

## I

# Skidmore Intercom

## Faculty & Staff Newsletter

Vol. 3, No. 9 - April 23, 2004

### Highlights

[Hodgins Wins  
NSF Grant](#)

[Choral Concert  
Announced](#)

[Alumni Art at the Tang](#)

[More Stories](#)

Printable Version



Holley Hodgins has received a multi-year NSF grant to study human motivation. [Story](#)



The inaugural Alumni Art Invitational (including *Suspended Gravities XVI* by Sarah Lutz '89) opens May 1 at the Tang. [Story](#)



Recent gouache paintings by Professor of Art Doretta Miller are featured in an upcoming solo exhibition. [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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**I**  
HOME

## Highlights

[Hodgins Wins  
NSF Grant](#)[Choral Concert  
Announced](#)[Alumni Art at the Tang](#)[More Stories](#)[Printable Version](#)

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## Faculty & Staff Newsletter

**Vol. 3, No. 9 - April 23, 2004****Hodgins Wins \$230K NSF Grant to Study Human Motivation**

Holley Hodgins, associate professor of psychology at Skidmore, has received a three-year, \$230,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to study human motivation.

Hodgins's research project, titled "The Relation of Motivation to Self-Aspects, Openness and Performance," will examine how individual autonomy affects a person's openness — the willingness to embrace or to participate in — ongoing events. Hodgins believes that people who are "autonomously open" to an event will perform better at a task and demonstrate genuine self-esteem upon completing the task.

A social psychologist who specializes in the study of motivation and emotion, Hodgins based her hypothesis on the "Self-Determination Theory" originated in 1970 by Ed Deci and Rich Ryan. The pair outlined a theory of three types of human motivation: autonomous, control-oriented, and impersonal, and described the different outcomes that can result from the different motivations. People who are "autonomously motivated" exhibit a stronger sense of well being and greater creativity; those experiencing "control motivation" see events as pressures or cues that influence their behaviors and feelings; while "impersonal motivation" leads people to view desired outcomes as unattainable.

Hodgins first used the Self-Determination Theory in a study of interpersonal relationships and discovered that people who are more autonomous were more open about themselves and willing to disclose information in interactions. "It's a qualitative difference, and not just a matter of stronger or better performance," she explained. She thinks that the results of the study will have implications for academic, athletic, and employment performance.

In a preliminary test of her hypothesis, Hodgins analyzed Skidmore's crew team, a group of experienced rowers. The team was split into two groups and given cues ("primed") for either autonomy or non-autonomy through the use of a simple word test. After the test, the rowers were asked to perform on an ergometer. Subjects primed for autonomy showed decreased defensiveness and stronger performances - with some actually beating their personal best times, an unusual outcome for experienced athletes, said Hodgins. They engaged in less self-handicapping by offering fewer excuses about their expected outcomes. According to Hodgins, the results showed that people who are in autonomy-supportive contexts - with parents, teachers, or coaches providing support - would be less defensive and perform better.

Said Hodgins, "At every stage of life a sense of autonomy promotes well-being. The whole idea of experience versus avoiding experience is central to how we live. This topic is about long-term development. Autonomy allows us to explore the current moment as it is without defenses, which is exciting to me."

For the NSF-funded project, Hodgins will use five indicators. Test subjects' verbal and non-verbal responses, self-reported emotions, self-esteem, performance at the task, and physiologic responses (such as blood pressure) will be measured to assess their openness to, or defensiveness against, various tasks.

One study will involve the use of an interview to gauge interpersonal defensiveness. She hopes to demonstrate that test subjects with autonomous motivation do not feel threatened, but rather feel challenged by the opportunity. To test emotional responses, Hodgins plans to show that people who have been primed for autonomy will talk more openly and honestly about their feelings, instead of avoiding such a discussion.

"The essence of being human is in how we meet experiences or avoid them," said Hodgins. "Even very hard experiences must be met and dealt with. People must be able to find a way to do that. Avoidance or denial are not good strategies for coping. They may work for short-term adaptation, but not for the long term," she added.

The NSF grant will allow Hodgins to do collaborative research with two Skidmore students each summer for the next three summers. In addition, she hopes to work in Skidmore's Expanding Horizons Partnership Program with the Schuylerville Central School District by serving as a resource person to high school students involved in hands-on science research. Hodgins also will share results of her research with parent and teacher groups in Schuylerville.

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[Hodgins Wins](#)[NSF Grant](#)[Choral Concert  
Announced](#)[Alumni Art at the Tang](#)[More Stories](#)[Printable Version](#)

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**Vol. 3, No. 9 - April 23, 2004****Choral Concert to Feature *Carmina Burana***

David Griggs-Janower

A Skidmore College choral recital is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, May 1 and 2, at the College's Filene Recital Hall.

The Skidmore Community Chorus, under the direction of guest conductor David Griggs-Janower, will present Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana*, with chamber ensemble, and soloists Gene Marie Callahan Kern, Keith Kibler, and James Ruff. In addition, the Skidmore Vocal Chamber Ensemble, under the direction of Jeffrey Vredenburg, will perform *Liebeslieder Walzer*, Op. 52, by Brahms.

Performances are scheduled at 8 p.m. May 1 and 3 p.m. May 2. General admission is \$5 per person, \$2 for students and senior citizens. Skidmore students with ID will be admitted without charge.

*Carmina Burana* literally means "songs of Beuren," the title that was given by Johann Andreas Schmeller to his complete edition (1847) of the poems contained in an early 13th-century German manuscript from the Benedictine abbey of Benediktbeuren, south of Munich. The manuscript is perhaps the most important source for Latin secular poetry of the 12th-century goliardic repertory. The poems include religious, political, moral, erotic, Bacchic, and satirical verses.

Subtitled a "scenic" or "theatrical" cantata, *Carmina Burana* had its world premiere in 1937 by the Frankfurt Opera with Bertil Wetzelsberger conducting. The performance was a big hit and the work became internationally known following World War II.

Orff, born in Munich in 1895, was an educator as well as a composer. *Carmina Burana* established his reputation as a composer of substance. The music reflects his own style and brought him wide attention in the musical world. The work is usually heard today in concert form and is presented in three sections: "In Springtime," "In the Tavern," and "The Court of Love," with an opening prologue and finale on the subject of fortune, or luck.

Featured soloists at the Skidmore performance include Gene Marie Callahan Kern, soprano, Keith Kibler, bass-baritone, and James Ruff, tenor.

Kern is a veteran of numerous operatic roles and also has appeared as a recitalist throughout the U.S. She was a Metropolitan Opera regional finalist and one of 10 finalists in the U.S. for OPERA/America. Her early music training included piano, organ, and voice study in Saratoga Springs.

Kibler has sung leading roles internationally with some of the opera world's best directors. Twice a fellow at the Tanglewood Music Center, he has been a visiting artist with the Boston Camerata and has performed during summers at the Monadnock, Wolftrap, and Norfolk festivals.

Ruff has been praised for his singing in a wide variety of music on both the concert and operatic stage. His work in early music includes solo performances with such groups as the Handel & Haydn Society and the Newberry Consort, and his operatic performances include appearances with the New York City and Glimmerglass operas.

Griggs-Janower is a professor of music and director of choral music at the University at Albany, State University of New York, where he has taught since 1981. He is also artistic director and founding conductor of Albany Pro Musica. Last year, the New York State American Choral Directors Association named Griggs-Janower "Outstanding Conductor of the Year." In 2002 he was the inaugural recipient of the UAlbany Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Activity. This spring, Griggs-Janower will lead Albany Pro Musica on a concert tour of Paris and Normandy in celebration of the 60th anniversary of D-Day.

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[Hodgins Wins  
NSF Grant](#)[Choral Concert  
Announced](#)[Alumni Art at the Tang](#)[More Stories](#)[Printable Version](#)

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**Vol. 3, No. 9 - April 23, 2004****Alumni Invitation Art Exhibition Honors College's Centennial**

The Tang Teaching Museum announces its first Alumni Invitational exhibition, on view May 1-June 6. Organized in honor of the College's centennial celebration this year, the exhibition is a tribute to the influential legacy of the Skidmore art program.

The exhibition will showcase the work of four artists whose Skidmore class years span almost half a century. The artists are photographer Susan Lipper '75, ceramic artist David Dalva '85, and painters Susan Rabinowitz Malloy '45 and Sarah Lutz '89. Their works will be displayed in a large gallery divided into quarters, giving the effect of four solo shows, according to Tang curator Ian Berry.

Lipper is a documentary-style photographer, perhaps best known for her book of gritty black-and-white images made in the rural West Virginia town of Grapevine. Her new work, an installation prepared especially for the Tang space, will pair large images evoking surveillance, empty spaces, and 9/11 — even though the photos were made before 2001. Like Lipper's previous works, the new photographs (titled *Not Yet Titled*) have a narrative quality.

Dalva's towering ceramic sculptures stand several feet tall and are suggestive of totem poles. Finished in flashy colors such as shiny metallic gold, the forms nonetheless have a natural look, says Berry: "The marks of the artist's hands are still visible." Dalva explains that he often uses the female body as a starting point, abstracts it, and then "tries to suggest some movement." Sea forms such as coral, snails, and fish inspired another series of pieces.

Malloy is a representational painter who "paints a realistic landscape and then abstracts it, much as Mondrian did," says Berry. "She starts with a tree, turns the branches into cubes, and an abstract painting emerges." Malloy explains that her work is "based more on memories of shapes and forms of nature than on actual places I see." Her inspirations include "winter trees and branches, combined with manmade towers and bridges."

Lutz's abstract paintings feature "a clear figure/ground relationship," she says. Interested in the play of surface and form, she combines the repetition of a shape—often a round, cell-like ball (as in her last body of work, *The Morula Series*) — with layers and layers of color. Although her images are invented, "they are evocative of familiar life forms," says Lutz.

The Skidmore Alumni Invitational exhibition at the Tang was organized by curator Berry in collaboration with the artists. The exhibition's opening will be celebrated with reception 6-7 p.m. on Thursday, May 6. The reception will be free and open to the public.

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[Hodgins Wins NSF Grant](#)

[Choral Concert Announced](#)

[Alumni Art at the Tang](#)

[More Stories](#)

[Printable Version](#)

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**Vol. 3, No. 9 - April 23, 2004**

### Curley Wins \$22K Grant from Loeb Classical Library Foundation

Dan Curley, assistant professor of classics, has won a competitive research grant from the Loeb Classical Library Foundation, administered by Harvard University.

Curley will apply the grant of approximately \$22,000 toward a sabbatical leave in academic year 2004-05, during which he will complete a book manuscript on Ovid's *Metamorphoses*. Titled "Theater and Metatheater: Transforming Tragedy in Ovid," Curley's project is an examination of tragic storytelling in the works of the Roman poet Ovid, whose greatest work, the *Metamorphoses*, represents a significant (and overlooked) turn in Western dramaturgy.

The Loeb Classical Library Foundation was established in 1933 following the death of James Loeb, founder of the Loeb Classical Library series. Loeb directed in his will that income from the Library beyond that needed for maintenance and enhancement of the collection should be used "for the encouragement of special research at home and abroad in the province of Archaeology and of Greek and Latin literature" and that awards should be granted "without distinction as to sex, race, nationality, color or creed."

### Workshop to Focus on Effective Communication with Health Care Professionals

Skidmore is offering a workshop on "Communicating Effectively with Health Care Professionals" from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 1.

Facilitated by Crystal Moore, Ph.D., assistant professor of social work at the College and director of the Social Work Program, the workshop is geared toward people who are caring for a child with special needs, a loved one with a disability, or an older, frail relative. The goal of the program is to enable family caregivers to communicate effectively with health care professionals as active members of the health care team.

The registration fee of \$25 covers the workshop, as well as refreshments and materials. The program will take place in Skidmore's Tisch Learning Center, room 208. For registration information, contact Skidmore's Office of the Dean of Special Programs, 518-580-5590.

Participants will follow a curriculum developed by the National Family Caregivers Association. Goals of the session include the following:

- Improving communication regarding the planning of medical appointments and hospital visits;
- Learning concise ways to list questions and concerns;
- Developing a better understanding of how to enhance relationships with health care providers;
- Using worksheets, checklists, and other planning tools to concentrate on critical issues;
- Becoming assertive in establishing and presenting the needs and concerns of your patient and family.

According to Moore, workshop participants will come away better able "to communicate their needs and their loved ones' needs to health care professionals in order to ensure the best medical care possible." Through exercises such as role-playing and a workbook of materials, participants will gain a better understanding of the medical system. They will develop a toolkit of skills that will allow them to be strong advocates on behalf of family members.

Moore, a Skidmore faculty member since 2001, earned a B.A. in psychology and an M.A. in behavioral sciences at California State University at Bakersfield. She earned master's and Ph.D. degrees in social work from the Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy at the State University of New York at Albany. Her research interests include end-of-life and palliative care for older adults. She has obtained experience as a social worker in the VA Healthcare Network of Upstate New York and as a clinician in the geriatric continuing day treatment program of the Rehabilitation Support Services in Albany.

### Breslin Book on Communitarianism Published

Beau Breslin, assistant professor of government, has published *The Communitarian Constitution* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2004).

Previous critiques of communitarianism have focused on the conflict between individual rights and the communal good. Breslin, according to the publisher, takes a different stance-examining the pragmatic question of whether or not communitarian policies are truly practicable in a constitutional society.

Says Wayne Moore of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, "Breslin's central claim is that communitarian thought is anti-constitutionalist because it elevates the will of the community over objective, clearly discernible constitutional limitations. [He] succeeds admirably in sharpening debates over fundamental matters of constitutional design." Adds Austin Sarat of Amherst College, "Everyone who reads it will come away with a new understanding of the power, complexity, and problems of communitarian ideas."

Read more at the publisher's [web site](#)

### Employee Recognition Event Announced

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the annual employee retirement and recognition luncheon from noon to 2 p.m. Thursday, May 27, on Case Green (rain location: Murray and Aikins dining halls).

The following retirees will be special guests at the luncheon: Jackie Azzarto, associate professor of Social Work; Christine DeLucia, secretary in Government, Environmental Studies, and Law and Society; Leo Geoffrion, webmaster, Strategic Communications; Jim Kunz, associate director, Admissions; Bill Long, director of the Child Custody and Stress Prevention Project, Special Programs; Judy McCormack, director of the Counseling Center; Ann Perrino, Housekeeping; Jon Ramsey, dean of studies and associate dean, Student Affairs; Sharon Urban, executive secretary, College Relations; and Anne Wagner, senior teaching associate, Chemistry. In addition, employees with service in increments of five to 45 years will be recognized.

Invitations to the College community will soon be distributed via campus mail.

### In the News

**Mary Lou Bates**, dean of admissions and financial aid, was a source for an April 13 story in the Glens Falls *Post-Star* titled "Senior Sickness? Some see last year of high school as time to slack off."

**Sandy Baum**, professor of economics, was a source for an April 20 story in *The Dallas Morning News* titled "Critics say Kerry's college-tuition plan fails in some aspects." The story was syndicated by the Knight Ridder/Tribune News Service. In addition, she was a guest March 29 on *On Point*, a program that aired on WBUR-FM, a Boston-area NPR affiliate. Baum discussed "Paying for College" with guests Ronald Ehrenberg, director of Cornell's Higher Education Research Institute; Bill Witbrodt, director of student financial services at Washington University in St. Louis; and Anthony Brooks, higher education reporter at NPR. *On Point* is a two-hour evening news program heard daily on WBUR and available at various times to other stations in the NPR network. Tom Ashbrook hosts the show.

**Robert Boyers**, Tisch Professor of Arts and Letters and professor of English, is the author of a letter to the editor of *The New Yorker* published March 8, commenting on an article by George Packer that appeared in the Feb. 16 issue of the magazine.

**Carolyn Forché**, professor of English, was a guest April 2 on *Vox Pop*, the afternoon program that airs on WAMC-FM, an Albany NPR affiliate. She discussed National Poetry Month and her new collection, *Blue Hour*, in addition to her work as a Skidmore faculty member.

**Gerry Erchak**, professor of anthropology, was a guest on three recent segments of *Taboo-Body Perfect*, a multi-part series on cultural anthropology produced by National Geographic TV. He appeared as a commentator on the March 5 segment, titled "Initiation"; the March 29 segment, titled "Gross Work"; and the April 12 segment, titled "Marks of Identity."

**Penny Jolly**, Kenan Professor of Liberal Arts and professor of art history, and Ian Berry, curator of the Tang Museum, were guests April 22 on *Roundtable*, the morning program that airs on WAMC-FM, where they discussed the current Tang exhibition, *Hair: Untangling a Social History*.

**James Kennelly**, associate professor in the Department of Management and Business, has published an opinion essay in the March 31 edition of the *Irish Times*. He writes that the Irish would do well to recall the social criticism of Sir Horace Plunkett.

**Pat Oles**, dean of student affairs, was a source for an April 11 story in *The Sunday Gazette* titled "Skidmore housing plans will end use of 'pink palace'."

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[Hodgins Wins  
NSF Grant](#)[Choral Concert  
Announced](#)[Alumni Art at the Tang](#)[More Stories](#)

Printable Version

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**Vol. 3, No. 9 - April 23, 2004**

### Faculty/Staff Activities

**Paul Arciero**, associate professor of exercise science, has had the following abstract accepted:

"Enhanced Insulin Sensitivity and Body Composition Following 12-Week Dietary and Exercise Interventions in Obese Subjects" (co-written with Roger Martin-Pressman '01, Bradley Nindl, Matthew Vukovich, Michael Ormsbee '01, Jason Santamore '04, and Christine Steele) to be presented at the 51st annual meeting of the American College of Sports Medicine June 2-5 in Indianapolis, Ind.

In addition, he was a co-author of the following presentations made at the April 17-21 conference on Experimental Biology in Washington, D.C.:

"Increased Dietary Protein and Exercise Training is Associated with Improved Plasma Leptin, Body Fat Distribution, and Cardiovascular Risk in Obese Men and Women," (with Jason Santamore, Liza Colgrove Gorman, Jeff Martin, Roger Martin-Pressman, Bradley c. Nindl, Joseph Alemany, Matthew Vukovich, Tasha Ballard, and Michael J. Ormsbee); and

"Body Fat Distribution and Total Cholesterol is Influenced by Energy Expenditure of Exercise and Macronutrient Composition in Middle-Aged Men and Women Following a 12-Week Intervention," (with Santamore, Gorman, Martin, Martin-Pressman, Ormsbee, Meghan Everett, and Lauren R. Zwicky).

Arciero also was a co-author of "Differential Effects of Diet and Exercise on Depression and Anxiety: A Randomized Study" (with Cay Anderson-Hanley, Martin-Pressman, Everett, and Ormsbee) presented at the Society of Behavioral Medicine's 25th annual meeting and scientific session March 24-27 in Baltimore.

On Feb. 10, Arciero was an invited speaker in the Graduate Seminar Series hosted by the Syracuse University Department of Exercise Science. His topic was "Resistance and cardiovascular Exercise and Nutritional Interventions: The Quest for Optimal Health."

**Hunt Conard**, daytime coordinator of media services, has been elected to a two-year term on the board of directors of the Consortium of College and University Media Centers, an organization that provides leadership and a forum for information exchange to those responsible for media and technology support at higher educational institutions. As a board member, Conard will serve as interest group coordinator and co-chair of the program planning committee. He also is in his third year as a member of the government regulation and public policy committee, which deals with issues of copyright and educational fair use.

**Catherine Golden**, professor of English, presented a paper titled "Censoring Her Own Sensationalism: Mary Elizabeth Braddon and *The Doctor's Wife*" in a session on Victorian sensationalism at the Northeast Modern Language Association Convention March 4-6 in Pittsburgh.

**Bill Jones**, sports information manager, is one of two people honored by the Eastern College Athletic Conference-Sports Information Directors Association (ECAC-SIDA) with the Irving T. Marsh Award. Launched in 1966, the awards (one each in the university and college divisions) annually recognize excellence in the field of sports information. Jones, who joined Skidmore in 1984, has been a part of every ECAC-SIDA workshop since 1985, chairing and hosting two such sessions in Saratoga Springs, in 1995 and 2001. He served as ECAC-SIDA president in 2000-01.

**Murray Levith**, professor of English, presented a paper, "Iago, James VI, and the Succession," at the 32nd annual meeting of the Shakespeare Association of America April 8 in New Orleans. Additionally, he has been invited to respond to five papers to be delivered at the annual meeting of the Modern Language Association in December. The papers and Levith's response will be published in next year's *Shakespeare Yearbook*.

**Steven Millhauser**, professor of English, read one of his early short stories "A Protest Against the Sun" and excerpts from other works April 1 at Adirondack Community College.

**Ray Rodrigues**, director of assessment, presented a paper titled "Creating a Culture of Evidence Through Writing Assessment" March 26 at the Conference on College Composition and Communication in San Antonio, Texas.

### Publications and Exhibitions

**Ron McEachen**, teaching associate, Exercise Science, Dance, and Athletics; and men's soccer coach, is the author of a chapter titled "Training for High-Level Soccer Fitness," published in *The Soccer Coaching Bible* (2004, Champaign, Ill.: Human Kinetics).

**Steven Millhauser**, professor of English, is the author of "Cat 'N' Mouse," a short story published in the April 19-26 edition of *The New Yorker*.

**Doretta Miller**, professor of art, has a collection of "Recent Gouache Paintings" on exhibit at the First Street Gallery, 526 W. 26th St., New York, from May 25 to June 19. An opening reception is planned from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, May 27.

**Susan Rivers**, lecturer in psychology, is co-author (with D.A. Pizarro, T.R. Schneider, J. Pizarro, and P. Salovey) of "Message framing and pap test utilization among women attending a community health clinic," published in the *Journal of Health Psychology*, 2004.

**Gordon Thompson**, associate professor of music, reviewed *Music of the Raj: A Social and Economic History of Music in Late 18th-Century Anglo-Indian Society*, by Ian Woodfield, in *World of Music*, Vol. 46, No. 1.

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