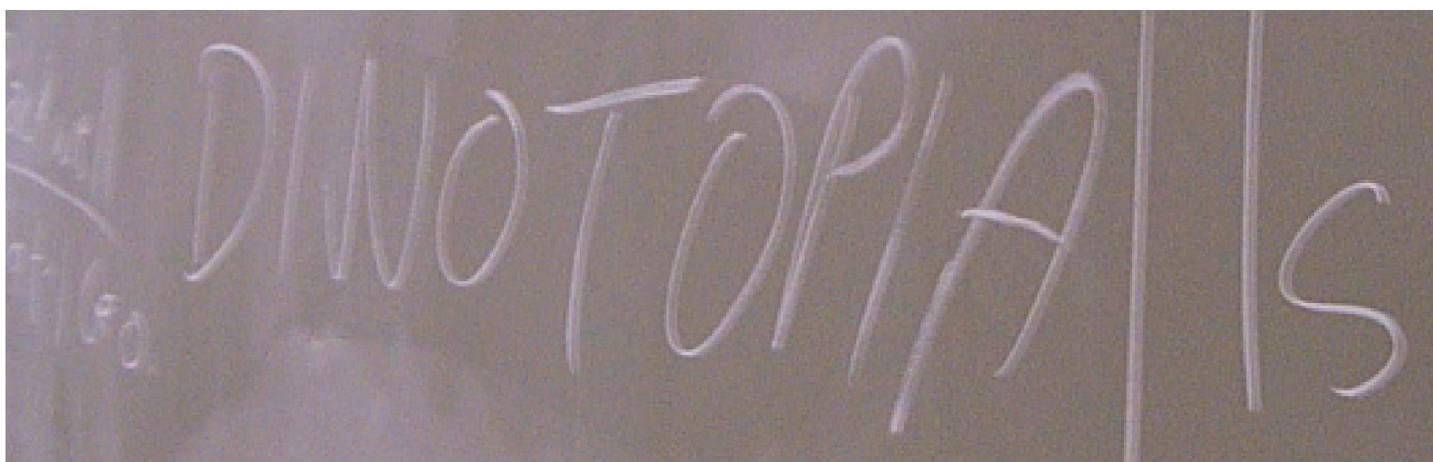


Adding “More” Students to the Honors Forum



On the board at the Honors Forum’s all forum meeting, the Exec Co advertises the new Norman Rockwell museum exhibit Dintopia.

Erin Cassidy

There was an All Forum Meeting on March 28. If this is news to you here is a recap of the Boshoff entreaties and future events in which you, yes YOU, can participate. Professor Boshoff’s cry about the Honors Forum Handbook, “Read this document. Keep it on your table. It’s important to your LIFE,” resounded throughout Davis Auditorium as the new members were inducted. They seem like an eager and wonderful bunch. Boshoff then invoked his motto, “Honors Forum adds

“MORE” to your Skidmore education.” He ticked off the list of the ways that Honors Forum members can do this: Through going to the fabulous lectures (“Read your e-mails”), participating in the signature events like Shades of Grey and the Annual Jon A. Ramsey Lecture, honors courses, the citizenship requirement, debate society, and keeping discussions about classes going. Boshoff then turned the meeting over to the Executive Committee with touching final remarks: “[The Honors Forum] has to support academic aspira-

tions.” President Leah Elliot ’06 and Community Service Coordinator Adam Epstein ’08 listed the upcoming events (see calendar). Volunteers are needed for Academic Festival; flexible scheduling is available, contact Linda Santagato x5948. Leah also presented the new Honors Forum reapplication electronic application. It looked very easy (“Who doesn’t like checkboxes”). There are many ways YOU can participate in Honors Forum so get out there and do it, Boshoff is behind you!

The Frustrating Freedom of Citizen-Studentship

Bill Stitson

HF 203 was nearly cancelled for this semester when only “about three and a half” students had signed up for it by late December, according to members of the current class. Upperclassmen who had previously taken the course sent out emails to the Honors Forum, encouraging enrollment. Now, after dealing with scheduling conflicts and opening the course to freshmen, the class of ten meets twice every week on the fourth floor of Lucy Scribner Library for what is called “Citizen Studentship”.

The syllabus describes Citizen Studentship as “an introduction to a self-motivated and self-governed approach to learning.” Students and the instructor are supposed to work collaboratively to create goals, readings, assignments, and topics of discussion. But what does the phrase Citizen Studentship actually mean? According to one student, “it is our responsibility as citizens of the world to be students, to have open minds, and to analyze ourselves. Dumbly following the crowd makes you a bad citizen.” Other theories emphasize the active role of the student, saying the “citi-

zen” part implies the responsibility the students have to participate in their own education. Another perspective supports the freedom to let go of the word “should” from one’s vocabulary and pursue learning without worrying about external expectations.

Beyond the hypothetical, the class has evolved purely into a discussion group on anything and everything, including neuroscience, global economic ethics, Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs, consciousness, and current campus issues. Some reading has been introduced to the rest of the class by fellow students, though none has been technically “assigned.” This year’s instructor, Roy Rotheim, suggested weekly essays for students to organize their thoughts outside of class time, though an HF203 Xanga blog was chosen as an alternative.

Professor Rotheim’s role in the class has been minimal. The first day of class, he informally introduced himself and the course, then left. He said he’d be at a table just outside in case anyone needed anything, and has only occasionally popped in since. He also reads and contributes to the

blog.

There is currently an air of frustration in HF203, as the Academic Festival draws near. According to the course description, the group should produce “a collegiate, collegial, and collective project” for the festival, though there is a general sentiment that such a project would not do justice to the class. Some feel that a single project couldn’t possibly represent the entirety of topics discussed so far, and others feel that to do a project at all just because “we’re expected to” defies the purpose of the course. Still more assert that time spent on the project would be better used for more discussion. Regardless of point of view, the word “project” has become an expletive, censored on the blog with asterisks.

Meanwhile, the clock ticks. According to Professor Rotheim, the frustration is good, a sign of progress and growth. According to the students, it’s frustrating. The course has certainly sparked dialogue about formal education and one’s own role in the process, though no one really agrees on what Citizen Studentship actually is.

REMINDER: ANNUAL REAPPLICATION FORM WILL BE DUE AT THE END OF THE SEMESTER.

Forum Visits the Hyde Museum

April Bukoski and
Vanessa Banti

On Saturday, March 24th, The Honors Forum sponsored a trip to the Hyde Museum in Glens Falls, New York. Charlotte Pruyne Hyde founded the museum in 1952. Mrs. Hyde donated her house and a personal library and art collection to be turned into a museum. An adjacent gallery has since been added and is presently showing Love, Live, Work: The Roycroft Legacy, a show dedicated to the Roycroft community, founded in the 1890s in East Aurora, New York. The community was created as a response to industrialization and was an attempt to revive craftsmanship and the simpler, anti-Victorian style. The exhibit at the Hyde features books, metal work, ceramics, woodwork, and glassware, and featured furniture and desktop items such as lamps, vases, and inkwells.

The Hyde collection, which is still shown in the house that Mrs. Hyde donated, includes furniture, paintings, sculptures, and textiles. The

art is displayed throughout the house as if someone still lived there. The bedrooms are set up complete with antique furniture (mostly from the 1800s, but some dating back as far as the 15th century), paintings, and tapestries. At first appearance the rooms seem simple and the artwork hanging on walls seems almost secondary to the beautiful furniture. The well-integrated paintings make the rooms feel alive and seem to be hiding around every corner. They include works by such artists as Picasso, Renoir, and Botticelli. By scattering the artwork throughout the house instead of placing it in a typical gallery atmosphere, the paintings, too, seem to come alive and to become more relevant and current. The casualness with which the collection is displayed shows the continual presence and importance that it played in Mrs. Hyde's life as well as allowing visitors to look back in time and receive a glance of what that life must have been like.

Fridays @ Four: Art at Skidmore

Erin Cassidy

Ever wonder who is in charge of the art on Skidmore's campus? On March 24, a small group of students, including staff from The Line art newsletter, and faculty including art history Professor Katie Hauser and Tang Museum Director Ian Berry discussed their feelings about Skidmore's art and its relationship to students. Many topics were discussed during this moderately lively session. Subjects included a conversation about the thriving art community on campus and that people would like to see art events that are less academic. Students are appreciative of Case Gallery where they have the opportunity to hang work and to curate shows.

The majority of the group was happy to see that the series of paintings that use to hang on the outside wall of the D-hall have been taken down. Ian Berry brought up an interesting fact: neither the landscape sculpture nor the pictures hanging in the academic buildings are monitored by a specific person, or group. Members of The Line decided to take this issue to the next meeting of Pro-Arts, the art-conscious group on campus, so that someone will finally be done about the "interesting" public artwork on campus that has been in the same place since it was donated or created.

The Honors Forum is proud to recognize four of our own students for being inducted into Pi Mu Epsilon, the National Mathematics Honors Society.

Gavit Douangvichit '07
Elizabeth Edelmith '07
Erin Kennedy '07
Jessica Neilson '07

FORUM FUN!: PUZZLE!

Each boxed message represents a word or expression. Can you figure them out?

PAWALKRK

issue issue issue issue
issue issue issue issue
issue issue

YOU DESERVE TODAY

Source:

<http://www.niehs.nih.gov/kids/braintpics.htm>

Forum Calendar

April 8

Trip to the Norman Rockwell Museum

April 11

Annual Jon A. Ramsey lecture by Prof. Prasad, "Battle for Blue Gold"

April 14

Fridays @ 4 on immigration current events

May 3

Academic Festival!

*Volunteers needed contact
lsantaga@skidmore.edu*

LABEL ME!