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Faculty & Staff Newsletter

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Myra Mimplitsch-Gray will discuss her work, including *Mantle* (2004) when she gives the Rosanne Brody Raab lecture Nov. 10 on campus. [Story](#)



Central Asian school girls photographed by Soviet photographer Max Penson. One of the images that will illustrate Kate Fitz Gibbon's Nov. 9 lecture. [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. 5, No. 2 - November 4, 2005**Board of Trustees Meeting - Fall 2005**

The Skidmore College Board of Trustees came to campus for the fall 2005 board meeting, Oct. 27-28. Below is a summary of the resolutions passed by the trustees at the full meeting of the board, Friday, Oct. 28.

The board passed three motions of the Infrastructure Committee:

- A resolution granting approval for the renovation and expansion of the dining halls
- A resolution authorizing the vice president for finance and administration to negotiate the sale of Moore Hall
- A resolution authorizing the vice president for finance and administration to sell a property in Stillwater, N.Y., that was recently gifted to the College.

The trustees approved two motions of the Special Programs Committee, one awarding the Master of Arts degree to four students, and a second authorizing the awarding of three B.A. degrees and one B.S. degree to UWW students.

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Schick Art Gallery to Showcase Contemporary Drawings



Simone Shubuck, *2D (from Box D, a set of ten drawings)*, 2004, mixed media on paper, 10 x 8 inches, collection of Nick Lawrence, image courtesy of Zach Feuer Gallery

Drawn 2: Contemporary Drawings, opens Friday, Nov. 11, in the Schick Art Gallery, and remains on view until Dec. 18. An opening reception is scheduled from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Nov. 11, and a gallery talk with one of the exhibiting artists, Darrel Morris, will take place at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 15, in Davis Auditorium of Palamountain Hall. The exhibition, reception, and talk are free and open to the public.

The exhibition features Dawn Clements, Tony Hepburn, Stanley Lewis, Jane Masters, Wes Mills, Darrel Morris, and Simone Shubuck. Twenty-two works will be on display by six of the exhibiting artists, while Shubuck will be represented by two series of 10 drawings each.

The works range in size from a 4.5-inch square by Mills to a 30-by 180-inch long panoramic drawing by Clements. Media used vary and range from the traditional to the experimental: a stitching by Morris and burnt hole paper pieces by Masters. The viewer will find direct observation, inventive abstraction and the meditative minimal in evidence here. In a catalogue essay, Margo

Mensing, associate professor of art and exhibitions committee chair, remarks, "How differently these seven artists see the world and how familiar they make it while keeping their own strides."

Gallery hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and weekends 1 to 4:30 p.m. The gallery will be closed Nov. 23 - 27 for Thanksgiving break.

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Trustees Honor David H. Porter

During the fall meeting, Skidmore's Board of Trustees awarded the 2005 Denis B. Kemball-Cook award to President Emeritus David H. Porter, in recognition of "his extraordinary leadership, his passionate commitment to the liberal arts, and his warm and highly effective partnership with the trustees and all members of the Skidmore family."

The award, named for a former trustee, honors a Skidmore leader "whose personal qualities and extraordinary commitment have contributed to the life of the College and who...has given sacrificially of wisdom, time, and talent." The trustees cited Porter's skill "at the full range of presidential responsibilities - from christening new buildings and running faculty meetings to fundraising and public relations - and brought to all of them the compelling discourse of a gifted teacher and the impish humor of an inveterate punster."

The citation concluded, "David left the College far better than he found it and repaid in a thousand ways the board's confidence that he was 'our man'."

As Skidmore's fifth president, Porter served from 1987 to 1998. Although he now holds the title of Harry C. Payne Visiting Professor of Liberal Arts at Williams College, he remains a familiar presence on the Skidmore campus, through performances and visits.

Porter's wife, Helen Luebke Porter, received the Kemball-Cook Award in 1997.

Living Through Katrina

Dale Standifer, executive director of the Metropolitan Battered Women's Shelter (MBWS) of Jefferson Parish, La., will discuss "Living Through Katrina" at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 16, in Gannett Auditorium, Palamountain Hall. Admission is free and open to the public.

Standifer has been involved in the field of family violence and victim services for the past 15 years. In addition to working at the MBWS she also is an adjunct professor at Tulane University Graduate School of Social Work and a part-time licensed private investigator for the Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners and Speech Language Pathologists. Hurricane Katrina affected her personally and professionally. Standifer is unable to return to her home and is facing the challenges of getting one shelter habitable while "band-aiding" another for use. She will discuss her experience and daily struggles both as a resident and agency head.

In connection with Standifer's visit to Skidmore, the Women's Studies Senior Seminar practicum, titled "Feminism, Politics, and Globalization," operating under the theme of "think globally, act locally," has coordinated educational and fund-raising projects to benefit the MBWS.

Practicum students have developed an art/media installation titled "First World/Third World?" blending images and quotes from news reports of the August hurricane to showcase coverage of Katrina and its aftermath. The installation will be exhibited in Case Center in the area outside the Faculty/Staff Club during the week of Nov. 14.

Also during that week, there will be a raffle with proceeds to benefit the Metropolitan Battered Women's Shelter. Prizes will include gift certificates to local restaurants and movies, a book autographed by Eve Ensler, author of the *Vagina Monologues*, along with a V-Day T-shirt. Tickets are \$2 each, or 6 for \$10 and will be available that week at Case desk.

Practicum students also have arranged a special benefit evening Nov. 17 at the Payne Room of the Tang Museum. In addition to live music and refreshments, the event will feature a silent auction showcasing art work by Skidmore's own Regis Brodie, Kate Leavitt, and Margo Mensing, as well as an assortment of "get-away packages" at the Gideon Putnam Hotel, a Vermont bed and breakfast, and a summer week in Steamboat, Colo. In addition, there will be tickets to an array of special events, including a performance of the New York City Ballet in New York City, and a box at Saratoga Race Course. General admission tickets to the evening at the Tang are \$40, \$20 for students. All proceeds will benefit the Metropolitan Battered Women's Shelter.

Reservations are suggested for the Tang event and may be made by contacting Mary Stange, associate professor of women's studies and religion, at ext. 5408 or email mstange@skidmore.edu.

Textiles as Political Tool to Be Topic

"Something Borrowed, Something Red," an illustrated talk by Kate Fitz Gibbon, is scheduled at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 9, in Ladd Hall, Room 307. Admission is free and open to the public.

Fitz Gibbon is an author and a specialist on Central Asian textiles and cultural heritage issues. Her talk will consider the ways that textiles and the woman's world became the battleground for building Soviet identity in Central Asia. She will show slides of vintage photographs and unusual textiles and carpets.

A resident of Santa Fe, N.M., Fitz Gibbon specialized in Islamic studies while at the University of California at Berkeley. She is the recipient of several awards, including the George Wittenborn Memorial Award from the Art Libraries Society of North America for the best art book of 1997 for *Ikat Silks of Central Asia*. She has conducted field research in Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan.

She is a founding member and former president of the Textile Museum Associates of Southern California and was appointed in 2000 by then-President Bill Clinton to the President's Cultural Property Advisory Committee.

Art, Music, Sex, and Politics Coming Up in Nov. 9 "Dada Soiré"



An evening of Dadaist music, poetry, and visual art will begin at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 9, in Filene Recital Hall. The Dada Soiré de Filene: Sex, Art, Poetry, and Politics will be produced and directed by Mark Ludwig, the College's 2005-06 Sterne Virtuoso Series artist-in-residence. Ludwig is a Boston Symphony Orchestra violist and a renowned scholar of Holocaust music.

Admission is free; seating is first-come, first-served. For more information, call 580-5320.

The evening will be presented in the form of the "dada soiré" popular after World War I with avant-garde artists, musicians, and writers who embraced Dadaism for its post-war cynicism and playful, unconventional style. Performed in the spirit of a living "time capsule," the event is designed to bring "the significance of the Dada movement into today's political, social, and cultural landscape and to explore music's potential as a powerful tool of resistance and expression," said Ludwig.

A five-piece musical ensemble will perform a selection of Dadaist musical works including Erwin Schulhoff's One-Step, Blues, In Futurum, Kitten on the Keys, Ten Themes, Sonata Erotica, and Symphonia Germanica. Also on the program will be Paul Hindemith's Mini-Max Musik and a work titled Overture to the Flying Dutchman as performed by a second rate band at 7 a.m. by the village well. The musicians will include Ludwig on viola; guest pianist Virginia Eskin; violinist Michael Emery and cellist Ann Alton, both of the Skidmore faculty; and violinist Josh Rodriguez, who performs with the Skidmore College Orchestra and several area symphony orchestras.

Projected images of Dada artworks will range from the cleverly unsettling, such as Raoul Hausman's *Mechanical Head* (Spirit of Our Age), to the openly sexual. Dadaist readings and dramatic sketches will be performed by guest actors Paul Finnegan and Robert Jaffe; Skidmore students A.J. Paul and Sasha Haworth; and Lary Opitz, a professor in the Skidmore theater department. Among the selections will be Kurt Schwitters's "Ursonate" and "What a b what a b what a beauty b"; Tristan Tzara's "How to Make a Dadaist Poem"; and Hugo Ball's "DADayama Song 1919."

A member of the viola section of Boston Symphony Orchestra since 1982, Ludwig also performs with the Hawthorne String Quartet. He is the founding director of the Terezin Chamber Music Foundation, a nonprofit organization Ludwig describes as "dedicated to documenting, preserving, and advancing the resilience of the human spirit as expressed in and inspired by the music and art created in the Terezin [Theresienstadt] concentration camp."

A Fulbright scholar of Holocaust music, Ludwig is an adjunct professor at Boston College, where he teaches a course on art and music in the Third Reich and the Holocaust.

Brodie, Needham Earn Statewide Honor

Professor of Art Regis Brodie and Marianne Needham, administrative coordinator in Summer Six, will receive a Special Citation for Non-Members from the New York State Art Teachers Association, at its 57th annual conference, Nov. 18-20 in Saratoga Springs.

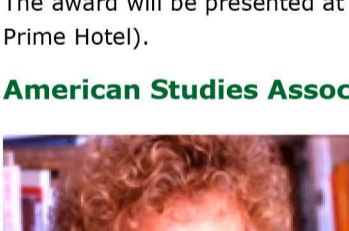
This year's conference, expected to draw approximately 400 NYSATA members from throughout the state, is titled "Metamorphosis," and is designed to showcase high standards in curriculum development, instruction, assessment, student achievement, advocacy, and artistic pursuits.

The Special Citation for Non-Members recognizes individuals or institutions that have made a significant contribution to art education. Brodie and Needham were nominated for consideration by Hilda Green Demsky, an alumna of Summer Six and the High School Art Teachers Fellowship Program. During its 21 years, the fellowship program has drawn approximately 300 art teachers from nearly every state and as far as Egypt and Wales. In her nominating letter, Demsky explains, "I have been a participant in this program for numerous years and know well the benefits. I always returned to the classroom with renewed energy and enthusiasm after five or six weeks at Skidmore. Because of the leadership of Regis and Marianne, there are 300 art teachers that have had their morale and talents boosted at Skidmore's Summer Six Art Program."

Paulette Lowe and Pat Beary, awards chairs, told Brodie and Needham, "Your work has benefited the creative renewal of countless art educators and students. We commend you for your hard work and thank you for your contributions to the arts."

The award will be presented at a Nov. 19 banquet at the Saratoga Hotel (formerly known as the Prime Hotel).

American Studies Association Honors Zangrando



Professor of American Studies Joanna S. Zangrando will be honored this weekend at the annual meeting of the American Studies Association when the ASA presents her with the Mary C. Turpie Award. The awards banquet, scheduled Friday, Nov. 4, in Washington, D.C., is part of a four-day meeting titled "Groundwork: Space and Place in American Cultures."

Established in 1993 and named for the co-founder and chair of the American Studies Program at the University of Minnesota, the Mary C. Turpie Award recognizes outstanding abilities and achievement in American Studies teaching, advising, and program development at the local or regional level. Zangrando was nominated by Linda Borish '83, associate professor in the Department of History at Western

Michigan University.

In his award citation, ASA Executive Director John Stephens notes, "Joanna has been in the forefront of the American Studies movement for the past 30 years. She was a pioneer in the areas of material culture, museum studies, and women's studies, bringing her expertise in these areas into the national arena through her continuing work with the Advanced Placement Program in American History, where she served as chief reader, as well as through her department at Skidmore College."

He cited her teaching, collegiality and willingness to collaborate, and called her "a dynamic and indefatigable faculty member at a small liberal arts college where teaching can make such an important difference."

Zangrando joined Skidmore's American Studies faculty in 1976 and served as department chair for a decade starting in 1987. In addition, she chaired the Liberal Studies program for 20 years.

Greg Pfitzer, current chair of the department, said the Turpie Award "celebrates achievements in precisely those areas that Joanna values most and has worked so hard to promote over the years. Our program is a model of what a small, liberal arts program should be, and we owe much of our success to Joanna."

2006 Benefits Enrollment Period to Start

Employees in the Flexible Benefits Program will soon receive information designed to help with making benefit elections for calendar year 2006. Open Enrollment is Wednesday, Nov. 9, through Wednesday, Nov. 30. This is when employees make benefit elections that will be in effect during calendar year 2006.

This year, for the first time, employees will be able to make benefit changes via the new Online Benefits Enrollment System, which replaces the packet of information and forms sent through campus mail in the past.

An Oct. 10 email from Nancy Bruno in Human Resources introduced My Employment Information - the online system where employees can look up personal information, view or change direct deposit information, and view pay slip information. If you have already registered for this system, you are all set to log in to My Benefits, the new feature under My Employment Information. More detailed information will be emailed Monday, Nov. 7, on how to register and login to this account (if you haven't already done so) and view and make changes to your benefits during Open Enrollment. Plan information and costs for 2006 will also be available at that time.

For assistance in making these selections, all employees are encouraged to visit the Employee Benefits Fair from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 8, in the Sports and Recreation Center. Vendors associated with all benefit plans will attend and be available to answer your benefit questions. There will also be healthy snacks, a blood pressure clinic by Health Services, and safety tips from Campus Safety, as well as three massage therapists and nutritional information provided by the Saratoga Hospital, to name a few. Raffle prizes also will be available.

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Faculty/Staff Activities

Charles Joseph, vice president for academic affairs and professor of music, participated in two pre-performance talks at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center this summer. On July 23, he was the interviewer for "A Conversation with Ballerina Kay Mazzo," featuring the former principal dancer at the New York City Ballet and co-chair of the School of American Ballet, prior to that night's performance by the NYCB; on Aug. 11, he delivered a lecture titled "Passion Tempered by Form: Tchaikovsky's Delicate Balance," prior to a Philadelphia Orchestra concert.

Tom Lewis, professor of English, gave a lecture based on his newly published book, *The Hudson: A History*, Oct. 30 at the Albany Institute of History and Art. The day's program, which also featured folk singer Rich Bala, focused on the history of the Hudson Valley.

Mary Zeiss Stange, associate professor of women's studies and religion, was a featured speaker in "Hunting and Angling for Solutions," a session devoted to forging alliances between hunter/conservationists and "green" environmentalists, at the Sierra Club's first national summit, Sept. 11 at the Moscone Center, San Francisco.

Publications, Exhibitions, & Performances

Robert Boyers, Tisch Professor of Arts and Letters, is the author of two books: *Excitable Women, Damaged Men*, a collection of stories, (New York, N.Y.: Turtle Point Press, 2005); and *The Dictator's Dictation: The Politics of Novels and Novelists*, a book of essays, (New York, N.Y.: Columbia University Press, 2005).

Margo Mensing, associate professor of art, was one of 70 artists featured in this summer's 2005 Exhibition of the Artists of the Mohawk-Hudson Region, adjudicated by Ivan C. Karp, founder of the OK Harris Gallery in New York City. Mensing's work was the billboard-sized "Indian Point Nuclear Plant," a mosaic constructed from thousands of paper circles cut from security envelopes.

John Nazarenko, senior artist-in-residence, Department of Music, performed with guitarist Chuck D'Aloia Aug. 27 at the Luzerne Jazz Festival.

Pushkala Prasad, Zankel Professor of Management for Liberal Arts Students, is the author of *Crafting Qualitative Research: Working in the Postpositivist Traditions* (Armonk, N.Y.: M.E. Sharpe Inc., 2005)

Linda Simon, professor and chair, Department of English, has an entry on Pragmatism in the just-published *Encyclopedia of New England* (Yale University Press).

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Vol. 5, No. 2 - November 4, 2005**Noted Metalsmith to Deliver Raab Lecture Nov. 10**

Myra Mimplitsch-Gray will deliver the 10th annual Rosanne Brody Raab visiting artist lecture at 6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 10, at Skidmore. Free and open to the public, the event will be in Gannett Auditorium of Palamountain Hall.

Mimplitsch-Gray is known for her renditions of everyday objects in precious metals. Created with painstaking perfection, these objects - cups, trays, containers - both acknowledge and defy contemporary consumer culture.

Currently professor of art in the Metal Program at the State University of New York at New Paltz, Mimplitsch-Gray received a B.F.A. degree from Philadelphia College of Art in 1984 and an M.F.A. degree in 1986 from the Cranbrook Academy of Art in Michigan. She has been the recipient of numerous awards, including artist fellowships from the Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the New York Foundation for the Arts. In 1998 Mimplitsch-Gray received the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching at the State University of New York.

Last year she was an invited artist to the International Master Class Programme at the Royal College of Art in London, England.

In early 2004 Mimplitsch-Gray's work was featured in *100 Treasures of Cranbrook Art Museum*, a centennial overview of the museum's collection. At that time, Gary Griffin, head of the Cranbrook Metalsmithing Department, noted Mimplitsch-Gray's "tradition of functional silversmithing" and added, "As a highly skilled technician and an intellectually alert artist, she challenges representations of social and cultural inheritances and domestic norms, as well as art historical convention."

Mimplitsch-Gray's artwork is included in the permanent collections of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, the Cranbrook Art Museum, the Detroit Institute of Arts, the Museum of Arts and Design, Rhode Island School of Design Museum, and the Renwick Gallery at the National Museum of American Art of the Smithsonian Institution.

Rosanne Brody Raab is a 1955 Skidmore graduate whose continuing interest in the arts has been reflected in her careers as writer, educator, and author. The Skidmore lecture series that bears her name showcases artists working in clay, metal, fiber, and wood.

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