



SKIDMORE'S ANNUAL ACADEMIC FESTIVAL

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SPONSORED BY
THE PERICLEAN HONORS FORUM

Thursday, April 30, 2026

Twenty-seventh Annual Academic Festival

Thursday, April 30, 2026

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Message from Academic Festival Coordinators

Excellence matters at Skidmore College. Students write perceptive papers, conduct insightful scientific and mathematical research, choreograph breathtaking dances, and create stimulating theatrical productions. In labs, at field sites, in libraries, and in studios, our students take ownership of their curriculum and demonstrate the mix of creativity and excellence that characterizes Academic Festival.

The twenty-seventh annual Academic Festival brings the Skidmore community together to celebrate our students' achievements. Departments and programs across the College have selected outstanding seniors to present during four designated time slots. With concurrent sessions in each slot, covering areas of study representing every department at Skidmore, we aim to attract attendees from across the college to celebrate our students' academic successes. This year we are once again offering a popular lunchtime slot for departments and programs to sponsor their own sessions; some panels will overlap the lunchtime slot.

Schedule of Events

April 30, 2026

Refreshments

Available throughout the day:

Palamountain Hall (Outside Emerson Auditorium)

Ladd Hall (2nd Floor)

Tisch Learning Center (2nd Floor)

CIS (1st Floor Atrium)

9:00 – 10:20 AM: SESSION 1

1. “Imperial Pasts: War Crime Memory in Japan and America’s China Experts” BO 281

Faculty Sponsors: Dr. Joowon Park, Anthropology & Asian Studies and Dr. Jenny Day, History

Presenters: Amanda Middleton '26, Lila Smith '26

This session explores the historical, cross-cultural, and transnational processes related to the United States, China, and Japan. Drawing on primary and secondary sources, the presenters explore the topic of collective memory of war crimes as well as James C Thomson Jr. and the making of an American ‘China Expert.’

2. Chemistry Academic Festival CIS 101A and CIS Atrium (runs until 1:20 pm)

Faculty Sponsor: Aurelia Ball, Chemistry

Presenters: Holden Caney '27, Jorge Cardoso '26, Alex Choi '26, Beilynn Geiss '26, Kai Gemmell '28, Olivia Gottschall '26, Abbey Grandin '27, Tai Huynh '26, Ocean Lin '27, Xiaoran Liu '26, Maki Matsuoka '28, Angie Mozrall '26, Ethan Pham '26, Slade Rice '27, Hanyu Ruan '27, Rachel Anne Scholl '26, Emily Serrano '28, Kian Sethi '26, Jonathan Sonstein '26, Roberta Taylor-Smith '28, Brandon Yomtov '27, Sofia Chihade '26, Gavi Gordon '26, Rachel Hambuchen '26, Mary Harbison '26, Natalie O’Neill '26

Students work in collaboration with their faculty mentors to learn advanced techniques and protocols specific to their research fields. Each student develops a research project in collaboration with a faculty mentor and gives a formal presentation of their results.

3. Investigating Impact: Dance Across Communities Davis Auditorium

Faculty Sponsor: Sarah DiPasquale, Dance

Presenters: Davin Arzu '27, Lily Gould '26, Aminah Hopewell '26, Meredith Mobyed '26

This session features four independent research projects examining dance in applied and community contexts. Employing descriptive, quantitative, and critical approaches, these projects explore dance across diverse settings and cultural frameworks.

4. Senior Thesis Presentations in Economics Emerson Auditorium (runs until 11:50 am)

Faculty Sponsor: Smriti Tiwari & Monica Das, Economics

Presenters: Hazel Dang '26, Jack R. Doyle '26, Heyna Feskens '26, Kam Haq '26, Daniel Huh '26, David Koffler '26, Grace Lazzara '26, Garn Leangphibul '26, Landon Schwartzman '26, Justin Shafritz '26, Brendan Thein '26, Oscar Worob '26

Every year the Economics Department features its best senior theses at Academic Festival. In each session for the event, students will present results of research projects completed while at Skidmore.

9:00-10:20

Hazel Dang, “Beyond Poverty Alleviation: Microcredit and Child Welfare Risks.”

Jack R. Doyle, “Policy Tension: The Impact of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative on Housing Prices.”

Heyna Feskens, “Security as an Educational Input: The Effect of Metal Detectors on High School Attendance.”

Kam Haq, “The Effect of Rail on Rents and Residents: Evidence from Hampton Roads”

Daniel Huh, “Chopin Competition: Dual Mechanism”

David Koffler, “A Comparison of Betting Profitability Across Polymarket, Pinnacle and DraftKings.”

10:30-11:50

Grace Lazzara, “Game Face: How Beauty Shapes Power, Pay and Play in the Women’s National Basketball Association (WNBA)”

Garn Leangphibul, “Do Good Talkers Get Employed? The Relationship between Mandarin-Chinese Ability and Employment Prospects in China”

Landon Schwartzman, “Contract-Year Incentives in Major League Baseball: Do Players Perform Better When a New Deal Is on the Line?”

Justin Shafritz, “Too Late, Powell? A Study of the Impacts of Private Credit on Monetary Policy”

Brendan Thein, “The Asian Paradox: Political Regimes and the Heterogeneous Relationship between Income Inequality and Institutional Corruption”

Oscar Worob, “Bottlenecks: Chokepoint Disruptions and Monthly Global Trade Flows”

5. Environmental Studies & Sciences Department: Senior Research Capstone Presentations

Gannett Auditorium (runs until 12:30 pm)

Faculty Sponsors: A.J. Schneller & Patrick Phillips, Environmental Studies & Sciences
Presenters: Owen Zamsky ’26, Elle Harrison ’26, Madison Situ ’26, Anna Curran ’26, Zoe Green ’26, Della Huntley ’26, Abby Zarker ’26, Lucy Beckman ’26, Cameron Liberty ’26, Mason Montante ’26, Rachel Anne Scholl ’26, Holly Staats ’26, Siena

Yannotti '26, Saunders Haley '26, Lily Hudner '26, Nicole Richardson '26, Rachel Silverman '26, Henri Vieltojarvi '26, Tomas Ruiz '26, Jack Roulette '26, Joseph Papaccio '26, Madeline Bace '26, Jackson Giumarro '26, Isabella Iannone '26, Ben Jeske '26, Michaela Kablik '26, Zavion Penn '26, Bridget Hunt '26, KC Lisi '26, Samuel Donohoe '26, Clara Morgan '26, Evan Robertson '26, Sydney Baig '26, Caroline Ettinger-DeLong '26, Ian Morrison '26, Rory Moylan '26, Josie Oliveira '26, Anna Kieffer '26, Liv Mollo '26, Charlie Movius '26, Everett Smith '26, Colson Warren '26, Sophie Zuckman '26

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| 9:15 What a Waste: Food Waste Reduction and Redistribution in Saratoga Springs Restaurants Through Waste Audits and Sustainability Consulting | Owen Zamsky, Elle Harrison, Madison Situ |
| 9:30 Cultivating Health: Assessing Food as Medicine Interventions in Upstate NY and VT | Anna Curran, Zoe Green, Della Huntley, and Abby Zarker |
| 9:45 Fire: Friend or Foe? Community Perspectives and Prescribed Burn Approval in the Capital Region | Lucy Beckman and Cameron Liberty |
| 10:00 Fire: Friend or Foe? Prescribed burns and soil dynamics in fire-dependent ecosystems | Mason Montante, Rachel Anne Scholl, Holly Staats, Siena Yannotti |
| 10:45 The Implementation and Role of Traditional Ecological Knowledge in the Northeast Region and Its Intersection with Western Land Management Practices | Saunders Haley, Lily Hudner, Nicole Richardson, and Rachel Silverman |
| 11:00 Distribution and Prevalence of Hemlock Woolly Adelgid and Elongate Hemlock Scale in Saratoga County | Henri Vieltojarvi, Tomas Ruiz, Jack Roulette, Joseph Papaccio |
| 11:15 Change Is Brewing: A Sustainability Analysis of Local Breweries | Madeline Bace, Jackson Giumarro, Isabella Iannone, Ben Jeske, Michaela Kablik, and Zavion Penn |
| 11:30 Analyzing and Understanding Regenerative Agriculture in New York | Bridget Hunt, KC Lisi, Samuel Donohoe, Clara Morgan, Evan Robertson |

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| 11:45 Seniors for Seniors: Improving Food Access for Senior Citizens Through Strengthening Connections Between Stakeholders in Saratoga County | Sydney Baig, Caroline Ettinger-DeLong, Ian Morrison, Rory Moylan, and Josie Oliveira |
| 12:00 An Overwinter Study of Conductivity and Zinc in Saratoga Lake to Assess Road Salt Runoff Impacts | Anna Kieffer, Liv Mollo, Charlie Movius, Everett Smith, Colson Warren, Sophie Zuckman |

6. Gender Studies Presentations

Ladd 206

Faculty Sponsor: Sharadha Kalyanam, Gender Studies

Presenters: Maya Roldan '26, Stella Brown '26

Gender Presentation in the Era of the “Performative Male” – Maya Roldan '26

This research examines the 2025 “performative male” trend about the “performative” quality of cisgender straight men who cultivate an aesthetic presentation heavily influenced by feminine-coded style to appeal more to women. Using interviews with cisgender straight male Skidmore students and applying the theoretical frameworks of gender performativity and hegemonic masculinity, this research explores the way men’s personal style and ideas of masculinity have been shaped and how they enact masculinity in different social circumstances.

Reimagining Male Homosocial Relationships as Pathways for Resisting Hegemonic Masculinity – Stella Brown '26

This research explores dynamics between hegemonic masculinity and homosociality to understand how homosociality might subvert or challenge masculinity constructs. I argue that the TV series *Our Flag Means Death* (OFMD) (2022) presents an idealized reality where men use romantic and homosocial relationships to challenge hegemonic masculinity. This research bridges discursive and material worlds, highlighting their relational effects. Using survey data from men, I examine the influence of media representations on masculinity discourses and whether men find security from gendered expectations through male-male relationships.

7. Globalization & Deglobalization: Challenges from Opposing Trends

PMH 231

Faculty Sponsors: Pushkala Prasad & Caroline D’Abate, Management & Business/International Affairs

Presenters: Lily Bruce '26, Yue Chen '27, Lexi Gagliostro '26; Sophia Georgiou '27, Bodhi Smith '26, Harper Staton-Todaro '26, Findlay Taylor '26, Ben Galligan '27

A panel of students will be presenting their projects around the common theme of globalization/deglobalization. An IA major will present her case study on the merger of an Irish firm with an American one. A group of students will present a video essay discussing the unsustainability of the globalized fast fashion industry, while a second

group will be examining initiatives by the BRICS countries to reduce the dollar hegemony in the world.

8. Speaking in Tongues I: World Languages and Literatures Senior Thesis and Independent Studies

PMH 300

Faculty Sponsor: Maria Lander, World Languages and Literatures

Presenters: Angus O'Connor '26, Erikah DeGrout '26, Mihranush Varzhapetyan '26, Rumi Schemmerer '26, Skye Smith '26

Angus O'Connor '26 (German major): “‘Die Vergänglichkeit’ and J.P. Hebel’s Bridging of Two Publics Through Dialect”

Erikah DeGrout '26 (Chinese minor): “Biochemistry Research in China and the U.S.”

Rumi Schemmerer '26 (Spanish major): “The Struggle for Truth (if it exists): Cynicism, Memory and Passion in *El material humano* by Rodrigo Rey Rosa and *Insensatez* by Horacio Castellanos Moya”

Skye Smith '26 (Chinese minor): “Is China a museum?”

Mihranush Varzhapetyan '26 (French major): “The Silences of Heritage: Family Memory and Colonial History in *Un homme sans titre*”

Senior majors and minors in Chinese, French, German, and Spanish present original research showcasing the depth and diversity of their studies.

9. What History Looks Like Today

Tisch 301

Faculty Sponsor: Jennifer Delton, History

Presenters: Graham Beers '26, Dante Morse '26, Liz Drabek '26, Will Bryce '26, Penelope Winterbottom '27

Join selected history students and faculty for a conversation about how we are “doing” history at Skidmore in 2026. How are new technologies enhancing (or degrading) students’ historical research? How do podcasts, exhibits, and the IdeaLab change the questions we ask or the knowledge we seek? Can we make a case for reading, writing, old journals, and dusty archival research? Do books still matter?

10:30 – 11:50 AM: SESSION 2

1. Engaging Anthropology: Senior Experiences

BO 380

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Joowon Park, Anthropology

Presenters: Lauren Attwell '26 & Lia Donahue '26, Zoe Miller '26, Cerys Forster '26

A panel of senior anthropology majors present projects on cultural and archaeological issues related to a Revolutionary War regiment, violence performance in baseball, and infant mortality as structural violence. Drawing on cross-cultural perspectives, each presenter demonstrates ways Skidmore anthropology students develop understandings of the human experience in archaeological, biological, and contemporary contexts.

2. Psychology Senior Projects

CIS Psychology Department, Hallway & CIS 398

Faculty Sponsor: Mark Rye, Psychology

Presenters: Lucy Altman-Coe '26, Nika Dolynuk '26, Ella Ford '26, Nora Jackson '26, Shelby Kaiser '26, Maya Kates '26, Jonah Levy '26, Stephanie Lin '26, Anna Luterman '26, Lulu Magee '26, Addie Oliphant '26, Ella Palmet '26, Sruti Ramaswamy '26, Avery Rogers '26, Sophie Roth '26, Leila Turet '26, Lydia Walker '26, Beldine Wasonga '26, Celine Xu '26, Melanie Yaeger '26, Théo Zita '26

Selected senior psychology majors conducting research projects will present their findings in this lively poster and oral presentation session.

Lucy Altman-Coe '26: "THE EFFECTS OF INSTRUCTIONAL FRAMING AND GENDER IDENTITY ON NOVEL OBJECT EXPERTISE: EVIDENCE FROM EYE MOVEMENTS"

Nika Dolynuk '26: "EXPLORING INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES IN THE BODY-OBJECT INTERACTION EFFECT: AN EYE-TRACKING STUDY"

Ella Ford '26: "WHY LANGUAGE CONCORDANCE AND CULTURAL ADAPTATIONS IMPROVE PSYCHOTHERAPY OUTCOMES FOR BILINGUAL LATINX CLIENTS"

Nora Jackson '26: "ROLLING FOR INSIGHT: THE THERAPEUTIC UTILITY OF TABLETOP ROLEPLAYING GAMES"

Shelby Kaiser '26: "THE BODY-OBJECT INTERACTION EFFECT ON CHILDREN'S EYE MOVEMENTS DURING READING"

Maya Kates '26: "REAPPRAISING DISCOMFORT: THE EFFECTS OF COGNITIVE REAPPRAISAL IN A DECISIONMAKING TASK"

Jonah Levy '26: "KNOCKING NEOLIBERALISM: EXPLORING IMPACTS OF DOMESTIC FORTIFICATION"

Stephanie Lin '26: "IYKYK: APPLYING MARLEY HYPOTHESIS TO ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE"

Anna Luterman '26: "IS THE PROBLEM FEMININE? IS THE SOLUTION MASCULINE? PARAFOVEAL PROCESSING OF GRAMMATICAL GENDER IN SPANISH LEARNERS"

Lulu Magee '26: "PREDICTING SCHOOL COUNSELOR WELLBEING: ROLE AMBIGUITY AND PERCEPTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT"

Addie Oliphant '26: "DISCREPANCIES OF EXPECTED AND ACTUAL ENJOYMENT AMONG THOSE WITH GENERALIZED ANXIETY DISORDER"

Ella Palmet '26: "BEYOND STANDARD CBT: AN INTEGRATIVE, CULTURALLY INFORMED FRAMEWORK FOR TREATING SAD AND GAD IN RACIAL AND ETHNIC MINORITY POPULATIONS"

Sruti Ramaswamy '26: "LETTERS AND LAYERS: MODELING HUMAN FORM PRIMING WITH NEURAL NETWORK ARCHITECTURES"

Avery Rogers '26: "ALONE TOGETHER: SOCIAL MEDIA USE AND LONELINESS IN COLLEGE STUDENTS"

Sophie Roth '26: "THE EFFECT OF GROUP SIZE ON CHILDREN'S LEARNING FROM BOOKS"

Leila Turet '26: "MIND-WANDERING AND COGNITIVE FLEXIBILITY: AN EXCEPTION TO THE RULE?"

Lydia Walker '26: "HYPER-CONSCIENTIOUSNESS AS A RISK FACTOR FOR COMPULSIVE EXERCISE IN EATING DISORDERS"

Beldine Wasonga '26: "SHIFTING STANDARDS IN PEER EVALUATIONS OF MENTAL HEALTH: PERCEPTIONS OF SCHIZOPHRENIA, DEPRESSION, AND SUBCLINICAL SYMPTOMS"

Celine Xu '26: "ELECTROPHYSIOLOGICAL CORRELATES OF STYLE-DEPENDENT MUSIC-SYNTACTIC PROCESSING"

Melanie Yaeger '26: "THE IMPACT OF HAVING A MENTALLY ILL SIBLING AND THE NEED FOR SCHOOL-BASED SUPPORT"

Théo Zita '26: "ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE: A COMPARISON OF THE EFFECTS OF LOVING-KINDNESS AND BODY SCAN MEDITATIONS ON LONELINESS AND WELL-BEING AMONG COLLEGE STUDENTS"

3. Coda Work in Literary Studies

Davis Auditorium

Faculty Sponsors: Nick Junkerman & Paul Benzon, English

Presenters: Merritt Baldwin '26, Pema Boyd-Smith '26, Zoe Green '26, Lane Grey '26, Emma Shamburg '26, Sofia Halpern '26

In this session, senior English majors will present work from their coda course in literary studies. Roundtable-style, discussants will talk about their projects and reflect upon the culminating experience of their major at Skidmore. Presentations will be followed by a Q&A session.

4. Classics Senior Capstone Presentations I

Ladd 206

Faculty Sponsor: Benjamin Abbott, Classics

Presenters: Amelia DeDominicas '26, Jinhao Han '26, Declan Keefe '26

A celebration of this year's capstone work in Classics, with presentations by our graduating seniors.

5. Perspectives on Contemporary (and Past) Politics

Ladd 307

Faculty Sponsor: Kate Graney, Political Science

Presenters: Miles Geiger '26, Nicolas Seguin '26, Khamani Bhola '27, Claire Butkin '27, Eli Birger '27, Nex Hagen '28, Nolan Woodbury '26.

This session will showcase some of the best individual and collective academic work by Political Science majors this year. Miles Geiger and Nicolas Seguin will present their individual year-long senior honors thesis projects, while other students will present the results of the group project "Tracing Racial Politics at Skidmore, in the US, and in the World Since 1916" from PL 244 "Race, State and Nation", which is a Bridge Experience class.

6. Sociology Research Presentations

Tisch 203

Faculty Sponsor: Xiaoshuo Hou, Sociology

Presenters: Yue Chen '27, Della Huntley '26, Hannah Schlosberg '26, Chant Tang '26

Della Huntley '26 – "Digital Diets: Food and Politics on TikTok"

Chant Tang '26 and Yue Chen '27 – "'We are not a co-ed team but we're a co-ed team': Women Athletes in a Mixed-gender Environment"

Hannah Schlosberg '26 – "Defining Disruption: Teachers' Understanding and Management of Students' Classroom Behavior"

This session showcases exemplary sociological research conducted by sociology majors, exploring a range of social issues from food and politics on social media, gender and sport, to classroom discipline.

7. What Do Marlo Thomas and Charlton Heston Have in Common? Two American Studies Honors Projects

Tisch 307

Faculty Sponsor: Greg Pfitzer, American Studies

Presenters: Lucy McCulloch '26, Ashley Wilkerson '26

This session features two projects that examine themes of identity, gender expression, and community. Lucy McCulloch reimagines Marlo Thomas's album, *Free to Be You and Me* (1971), as a contemporary Social Emotional Learning (SEL) tool, while Ashley Wilkerson considers how Charlton Heston's film career reflects changing attitudes toward masculinity and politics. By connecting these legacies, the session highlights how media can shape values, challenge norms, and impact audiences across generations in meaningful and lasting ways.

LUNCH HOUR SESSIONS 12:00 – 1:20 PM

1. Anthropology Poster Presentations

BO 3rd Floor Hallway

Faculty Sponsor: Joowon Park, Anthropology

Presenters: Huvan Naushad '26, Gabriella DePlasco '26, Amanda Middleton '26 & Ally Vickery '26, Ella Haney Foulds '26, Raney Webb '26, Francis Davies '26

2. Geosciences Lunch and Awards Presentation

CIS 126

Faculty Sponsor: Jennifer Chohnoky, Geosciences

Celebrate the year's academic accomplishments during the Geosciences Department's annual lunch. Festivities include presentations of student research and reflections on the past year, announcement of this year's *Mente et Malleo* and Roy T. Abbott III Memorial Awards in Geosciences recipients, and the presentation of hammers to our graduating seniors.

3. From Quarks to the Cosmos

CIS 382

Faculty Sponsor: Mary Crone Odekon, Physics

4. HHPS Senior Thesis Project Presentations

Emerson Auditorium

Faculty Sponsor: Stephen Ives, HHPS

Presenters: Quinton Ward '26, Serja DeCaires '26, Valerie Chervinskaya '26, Kyle Heise '26, Zoe Fallon '26, Jiseung Kim '26, Liam Noel '26, Victor Mina '26, Isabella Harellick '26, Ben Melnick '26, Melissa Severino '26, Meredith Georger '26, Ellie Capalbo '26, Caleigh Tryder '26, Jane Moosbrugger '26

HHPS students will present their senior thesis projects to the students and faculty of the HHPS department and their guests. Additional poster presentations from work completed in the department may also be on display during the Presentation time. Come hear about the novel science research done by our seniors that spans from health to exercise performance!

- “Biomechanical and Physiological Differences in Fixed-Gear versus Geared Cycling at Submaximal Intensities” – Quinton Ward and Serja DeCaires, and Prof. Ives and Cleary
- “The Effects of Dietary Capsaicin on Vascular Function in Adults” – Valerie Chervinskaya and Prof. Ives
- “Exploring the Synergistic Effects of High Intensity Interval Training Exercise with and without Heat Stress on Cardiovascular and Vascular Health in Adults” – Kyle Heise and Prof. Ives
- “The Sex-Specific Effects of Dietary Capsaicin on Autonomic Modulation of the Heartbeat” – Zoe Fallon and Prof. Ives
- “The difference between muscle fiber types found in forwards and backs in female and male collegiate rugby players” – Jiseung Kim, Liam Noel, Victor Mina, and Profs. Ives and Cleary
- “The Sex-Specific Effects of Dietary Capsaicin on Hemodynamic Response to Passive Leg Movement” – Isabella Harellick and Prof. Ives
- “Assessing Correlation Between Lead Leg Knee Joint Angle and Quadriceps electromyographical Amplitude during landing phase in DIII Baseball Pitchers” – Ben Melnick and Prof. Cleary
- “The Sex-Specific Effects of Dietary Capsaicin on Blood Pressure and Arterial Stiffness” – Melissa Severino and Prof. Ives
- “Examining the Differences in Blood Lactate Thresholds of First Year and Fourth Year Dance Students” – Meredith Georger, Ellie Capalbo, Caleigh Tryder, and Prof. Ives
- “Sex Differences in the relationship between the Hamstring: Quadriceps strength Ratio and drop landing Kinematics in DIII Soccer Players” – Jane Moosbrugger and Prof. Cleary

5. Classics Senior Thesis Presentations

Ladd 206

Faculty Sponsor: Amy Oh, Classics

Presenters: Sabeena Ali '26, Anderson Kriebel '26

A celebration of two thesis projects in Classics, with a presentation by our seniors followed by a formal defense.

6. Sociology Poster Presentations

Tisch 2nd Floor Hallway

Faculty Sponsor: Xiaoshuo Hou, Sociology

Presenters: Stella Brown '26, Stephen Dumaresq '26, Logan Mallory '26, Brie Schaffer '26, Thomas Troesch '26, Sophie Vaz '26

Stella Brown '26, Rebecca Gleit, Ph.D., Shuhan Ye '26, and Emma Bedard '26 – “Understanding Public Perceptions of Police Surveillance: The Case of Detroit’s Project Green Light”

Stephen Dumaresq '26 – “How Students at a Small Liberal Arts College Make Sense of Declining Trust in U.S. Government Institutions”

Logan Mallory '26 – “Green Spaces, Marginalization, & Mental Health”

Brie Schaffer '26, Rebecca Gleit, Ph.D., and Amy Johnson, Ph.D. – “Mapping Police Involvement in Mental Health Emergencies”

Thomas Troesch '26 – “Preservation, Conservation, and Continuation”

Sophie Vaz '26 – “Are First Generation Immigrants Critically Engaged Online? Statistical Analysis of Belief in American Democracy”

1:30 – 2:50 PM: SESSION 3

1. Neuroscience Senior Research Projects

CIS 101A & Atrium

Faculty Sponsor: Hassan Lopez, Psychology Department & Neuroscience Program

Presenters: Sofia Sheintop '26, Danielle Coughlin '26, Dani Shaby '26, Hashim Ghias '26, Yiwen Su '26, Emma Toland '26, Audrey Bowen '27, Ellie Fertik '27, Emily Lawrence '26, Lori Fauth '25, Emily Jean-Pierre '26, Zonya Simon '26, Abigale Glasman '26, Kayla Melendez '26, Ava Hosking '26, Emily Kayser '26, Nika Dolynuk '26, Maia Haiduc-Dale '26

Sofia Sheintop '26, Danielle Coughlin '26, Dani Shaby '26: “The Effects of an Oxytocin Antagonist on Helping Behavior in Rats”

Hashim Ghias '26: "Investigating the interactions of the wake-promoting Hyperkinetic mutation with genetic and pharmacological sleep induction in *Drosophila melanogaster*"

Yiwen Su '26: "Dissecting the Downstream Targets of Octopaminergic Sleep Regulation in the Pars Intercerebralis in *Drosophila melanogaster*"

Emma Toland '26: "The Interactive Effects of Sleep Deprivation and Traumatic Brain Injury on Y-maze Navigation in *Drosophila melanogaster*"

Audrey Bowen '27, Ellie Fertik '27: "Hemp Extract Disrupts Muscle Contraction in Zebrafish Embryos"

Emily Lawrence '26: "Calcium Dysregulation and the Therapeutic Potential of Antioxidants in Spinocerebellar Ataxia Type 1"

Lori Fauth '25: "Characterizing Spinocerebellar Ataxia Type 1 Spheroid Models using Ca²⁺ Imaging and Electrophysiology"

Emily Jean-Pierre '26, Zonya Simon '26: "Detecting the Effects of Rotenone-Induced Oxidative Stress on Spinocerebellar Ataxia Type 1 Cells using CellRox Green"

Abigale Glasman '26: "Nuclear-Targeted Mutant Ataxin-1 Interacts with Mitochondria: Implications for Spinocerebellar Ataxia Type 1 (SCA1)"

Kayla Melendez '26: "Calibrating the Seahorse Respirometer for Screening Mitochondrial-targeted Small Molecule Compounds in Cell Culture Models of Disease"

Ava Hosking '26: "Traumatic Brain Injury Lengthens Circadian Clock Period in Fruit Flies"

Emily Kayser '26: "Is the Period Lengthening Effect of Lithium on Circadian Clocks Altered by Seasonal Changes in Photoperiod?"

Nika Dolynuk '26: "Exploring Individual Differences as a Function of Dance Experience in the Body-Object Interaction Effect: An Eye-Tracking Study"

Maia Haiduc-Dale '26*: "Analysis of Motor Axons and Muscle in Zebrafish Embryos Exposed to Hemp Extract"

* Hartnett Prize winner

Select neuroscience majors conducting research will present their experimental findings in this lively poster session. Additionally, the annual Hartnett Prize winner for outstanding neuroscience research will give a short talk.

2. Geosciences Panel: AI Booms While the Planet Busts: Data Center Impacts from Geology to Society

CIS 122

Faculty Sponsor: Amy Frappier, Geosciences

Presenters: Ethan Bobrin '26, Cel Caplan '26, Janel Delgado '26, Emma Jorgensen '26, Liana Krasnoff '26, Max Schiller '26, Andi-Grey Sheingold '26, Patrick Sullivan '26

AI use has risen exponentially since the introduction of ChatGPT in 2022, spurring the creation of massive new data centers with high mineral and energy requirements. U.S. data center development, advantaged by a patchwork regulatory environment, is focused on regions prone to water scarcity. The Geosciences Class of 2026 will discuss these and other aspects of AI data centers' growing resource footprint and propose sustainable solutions to continued AI growth, concluding with a Q&A session.

3. Computer Science Student Research Poster Presentation

CIS 233

Faculty Sponsors: Aarathi Prasad & Wenlu Du, Computer Science

Presenters: Samia Mayssan '28, Ryan Tevie '26, Adolfo Susano '27, Cody Jones '27, Runjia Song '27, Matthew Emuna '26, Joshua Feldman '26, Ankit Gupta '27, Eric D'Econ '26, Jacob Goldsmith '26, Azizul Hakim '26, Sruthi Ramaswamy '26.

A poster session that showcases student research projects from the Computer Science Department.

4. “Coda Work and Senior Theses in Literary Studies”

Davis Auditorium

Faculty Sponsors: Nick Junkerman & Joseph Cermatori, English

Presenters: Tessa Bigelow '26, Bella Cone '26, Kara Duffy '26, Abby Kanter '26, Carmile Mirza '26, Erv Staton '26

In this session, senior English majors will present work from their coda course in literary studies. Roundtable-style, discussants will talk about their projects and reflect upon the culminating experience of their major at Skidmore. Presentations will be followed by a Q&A session.

5. Classics Senior Capstone Presentations II

Ladd 206

Faculty Sponsor: Janelle Sadarananda, Classics

Presenters: Bella Lagatta '26, Melina Mendez '26, Scott Segall '26

A celebration of this year's capstone work in Classics on the theme of gender, with presentations by our graduating seniors.

6. Philosophy Senior Capstone Projects

Ladd 207

Faculty Sponsors/Co-Chair: Larry Jorgensen, Philosophy and Anna Luterman '26

Presenters: Tommy Bachand '26, Xiaoyu (Fiona) Chen '26, Shane Decatur '26

This session showcases the capstone work of three of our graduating philosophy majors, representing sustained independent research on a philosophical topic of their own choosing.

7. Senior Thesis in Education Presentations

PMH 200

Faculty Sponsor: Maddie Neufeld, Education Studies

Presenters: Sydney Brown '26, Elio Gottschalk '26, Nicky Kallman '26, Julia Maguire '26, Mirabel Webber '26, Xinyan (Sonia) Wu '26

Education Studies seniors will present their theses on the following topics: teachers supporting students with learning disabilities' positive sense of self; pedagogical practices across museum and K-12 educational spaces; implicit bias in classroom management; social emotional learning embedded into core curricula; art education as more than just technique; emotional labor and gendered expectations in teaching.

8. Religious Studies Capstones and Theses

Ladd 307 (runs until 4:20 pm)

Faculty Sponsor: Ryan Overbey, Religious Studies

Presenters: Willow Forbes '26, Lorelei Heuer '26, Olivia Lipman '26, Isabel Ostheimer '26, Kirsten Dingman '26, Callahan Mainzer '26, Madison Lofmark '26, Samantha Rochlin '26

Come celebrate the thesis and capstone projects of graduating seniors in Religious Studies! Topics include: Rave culture, Christian nationalist imaginaries, tourism and religion in Bali, fairies and scapegoats in Irish law, near-death experiences, documentary ethnography of religion in the Capital Region, gymbro fantasies of martyrdom, and professional Santas.

3:00 – 4:20 PM: SESSION 4

1. Collaborative Research in Biology

CIS Atrium

Faculty Sponsor: Sylvia McDevitt, Biology

Presenters: Abby Ast '26, Liam Babitz '26, Michael Brennan '26, Henry Brien '27, Sarah Finkelman '28, Julia Giannattasio '27, Leah Haveson '27, Declan Keefe '26, Mickey Mayaan '26, Elizabeth Pyle '28, Luka Rodriguez '26, Tiffany Yang '26

Students involved in Research in Biology will present their work in collaboration with faculty. Research topics include the effect of Hemp extract on Zebrafish development;

wildlife ecology; bacterial copper resistance; microbial communities in sourdough starter and Ballston Lake; hormonal control of fish growth; microalgae biofuels and bioproducts; and chemotherapy in fruit flies.

2. Mathematics and Statistics Research Project Presentations

CIS 348

Faculty Sponsor: Csilla Szabo, Mathematics & Statistics

Presenters: Vijay Bapana '28, Henrik Bingemann '28, Luca Liebow '27, Camille Paradis '26, Ella Theoharis '26

This session will showcase work from student research projects in mathematics and statistics.

Ella Theoharis '26: "Uniqueness of the first Laurent coefficient of the Hilbert series of SU_2 -symplectic quotients"

Camille Paradis '26: "Rewriting the partial derivative of a Laurent coefficient: Finding a linear combination of Schur polynomials."

Henrik Bingemann '28: "Archetypal Analysis: When and How?"

Luca Liebow '27: "Hilbert Measures and Integrating Rotational Invariants of the Circle Group"

Vijay Bapana '28: "Group LASSO Contrastive Dimension Reduction"

3. Senior Coda in Music: Scholarly and Creative Work

ELM

Faculty Sponsor: Anjni Amin, Music

Presenters: Joshua Feldman '26, Grace Higginbotham '26, Marlowe Jacques '26, Grace Radonis '26, Hannah Schlosberg '26, Ellie Ushakov '26, Naomi Wagner '26

Senior music majors will offer multi-media presentations that engage historically, culturally, and theoretically with topics related to their senior capstone projects in Music.

4. Translation for the Global Stage

Studio A, JKB

Faculty Sponsor: Eunice S. Ferreira, Theater

Presenters: Charlotte Ballantoni '26, Isabella Li '28, Tara Najingo '27, Barbara Yang '26, Elina Zhu '26

Answering the call as scholars and artists, students apply translation theory in practice and performance by translating plays into English. Audiences will witness the *English language premiere* of excerpts from their translations in a lively staged reading. The students make an original contribution to the field of translation studies and to theatre

practice in the U.S. by introducing new audiences to plays from Uganda, ancient Rome, and three contemporary plays from China.

5. Ways of Seeing: Art History Projects

PMH 300

Faculty Sponsor: Katie Hauser, Art History

Presenters: Sana Arif '26, Ariel Langberg '26, Emily Lin '26, Dahlia Melnick '26, Jessica Packard '26

Art History students explore the meanings of images and objects in a variety of historical and cultural contexts. Their work highlights the diversity and interdisciplinarity of the field and demonstrates the importance of visual literacy for understanding the complexities of both the past and the present.

6. Self-Determined Major Final Project Presentations

Tisch 203

Faculty Sponsor: Catherine Berheide, SDM

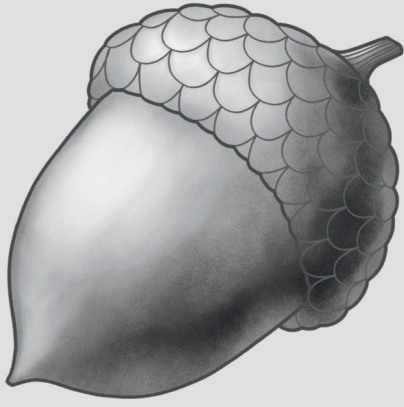
Presenters: Jana Coppola '26, Ursala Nelson '26

Self-Determined Majors are required to complete a final capstone project. Two seniors will showcase their scholarly research on topics ranging from Media Communications to Legal Studies. Please join us for the Self-Determined Major final project presentations and to celebrate the completion of these SDM capstone projects.

Jana Coppola '26 – SDM in Media Communications: *“Decoding Devotion: Participatory Culture and Meaning-Making Among Swifties”*

Ursala Nelson '26 – SDM in Legal Studies: *“Afghan Refugee Integration”*

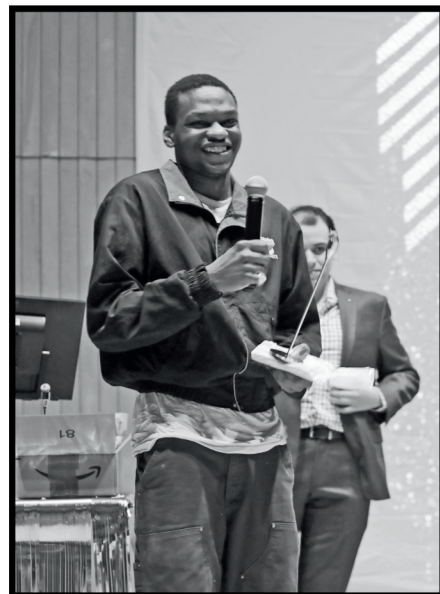
MDOCS + Media & Film Studies present...



The Golden Acorn Awards

The Golden Acorn Awards is Skidmore's annual end-of-year celebration of student media-making across campus and across genre. Acorn nominees honor audiovisual storytelling coursework from the past year that MDOCS + MFS faculty judge most innovative, risk-taking and real, along with student-submitted extracurricular projects.

Reception starts at 4:30pm and Awards Ceremony runs from 5-6pm in Filene Auditorium, where jury selections will be announced and screened. All are welcome! Don your finest look and walk the green carpet to celebrate students' creativity and excellence from the past year.



| | | ACADEMIC FESTIVAL 2026 | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| | | ROOM SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE | | | | |
| | | 9:00 - 10:20 | 10:30 - 11:50 | LUNCH HOUR 12:00 - 1:20 | 1:30 - 2:50 | 3:00 - 4:20 |
| BO 281 | | Asian Studies | | | | |
| BO 380 | | | Anthropology | | | |
| Bolton 3rd Floor Hallway | | | | Anthropology Poster Session | | |
| CIS 101A & Atrium | | | Chemistry | | Neuroscience | Biology |
| CIS 122 | | | | | Geosciences Panel | |
| CIS 126 | | | | Geosciences | | |
| CIS 233 | | | | | Computer Science | |
| CIS 382 | | | | Physics | | |
| CIS 348 | | | | | | Mathematics & Statistics |
| CIS 388 & CIS 3rd Floor Hallway | | | Psychology | | | |
| Davis Auditorium | | Dance | English (Literary Studies) | | English (Senior Theses) | |
| ELM (Zankel) | | | | | | Music |
| Emerson Auditorium | | | Economics | | | |
| Gannett Auditorium | | | Environmental Studies & Sciences | | | |
| JKB Studio A | | | | HHPS | | |
| Ladd 206 | | Gender Studies | Classics | Classics | Classics | Theater |
| Ladd 207 | | | | | Philosophy | |
| PMH 231 | | Management & Business & Int. Affairs | | | | |
| PMH 200 | | | | | Education Studies | |
| PMH 300 | | World Languages & Literatures | | | | Art History |
| Ladd 307 | | | Political Science | | | |
| Tisch 203 | | | Sociology | | | Religious Studies |
| Tisch 2nd Floor Hallway | | | | Sociology Poster Session | | Self-Determined Majors |
| Tisch 301 | | History | | | | |
| Tisch 307 | | | American Studies | | | |

Periclean Honors Forum

The Periclean Honors Forum exists to create an inclusive community that unites rigorous learning, civic engagement, and student leadership in a culture of respectful, courageous conversation. Honors students benefit from special courses and independent studies, field trips, guest speakers, service opportunities, interdisciplinary dialogues, and campus study breaks. We aim to foster campus debate and empower our students to take ownership of their educations at Skidmore.

As the college's premier honors program, our membership is limited to students with GPAs at or above the 3.65 mark who demonstrate exceptional ability to make a positive impact both locally and in the broader world after graduation.

2026 Academic Festival Planning Committee and Members of the Honors Council:

Joseph Cermatori, Department of English
& Director, Periclean Honors Forum

Lisa Bradshaw, Honors Forum Administrative Assistant

Paul Benzon, Department of English

Steven Frey, Department of Chemistry

Emmanuel Balogun, Department of Political Science

Gabriella DePlasco '26, President, Honors Forum
Student Executive Committee

EXCELLENCE MATTERS



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THE PERICLEAN HONORS FORUM