director of the Schick Art Gallery, read from her own poetry and led a discussion of *Featherstone* by Kirsty Gunn at the Jan. 21 session of the Saratoga Public Library's Writers on Reading program. Jablonski is director of the Saratoga Poetry Zone, a forum for those interested in writing, reading, and listening to poetry. Poetry Zone meetings are held on the second Sunday of each month at the Saratoga Public Library, 49 Henry St.

Jeffrey Segrave, professor of exercise science and athletic director, gave the keynote address, "Perspectives on the Development of Sport Literature and Narrativity" at the seminar on Nordic Narratives in Sport and Physical Culture: Tansdisciplinary Perspectives Jan. 16-17 sponsored by the Center for Idraet, University of Aarhus, Aarhus, Denmark; and the Danish Cultural Ministry's Committee for Sport Research.

Robert Shorb, director, Student Aid and Family Finance, presented an "Update on the 2004-05 FAFSA and PROFILE Applications" as the opening session of the regional Student Financial Aid Workshop for School Counselors Nov. 19 at Hudson Valley Community College. The workshop was sponsored by the New York State Financial Aid Administrators Association (NYSFAAA) and various banks in the capital district. On Oct. 15, he presented two sessions on the "Hot Topic of the Day: The College Cost Crisis" at the NYSFAAA conference in Saratoga Springs.

Linda Simon, professor of English, gave an invited paper titled "Wild Facts: Lives in Context," at the American Philosophical Association Eastern Division convention Dec. 28 in Washington, D.C.

Paul H.L. Walter, professor emeritus of chemistry, helped arrange a recent conference in Malta that brought together Israelis, Iranians, and Arabs from throughout the Middle East and included six Nobel laureates. All Middle Eastern nations except Iraq and Syria were represented at the session, which was the first time such a gathering was held. Said Walter, "While the science was there, we hoped that the informal communications would allow these chemists to see each other as human beings and perhaps be less willing to kill each other. The results exceeded our imagination. At dinner they sat together and discussed family, politics, and peace, along with science." Sponsoring organizations were the American Chemical Society, the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry, and the Royal Society of Chemistry (UK).

Publications & Exhibitions

Terry Diggory, Ross Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies and chair, Department of English, has published two reviews: "Making His Own Days," a review of *Digressions on Some Poems by Frank O'Hara*, by Joe LeSuer, published in *American Book Review*, Vol. 25, No. 2, January-February 2004; and "Hyper O'Hara," a review of *Hyperscapes in the Poetry of Frank O'Hara: Difference/Homosexuality/Topography*, by Hazel Smith, appearing in *Jacket 22* (May 2003), [online](#).

Catherine J. Golden, professor of English, has published her fifth book, titled *Images of the Woman Reader in Victorian British and American Fiction*, University Press of Florida, 2003.

Deb Hall, assistant professor of art, has an Iris print, *Messengers*, included in a juried exhibition titled 14th National Computer Art Invitational at Eastern Washington University through March 15. The topic of the art work is instant messaging.

Karen Kellogg, visiting assistant professor and associate director of environmental studies, has had a paper, "Ultraviolet reflectivity and mate choice in a group of Lake Malawi Rock Dwelling Fishes (Cichlidae)" accepted for publication in the *Journal of Fish Biology*. The paper is co-authored with colleagues from Cornell, Princeton, and the University of Massachusetts, and contributes to the growing body of literature on the importance of ultraviolet vision and its role in animal communication.

Karin B. Kirk '90, former teaching associate in geology, and **John J. Thomas**, emeritus professor of geology, published "The Lifestyle Project," an article in the *Journal of Geoscience Education*. The article describes the Lifestyle Project that Kirk designed and implemented for GE 101 Physical Geology. The project became a part of the course and was designed to make students think about how their style of living impacts the environment. Students were encouraged to adopt a lifestyle that would have minimal environmental impact. The project has subsequently been extended to ES 105 Field Studies in Environmental Science and has been taught by Judy Halstead and Steve Frey, associate professors of chemistry, and Kim Marsella, teaching associate in geosciences. One reviewer of the paper said, "this type of article should serve as a model for an entire issue of the journal."



Detail from Margo Mensing's *Mt. Rushmore*, (2004, 5'4" by 8', security envelopes and masonite). Photo by Margo Mensing.

Margo Mensing, associate professor of art, has two solo exhibitions currently at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. *A Sense of Security*, at the university's Residential College Art Gallery through March 20, features four large-scale murals made entirely from circles punched from security envelopes. The murals are titled *Eiffel Tower* (10'8" by 6'8"), *Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant* (6'8" by 12'), *Sydney Opera House* (6' by 13'), and *Mt. Rushmore* (5'4" by 8'). In her artist's statement, Mensing explains, "Security (safety) envelopes veil discreet information. Phone bills, bank statements, Social Security statements, automatic paycheck deposits come in company logos, stripes, and squiggles-repeat designs on the insides envelopes. Few

people notice these marks as they rip open the envelope to expose a payment notice or the latest nudge in their net worth. The envelopes head for the recycle bin or trash. Saved, these envelopes reveal a shed cocoon of financial dealings, a diary of sorts.... All the pieces in *A Sense of Security* are punched circles from hundreds of security envelopes. I punched the circles in *Sydney Opera House* from my envelopes. In succeeding works, I depend on contributions not only for an increase in volume, but also for greater diversity in envelope color and design. Also I am intrigued by the imagined narratives I draw from these empty envelopes as I construct the drawings." She notes that although common in many countries now, "security envelopes mark this historical moment. Within a decade or two they may be almost obsolete."

In connection with the exhibition, Mensing will present a talk titled "A Sense of Security" Tuesday, March 16.

The second exhibition, *Common and Uncommon Occurrences*, features 15 framed bibs, each with its own text. The narrative for each bib explains the origin and contains photos of people wearing the red bibs. Originally exhibited at the Chicago Cultural Center in 1998, the installation will be on view at Michigan's Lane Hall Gallery through May 28. Mensing will give an artist's talk there on March 17.

Ross Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies **Terry Diggory** wrote a brief essay on Mensing for the exhibitions' announcement card in which he explained, "By mounting two exhibitions simultaneously at the University of Michigan, Mensing dramatizes another basic principle of her work. If you want to locate this artist, you have to look in more than one place. Like the security envelope drawings...the red bibs occupy an indefinable border area between inside and outside, transgressing and remapping traditional dichotomies such as the domestic sphere or 'inner space' associated with women and the public sphere or outward look associated with men.

Mary Zeiss Stange, associate professor of women's studies and religion, has been named to the board of contributors of *USA Today*, the country's largest-circulation newspaper.

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