HF Newsletter

Skidmore College Periclean Honors Forum

April, 2016

Upcoming Events

Deadline: Tuesday April 12th Vote for the next Ramsey Lecture Recipient! Email Lisa before noon on Tuesday!

Tuesday April 12th 6-9 pm Formal Dinner at the Tang! Take advantage of the chance to dress up!

Wednesday May 4th Each Spring Honors
Forum sponsors
Academic Festival.

where students present capstone projects in their majors!

Citizenship: Diversity Education

"John Dang and I completed our citizenship project during the Fall 2014. We worked and interacted with the students at Division Street Elementary School. The main goal of our project was to address cultural awareness and diversity to the kids. Here are some of the pictures of our projects!"

-Sova In



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Event Recap: Living the Liberal Arts

"By standing up and leading our community as we do as Honors Forum members, we are creating change in our world."

On Friday, February 26th, over a hundred Honors Forum students and new inductees gathered together to celebrate our new members at the Career Development Center's annual "Living the Liberal Arts" event. We enjoyed opening remarks from Penny Loretto of the CDC, and an introduction to the Honors Forum and our quest speakers from Dr. Catherine Jean Golden. It was a pleasure for Honors Forum members to come together for an evening to congratulate our newest Honors Forum members and to hear from two incredible alumni about how participating in Honors Forum helped them make the most of their Skidmore experiences and beyond.

Annie Potish, '11, spoke about her work as Head Tutor in Skidmore's Writing Center and how she was able to transfer

that work to Teach for America and her current work teaching 8th grade English in New York City. She participated in Junior Great Books at Skidmore. For her HF Citizenship Project, she led a book discussion among senior citizens, fostering her love of teaching the "life of the mind." An outstanding student at Skidmore, Annie tries to instill each of her students with a love of learning and not simply "teaching to the test."

Jessada
Mahatthananchai, '09,
opened his speech by
challenging us to think
about what Honors Forum
does for us. Answers from
the group included the
opportunity to meet other
like-minded students, the
support system through
which Honors Forum
students are able to pursue
leadership opportunities,
and the resources to fund
exciting Citizenship

Projects, such as bringing in a Skidmore alumna to teach a dance workshop.

We all have our individual reasons to have joined Honors Forum; to "Dr. Jess," the Citizenship Project was the most important aspect of his



HF members and Faculty celebrate the new inductees!

Honors Forum experience. "I was always interested in the connection between Chemistry and society, and how they relate to human life," he noted. For his citizenship project, he helped to develop a website and exhibit for the

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Tang "Molecules that Matter" exhibit, the legacy of which lives on in four different installments of hanging sculptures around Skidmore's campus today. Furthermore, Dr. Jess learned how to "talk to people about science" by giving tours of the "Molecules that Matter" exhibit and learned to write effectively through Professor Golden's and other English classes. "I always wanted to do moreexplore more, learn more, go further," Dr. Jess explained, as he told us about Golden's HF experience abroad, "Jane Austen on Location," that led to his decision to attend a graduate program in Europe. Indeed, his



Caroline addresses the HF community

academic explorations led him back to Skidmore; he now teaches in the Chemistry Department, where we are proud to have him as a Skidmore and Honors Forum alumna!

Prior to the induction ceremony itself, we heard from our Honors Forum Council President, Caroline Hobbs. "It only

takes one person to create a unique environment in a class," she reminded us. "by standing up and leading our community as we do as Honors Forum members, we are creating change in our world." As Annie and Jessada had both emphasized, Caroline prompted the new inductees to take advantage of the privileges and responsibilities of Honors Forum: "As students of the Honors Forum, we have a personal responsibility to make change." If you missed the induction ceremony this year, come next year- or better yet, come to the Formal Dinner at the Tang! There will be great food and great company!

Citizenship: Winter Wellness Commission

I founded the Winter Wellness Commission on campus for my Citizenship Project. The commission hosted a bonfire with s'mores on Case Walkway every Wednesday for the four weeks leading up to spring break. We also hosted a hot chocolate bar with relaxation information in every residence hall over the course of two weeks, and I made cards with tips for dealing with the difficulties of the season and sent them to every student's mailbox. It is winter for a lot of the academic year at Skidmore, so the social, emotional, and academic impacts of the season can really shape students' Skidmore experience...







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Student Government's Winter Wellness Campaign

Check out the video the college made about Rachael's Citizenship Project!

"Winter can be tough, let's make it better!"

- ...The goal of the commission was to inject a bit of warmth and comfort into the season and to bring more awareness to the negative impacts of winter on personal health and wellness. Our tagline was "winter can be tough; let's make it better!"
- -Rachael Thomeer Sophomore Class President

Citizenship: Course Juggler

Course Juggler is a Java-based computer program I'm developing to help fellow Skidmore students more conveniently devise potential course schedules prior to registration. With Course Juggler, students will be able to use their computers to create any number of promising class schedules and then save, compare, rate, share, and print them. Users can handily "juggle" courses by adding, deleting, or swapping out prospective classes while the program instantly detects and displays schedule conflicts. The Skidmore Course Catalog and Master Schedule will be integrated into Course Juggler, making it easy and efficient for students to search for classes and build promising schedules.

I will consider my project successful if it enables Skidmore students to develop better tentative course schedules, more efficiently complete the sequence of necessary classes for their major and graduation requirements, take some of the stress out of registration day, and save trees by eliminating reams of tossed aside schedule attempts.

-Spencer Adams-Rand

If you are interested in getting a preview of *Course Juggler* and providing feedback, Spencer is seeking volunteers for program testing to take place in April. Contact him at sadamsra@skidmore.edu if you'd like to participate.