

Skidmore's Past Presidents



JOSEPH C. PALAMOUNTAIN JR.

Joseph C. Palamountain Jr., Skidmore's fourth president, took office in 1965. A political scientist with a doctorate from Harvard, Dr. Palamountain came to Skidmore from Wesleyan University, where he was provost. He guided Skidmore through a period of dynamic growth and change. Under his leadership, the development of the College's new physical plant progressed rapidly.

Dr. Palamountain's 22-year presidency was characterized by impressive growth in the academic and financial areas of the College. Skidmore experienced a doubling of the student body and major increases in applications; the near doubling of the faculty; the transition from a women's college to a coeducational institution; and the creation of one of the first external degree programs in New York State, the University Without Walls.

During Dr. Palamountain's presidency there were two innovative curriculum changes and the chartering of a Phi Beta Kappa chapter. The financial health of Skidmore was bolstered by growth in the endowment and in the College's net worth, due in part to the launching of the \$25 million Celebration Campaign in 1985.

Palamountain Hall is named in his honor. ■



DAVID H. PORTER

David H. Porter, the College's fifth president, came to Skidmore in 1987 from Carleton College, where he taught classics and music. Early in his presidency, Dr. Porter established the Commission on the '90s to help chart Skidmore's course to the twenty-first century. The commission recommended new institutional priorities, with an emphasis on enhancing the academic tone on campus, ensuring long-term financial stability, and promoting greater diversity within the campus community and curriculum.

During the Porter presidency, Skidmore launched the Honors Forum as well as a program of scholarships in science and mathematics, now named in his honor.

The campus landscape changed dramatically during his tenure, as Skidmore renovated and expanded Scribner Library, constructed an outdoor athletic complex, built an addition to the Sports and Recreation Center, and expanded Dana Science Center.

In addition, Dr. Porter helped lead the largest fundraising effort in Skidmore's history, the Skidmore Journey: A Campaign for Our Second Century, launched in 1993. The five-year campaign raised \$86.5 million, enabling the college to substantially increase its endowment and providing funds for construction of the Tang Museum.

Porter Plaza, on the south side of Case Center, is named for him. ■



JAMIENNE S. STUDLEY

In 1999, Jamiene S. Studley became Skidmore's sixth president and the first woman to hold that office. She was previously associate dean of Yale Law School and general counsel of the U.S. Department of Education.

President Studley led a strategic planning process that established the College's direction for the coming decade. The plan outlined three major goals: enhancing academic quality and faculty-student interaction; attracting and challenging an increasingly talented, motivated, and diverse student body; and strengthening the sense of community and citizenship across the campus.

During the Studley presidency, the College adopted a new core curriculum and expanded opportunities for international study. President Studley shepherded the renovation and expansion of Case Campus Center, the establishment of the Intercultural Center, and the completion of the Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery. ■