

*Commemorative
Book of Reflections*

University
Without Walls
1971-2011

SKIDMORE
C O L L E G E

ANTIGUA: Introduction to the Philosophy of the Black Experience • Caribbean Civilization • Studies in Caribbean Civilization • Philosophy of Education • Introduction to Effective Reasoning • Race, Ethnicity, and the Quest for Identity in the Caribbean

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Book of Reflections

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	p. 7
Directors of Skidmore University Without Walls	p. 8
Staff of Skidmore University Without Walls.....	p. 8
Reflections	p. 9
University Without Walls Course Offerings	p. 43

• The Vietnam War • Violence Against Women • We'll Always Have Paris:
Travelers' Construction of Paris • What Literature Teaches Managers •
Who am I? Freud, Erikson and Piaget on Adult Development • Wilderness
and the American West • Women in the American West • Women, Love
and Death in 19th Century Italian Novels • Women's Health and Disease •
Working With the Exceptional Child • World Prehistory • Writing Across
Genres • Writing the Memoir •
Writing the War Between the States

ON CAMPUS: Adolescence • American Folklore & Folklife • Business
Policy • Civil Liberties • Computers, Ethics, and Society • Convention,
Cooperation, and Conflict Persuasion • Crime & Punishment in the US •
Criminal Law and Procedure • Divorce and Family Change •
Faith & Science • From Fiction to Film • History of Harlem • Imagining the
Past • In Search of Human Origins • Jazz • Legal Issues of the Contempo-
rary Family • Magic, Religion and Witchcraft • Making Sense of the Modern
Economy • Manipulation, and Propaganda in Film and TV • Marketing •
Marketing Nonprofit Programs & Services • Mozart • Nation, State, & Mar-
ket • Nonprofit Management • Obsessions and Addictions • Poetics and
Poetry Writing • Popular Culture • Psychological Anthropology • Psychol-
ogy of Intimacy • Problems of the Family in Russian Literature •
Social Interaction • Social Psychology • Spanish-American Women Writers
• Strategic Thinking • Studies in Caribbean Civilization • The Adirondacks
in Black & White • The Cultural Animal in an Existential Age • The Future
of the Adirondack Park • The Islamic Spectrum: from Fundamentalism to
Modernism • The Problem of Evil • The Sociology of Deviance • The Sym-
phony • Therapeutic and Systematic Change • Topics in Genetics •
Visions and Revisions: Twice Made Movies • Western Religious Ethics •
Writing the Memoir • Women & the Law • Women, Religion, and
Spirituality • Working with People

Archaeology • Introduction to Data Analysis and Statistics • Italy, Fascism and Jews • J .R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis • Jazz: A Multicultural Expression • Justice and the State • The Labor Movement and Society in America • Labor Migration in Comparative Perspective: Global Lessons for the United States • Labor Movements of the U.S. and Great Britain • Law and American Society • Leadership • Leadership Communication • Literature and Biography: The Lives and Works of the Shelleys • Literature of the American 1890's • Living in Winter Environments • Logic • Lost in the Woods: The Other Adirondacks • Love in Art and Idea • Marketing Management • Mating, Mothering, and Grandmothering: Essential Female Primate Strategies • Mediaeval Mystics • Men in Literature • Methods & Approaches to the Study of American History • Moment in Time: The Articulated Roots of Rock and Roll • The Morality and Fate of Forbidden Knowledge • Multiculturalism: Global Perspectives • Music and Art of the Twentieth Century • Myth and the Sanctioning of Violence • Nation, State, and Market • Native American Perspectives • New Approaches to Teaching • The New World • No Place to Hide: Information Privacy Law -- Technology and Society • Organizational Behavior • Paradoxes of Progress • People's Century • Peopling the New World • Playing the Power Game • Poetry of Witness • The Problem of Evil • Problems of War and Peace • Psychology of Investing • Psychology of Terror • Psychology of Women • Religious Themes in 20th Century British Literature • The Resilient Child • Representations of the Holocaust • Rum, Slaves and Molasses: The Slave trade in the Americas • The Search for Identity in Post-Colonial Caribbean Literature • Sanity and Madness • Social Identity in the Workplace • Social Impacts of Computing • Social Justice • Social Science Research Methods (1) • Social Science Research Methods (2) • The Sociology of Deviance • Sports and Politics • Statistics • Storytelling: A Disciplinary Approach • Strategic Management • Thinking about Art and Beauty • Understanding the Misunderstood Adolescent • Urban Sociology

Introduction

As part of the closing celebration of Skidmore University Without Walls, UWW graduates were asked to create a “virtual scrapbook” of memories. Inviting reflection on their UWW education, UWW Alumni Representative Elizabeth Heonis wrote, “While UWW students and graduates are not linked by time or place, you are linked by a collective UWW experience. For many of you, obtaining your degree through UWW was a unique, memorable, and even life changing experience.” This booklet captures some of the heartfelt responses that were received.

To celebrate the University Without Walls is to celebrate a rich and diverse history. UWW grew out of the Union for Experimenting Colleges and Universities (UECU), founded in the 1960s by Samuel Baskin (Antioch College), Goodwin Watson (Columbia Teacher’s College), and Royce Pitkin (Goddard College). UECU was established to explore the creation of “universities without walls” to serve students who needed or preferred to pursue the bachelor’s degree in a more flexible setting than the traditional four-year residential college.

Skidmore became one of seventeen colleges to develop external bachelor’s degree programs – universities without walls -- with UECU funding from the Ford Foundation and the United States Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. In 1970-71, pursuant to a proposal from Skidmore’s Committee on Educational Policies and Planning, the college agreed to a one-year experimental affiliation with UECU. In Spring 1971, the Skidmore faculty voted to extend the experiment for two more years. Mark Gelber of Skidmore’s English Department became the University Without Walls’ first director, and UWW admitted its first students in 1971-72. In 1975, Skidmore withdrew from UECU and began to confer its own bachelor’s degrees on UWW graduates. Crucial to this decision was an exhaustive year-long faculty review and

the creation of the Skidmore University Without Walls standing faculty committee to provide oversight and ensure the program's integrity.

UWW developed many significant initiatives consistent with its core philosophy. In the 1970s, it provided specialized training to workers in New York State's Head Start program by offering Child Development Associate certificates and baccalaureate degrees in early childhood education. During the 1970s and 1980s, UWW's nursing program in New York City enabled nurses to earn a baccalaureate degree while working full-time. In 1974, motivated by the Attica inmate revolt, which resulted in thirty-nine deaths, Mark Gelber initiated a UWW program at maximum-security Great Meadow Correctional Facility in Comstock, New York, supported by a grant from New York State's Higher Education Opportunity Program and later by federal funds. In 1985, the program was extended to Comstock's medium-security Washington County Correctional Facility. It taught about a hundred students a year from Great Meadow and about sixty students a year from Washington and was extended to prison employees as well as inmates before closing in 1995, when state and federal funding were discontinued. Other UWW initiatives included a program in Law Enforcement Administration for police and state troopers and programs for employees at the NASA Space Center in Goddard, Maine, and with the Petroleum and Steel Industries of Qatar.

Advancements in technology enabled UWW to devise innovative ways of serving its students. A modest initiative to offer courses on campus, designed originally as group independent studies, developed, with the support of a Sloan Foundation grant of almost half a million dollars, into an ambitious curriculum of more than 100 on-line courses that was a model in the field. Skidmore became not only one of the few small liberal arts colleges to have a distance learning program but also at that time the only one with on-line courses.

University Without Walls Course Offerings

ONLINE: A War on Two Fronts • Animals in Literature • America in the 60s • American Folklore and Folklife • Are We Alone in the Universe? • America in the Sixties • America's Caribbean Policies: 1898-Present • American Individualism • The American West in Image and Idea • The Architecture of Life • Art in the Later 20th Century • Assessment • "Between a Chill and a Sweat": Literature of the American West • Between Faith and Reason: Science, Religion, and the Rise of Modernity in 17th-Century Europe • The Birth of the Modern Age • Biology of the Mind • Biology of Politics • Business and Organizational Communication • Child Clinical Psychology • Children's Literature • Cognitive Development • Collective Behavior and Social Movements • Comparative Human Rights • Comparative Religious Ethics • Concepts of Computing • Conceptual Physics • Conflict and International Media • Constitutional History • Contemporary American Indian Issues • Controversies over Evolution • Crafting the Memoir • Crisis Management • Cross-Cultural Psychology • Cultural Anthropology • Death, Dying and Bereavement • Descent into Hell: Impurity, Sin and Damnation in Dante's Inferno • E Commerce • Economics and Policy Making • Educational Psychology • Environmental Ethics • Environmental Sociology • Epidemics and Society • Expository Writing • The Fairy Tale • Family Violence • Fiction for Today's Young Adults • Feminism & Contemporary American Politics • Finance Statistics • The Fragmented Landscape • French Cinema and the Social Contract • From Values to Vinyl: Popular Music in the Age of Rock • Great Migrations • Growing Up in Literature • The History and Politics of Oil • History of Harlem • History of Information Technology • History of Jazz • Human Behavior and the Social Environment • Human Ecology • The Human Experience of Exile • The Human Organism • Human Environmental Disease • Human/Land Interaction • Images of the Holocaust • Information Analysis and Management • Information Literacy: Beyond Google • International Business • Introduction to

In the twenty-first century, UWW continued its tradition of enabling cohorts of professionals to pursue a baccalaureate degree while working full-time. Its fruitful partnership with the Teachers Union of Antigua and Barbuda was instigated by UWW graduate Colin Green '01 with the support of Austin Josiah, UWW '90, at that time Chief Minister of Education in Antigua. The Antigua program produced more than seventy Skidmore graduates: teachers, educational administrators, and leaders in government, business, and social work. These graduates include twelve of Antigua and Barbuda's forty public school principals, seven school department heads, and seven current and former members of the Antigua and Barbuda Ministry of Education. At UWW's last Commencement, May 2011, Skidmore awarded Colin Greene an honorary doctorate in recognition of his advocacy for equitable access to excellent education on a global scale.

During its forty year history, UWW has graduated more than 1500 students, as young as eighteen and as mature as ninety-five. It has served students from as nearby as Saratoga Springs, including many Skidmore employees; from all over the United States; and from as far away as Switzerland, Qatar, Dubai, Israel, Mexico and Italy. Its students have ranged from poets to scientists, from psychologists to city planners, and from artists and musicians to seasoned business professionals. It was ideally suited for such cohorts as young film actors, who could pursue their baccalaureate education without interrupting their blossoming careers in Hollywood. UWW graduates have served their alma mater in many ways and include two members of the Skidmore Board of Trustees. This booklet honors UWW's forty-year history most appropriately through the words of its graduates and reflections from faculty and staff.

Kirsten E. Mishkin
Director, University Without Walls
May 2011

Many thanks to Donald McCormack, Deborah Meyers, Lawrence Ries and Robert Van Meter for their help in compiling this information.

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Kenneth Klotz	Lisa Tuttle
Ann Knickerbocker	Elaine Whalen
David Lenihan	Sandra Welter
Donileen Loseke	Christopher Whann
Mary Lynn	Gerard Wolfe
Elizabeth MacDonald	

After having such a considerate, committed, conscientious Dean, Don McCormack (My Knight in Shining Armour), I was a little apprehensive about getting a new person, but Jeff Segrave, with his charm and knowledge about cricket, waltzed his way into our lives and we readily accepted him and his cheerful wife, Doris, with whom I bonded again over scrapbooking. She had the most amazing scrapbooking software and I became even more fascinated with what has become a hobby of mine. We needed another sign for the centre and Jeff promptly funded it. So the Centre now sports another sign with Skidmore's name on it. Jeff Segrave became one of us as we shared in our quest for higher education and the love for the game called cricket. He is personable, dependable and had a good sense of how to deal with his responsibilities. This has taught me a lesson in life, which is that people do not have to walk in other people's footsteps for them to be loved or appreciated. Rather, once they remain true to themselves, acknowledge what the person or persons before them has accomplished, and create their own footprints, they can win the hearts of many.

Stanley McGaughey was fun to be around. He was easy to talk to about anything. He and Phylise were eager to learn how to cook Fungee, our National Dish, so Phylise invited all of us visiting students to her home and I taught them how to cook fungee and how to roll it into a ball. But what I remember most about Stanley and greatly appreciate, is when he took me to a Waldorf school, and now when my student teachers at the Department of Teacher Education have to study different early childhood settings I proudly share my first-hand experience at that Waldorf school with them.

Kirstie Szlasa was one of the first faces I would see when I walked into the UWW office at Skidmore and one of the first persons I would meet at the ABUT headquarters when 'Skidmore' was in Antigua. It was always with a sweet, welcoming smile that she greeted persons. Kirstie was like the 'Secretary of State.' She could find any information we needed at the click of a button, and her public relations skills left nothing more to desire. Her friendly tone and genuine helpful nature spoke loud volumes. We shared so many treasured moments: the drive up Lake George with Corky, the times we hung out at her home and Phylise's with her daughter Abigail, and all the other times we shared with the rest of the group. I remember when she and Phylise lived a few minutes away in a really cute neighbourhood; I wished that I lived next door: so much meaningful fun we had together. I miss that.

Upon my first visit to Skidmore, I met Kirsten Mishkin, and got a glimpse of the fine quality of the culture just by her taking me and sharing some special places like the book store and the public library, where I got some excellent ideas for my book club. I sensed that I was about to be exposed to a whole new world and great things were about to happen. My premoni-

placed on a pedestal we still feel a great sense of fulfillment for the reward is in doing the deed itself.

I was beginning to feel jealous of the other host families when we socialized in the Skidmore/Antigua collaboration when the visiting students spoke about their experiences together, and then I got my host son, Aaron Davis, our capable videographer. He is such an awesome and talented young man and we all appreciate him sharing his special gift and documenting our second exchange. My mind always takes me back down memory lane when he and his mom, Dr. Hollie Hodgins, invited me to spend some time at their home and she always insisted we eat our meals together around the table and then we would sit and talk about any and every thing. Sweet pieces of my mind that I would often retrieve and savor were when Aaron and I rode bikes through the trail in the woods to the train track and how scared I was to experience a train zooming by or when we were in Antigua on those photo shoot escapades, of him becoming fascinated by the flock of goats crossing the road and the cars having to slow down to allow them, capturing a student's "ah ha" moment, conducting interviews with the participants, perching on a rock at Shirley's Heights to get the perfect shot with his camera or us racing to a particular location to capture the sun setting. I had the perfect host son as we were both passionate about photography and we connected so well. I can never forget the evening he showed me the films he created and how awed I was by the depth of his adventurous spirit and his intelligence when I watched "Lost on Purpose," of him spending so many days at sea in another world, it seemed. And then there was our wonderful occasion of celebrating graduating together. Such experiences are priceless.

Any time we have a rainy day and the weather is quite chilly, I always think of Skidmore and the days when I walked into Case Center and watched the rain fall outside, and then I would turn left and enter into the UWW office and be greeted by Tracy Riley, whose infectious smile would warm my heart on any cold day. And she did so much more to keep us warm when we visited and were visibly shaking from the cold by readily offering warm clothes and shoes to anyone who could fit into them. I remember how efficient she was and anyone could rely on her to get any information they needed. She wasted no time getting on top of things and responding promptly. Then there were days when I came from the Scribner Library to research, the Tang Museum to view incredible exhibits, from the Murray-Aikens Mining Hall where I could choose from a spread of sumptuous food, or the Palamountain building from Joyce's office or a class we were invited to attend, and get this regal feeling, knowing that I am a part of such an educational institution, ranked among the highest, and counted my blessings. So I would go into the Skidmore Shop and purchase my mementoes.

Reflections

Carol Jacob Lawrence '75 Elementary Education

I spent 2 years in college preparing to teach high school science. At Penn State, an agricultural school, I learned it was best to breed young. I married, and had four kids in five years. That in itself was an education. After this experience, I decided to teach elementary school children. I went to the New York State Department of Education with my credentials to see what I needed to get an elementary school teaching license. The advisor there suggested I contact UWW. It was excellent advice. I enjoyed working with Sara, John and Larry. From them I learned a great deal about long term planning and combining many subject areas into one lesson. UWW also gave me access to our local schools, and I spent a semester in dozens of elementary classrooms watching many teaching styles and participating in lessons. All of the teachers I worked with were interested in sharing their strengths and interests. This also gave me access to hundreds of students, and I learned what interested and motivated them. I learned the culture of many schools. The schools I visited also hired me to substitute, as I graduated in January. I was hired full time in September, and spent the next 25 years at Middleburgh Elementary School.

UWW let me learn, hands on, in the middle of things, what the problems in education were, lots of possible solutions and that people who take pride in their profession are willing to pass on their knowledge and share their experience.

John L. Reed Professor Emeritus, Department of Education Skidmore College

I first became involved with UWW at Comstock Prison located south of Whitehall, New York. I do not remember how Skidmore College first became involved, but I taught two education courses, one on school and society. One of the young men who completed his prison sentence came to Skidmore to complete his degree and graduated from UWW. I continued to advise and train other UWW students who wanted to complete their college degree or become classroom teachers. The program was an innovative approach to education and I am happy to have been a part UWW during its formative years.

Roslyn Rose '76
Aesthetics of Art

Although I had studied painting and printmaking at Rutgers University and Pratt University, I had not graduated due to marrying young. I did, however, continue to study art history on my own. UWW professors directed my studies toward the Aesthetics of Art. They were sufficiently impressed by my own previous studies and the work I produced under the direction of a mentor during the year I was enrolled at Skidmore, that I was awarded a B.S. Having that degree gave me the confidence to develop my own commercial art studio and continue to create fine art prints. To this day, people are impressed with the source of my degree.

Marilyn Patton '77
Psychology

I learned about my subject area (Psychology) from both theoretical and clinical approaches and had an opportunity to work at research from a very integrated and useful perspective. I had good coaching and could have used more participation in the broader Skidmore community as I had few classmates. Above all else, I learned to think critically by the end, which is a gift that has contributed to my success and that I have valued most days since 1977!

Joseph Qualiano '78
Business

On January 5, 1978, at the Saratoga Springs Performing Arts Center, I received my Skidmore College UWW Bachelor of Science degree in Business, which was the culmination of my many educational and life experiences. For me, the UWW degree itself was a formal testament to my personal achievements and successes. At that time I truly believed that my Skidmore College UWW degree would afford me the opportunity to expand my potential for success by opening many doors that were not accessible to me prior to receiving my degree. Well, I was right, and I ventured into the field of successful pharmaceutical sales, but with my knowledge of drugs and my alternate interests I left sales to enter the field of Law Enforcement, achieving the rank of Lieutenant of Police, Southern Command, for a statewide agency. I am now a retired Police Supervisor and a potential investor and entrepreneur in an Armed VIP Protective Service. I can truly say that I attribute much of my success and business knowledge to my Skidmore College UWW Degree. Thanks for opening the doors for me, UWW, and thank you, mentor Betty Balevic and Director McCormack, for your insight and wisdom.

gogic Center. The valuable book contributions both of these ladies made contributed immensely to the success of our Young Readers Book Club and the reading program in schools in Antigua and Barbuda.

Dr. Donna Brent, our so-down-to-earth serious, but funny lecturer and one of my final project reader ... and later my MALS lecturer...coming to my aid when I needed it so. What do I think of most? ... so many hilarious things. Everyone was always in awe when they met her in person for the first time. For, in the classes we did online, we feared her for how much her courses demanded and how intense her marking was... and then to meet the "little" powerful woman face-to-face always left them in a state of disequilibrium. I used to enjoy watching their reactions when, after they inquired which one was Donna Brent and she was the one they pointed out, there were so many expressions of disbelief. And of course I felt privileged that I got to be in her classroom when I visited Skidmore the first time, and I was impressed with how easily she connected with her students and the humor she brought into the classroom. I admire her for her love for adventure and sports, her intellect and sense of humor. Who could forget the day I braided her hair? No one would believe she was the same person. When we had our tearful goodbyes after the first visit, Donna, always the strong, reasonable one, was filming our most vulnerable moment on her camcorder!!!! Now, upon reflecting, I'm realizing I never got to see the film....must remember to ask her. Another wonderful occasion that stands out in my mind as I travel down memory lane is the trip we took to Albany to enjoy the orchestra in the building with the great architectural features. Donna invited Joyce and me to partake in one of her sophisticated pleasures. I felt like I was in the movies and remember thinking that so many wonderful things are out there to experience. That is the kind of life I wish for.

Mary Cogan, for some reason, reminds me of me. Our personality type did not require for us to care to be in forefront of things nor shining in the limelight, but rather be contented in softly and quietly and simply ensuring that whatever was there to do, it was done well with a willingness to do, so that transitions were smooth and things went in order. She always provided 'service with a smile,' that I can always picture. She was one of the familiar faces at the ABUT headquarters when UWW had registrations. When she came to Antigua for the first time and visited my class, she offered to read to them, and they loved it. When she made a personal visit to Antigua, she and a friend brought school supplies to the Infant Pedagogic Centre. Mary helped to transport us from the train station, Mary drove us to and from PS66 in Brooklyn, Mary picked up us from the Downtowner to take us to Skidmore, She ensured we got our ID's, she ensured we were comfortable. She offered warm clothes and warm smiles and those gestures I value. Most times the persons behind the scenes often get overlooked or unrewarded by others, but we still persist because even if we are not

asking her to sponsor my Masters Degree. It seems like he's always rescuing me because one day I was waiting to take a bus to Deb's house and was sheltering from the rain under an eave, shivering from the cold when I heard a voice say, "Sandy," and I was so relieved that someone knew me. He took me back to his home where Judy and other family members were having a social gathering, and treated me to some much-needed hot chocolate and conversations about past experiences, present happenings and future endeavors. When Don visited Antigua I was just planning on soliciting for a sign for the Infant Pedagogic Center and he immediately volunteered to sponsor it....there goes my knight again, rescuing the damsel in distress. But most of all I can never forget at Commencement and we were all so anxious to receive our first degree and were feeling so overwhelmed and I can still recall so vividly when Don leaned over and he called out my name as I walked across the stage. What it sounded like to me was that he was so proud of my accomplishments, which he confirmed later. These gestures have undoubtedly made Skidmore look good in my eyes.

To Sara Lee Schupf, I say thank you from the bottom of my heart. You are my Fairy Godmother! How can I repay this debt? I think by giving back much of me: my time and newly acquired knowledge to the teachers and students, without reservations, all because she had so readily and graciously given me such a precious gift. She has made my dream a reality by providing the vehicle, the financial support I needed, to get there and to have such faith in someone she had never met, but emailed promptly after receiving my humble thank you's to say she was pleased that she responded to Don McCormack's request. But it was what I read next that touched me immensely. She said that she knew "if Don asked her to help on my behalf, I must be someone very special, and how right he was." I felt like crying, and I am truly indebted to Don for reaching out and helping me. She asked that I just keep on doing what I am doing and that the strength of my convictions combined with my perseverance will pay off for me and those I reach out to. Those words were so powerful and deep for me.

Who could ever forget Carol Kurto? When we think of her we think 'books.' Whenever 'Skidmore' was coming to Antigua we got books. When we visited 'Skidmore' we were invited to her home and we got books. She would call and inquire who wanted books. We would call and ask if she had a particular book. She has donated so many books to the Infant Pedagogic Centre and schools in Antigua. She was so generous. If she was in town when students came up for graduation she invited them to stay at her house, and they would talk about all the fun times they shared, and they were sure to leave with... books. She fed my interest in Children's Literature. It was through Skidmore that I met a dear friend, Tecla Murphy, who also donates many books at least three times a year to the Infant Peda-

Mary Rooney Loren '79 (officially '80) **Accounting - Business Administration**

University Without Walls (UWW) at Skidmore College was one of the most important steps I took on my ladder of Life Long Learning.

I was accepted into the program on August 31, 1977, and thanks to Associate Professor of Management and Business Betty Balevic as my Advisor and many others too numerous to mention here, I graduated with a BS in Business on November 20, 1979. My degree opened the door to a twenty-year professional career in manufacturing accounting, including five years as a Controller.

Not only did UWW make it possible for me to increase my earning power, it enhanced my quality of life and work life by the rigor of its undergraduate work and final project. It also gave me the confidence to continue on to graduate level learning, and in 1997 I earned a MA degree in Administration and Leadership from the State University of New York, College of Arts and Science at Plattsburgh.

Following retirement from employment in Saratoga County, my husband and I relocated to Prince William County, Virginia. I spent over five years in a professional position in County government here and retired in December 2005.

I was disappointed when Skidmore decided to terminate the program since it was the original "cutting edge" distance learning opportunity for those of us who could not pursue our undergraduate work as full-time students.

Marjorie Bogardus Meekhoff '82 **Theatre/Psychology**

Leaving Skidmore campus after my junior year and finishing my senior year in absentia through the UWW program was the icing on the cake for my career plan. I developed a dual major curriculum and took courses at other universities and colleges, studying with some of the best educators in my field. It took twice as long to complete my senior year and the paper work was astoundingly demanding, but when finished I had garnered twice as much knowledge than if I had stayed on campus. I created my own business as a Drama Therapist by developing several different curricula specific to group populations. Then I began to market my business to potential clients. For many successful years I traveled throughout Connecticut working at various Connecticut State Prisons implementing my psychology based work-

shops to prison inmates.

"I wish I had 20 more of you in every prison" is a statement made to me by one prison warden who could substantiate the results of my work. I am forever proud to have passed through the Skidmore UWW program.

Joan Riebel '85

Music

In the 50's I attended another University in New York State as an English major.

In the 70's, my husband bought a home organ—that came with lessons. I was hooked. We got a larger home organ and I began to study with Dr. Benjamin Van Wye at Bethesda Church in Saratoga.

After several years, he suggested I look into the UWW program as a music major. The idea of home study, music lessons, and a campus course sounded wonderful.

Dr. Van Wye, as my advisor, prepared the course of study. He suggested Dr. Anthony Holland's conducting course. I had never considered conducting. It became my favorite course and I have now been a choir director at Shenendehowa United Methodist Church in Clifton Park for 27 years.

Jeri Butler '87 (MALS '96)

English (MALS Women's Studies)

UWW changed my life and gave me opportunities that led to fulfilling jobs and broadened my interests in literature, politics, world problems and all of the arts. It's hard to believe, but I was an English major in the class of 1987. My UWW education also led to both of our children attending Skidmore College and encouraged our son to become a family physician and our daughter to become a writer in the advertising field and a yoga teacher. For me, it led to a career in journalism, the last 15 years as a feature writer and columnist for *The Palm Beach Post*.

There are so many people to thank for their wisdom and guidance, especially Dr. Bob Van Meter, Dr. Larry Ries, Dr. Sarah Goodwin and Dr. Catherine Golden. Also, Dr. Don McCormack inspired me to pursue the new master's of liberal studies program, which I completed in 1996. I'm now retired but continue to tutor in English and am on the "Friends" board of our public library and for 12 years have led a 6-week program in Women in Literature. Thanks for everything.

With the partnership between teachers and the day to day integration, teachers learnt from one another. The US teachers respected the way that the classroom management was well under control and with limited resource materials teachers were able to get across the concepts they wanted to teach, and the children did learn. The Antiguan teachers on the other hand became fascinated by how these young teachers who were just beginning to climb the rung of the educational ladder used such creative and innovative ways, themed with what they have learnt, and applied them in such an appealing way to the students that it was not a matter of if they learnt and what they learnt as it was how they learnt. Students expressed how much they now loved learning and described how the teachers taught them in ways they could understand and let them do fun activities. What I found so profound was how the student teachers who visited our island paradise readily became part of the family and how easily they immersed themselves into our culture. I rather loved the reciprocal visits. We certainly used those best practicing ideas we got from the schools we visited: Schuylerville, Greenfield Center and St. Clement's Elementary Schools and PS 66 in Brooklyn and are so grateful to the teachers and students for receiving us with such warmth and enthusiasm and helpfulness. Looking back, I can safely say that educational risk was worth taking.

If it was not for the expertise in the field of technology of Phylise Banner, 'Namadi' (her Antiguan name), it would not have been possible to share the amazingly life-changing experience of the Skidmore/Antigua collaboration with the world. She created a marvelous website. I have so many fond memories of her both at the personal and professional levels. Everybody who knew her in Antigua loved her. She was an icon and when she was in town you could tell by her signature laughter. I can't forget all the adventurous things we did, whether it was in Antigua (Green Island, Corky's Corner) or in Saratoga Springs. She played so many roles on her trip here. She was planner, website designer, educator, documenter, events organizer, chauffeur, photographer, entertainer (with her signature dance) and everybody's friend. I am ever so grateful to her for introducing me to scrapbooking and quilting, and now I can share scrapbooking ideas with others. I loved when we went to her son Isaac's concert to hear him sing like a nightingale and when her daughter Rosalie and I had so much fun with the photo distortions. I treasure those times we hung out together at each other's homes, visits to the art galleries and the nights on the town with Kirstie or staying home cooking fungee with Stanley. There are so many qualities I love about her; her bravery, her spirit of adventure, her creative, innovative nature, her intelligence ... and more.

Words cannot express how grateful I am to Dean Don McCormack for being my 'Knight in Shining Armor' and seeing the worth in me and rescuing me from my financial distress by telling Sara Lee Schupf about me and

soon became an administrator just a few months later. Some might say it is by coincidence that our paths should cross at such an opportune time, but I contend that God sends people into our lives to inspire, support, and to validate what we do and help us to become the best persons we can be, and God chose Joyce Rubin for me as first my lecturer, then my MALS academic advisor, to help to fashion me into the kind of Educational Administrator I am today. Every time I came to Skidmore or she came to Antigua I let some of her rub off on me and I literally feel that I get refueled as I observe her with others and learn from her expertise so that I could emulate her in my practice. All the ideas I got from the courses I took with her, the books she gave me, the interactive seminars, the schools I visited with her or the projects that she did with her students, such as designing learning centers, I absorbed them all and exposed my teachers to these new approaches to teaching. On a personal level, Joyce Rubin has invited me to her home and made me feel like I was one of her own. She prepared breakfast in a unique way one morning and told me it was only for her family she would prepare it that way and she felt like I was family so that is why she was preparing it that way and I felt so loved and extra, extra special. Her husband Don and I bonded over a special ice-cream flavor that was both our favourite and we ate together in the evenings after dinner and he would be sure to bring home more when it was finished, and I loved the evenings when we would go out to dinner with one of their daughters, my adopted sister, and have fun laughing at the silliest things. I especially loved the day, on one of my visits when Joyce invited me to stay at her home and she and the visiting students greeted me at the train station with a Welcome sign and hugs and then we had a great barbecue in her backyard...such sweet, sweet moments that are invaluable. I also enjoyed the night at the Hibachi restaurant and Ruby Tuesday with Don and their daughter, my Saratoga Springs sister, and marvel at the wonderful relationship that I was a part of. These experiences have taught me that even though our relationship was intended to be a professional one, it is the personal element that makes for a lasting one. Joyce Rubin always made me feel like I can fly and all the while she was the wind under my wings.

The Skidmore/Antigua Teacher Collaboration is testimony to how great an impact teachers can have on the lives of others. I am ever so grateful to all the efforts of the other team members who made it possible the four occasions that we got together. I especially loved our seminars and the nights when everyone passionately shared their final projects with the whole group. I was awed by the interesting topics the teachers presented. These included how the school environment affects teacher morale, how parental involvement influences literacy, how different intelligences are brought into better understanding math or comparing achievement levels of males versus females and also working with remedial or special needs children.

Catherine Golden
Professor, Department of English
Skidmore College

I began my involvement with University Without Walls just soon after I arrived at Skidmore in 1986. Peter Finlay is the first highly motivated student I worked with on a course in expository writing in 1987, and Nancy Adams is the last who participated actively in my classes and whom I guided in her Victorian capstone completed in 2010. Other UWW students whose ideas excited me and who touched my life are Jeanne Eddy, who took numerous courses with me and completed her Honors senior thesis on Victorian literature under my direction; Jeri Butler, who used to bring me lunch when she came all the way from Florida to discuss Charlotte Perkins Gilman; and Dot Hemmings, whose enthusiasm for George Eliot was contagious. The program regularly brought me students who have been thoughtful, hard working, motivated, directed, and eager. I am sorry that the program has come to an end, but I feel privileged to have taught these and other excellent UWW students too numerous to mention. Thank you, UWW, for enhancing my teaching career at Skidmore College.

Terry L. White '87
American Studies and Creative Writing

When I finished my course of study for an Associate's Degree from Fulton-Montgomery Community College in nearby Johnstown, I wrote a letter to Skidmore's University Without Walls asking if there was a way to complete my bachelor's degree. I had no money, but I did have the drive to want to have a better life.

"I am a waitress at a truckstop and I play bass in a bluegrass band. I want to earn a degree..." I wrote. Someone must have been impressed because I was accepted in the program. I was so excited, and my advisor Colleen McGrath guided me through a process that allowed me to earn the credits I needed.

I worked with professors one on one and was allowed to work at my own speed. I did just that, finishing one course of study in a couple of weeks while others took months. I wanted a degree in creative writing, but Colleen gently steered me to a more realistic degree in American Studies. It has proved to be a brilliant choice as I have penned nearly 20 volumes of fiction

and poetry in the past 20 or so years since my graduation. My work can be found at the major booksellers online today. I value my Skidmore experience and am grateful for the opportunity for those who chose to enter their University Without Walls program. It was a wonderful experience.

Karen E. Riley '88

Arabic Studies

My years as a UWW student were without doubt the most rewarding of my life. I had attended a liberal arts college from 1968-1970. After missing a semester due to illness, and with no clear direction, I then attended secretarial school and became a legal secretary. From 1975-1985 I was the personal assistant to a prominent trial lawyer, but his retirement from active practice led me to seek other employment. Despite my lack of a college degree, I was hired as an executive officer in a publicly traded investment company. I determined that in fairness to both myself and my new employer, it was time to earn a B.A., and I enrolled in UWW.

For several years I had been studying Arabic and chose that as my concentration for my degree. Living in New York City, I had available many educational institutions. My wonderful UWW advisers, Deborah Meyers and Regina Hurwitz, helped me craft an academic program that took full advantage of the opportunities that abounded. I remember fondly the drives up from New York to Saratoga Springs for the various milestone meetings in the degree process. I also remember graduation day as one of the most glorious days of my life.

For most of my adult life I had felt a sense of inferiority because of my lack of a college degree. Through the UWW experience I was able to move beyond that while at the same time pursuing the field of study in which I was passionately interested. My Final Project was a translation from Arabic to English of the novella, *Returning to Haifa*, by Palestinian writer Ghassan Kanafani. It was published in 2000 by Lynne Rienner Publishers, remains in print and serves as a resource for study of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Today, 23 years after graduation, I still read and study Arabic nearly daily. The depth of knowledge I achieved through the pursuit of the UWW degree has literally formed a framework for my life to the present day. In 2010, I was very gratified to find that my final project was cited in a *New Yorker Magazine* article about Arabic literature in translation.

Patricia L. Sanders '89

American Studies

My experience at UWW had several levels. It first expanded my view of the world by giving me the opportunity to study at the college level and ultimately

drive up Lake George to marvel at the fall foliage, walking on the icy slopes in snow shoes, sharing those special times by the fireside in her warm, cozy home with Roy or hanging out with her super witty mom, are moments that I treasure so much. Despite the short lengths of time I spent at any one visit, she managed to squeeze many exciting events into each 'long' day. She has exposed me to the rich culture of Skidmore College by inviting me to theatrical presentations by the students, readings by famous authors such as Jamaica Kincaid, who performed a piece for her book 'My Brother,' and presentations MALS students made of their theses, giving me insights into the high standards that the college holds. She provided the bridge for me to cross over into the MALS program. Deborah has always been a cheerleader in my corner even when I have self-doubt after an interview or presentation I may have done. She never failed to find a positive side of anything negative. I remember one evening she took me to SPAC to see the New York City Ballet recital. I needed to use the restroom and had to hurry back because everyone had to be seated before the show began. In my haste, I slipped on the wet slope and fell. Feeling slightly embarrassed I quickly got up and thanked the persons who came to assist me. Deborah was standing by our seats looking out for me to return. When I got to her and expressed my embarrassment she brushed it off and (up to this day I laugh when I remember her) said, "Don't worry, you went down gracefully." Her optimism never wavered and can become so contagious. That night was incredible. I have never been to such an amazing event. Deborah has been a wonderful hostess during the four times she has welcomed me into her home without any hesitation. I even had my own key. I still have the notes she used to leave me if she had to go out before I woke up or had not come back yet from a shopping trip. Roy got me interested in bird watching as he set up his bird feeders and introduced me to a book about birds and we were able to identify the Blue Jay and others I can't recall, when they came to feed. He also has a great sense of humour. They say life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away. I can still smell Deb's home-made bread baking in the oven, taste her sumptuous meals when we sat down together to partake of what she prepared, hear her talk about her childhood days with her mom, see the love in her eyes when she talks about Roy and the girls and feel her goodnight hugs before we went to our rooms at night. I love her dearly and thank her for opening up her home to me and my son, and for always being that cheerleader in my corner to propel me towards realizing my dreams.

It was love at first sight for me after I witnessed a presentation by Professor Joyce Rubin, when she captured the hearts of everyone within the sound of her voice, but I didn't get close to her until I took the course, New Approaches to Teaching, and we bonded over our shared interests. Upon her visit to Antigua she visited my class of Kindergartners and when I travelled to Saratoga Springs she took me on visits with her to schools where she was supervising student teachers. And so our journey continued like that until I

I have been to Saratoga Springs and Skidmore seven (7) times, each time using a different route or transport from Antigua.

I could not get enough of Skidmore from my UWW experience so I decided to pursue my Masters Degree with MALS and based my thesis from my experiences from what was ignited at UWW.

...And so, with all the wonderful people, places and things I have experienced, I don't know where to begin and how I am going to ever end.

My story began when I was first introduced to Skidmore in May 2001 during our Teachers' Professional Development Day. A contingent of Skidmore staff and faculty travelled to Antigua as invited by Colin Greene, the then President of the Antigua and Barbuda Teacher's Union. I learned that I could pursue a Bachelor's Degree and I eagerly enrolled and was placed in the competent hands of my assigned advisor, Deborah Meyers. I started my first course in February 2002 after working out my finances, which included refinancing my mortgage. I was not going to miss out on such an opportunity.

I have thoroughly enjoyed taking my first courses with the dramatic, late Dr. Charles Ephraim, jovial Dr. Francois Bonneville and the seriously witty Christopher Whann.

One of my philosophies in life is that things happen the way they should happen and I strongly believe that some persons are placed in our lives at opportune times. I count my blessings every day that two wonderful ladies who became my advisors journeyed with me through all of my experiences and had the greatest impact on my career. They are Deborah Meyers and Joyce Rubin.

I became close to Deborah from the onset because she was assigned my advisor, but she quickly became much more than that to me as we communicated on both a professional and a personal level. She exuded positive energy and I gravitated towards that. She showed no partiality and everyone loved her for her enthusiasm and resourcefulness. Students who were fortunate to have her for our advisors blossomed under her care and we all bonded because of how she treated us. Outside of scheduling my classes and counting credits and my watching her preparing and making her great presentations, other than the regular emails or calls to check on our progress with our courses, or giving her full support for the Skidmore/Antigua teacher collaboration or attending to our concerns, Deborah and I have shared so many precious moments together. I have experienced so many firsts with her when she invited me to her home the first time, and subsequently. The walk in the rain to see the place where I was to graduate, the

to attain a BA degree. Secondly, my experience allowed me the insight into the importance of higher education, which I was then able to convey to my children. Third, the experience of interacting with professors was deeply informative and rewarding.

Overall my experience was positive. However, I did feel an undercurrent of negativity against the UWW program from some of the educators on campus. The program had so much to offer the greater community of adults. Skidmore could have integrated the program into its overall structure if there was a desire to work at restructuring the program. It is with great disappointment that I say goodbye to UWW.

Austin Marcus Josiah '90 Education Administration

It was the year 1986 when I was introduced to the wonderful world of UWW at Skidmore. A friend of mine gave me a copy of *The New York Times* and there, among the elitist educational institution advertisements, was Skidmore's UWW. It was timely as I was searching for an accredited college/university where I could pursue a Bachelor's degree in Educational Administration, in line with my position as School Principal and as the President of the Antigua and Barbuda Union of Teachers.

Interestingly, the first institution I approached for sponsorship did not hesitate to affirm support on realizing that the institution I wished to attend was Skidmore's UWW. I applied and was accepted, and chose to make my journey to Saratoga Springs in February 1987. What an experience! My first trip to New York. My first experience with snow. My first train ride. The first and only time in my life I got lost (in New York).

My experience at UWW was a great one when I met my Advisor Mary O'Meara and a team of hospitable, professional, enlightened and incomparable educators. The course outline and eventual content and experiences have been second to none. (I had attended and completed college courses in seven other institutions by then.) UWW crafted a liberal arts experience for me that propelled my appetite for learning and excellence. UWW motivated me, to the extent that my Final Project stated my ultimate goal, to become the Director of Education (Chief Education Officer) in my country, the beautiful Caribbean island of Antigua. I graduated in 1990, and did become the Director of Education in 2003. Since Skidmore, I have completed my Masters in the Humanities in 1994, and a PhD in International Business Administration. I am presently the Human Resource Executive at the Antigua Commercial Bank.

My oldest son graduated from Skidmore's UWW in 2007 in Information Technology and is the senior Information Technologist at the Island's Medi-

cal Centre. He is considered extremely motivated and an excellent employee. Additionally, one of my trainees, Mr. Colin Greene, followed in my footsteps and pursued a bachelor's degree with Skidmore's UWW. Since then scores of teachers in Antigua and Barbuda have completed their bachelor's degrees at UWW, and all of them either have been promoted to higher positions in the public school system of Antigua and Barbuda or have moved to elevated positions elsewhere.

For me, I experienced the negative bias of our educational system towards the quality of the UWW program. It took 16 months before the officials accepted the high quality of UWW based on the excellent qualities of my work after Skidmore. Imagine my elation when in 2003 I had the authority, and was able to recommend Skidmore's UWW students in Antigua for part funding of their degree. It was done without hesitation. I did come full circle.

The Skidmore's UWW program in Antigua has made its mark in motivating all its alumni to make the highest contribution to national development. Many of us are known and recognized for that excellence. THANK YOU UWW.

Dorothy G. Hemmings '92

English

I am so proud to be a Skidmore graduate! I still can't quite believe it when I can tell people "my degree is from Skidmore." After 2 years at a then-prestigious New York City business school (The Katharine Gibbs School), I worked continuously from 1955 on (time out for family). Therefore, when I enrolled in UWW, I assumed my degree would be in an area related to business. I'll never forget a 15-minute phone conversation with my UWW counselor, who knew more about me than I did myself and who recognized that course work completed at night made me "just as close to a degree in English Literature as to a Business degree." She turned my near-tears of frustration into a Whoop of Joy! I loved the process of completing everything that was needed to become a graduate. My culminating project involved a concentration in George Eliot, her life, and her novels. This led me to membership in the George Eliot Fellowship, participation in a week-long conference in Harwich, England, and a continuing close relationship with a couple of the British members. I'm grateful to Skidmore for establishing the UWW program and staffing it with exemplary, perceptive people. I was proud to take part in a couple of recruitment seminars at Cape Cod Community College. I'm grateful for the opportunity to share these "reflections."

Boria Sax

Instructor, UWW on-line courses

I taught several courses at the UWW including "Fairy Tales," "Animals in Literature," and "Alchemy in Literature," as well as being on thesis commit-

ing... and so many that even on a not-so-good day I could reach into a corner of my mind, retrieve one and savor it for a while until I felt better.

a graduate of Skidmore.

Elizabeth Trever Buchinger '11
Communications/Creative Writing

I didn't go to UWW at Skidmore because I needed a degree; I went because I wanted an education. My professors, instructors and advisors gave me that and more in a unique program that challenged and encouraged me in equal measure. My life is richer for having been part of this amazing program.

Deborah Meyers
Former Director and Academic Advisor, UWW

I was privileged to work with dedicated colleagues for thirty years in a program that embodied my deepest values in education: learning and teaching in dialogue with students who were passionately engaged, hungry to know, disciplined and dedicated.

Students were my peers, with urgent questions that emerged from the complexities of adult life. They brought a rich tapestry of experience to the encounter with the liberal arts: to understanding ideas and questioning them. And they were positioned—as teachers, artists, administrators, writers, human service workers, business executives—to put ideas into effect. I was honored to witness students who in the process of transforming themselves were simultaneously applying their learning to transform their worlds.

I was inspired and humbled to see how students, in the midst of the pressing demands of adult life, nevertheless devoted time and resources to learning, committed to it and persevered with it, sometimes in daunting circumstances.

Yet, they found discovery, joy and transformation. They conveyed that the learning and growth were worth all of the sacrifice. This, to me, is a stunning affirmation of the value of liberal arts education. And it is a gift to all of us who devote our lives to it.

Thank you, Skidmore UWW!

Sandy P. George '03
Education

I don't think a day has gone by since my first contact with Skidmore that I haven't thought of or spoken to someone about someone or something from my experiences. The memories are so rich and beautiful, so sweet and fulfill-

tees. It was a place of wonderful fellowship and creativity, and still represents for me a model for what online education can accomplish. I have given some thought to the reasons why, despite its national standing, it eventually was discontinued. It belonged to an experimental era of online education, and did not adjust well to the gradual standardization of procedures and expectations.

Perhaps the most innovative idea of the UWW was to custom design every course, according to the vision of the instructor, rather than using a Learning Management System. Perhaps this may emerge as an option once again, as Web 2.0 technologies become more sophisticated and readily available. The concept of the UWW could be revived, but that would take boldness and creativity.

Virginia (Gini) Miettunen '96
Archeology-Anthropology

My quest for a degree in archeology at UWW was an incredible experience. I didn't spend much time on campus because my husband and I were traveling back and forth to China and I never knew where I would be. So I pursued my courses independently and on tape (this was before email). I met with my professors twice or more during the taped courses and did come to Skidmore to meet with my advisor Debbie Meyers to discuss strategies. She was a wonderful person to work with and I still remember her pep talks when I would get a little discouraged. I really enjoyed working with her and all of the professors at Skidmore. I was very impressed with everyone, especially when I went to defend my degree before the panel. They were very helpful and encouraging. It was sometimes hard to attend courses with undergraduates who seemed to resent me, but as a rule it was a fantastic time of my life. I graduated in 1996 with a degree in Anthropology-Archaeology. I will never forget the people I met and all the people who helped me attain my goal. Thanks to those wonderful people.

Janet G. Thompson '97
Business

I am a 1997 UWW Skidmore Graduate! In initially deciding to pursue my BS degree I took time to explore my options and enthusiastically decided on the UWW program at Skidmore. From my initial meetings with counselors and professors to the day I met with Betty Balevic, I knew for certain it was the place for me to be. Betty's knowledge, professionalism, understanding and genuine caring demeanor gave me an inspiration that I continue to think about often. It is with this great foundation I entered the UWW program and enjoyed every minute of my experience to completion. Although I had come into the program in an executive level position (not having a degree) the

sense of accomplishment and sheer joy of structural learning expanded my mind and inner soul. I proudly display my diploma in my home office but realize the personal journey was profound.

Barbara J. Naple '00

Art History

Fifty pages of unbridled, loving sentiment would not even scratch the surface in expressing my thanks to the college and the excellent UWW staff for allowing me this life changing and life growing opportunity. I remain forever grateful to Skidmore for having had the wisdom and charity to support such a program.

Jody Shepson '01

Psychology

The day began like any other, nothing out of the ordinary. I owned a Bed and Breakfast, and was the mother of four, so the first waking hours consisted of getting the guests and the children fed and out the door without incident. Shortly after 9 am, the business phone rang....it was a Skidmore mother calling to cancel the 5 rooms she had reserved for graduation of '98. She said, "My daughter transferred to another school last fall and I just realized I had these rooms booked. Is there a fee for cancelling?" I explained that I could easily sell those 5 rooms the day before graduation, so there was no danger I'd be left with empty rooms and of course, there would be no fee.

Later that afternoon, two enthusiastic, smiling women appeared in the lobby of the B&B, and one of them said she was hoping to book rooms for Skidmore graduation. The rooms typically get booked up many years in advance, so I winced and said, "That might be a problem. What year?" She said, "Next year.....spring of '98....I would need 5 rooms." I said, "This is almost spooky, but someone cancelled 5 rooms for next year's graduation just this morning!" I gave her the list of available rooms and she went to look them over, remarking that she was pretty sure 5 was the right number; she wanted her children all to come to her graduation. My eyes widened and I said, "This is for YOUR graduation? Wow! You're a grownup! I want to do that too." She explained that Skidmore had a UWW program, which I'd never heard about. I said, "It's amazing that you're telling me this. I have been thinking about taking some courses and contacted my original undergrad school for my transcripts. They came in the mail two days ago! I'll have to find out more about the program at Skidmore." The woman said, "Well that will be easy! This is Deborah, she's my advisor! She can tell you everything you need to know!"

Marvel I. Coralie Parker '10

Education

I had been adopted into a new family who couldn't wait to have me. My experience at Skidmore was a life saving injection applied at the right place, in the nick of time. Before I made it to Skidmore, I needed a forceful push start, for I was somewhat lost in a world of educational opportunities of which I was aware but had no access to, due to reasons which I thought were beyond my control. I was barely existing in the teaching world.

Lost, hopeless, frustrated and seemingly helpless, I continued to grasp aimlessly in the dark. In a world in which only the strong survives, I thought I had reached my limit. Fortunately for me, Skidmore echoed my call and the sun peeped through for me. The UWW program rescued me. Eventually I evolved from my time capsule, transformed into a new person. Thus I received a new lease on my teaching career.

Being an adult pursuing a tertiary education had proven to become quite a significant experience. On one hand, it was demanding and challenging. However, on the other hand, it was a meaningful adventure. The demands of taking care of the family, economic constraints, working full time during the days, and sleepless nights of studying posed excess physical and psychological stress. Conditions such as these could either break you or make you. Thanks to my teenage son for his immeasurable contribution and support!

The driving force behind it all was obtaining the degree at the end of the finishing line. Such a sweet reward! With the BS Degree in Education, seemingly far-fetched opportunities have been opening up to me. At last, the many obstacles are far behind me. I took my inaugural flight into a competitive world

Success is perhaps the sweetest reward. Since then I have moved up three levels in my profession. My self esteem, respect, teaching strategies, and family life as well as my own personal satisfaction are at an all high; they have increased tremendously.

As a proud Skidmore College (UWW) 2010 alumna, I take this grand opportunity to honour the UWW program by upholding its values, which incorporate passionate learning, discipline, hunger for knowledge, hard work, dedication and commitment.

I pledge to keep the torch burning so that all who seek education at Skidmore College may be led by that same guiding light. It feels great to be

Anyway, during his speech, President Glotzbach was saying something to the effect that how wonderful it will be when the family that is the Class of 2008 will eventually meet again at their 50th Reunion and see all their old friends and classmates and have a grand old time talking about their time spent at Skidmore. At which point I say, "Hell, I'll be dead by then!" Needless to say, the two young ladies beside me lost it!

At the end of the ceremony there were many of us just milling around, looking at everyone and I had moved out to an open area within the amphitheater and just happened to glance to my right when I see former New York City mayor Rudy Guiliani standing beside his daughter, I assume, who also graduated that day. Well I don't know if I was just suddenly star-struck or what, but the full country-boy bumpkin came out in me and in a loud and clear voice I asked, "Is that RUDY???" Complete silence engulfed that little area where I was standing not to mention that Mayor Guiliani had also heard my spontaneous outburst. He looked up at me and slowly nodded his head, "Yes." If I could have melted away like the Wicked Witch of the West that day, I would have. But what a great memory!

Deborah and I talked while Nancy investigated the rooms, then made the reservation. I was struck by the positive energy from both women, and the excitement with which Nancy talked about her courses and her eventual graduation. It was fun seeing someone nearing the end of a journey I was only just beginning to contemplate making myself. As they left, I felt quite pleased that the gaping, 5-room hole in my reservation book had been filled, and I'd gotten a suggestion about where I might take some courses or possibly even complete my degree.

The very next morning, there was a letter in my mailbox with the Skidmore UWW letterhead, which truly caught me by surprise. It was from Deborah, suggesting I call her to schedule an appointment to come talk about UWW. The word "serendipity" was in the letter, but it almost felt like I had no choice.....I was compelled to lift the receiver, letter still in hand, and dial Deborah's number. (I still have no idea how the letter appeared so quickly in my mailbox! It had a postmark, but it hadn't even been 24 hours since we'd met!)

At that appointment, Deborah sold me on UWW with her sparkly eyes, warmth and intelligence, and said a couple of things that have stayed with me for the past 14 years. She said, "You will find it exciting to once again attach yourself to a community of thinkers." I had never articulated that void in my life, but hearing those words made me think, "Yes!! I want that!!" And when I expressed uncertainty about an area of study and the lack of a clear educational goal, Deborah said, "The path has a way of making itself known to you once you're en route." She is very wise, and right, and I've been on the lookout for paths ever since!

My UWW path was a truly enriching and exciting adventure, but at times overwhelming. My faltering marriage came undone during my first year as a "non-traditional student" and my husband moved out of the house in March of 1998. I then became a single mother of 4, ages 10-16. I was also the sole proprietor of the very busy 12 room bed and breakfast. And in my spare time, I was taking courses at Skidmore. By May I was dealing with the busy season at the B&B, course deadlines at Skidmore and new summer courses starting up, and four kids with lacrosse games and proms and finals.

On graduation morning I left the house a little before 7 am, as always, to get the pastries and bagels for the full house, knowing there would be a busy morning with a flurry of activity and excitement, and then the house would be empty for several hours while all the guests attended the commencement. As I pulled into the bagel shop parking lot, right IN the driveway, my van stalled and wouldn't start. I tried and tried, but absolutely nothing happened. I needed to get back to feed my guests and it was too far to walk, so in utter defeat, I felt I had no choice but to call my soon-to-be-ex-husband to ask for his help. He was happy to be called upon, but I hated having to admit I

needed help. I dejectedly got into his car with my pastries and went home to get breakfast served. He called a short time later to say that the engine had seized, it could not be fixed, the van would have to be sold for scrap. I had become the very busy mother of four, innkeeper and student, without a car. It was NOT a good day!

As I hung up the phone, there was some commotion in the living room, and I saw that families were clustering around graduates in caps and gowns, posing for photos, checking watches, readying to leave. Nancy said, "Jody, would you mind snapping a picture so we can all be in it?" I said I'd be happy to, although in truth, I'm not sure "happy" was possible that day. I was thinking, "I just can't do it all, it's too much" as I lifted the camera, and my eyes filled with tears trying to focus on Nancy's joyous face surrounded by her children. I laughed it off and said, "Well, that got me a little teary!" and congratulated her, knowing it would be odd and inappropriate for the Innkeeper to burst into tears in the midst of such happiness! Graduation seemed like a very unrealistic and impossible goal for me.

I had lots to do that day with a full house, and caterers coming to create a graduation party for one of the families, kids to be shuttled here and there.....a typical very busy Saturday. On Sunday morning I drove a borrowed car to get breakfast, laid it all out in the dining room, brewed several pots of coffee, and went back to the kitchen to toast a bagel and quietly read the paper. There was a knock at the door at the end of our hallway and I heard, "Hello? Jody?" I thought to myself, "Nothing is going right this weekend! Now my bagel will be cold! Who is knocking so early in the morning?!" Then I saw Nancy Cooper at the door with her smiling face. She said, "I'm sorry to bother you, but I have an early flight and need to be going, and I didn't want to leave without saying good bye." I was so glad to have a chance to say good bye, and we hugged and talked about commencement and what a nice day it had been. As she turned to leave she thanked me again and said, "I've left something for you on your desk." I looked over at the desk and saw (it still brings tears to my eyes 13 years later!) her cap and gown. My eyes widened and filled up and I said, "NO! You can't leave those here! Those are yours! They meant so much to you!" Nancy said (I'm not even sure she is real, or that her name is Nancy.....I think she may have been a Fairy Godmother), "But I don't need them anymore! And they will help light your way."

Nancy left, as I stood in stunned silence, and I am quite sure she cannot possibly know the profound impact that small but monumental gesture made on my life. I carried them solemnly to my bedroom, where the cap watched over me from my mantel for the next 3 years, encouraging me and reminding me of Nancy's excitement and pride when she had worn it. People would suggest I try it on, but my eyes would widen and I'd say, "NO! Not until it's time! I have to finish first!" That cap was a tangible carrot I could chase, par-

Another memory is a class I took called "Paris, Vienna and Chicago," which was taught by Leila Whittemore, another professor who was not only very patient with me, but also got me through my final thesis in 2008. (Bless you, Leila!!) Anyway, the course was about how those 3 cities literally made themselves over and not only inspired new innovations in city planning and design, but went on to develop some of the world's most modern, for their times, architecture. Now the class size was rather small, about 8 or 9 of us really, and we met every week over at the Tang in one of the classrooms. Now, if you have ever met Leila, she is very passionate about her field of knowledge, as are all the professors at Skidmore, but she was the first professor that I had at Skidmore who would assign huge (at least I thought they were) amounts of reading to get through every week. So I, like my classmates, would do our assigned reading and prepare questions for the following week's lecture. Now, if you are like most people, adults as well as young people in a classroom environment, no one and I mean NO ONE wants to be the one who asks the first question, or make the first statement to start off class. That is, unless you are me. Well I always took the first "dive into the pool" week after week, to get the discussions started, or at least it seemed so. After about 8 or 9 weeks, I told Leila, before class, that I was not going to be the one to start this week's lecture discussion. So, class started and not one word was said for about 3 minutes. Leila looked around the class and the rest were looking anywhere but at her. If she asked one of them if they had anything to say they would wordlessly shake their head "No." I happen to sit next to Leila at the table and she slowly started to poke my hand as if to say "Help" and I would shake my head, very subtly "No." So the silence continued. My mistake was looking her in the eyes and I could tell she was pleading with me to say something, anything, to get the class moving. I eventually gave in and, once again, started the evening's proceedings. During break I asked her, "Why do I have to be the first one every week?" She looked me in the eyes and very plainly said, "Michael, you are older and therefore do not really care if you make a fool of yourself." As soon as the words were out of her mouth this look of horror started to creep across her face, not believing what she had said. At the same time a look of total bemusement started to creep across mine and I said to her, "Professor, I'm Irish...it's genetic!" At which point the horror was replaced with just the faintest of smiles.

At graduation, we were all at the top of the hill getting ready to proceed to our seats in the amphitheater at SPAC, and in a moment of good cheer I turned around and said, "Congratulations everyone!" And without missing a beat this young male voice said, "You too SIR!" Talk about feeling your age!

During the ceremony, President Glotzbach was giving his commencement address and I was sitting between two young ladies and just taking in the experience of the ceremony and becoming a Skidmore College graduate.

Art History

My first memory of UWW was meeting Dr. Chris Whann at Adirondack Community College, now SUNY Adirondack, during the Spring of 2005 at a college sponsored gathering for students continuing on for their 4-year degree. I spent about 45 minutes talking to this very polite and knowledgeable man who tried to convince me to attend Skidmore College by way of the University Without Walls program. For some reason that escapes me now, I had my mind set on attending another school, so no matter how much Chris tried to convince me to go to UWW I came up with some lame excuse not to. Actually, I always wanted to attend Skidmore College but always thought I would be overwhelmed by the courses, the professors and the students, mainly because I was going to be, if I attended, a 47 year old "Junior." In short, I was petrified of attending. As stated earlier, Chris, being the polite and professional person that he is, asked me to think it over and gave me all the handouts and his card. Well, needless to say, it wasn't more than 3 weeks later I called him and said I would like to give UWW a try. During my time at UWW/Skidmore, Chris was my student advisor, and friend. He "nursed" me through all my panic attacks of due dates, class choices, and any other silly thing I thought would prevent me from graduating. Although he has moved on, quite successfully, as if there would be any doubt, and even though I haven't kept in touch as much as I should, I do know that if I do have a question about anything academic, I can still contact him and he will once again get me through it. Chris Whann will always be a highlight in the history of the University Without Walls program.

Another memory is my first class at Skidmore. I was taking 18th Century European Art with Mimi Hellman, an intelligent, thoughtful, and with me, extremely patient instructor. Being "older," I naturally got to class about 45 minutes earlier, having spent the previous week locating the building, hallway and classroom (my military training still comes in handy from time to time) I would need to go to. Once there I of course had to put all the desks in order and picked the center-most seat in the first row. This was mainly because my eyesight and hearing had "declined" over the years, poor "old" man that I am. Anyway, I sat myself down and waited for the students to arrive. About 10-15 minutes before class was due to commence, the first student arrived. A young lady; naturally, this is Skidmore. As the time got nearer and nearer for class to begin, the constant flow of young ladies increased. At this point my heart rate picked up, I started to get warm under the collar and finally said to myself, "Oh lord, I am going to be the only male in this class!" And of course I had situated myself dead center in the front row and I would be literally surrounded by all these young women! Yeah, no pressure. Just when I was sure I was going to have a mild cardiac arrest, 3 young men entered the room just ahead of Professor Hellman. I let out an audible, "Oh thank God!!" Needless to say I survived that panic attack and went on to have a very enjoyable experience that semester.

ticularly on the bad days when the kids had problems and the guests had demands and the professors wanted papers handed in on time.

The truth is, the years I spent with UWW were some of the best years of my life. I'm not sure how I would have survived the post-divorce transition without the direction and growth and positive energy I found at Skidmore. I like to think that I had the very best professors that Skidmore had to offer, and that I was a favorite student, and that my experience was exceptional. In fact, I suspect that everyone in the UWW program felt the same way. It's a very special program, tailored to fit each individual student, so by definition, each student does feel unique and special.each student IS special. No two degree programs are alike; we were all different. Like snowflakes. Or stars! I know there was visible pride on the face of every UWW student at commencement, a different sort of pride than the "traditional" aged graduates displayed. We all felt it and we could all see it in each other's eyes. I, however, was the only one wearing Nancy Cooper's cap and gown, and that felt EXTRA special. Thank you, Nancy!

Jude Fricano '03 American Studies

As a 2003 graduate with a degree in American Studies, I found that UWW was the perfect place to return to school and pursue a love of learning. Everyone in the UWW program seemed to anticipate my needs and offer brilliant suggestions to any of my questions.

Due to the flexibility of evening classes comprised of all returning students as well as the ability to attend traditional classes, my experience was multifaceted and complete in many ways. There was so much to learn not only from the professors, but from each of the students who also participated.

I treasure my experience with UWW. I gained not only a degree, but a world of information to carry forward, all of which helped me live so much more thoughtfully!

Joanna Zangrando Professor Emeritus, Department of American Studies Skidmore College

When I first learned about Skidmore's UWW program, perhaps a year after I became a faculty member at Skidmore (1976), I knew I wanted to become involved in some way. I never dreamed that my involvement would begin soon and end late. I began working with UWW students as an advisor, an independent study instructor, and a professor who delighted in having UWW students in my classes. I cannot recall being anything but delighted when "mature students" enrolled in my classes; they added "real world" experi-

ences to class discussions that students viewed as valuable and not "just another Zangrando lecture item." I enjoyed working with UWW students one-on-one as an advisor or in helping them shape an independent study course with me. Often, those independent study courses helped shape the content and structure of American Studies courses that were part of my regular teaching load.

For years (perhaps decades?), I served on the UWW Committee, although it took me a year or two to figure out my role as a committee member. It was during the weekly degree-plan meetings – when degree candidates explained the full meaning, to them, of achieving the Skidmore B.A. or B.S. degree – that I realized how important an enhancement of MY Skidmore experience my work with UWW students, faculty, and staff was.

My life as a Skidmore professor and participant in the larger community has indeed been enriched by the opportunity to teach and advise UWW students and to read and hear them present their degree plans. When UWW graduates walk across the stage at graduation, I know how many sacrifices they have made and how much time and intellectual work they have invested in achieving a Skidmore B.A. or B.S. degree.

Poppet (Margaret) Sanderson '03

Archaeology, Multiculturalism, Human-Land Interaction

Attending the University Without Walls at Skidmore was, for me, the culmination of a long line of college and life experiences. I value any place or situation which can adapt its definitions to reflect a new reality, and the UWW, or any such university, was such a place. I am sorry to see it go and I hope it may spring back to life again at some time when the need for it is clear.

I had attended four different colleges before applying to Skidmore, but I had always had to quit college to move to a new city for work or some other reason. I had many credits, but they did not add up to a liberal arts degree. The UWW accepted all my transferred credits and CLEP exams and so I needed about a year's work to complete my degree. I was also able to take several more classes that interested me, though they were not, strictly speaking, necessary for completion of the degree program.

I enjoyed the variety of teaching and learning styles offered: on line, classroom and studio art classes. I appreciate also the range and breadth of the teachers' experiences. All of my teachers were fine educators and interesting human beings. I met all but one of them.

After graduating, I found my life more or less unchanged, probably because I was already 42 years old. Yet I probably would not have been hired to work

Kenneth Klotz

Former Academic Advisor; Coordinator, Inmate Higher Education Program; Acting Director of UWW

It was a privilege to be a UWW staff member for more than half of its long history. UWW was an absolutely unique program, creating opportunities for adult learners that simply did not exist in the same form anywhere else.

UWW was on the cutting edge of educational philosophy and educational technology, particularly in the years that the on-line courses were developed and perfected, and was a pioneer in methods of course delivery, whether that meant on-line courses, providing evening seminars for local adult students, bringing teachers to correctional facility classrooms, or utilizing other modes of learning and assessment in an evolving array of educational options.

Individual academic programs were then tailored to each student's needs and took advantage of each student's unique set of experiences, location, and preferred modes of learning. The program was difficult, demanding, and academically rigorous; I grew to have tremendous admiration for the students who completed it, most without the network of support systems built into a conventional residential program. Each student story is different and each in its own way marvelous.

Our many hundreds of graduates can look back with pride on what they accomplished.

Sandra Felix '08

Education

Words can't express my special memories of UWW. Just thinking of that statement brings such wonderful feelings that I just don't know where to start.

It was a journey that I will never forget; being a part of UWW brought out hidden intelligences within me that I never knew existed. I believe that I had the best tutors that any student pursuing higher education could ever ask for.

This is how my journey started: my first course was Family Violence. This course helped me change my views on so many issues and allowed me not to be too quick in being judgmental on particular subjects.

Michael Sullivan '08

orah Meyers, the late Dr. Ephraim and Phylise Banner immediately come to mind. Many thanks and greatest appreciation to all of you for your support and encouragement to us (teachers from Antigua and Barbuda) and the wealth of knowledge you allowed us to receive through such a program.

Sharon Veneziale '06

Psychology and Human Behavior

There was an immediate sadness within me when I had been informed that UWW would be shutting its virtual doors. My experience at UWW was so unique: the breadth of course content that forced my mind to think outside of the box, the camaraderie and banter within the on-line message boards, and making friends across oceans...what a bittersweet ending to such a wonderful educational journey...knowing that UWW gave me the ability to spread my wings far and wide to fly beyond what I had ever dreamed...and also knowing that others like myself will not have that chance. I feel lucky and honored to be a part of UWW's history. Since graduating in 2006, I have acquired two Masters degrees in the Psychology field and currently study Modern Analysis at the Philadelphia School of Psychoanalysis. I sadly say goodbye to UWW but will never forget this time in my life...always measure twice and cut once...I live by these words...Thank you UWW...

Marion I. Zacharias '07

Physics/Astronomy

I am very sad about the termination of the UWW program. When I moved from Germany to the US, UWW provided the perfect opportunity for me to finish an accredited BA program on my own schedule while I was still working. I even could continue my studies while living on a remote mountain in Chile. UWW was one of the few places which accepted some of my credits earned in Germany.

After the death of my parents I had a difficult time, but UWW staff was very patient, helpful and encouraging. For example, Phil Hardy wrote the comment, "Don't doubt your abilities." Mary Crone Odekon guided me through advanced physics and Kenneth Klotz stood by my side throughout the whole learning experience at UWW.

Finally, in 2007 I obtained my BA in physics and astronomy. Following the UWW motto of life-long learning I am now pursuing a career in health sciences.

as a substitute teaching assistant without this degree. I feel it gives me more credibility in society, although I do not really believe people should be judged by their degrees, but instead by their abilities. Still I suppose the fact that a person is motivated to learn new things reflects an interest in the world which would bode well for future endeavors. A person can teach him or herself much alone, however, and can and must learn outside the setting of a college or university as well as within it.

I have had two shows of my artwork and generally worked as a gardener since graduation. I continue to sell handmade products at craft fairs and other outlets, including the Skidmore College book store. Many thanks to the University Without Walls staff and teachers for their time, interest and encouragement.

Maudlyn Brown '05

Education

Maudlyn A. Brown started her Skidmore education with the first group of Antiguan students. Since she was a teacher, her focus was on Education.

Her courses were completed in December 2003 and she should have graduated in 2004. However she had some setbacks with her final project and thus she graduated in 2005. She was only able to do so with the help of some unselfish classmates: Foster Roberts, Rolston Nikeo and Franz Ladoo.

Doing the program you had to be familiar with the computer since you had to do online courses. At the beginning she had no computer and was also computer-illiterate. It was these three young men, along with her brother, who came to her rescue and helped her gain some of the necessary knowledge and skills after acquiring a computer system.

When there was no one to guide her in her final project, Prof. Carol Kurto came on board. She corrected, guided, instructed, and helped in acquiring information so it could be completed.

Maudlyn Brown's experience at Skidmore improved her personal and professional life. It opened the door for her knowledge of computer and electronic devices, and she was able to use that to help others.

Her friends and acquaintances were vastly increased. Doing the courses also increased her knowledge tremendously. It made her see people and things in a different perspective and be able to appreciate people and things more.

She can never forget the days in the classroom with the late Dr. Charles

Ephraim. He was more than a professor. He made everything so lively and interesting, giving you that special impetus to succeed. He used his personal life and experiences to make you understand better. It was a sad time when all his courses were finished.

It was a difficult time for her personally, having to work in the day, taking care of the family, helping her children at school, and still working on her degree program. She also had to cope with transport problems to and from classes. However, she had the support of her friends and family and was able to complete it.

In hindsight, maybe she would have done some things differently, but joining Skidmore College UWW was a real experience, and she is glad that she did it.

Congratulations to all the students graduating!!
Special congratulations to our own, Mr. Colin Greene.

Carol Kurto
Faculty Advisor and Instructor, UWW on-line courses

In my 35 years of teaching, Skidmore's University Without Walls Program has, by far, been the most rewarding experience of my career. When I retired from public school teaching and supervising Skidmore student teachers, I was offered a position as Faculty Advisor and Adjunct Professor at UWW. I served in this capacity from 2001-2009. I worked primarily with "mature" students from Antigua who were completing their bachelor's degree in education. Each of my students exhibited motivation beyond compare. They were diligent, conscientious, creative, concerned teachers with a high degree of respect and intelligence. I prepared my students for their final projects in such diverse fields as mathematics, music, environmental studies, children's literature, history, community involvement, poetry, journalism, supervision, administration and educational reform. As part of their degree program, students were required to complete a research project in an educational curriculum area based on academic need and interest. Their completed projects were presented to the Antigua Ministry of Education and shared with their peers. Many students worked beyond expectations and created lengthy research documents comparable to a Master's Thesis.

When I taught a summer course in Children's Literature at UWW, I found my students to be so industrious that they were often working online late into the night. They spent hours on reading, writing, assessing, and creating their own books and materials to be used, not only in their own classrooms, but also to be shared with their fellow teachers throughout the island. As learning centers were established in village schools, many UWW graduates, under the astute direction of Sandy George, set up lending libraries for both

student and teacher use.

The most incredible and far-reaching effect of the UWW Program, however, was to see how the results of this research and development affected the educational development in Antiguan Schools. Within a decade, the school system in Antigua has gone through a metamorphosis. The curriculum and programs have become more student-centered with an emphasis on multiple intelligences and integrative approaches. Through the vast efforts of people such as Jonah Greene, Ken Klotz, Deborah Meyers, Joyce Rubin, Sandy George and teams of faculty and staff from both Skidmore and Antigua, the entire educational system in Antigua had been revolutionalized. I was proud to play a part in this educational reformation in the Caribbean.

It is bittersweet to see the programs at UWW come to an end. However, as I evaluated UWW student projects from both the United States and the Caribbean during my tenure at Skidmore, I continually saw the positive effects on our future citizens and educational programs. Although it is disheartening to see such a valuable program being terminated, it gives me great pride to witness the far-reaching accomplishments of the hundreds of graduates of Skidmore's University Without Walls. Congratulations to all who were instrumental in the development of this innovative program and special kudos to the UWW graduates who have truly made a difference in our global society.

Eloise Silston-Hughes '06
Education

The University Without Walls was my first experience with an online course. At the time of my enrollment I knew little or nothing about online technology and so I thought this was going to be a challenge. However, what made Skidmore's UWW a successful experience for me was the keen interest and understanding of the faculty and staff and the extent to which they went to empower us students.

Another memorable experience for me was the student teacher exchange program spearheaded by Sandy George and Joyce Rubin. This was indeed a vision that became a reality to be compared to no other. Student teachers [from the Department of Education Studies in Skidmore's residential program] embraced first hand experiences of what life was like in our homes and educational settings. The friendships formed during these experiences have lasted to today.

Today, when I think of UWW, names like Joyce Rubin, Donna Brent, Deb-