

*Dear Colleagues,*

*You probably know of us from the spring Symposium we have run for the past two years—our first, in 2017/8, featured the faculty-selected theme of metamorphosis; last year's focused on wonder. These gatherings showcase Skidmore faculty, giving us an opportunity to share our work on a mutually agreed-upon topic. We are about to begin work on the third Symposium, which is scheduled for March 28th-29th, 2020.*

*This year we're inaugurating a fall semester event, which celebrates in a different way the work of humanistic inquiry: that of our former students. You are invited to participate in this special event – on Saturday, November 9th – sponsored by the Center for Humanistic Inquiry. Titled “Generations,” this gathering will include both alums and their Skidmore faculty mentors, with the alums presenting their work and the faculty introducing them and engaging them in a dialogue afterwards. With generous support from President Glotzbach and two alumnae, and some help from academic departments and programs (more below), “Generations” will feature former students who are now scholars and artists in their own right, bringing them back to campus to present their work. We expect this event to be of equal interest to both your current majors and to faculty.*

*We have sufficient funds to invite eight alums to present and are therefore able to support their transportation to and from campus, two nights stay in a hotel, and dinner, breakfast and lunch for those alums and their faculty sponsors. We are asking each sponsoring department or program to contribute \$200 in support of what we think will be a terrific event.*

*Please discuss this within your departments and programs in September and identify potential presenters. Then email us (marnush and bblack) by Friday, September 20th, with the name of an alum, contact information, and a brief description of what they do. We will select eight proposals and notify you as soon as possible so your alum can begin to make plans.*

*Meanwhile, as in the last two years, we invite you to submit ideas for a theme for this year's spring symposium. While you voted for metamorphosis and wonder in 2017/8 and 2018/9, respectively, other proposed themes received considerable support, especially belonging, bodies, dreams, intersections, time, and truth/falsity. We will include these as well as others you propose for what has become the annual vote, later in the fall.*

*We are looking forward to another successful year, and wish you all the best in the fall semester.*

*Cheers!*

*Barbara Black (English) and Michael Arnush (Classics)*