

Message from Academic Festival Coordinators

Students at Skidmore strive for excellence. While in class and during much of their free time, they write thoughtful papers, perform music, conduct scientific experiments and mathematical research, and create provocative works of art. The quality of independent thinking that characterizes the Academic Festival lies at the very heart of the definition of academic excellence.

One of the great joys of life at Skidmore is the diversity and range of academic and co-curricular activities. Frequently, though, students have too little time to enjoy the successes of one project before moving on to another or to find time for sharing their work with others. Academic Festival offers a time for that sharing: the entire Skidmore community can reflect upon and celebrate our students' achievements.

This year's thirteenth annual Academic Festival involves 55 sessions, over 150 presentations, and 317 students. We have planned a wide range of events and activities. We believe that this year's Academic Festival promotes interdisciplinary connections and truly captures the spirit of academia at Skidmore, setting a high mark for our future aspirations.

Schedule of Events

May 4, 2011

Refreshments available throughout the day:

*Gannett Lobby
Palamountain 2nd Floor
Palamountain 3rd Floor
Tisch Learning Center 2nd Floor
Tisch Learning Center 3rd Floor
Ladd 2nd Floor
Harder 2nd Floor – morning only
Sports Center – morning only
Tang Teaching Museum – afternoon only*

SESSION 1 – Management and Business Senior Thesis Presentations I

9:00 – 10:15 AM

Palamountain 202

Good Vibrations: An Empirical Analysis of Smartphone Deprivation and its effects on Anxiety, Self-esteem and Phantom Sensations.

Faculty Sponsor: Christine Page, Management & Business

Presenter: Stephen Lento '11

From people falling through manholes while texting to marriages being destroyed, smartphone addiction is becoming a problem. This study assesses anxiety, social anxiety, and self-esteem throughout a 24-hour period of phone deprivation. This study also examines the phenomena of phantom sensations and how they may be correlated to personality measures.

Implicit Theories of Personality and Perceptions of Corporate Behavior

Faculty Sponsor: Mark Staton, Management & Business

Presenter: Alexis Green '11

This study examines the relationship between implicit theory of personality and corporate behavior perception. Implicit theory states that individuals fall within one of two categories: entity and incremental. Entity theorists believe behavior and traits are consistent over time and situations while incremental theorists consider traits and behavior to be malleable.

Corn Products International Inc.

Faculty Sponsor: Tim Harper, Management & Business

Presenter: Chi Nguyen '11

The case provides a comprehensive analysis of strategic positioning issues with the macro-economy of corn industry, product portfolio, and geographical diversification. Additionally, the case investigates the leadership management transition

and the company's acquisition strategy in the global market.

Lake George Opera: The Continuing Struggle of Non-Profit Arts Organizations

Faculty Sponsor: Dave Marcinko, Management & Business

Presenter: Zachary H. Schwartz '11

This teaching case study provides students with the material necessary to determine the most efficient and effective strategies for Lake George Opera at Saratoga (LGO) to achieve a higher level of success and re-establish itself as one of the premier small opera companies on the East Coast.

SESSION 2 - Uncovering the Brontës

9:00 – 10:15 AM

Palamountain 302

Uncovering the Brontës

Faculty Sponsor: Catherine Golden, English

Presenters: EN 375: The Brontës, Senior Capstone

Presenters: Matt Belloise '11, Alexa Calder '11, Ross Colombo '11, Ali Drucker '11, Liz Harris '11, Kat Kullman '11, Annie Potish '11, Jess Rubin '11, Kimberly Segalas '11, Adriana Vetrano '11)

Love, passion, adultery, domestic abuse, insanity, and violence flood the media and titillate twenty-first century audiences. These very issues form the oeuvre of the Brontës, arguably the greatest English literary family of the nineteenth century. The class is composed of ten senior English majors completing their Capstone papers. This session will draw upon the range of their work and encourage the audience to read the works of Charlotte, Emily, and Anne Brontë. Journeying into the sisters' lives and literature, we will explore the sexual triangle, the Byronic hero, dark childhood, architecture and weather, the angel in the house, illustrations, the supernatural, madness, and female agency.

SESSION 3 - Environmental Studies Capstone Projects I

8:40 – 10:15 AM

Davis Auditorium

Faculty Sponsors: Bob Turner and Karen Kellogg, Environmental Studies

8:40 Introduction

8:45 Why Don't Communities Choose Smart Growth? A Case Study of Public Deliberation Over Planning Decisions in Malta, NY

Presenters: Nicholas Liu-Sontag '11 and Andrew Noone '11

If sprawl is unsustainable, why do so few growing communities choose smart growth strategies? We assess Malta's debate over planning and growth to analyze the quality of traditional forms of public deliberation. We also explored the potential of visual assessment forums to improve the quality of public deliberation on planning decisions.

9:00 Balancing Economic Growth with Environmental and Social Concerns: Evaluating Seqra Through a case Study of GlobalFoundries

Presenters: Korena Burgio '11 and Evan Caster '11

New York State sought to revitalize its economy by attracting semiconductor manufacturing to the Upstate region by competing globally for Global Foundries' newest microchip fabrication facility, Fab 8. Our analysis explores the role of New York's State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) in evaluating the comprehensive economic, environmental, and social impacts associated with Fab 8's construction and operations in Malta, NY.

9:15 Stimulated Water Bodies: Development of a Protocol for Testing for Caffeine and Nicotine in Surface Water using Sail

Presenters: Ellen Agnew '11 and Claire Superak '11

In order to determine whether caffeine and nicotine contaminants were present in our local water sources, we developed a protocol for quantifying caffeine and nicotine using the Skidmore Analytical Interdisciplinary Laboratory. We sampled water from 10 streams and analyzed these samples using liquid, gas, and ion chromatography.

9:30 Citizen BioMak: A Volunteer Guide to Biological Monitoring and Assessment of the Kayaderosseras Creek

Presenters: Katherine Bohn '11 and Sarah Sproviero '11

Water quality is constantly fluctuating, and New York State's monitoring resources are inadequate. In collaboration with the Saratoga County Stormwater Management Coordinator, we developed BioMAK, a citizen-based biomonitoring guide instructing volunteers how to use macroinvertebrate populations to assess Kayaderosseras Creek's water quality. Ideally, data collected by community members will eventually supplement limited government data and also educate citizens.

9:45 Sense and Sustainability: An Assessment of Skidmore's Sustainable Development

Presenters: Julia Brenner '11 and Christina Puerto '11

Skidmore's sustainability efforts have steadily evolved in their number, complexity, and scope. We constructed the first comprehensive list of sustainability initiatives at the college. We also assessed their impact on promoting environmental literacy, increasing the role of environmental considerations in decision-making, and reducing the impact of our physical operations.

**10:00 Local Food From Farm to School:
Investigating the Skidmore Dining Hall's Local
Partnerships**

**Presenters: Maranda Duval '11 and Jesse Moy
'11**

The growing local food movement in the United States has carried into the educational system, affecting elementary schools and universities alike. The Skidmore College Dining Hall has joined this movement towards greater food sustainability by forming partnerships with nearby farmers, processors, and distributors. In this study, we evaluate the effectiveness of these local partnership and make recommendations on how to expand and improve them in the future.

**SESSION 4 - Perspective and Culture: Views on
Petronius's *Satyricon***

9:00 - 10:15 AM

Ladd 206

Sex, death, and a wicked sense of humor—students in the Classics Seminar on Petronius's scandalous novel *The Satyricon* share their scholarship on various aspects, ancient and modern, of the world's first surviving novel.

**Perspective and Culture: Views on Petronius's
*Satyricon***

Faculty Sponsor: Michael Arnush, Classics

**Presenters: Laura Hamilton '11, Amanda
McGuire '11, Tom Coon '12, Evan Hauger '13,
Sarah Nelson '14**

**Evan Hauger: "Hades on a Wobbly Throne:
Death and the Dinner of Trimalchio"**

**Sarah Nelson: "Skeptical of Spectacle:
Narrative Parallels Between Petronius's *Cena
Trimalchionis* and F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The
Great Gatsby*"**

**Tom Coon: "An Empire of Language: *The
Satyricon* and Neronian Culture"**

**Amanda McGuire: "Fellini and Petronius: The
Men Behind the Mask"**

**Laura Hamilton: "Venus and Priapus: Sex and
Satire in Petronius's *Satyricon*"**

SESSION 5 – International Economic Issues

9:00 – 10:15

Harder 202

**The Effect of Income Disparity on Housing
Prices, Debt, and Financial Fragility**

Faculty Sponsor: Monica Das, Economics

Presenter: Brian Stickle '11

This paper uncovers the link between income disparity and housing levels in the United States. It further proves that rising home levels increase total debt, which can make the financial system volatile.

**Convergence of Commonwealth to the United
Kingdom**

Faculty Sponsor: Mehmet Odekon, Economics

Presenter: Alex Moller '11

I am looking at the various countries in the commonwealth of nations and trying to determine whether or not they are converging to the United Kingdom and if so whether or not the way they were colonized has had an effect on their convergence.

**The Effect of Culture on the Labor Force
Participation Rate of Women in Turkey**

Faculty Sponsor: Monica Das, Economics

Presenter: Christopher Iredale '11

This senior thesis in the Economics Department is the first study to use an empirical model in determining the effect of cultural influence on the historically low labor force participation rate of women in Turkey. I will discuss the results of this study and the current role of women in Turkish society.

A Woman's Worth: the Economic Impact of China's "Missing Women"

Faculty Sponsor: Mehmet Odekon, Economics

Presenter: Sulin Ngo '11

This presentation blends anthropology and economics, using empirical methods to measure cultural male preference in its most extreme form: a highly-skewed sex ratio balance (SRB) resulting from sex-selective abortions, child neglect, and infanticide. I track the impact of the SRB through various transmission mechanisms including labor force participation, education, and saving rates, and interpret these results in terms of implications on China and the world's economy.

SESSION 6 – Psychology and Neuroscience

9:00 – 9:15 AM Tisch Learning Center 100

Comparative Dynamics of Evolution at Multiple Levels

Faculty Sponsor: Sheldon Solomon, Psychology

Presenter: David Schlessinger '11

The focus of this presentation will be a set of comparative analyses that examine the processes which cause entities to evolve and proliferate from a cellular level to a human, cultural level. The presentation will be divided into four main themes: the evolutionary dynamics in biology, anthropology, psychology, and technology.

9:15 – 10:30 Tisch Learning Center First Floor Hallway

Senior Thesis Research Projects

Faculty Sponsor: Denise Evert, Psychology

Presenters: Dana Brill '11, Emily Cowan '11, Matt Cowe '11, Alex Darrell '11, Tina DuBois '11, Amanda Fleri '11, Margaux Hoagland '11, Lizzy Karp '11, Stephen Lento '11, Rachelle Oldmixon '11, Peter Possidente '11, Wendy Rodriguez '11, Lindsay Schmitt '11, Ali Shareef '11, Patty Sheehan '11, Jared Spencer '11, Sydney Weill '11

The Psychology Department is pleased to present a poster session representing the results from year-long senior thesis research projects conducted by Psychology and Neuroscience majors.

Dana Brill (Mentor: Hugh Foley): The Effects of Time and Attention on the Memory for Emotional Faces

Emily Cowan (Mentor: Mary Ann Foley): The Effect of Context on Emotional Responses to Art

Matt Cowe (Mentor: Sheldon Solomon): Mortality Salience and Preference for Structured Images

Alex Darrell (Mentor: Becca Johnson): Danger and Usefulness Effects in Normal Silent Reading

Tina DuBois (Mentor: Hugh Foley): The Effects of Social and General Anxieties on the Perception of Emotional Faces

Amanda Fleri (Mentor: Bernie Possidente): Quantitative Genetic Analysis of Circadian Behavior in *Mus musculus*

Margaux Hoagland (Mentor: Tonya Dodge): Risk Perception and Absent Exempt Bias Regarding the Use of Performance Enhancing Supplements

Lizzy Karp (Mentor: Mary Ann Foley): The Language of the Mind: An Exploration of Theory of Mind in Autism

Stephen Lento (Mentors: Christine Page/Sheldon Solomon): Good Vibrations: An Empirical Analysis of Smartphone Deprivation and its Effects on Anxiety, Self-Esteem, and Phantom Sensations

Rachelle Oldmixon (Mentor: Hassan López): The Effects of Acute Stress on Female Mate Preference

Peter Possidente (Mentor: Flip Phillips):
Anticipation of Sabre Fencing Attacks

Wendy Rodriguez (Mentor: Mary Ann Foley):
The Effects of Art Activities During Encoding on Preschoolers' Memory

Lindsay Schmitt (Mentor: Becca Johnson):
Transposed-Letter Neighbor Effects in Pure Alexia

Ali Shareef (Mentor: Rachel Schwartz):
Changing Perceptions: The Effect of Reporting on College Students' Cheating Behavior

Patty Sheehan (Mentor: Becca Johnson): **The Parameters of Covert Processing in Pure Alexia: Is Letter Confusability Mediating the Degree of Covert Processing**

Jared Spencer (Mentor: Flip Phillips):
Interpersonal Sensorimotor Synchronization in Snare Drummers

Sydney Weill (Mentor: Mark Rye): **Letter Writing and Mood**

SESSION 7 – Development in Latin America
9:15 – 10:15 AM Tisch Learning Center 201

The Impact of Dutch Disease on Brazilian Exports and Economic Performance
Faculty Sponsor: Mehmet Odekon, Economics
Presenter: Tanner Kaufman '11

This presentation will first provide an overview of Dutch Disease and recent studies of Dutch Disease in Brazil. Then I will present the results of an empirical model testing for the presence of Dutch Disease and outline policy recommendations for the Brazilian government.

Mexico: a Nation at War, The Spillover Effects of US Policies
Faculty Sponsor: Mehmet Odekon, Economics
Presenter: Reyes Ceballos '11

I will be looking at the inadvertent consequences of US drug prohibition and firearms policies, how they have escalated the violence in the Mexican drug war, and their effects on the drug cartels through the use of a theoretical economic model.

Alternative Break Trips: Student Volunteerism in the Dominican Republic, Honduras, and Nicaragua

Faculty Sponsor: Michelle Hubbs, Campus Life
Presenter: Leela Chandrasekar '12, Sara Mae Hickey '12, Jenna Cameron '11

Three student-run groups traveled to Central America over winter and spring breaks: one to the Dominican Republic to teach public health in local schools; another to Honduras to set up medical clinics in rural areas; the third to Nicaragua to assist in “coffee-camps” and promote the use of technology with local artisans and children. Each student group will discuss the success of its alternative break trip to promote the cultural and educational benefits the students experienced. Raising awareness for and encouraging future participation in these trips is also an important goal of our presentation. While each trip was student directed, all three received crucial support from the Skidmore community. It is our hope that this presentation can help these trips to become yearly experiences available to a diverse body of students.

SESSION 8 – Body Matters: Exercise Science Research Projects
9:00 - 10:15 AM Sports Center

Educating At Risk Cardiovascular Disease Individuals on Nutrition: Fruits and Vegetables
Faculty Sponsor: Jen Burden, Exercise Science
Presenters: Danielle Vande Voorde '11, Derrin Jarvis '11, Sarah Stothers '11

This study evaluates the fruit and vegetable intake of intervention participants to positively change behavior, knowledge, and attitudes towards fruit and vegetable consumption.

Effects of Dietary Protein Intake in Combination with Exercise on Performance Measurements in Middle Age, Overweight/Obese Individuals

Faculty Sponsor: Paul Arciero, Exercise Science
Presenters: Caitlin Ketcham '11; Christopher Darin '11; JunZhu Zhang '11

This study reports on the effects of a whey protein diet as compared to a food protein diet after a 16-week exercise intervention. Specifically, this presentation will focus on the effects of these diets on changes in hormone levels and physical performance.

The Combined Effects of Increased Dietary Protein, Exercise Training, and Healthy Lifestyle Habits on Cardiometabolic Health Factors in Middle-Aged, Overweight/Obese Individuals.

Faculty Sponsor: Paul Arciero, Exercise Science
Presenters: Mariale Renna '11, Jason Pennington '11, Mandy Bunsawat '11, Qian Zheng '11

This presentation reports on an ongoing 16-week intervention examining the effects of a high-quality protein diet and a whey protein supplemented diet in combination with exercise. Our study specifically assesses the effects of these different diets on cardiovascular biomarkers, adiposity, and mood state among middle-aged individuals.

The Effects of Altered Core Temperature on Cardiovascular Strain, Thermal Strain and Performance

Faculty Sponsor: Denise Smith, Health & Exercise Science
Presenters: Logan Arena '11, Wesley Lefferts '11, Eric Hultquist '11

This project investigated the effects of altering core temperature (elevated, depressed, and neutral) on cardiovascular strain, thermal strain, and performance during maximal exercise. Preliminary results indicate a blunted heart rate response at a lower core temperature during maximal exercise.

SESSION 9 – The Beebo Brinker Chronicles

9:15 – 10:15 AM

JKB Studio A

The Beebo Brinker Chronicles: A Theatrical Study in Lesbian History

Faculty Sponsor: Carolyn Anderson, Theater
Presenters: Zoe Johannes '11, Conor Mullen '14, Emery Matson '14, Emma Johnstone '14, Lowell Glovsky '14, Nikki Siclare '13, Sky Van Rensselaer '13

This play by Kate Moira Ryan and Linda S. Chapman was adapted from three 1950's pulp fiction novels by Ann Bannon. They chronicle the life of a young woman who moves to New York after college and the relationships she cultivates throughout her discovery of Greenwich Village's colorful, emergent gay community.

SESSION 10 – French Society and Culture: Honors Thesis Inquiries

10:30 – 11:30 AM

Palamountain 200

French Society and Culture: Honors Thesis Inquiries

Faculty Sponsor: John Anzalone, Foreign Language

Presenters: James Yick '11, Cassandra Giraldo '11, Margaret Ashur '11

Three Honors Thesis presentations will explore Civil Unions in France (Yick); Photography and its Discourses in Paris and its reconstructions (Giraldo); Existential anguish in the poetry of Baudelaire (Ashur).

James Yick - My paper investigates the stages in the creation of the PACTE Civil de solidarité in French and how it has reshaped laws governing civil unions in France. Protests from the LGBT community in France to push for equality resulted in the PACS; however, opposition provided strong contention that led to compromises.

Cassandra Giraldo - In my thesis, I set out to explore the role of photography and its impact on ways of seeing in nineteenth-century France. The principal avenue of my research is the conflicting critical discourses about the medium. Our relationship to this medium today takes root in these discourses.

Margaret Ashur - My thesis examines an existentialist esthetic of *Les Fleurs du mal* by Charles Baudelaire through close study of imagery and thematics: alienation, nothingness, time and nausea; and by analogy to significant twentieth-century authors, such as Sartre and Camus.

SESSION 11 – Management and Business Senior Thesis Presentations II
10:30 – 11:45 AM Palamountain 202

The Impact of Dutch Disease on Brazilian Exports and Economic Performance
Faculty Sponsor: Paul Calhoun, Management & Business
Presenter: Tanner Kaufman '11

The combination of Brazil's massive offshore "presal" oil reserves, lackluster industrial sector performance, and sustained appreciation of the Real has provoked much debate about whether Brazil may fall victim to Dutch Disease, a possibility I explored in this study. I will present recommendations for Brazilian government and its firms.

Token Profits and Empty Promises: Can Hedge Fund Managers Truthfully Promise Absolute Returns?
Faculty Sponsor: Aiwu Zhao, Management & Business
Presenter: Megan Paget-Brown '11

Hedge funds are unique in the finance world because they are considered vehicles for absolute return investing. This study uses information from six different hedge fund indices and establishes the correlation between each index and the market to

determine whether or not absolute returns are an empty promise.

Riding the Wavelet: An Empirical Study of Neglected Stocks and Their Corresponding Degrees of Persistence
Faculty Sponsor: Aiwu Zhao, Management & Business
Presenter: Spencer Cheng '11

Using wavelet analysis, this study investigates the levels of persistence present in stocks characterized by three criteria indicative of market-wide neglect. We also address the importance of the date range to the estimation of a global Hurst exponent and the limitations of such analysis.

SESSION 12 – Jane Austen in Bath
10:30 – 11:30 AM Palamountain 302

Jane Austen in Bath
Faculty Sponsor: Catherine Golden, English
Presenters: Amanda Ostrove '13, Samantha Savoy '12, Emma Caruso '13, Jenna Postler '13, Julia Post '13, Yeon Kim '11, Anna Millhauser '12, Rebecca Conneely '12, Michelle Manheim '11, and Elizabeth Ajasin '11

The fiction and life of Jane Austen comes alive when we read her novels on location. Austen set two of her novels in Bath, England: *Northanger Abbey* (1818) and *Persuasion* (1818). Our PowerPoint presentation will focus on this ten-day travel seminar to Bath to explore how specific locations—such as the Pump Room, the Assembly Rooms, the Crescent, and Beechen Cliff—changed our perspectives as readers of Jane Austen.

SESSION 13 – Environmental Studies Capstone Projects II

10:30 – 12:00 PM

Davis Auditorium

Faculty Sponsors: Bob Turner and Karen Kellogg, Environmental Studies

10:30 Green Roofs in the Saratoga Lake Watershed: Sedums of Change

Presenters: Isobel Flake '11 and Devin O'Donoghue '11

Our project examines the perceived obstacles and benefits of green roof implementation. Through case study analyses of Wilton and Skidmore College, we evaluate the financial implications of green roofs and their influence on stormwater management, carbon sequestration, and energy efficiency.

10:45 Creating Safe Routes to Maple Avenue Middle School: Not As Easy As It Seems

Presenters: Martel Catalano '11 and Jesse Watson '11

We participated in the Saratoga Safe Routes to School group to expand the ability of students to walk or bike to Maple Avenue Middle School. By conducting applied research and meeting with key stakeholders, we analyzed the environmental, economic, political, legal, and cultural obstacles of changing school transportation policies.

11:00 Understanding the Saratoga Springs Local Food System: An Analysis of Its Local Food Markets

Presenters: Erin Donnellan '11 and Kate Ito '11

Increasing the consumption of local foods requires a detailed understanding of how local food markets connect producers, distribution outlets, and consumers. Our analysis reveals that there is not a single market for local foods, but rather a set of related but distinct local food markets. Increasing local foods requires a multi-faceted approach that reflects this complexity.

11:15 Food Matters: Increasing the Availability of Local Food to Low Income Populations in Saratoga County Through Community Organizations

Presenters: Rebecca Drago '11 and Laura Fralich '11

Low-income communities have limited access to affordable, healthy food options due to a variety of social, financial, and structural barriers. In Saratoga County, a number of local programs have emerged to address these issues. We analyze the effectiveness of these programs and provide suggestions for increasing their scope.

11:30 From Waste to Energy: A Conceptual Analysis of Anaerobic Digestion at the Saratoga County Sewer District #1 Plant

Presenters: Laura Adelman '11 and Davide Gill-Austern '11

We conducted a conceptual analysis of a potential anaerobic digestion installation at the Saratoga County wastewater treatment plant as a waste to energy solution. We concluded that an anaerobic digester would prove beneficial to the plant based on long term environmental, social, and economic benefits.

11:45 Finch Paper: Going Green

Michael Jennings '11 and Doug Yeates '11

Why is Finch Pruyn, one of the largest remaining paper companies in the Adirondacks, seeking to reduce its carbon and wastewater emissions as well as manage its forest lands more sustainably? We examine the impact of outside stakeholders in making environmental considerations an important component of Finch's long term competitive strategy.

SESSION 14 – Sociology Research Poster Session
10:30 – 12:00 PM **Gannett Lobby**

Activism and Interest: Attention to Media and Political Involvement

Faculty Sponsor: *Catherine Berheide, Sociology*
Presenter: Emily Owens '11

What stimulates interest in politics and the drive to be involved? Why are certain people more politically involved than others? This study looks at attention to media and how it affects an individual's level of involvement in the political process and how often that individual discusses politics with his or her peers.

Life of the Party: Latino Voters' Political Party Preference

Faculty Sponsor: *Catherine Berheide, Sociology*
Presenter: Javier Calderon '11

Why do some ethnic groups support Democrats over Republicans? Which political party do Latinos in particular support? Latinos, composing 15.8 percent of the US population as of 2008, constitute the largest minority-voting bloc in America. The goal of this study is to analyze the effects of religious attendance, race, and country of origin on Latino political party preference.

Examining Health Satisfaction of U.S. Veterans

Faculty Sponsor: *Catherine Berheide, Sociology*
Presenter: Lucy Hochman '11

The health of veterans can involve extreme battle scars including amputated limbs, paralysis, and posttraumatic stress disorder. I analyze male veteran data from the General Social Survey. The analysis indicates that veteran status has almost zero impact on health satisfaction, which lets us consider other social factors that influence health.

Crossing Racial Lines: Whites' Attitudes toward Interracial Marriage and Neighborhood Racial Integration

Faculty Sponsor: *Catherine Berheide, Sociology*
Presenter: Teshika Hatch '11

This research studies the attitudes of White respondents toward family members marrying a Black person in relation to the racial makeup of their neighborhood. Through an analysis of secondary data, the results suggest that residential integration may help reduce prejudice among the White population.

Do Whites Avoid Racially Integrated Neighborhoods? The Effect of Education and Prejudice on Whites' Neighborhood Preferences

Faculty Sponsor: *Catherine Berheide, Sociology*
Presenter: Emmily De Los Santos '11

Research on residential segregation in neighborhoods suggests that racial and ethnic groups, more specifically Blacks, live highly segregated from Whites. I examine the influence that socioeconomic status and prejudice towards Blacks has on Whites' attitudes towards racial integration in neighborhoods.

All Men Are Created Equal? Racial Disparities in the United States Prison System

Faculty Sponsor: *Catherine Berheide, Sociology*
Presenter: Gregory Morales '11

The focus of this senior thesis is examining the causes of racial disparities in the United States' prison system by conducting analysis of secondary data.

SESSION 15 – Current Religion Issues in America
10:30 – 11:30 AM **Ladd 206**

Religion in our Backyard

Faculty Sponsor: *Marla Segol, Religion*
Presenters: Monica Jacobs '11 and Emma Case '11

This presentation of a capstone and a thesis from the Religion Department is concerned with New Religious Movements in America. Both papers will display the array of new religious expressions evident in American society today. The

presentation will also include a short (12min) film that will be used to supplement the thesis paper.

The Religion of American Exceptionalism: The Impact of the Tea Party on American Foreign Policy

Faculty Sponsor: Mary Stange, Religion

Presenter: Lindsey Hartley '11

My presentation, which will be a summary of my IA capstone, will focus on analyzing the Tea Party, a recently arisen conservative political movement, through the lens of religion. It will furthermore apply this gained understanding to a discussion of its foreign policy agenda and its possible impact.

SESSION 16 – Data, Number Theory and Cryptography

10:30 – 11:30 AM

Harder 203

Clustering Algorithms and Big Data

Faculty Sponsor: Tom O'Connell, Computer Science

Presenter: Alex Brehm '12

When sets of data get very large (thousands of columns and rows), interpretation and meaningful results become hard to find. Clustering algorithms are an intuitive tool to reveal patterns in data. This talk will use data from different fields (genetics and economics) to show the wide applicability of a clustering approach.

Polynomial Number Theory

Faculty Sponsor: Gove Effinger, Mathematics

Presenter: B. Cooper Boniece '11

There exist many celebrated problems in Number Theory that remain unsolved to this day. In this presentation, we explore three such famous problems in two settings: first in the familiar integer setting, and then in the ring of polynomials in a single variable over a finite field.

Elliptic Curves in Public Key Cryptography

Faculty Sponsor: Gove Effinger, Mathematics

Presenter: Madeline Vossbrinck '11

In the past few decades, public key cryptography has been utilized in numerous security applications. Recently, mathematicians have begun to use elliptic curves as a tool in cryptography. This presentation will explain how public key cryptography works, what an elliptic curve is, and what role it plays within this field.

SESSION 17 – Latino and Latin American Issues

10:30 – 12:00 PM

Tisch Learning Center 201

Fair Trade Coffee in Guatemala: Where Government Interest Meets Producers' Realities

Faculty Sponsor: Jordana Dym, History & Latin American Studies

Presenter: Alaya Battalia '11

This paper analyzes development and state of the fair trade coffee market in Guatemala. It focuses specifically on the position of the producer and the Guatemalan government's recent interest in alternative trade as exemplified through the creation of the Commission for Fair Trade and Solidarity in 2007.

Transnational Investment in Latin American Metal Mining: Disparate Perceptions of Development Among Stakeholders

Faculty Sponsor: Jordana Dym, International Affairs

Presenter: Sarah Green '11

This project explored the contemporary debate regarding Latin American metal mining, focusing on the Argentine-Chilean Pascua Lama mine. An analysis of stakeholder claims demonstrated that MNCs, Latin American governments, affected communities, and civil society have divergent views of the importance of the economic, social, and environmental aspects of development.

The Latino Community Advocacy Program

Faculty Sponsor: *Charlene Grant, Spanish*

Presenters: Paul Moscarello '11, Alexandra Costa '11, Katharine Potter '11, Claudia Platero-Torres '11, Christina Fraziero '11, Christina Tracy '11

Our presentation will highlight the work that we have done as interns and volunteers at the Latino Community Advocacy Program. We will discuss the services the program has to offer, and we will share our individual experiences working with Saratoga's Spanish-speaking community. Our participation with the program has been meaningful to each one of us, and we are eager to share our experiences with the Skidmore community! Through this presentation, we hope to raise awareness of and support for this very worthwhile program.

SESSION 18 – Presenting the Past

10:30 – 11:30 PM Tisch Learning Center 301

Presenting the Past: American Studies Senior Honors Theses

Faculty Sponsor: *Greg Pfitzer, American Studies*

Presenters: Eliza Straim '11, Elise Fariello '11, Suzie Finkel '11, Brooke Williams '11

Four American Studies honors students working on diverse research projects (Sexual Assault, Generational Memory, Identity and Food, and Diversity in the Workplace) will give brief introductions to their work followed by a panel discussion on the common methodological and theoretical challenges they faced in studying the past via primary and secondary sources.

SESSION 19 – The 3rd Hour

10:30 – 11:30 AM

JKB Studio A

The 3rd Hour

Faculty Sponsor: *Will Bond, Theater*

Presenters: Anthony Bentrovato '11, Claire Saxe '11; Maximilian Osaben '11, Giancarlo Osaben '11, Richard Alex Kraft '12

This performance is the result of a durational performance practice the students were building in class. The texts are taken from Forced Entertainment's *SPEAK BITTERNESS* and from Jonathan Foer's *Here We Aren't So Quickly*.

Based upon much performance research, investigation into the nature of performance, and after creating many "propositions" about what the performance is, we decided to use "confessional" text to practice over time. What the performers are doing has never been done; they are performing it right now in front of you.

SESSION 20– Japanese Folk Tales

11:00 – 12:00 PM

Falstaff's

Japanese Folk-Tales

Faculty Sponsor: *Masako Inamoto, Foreign Language*

Presenter: Dylan Adelman '13, William Axelrod '12, Sze Wa Chung '13, Nicholas Feinberg '13, Joslyn Ryoko Hirose '13, Wei Huang '13, Allison Karl '14, Harlyn Lane '13, Ka-Lo Loi '12, Philip Markowitz '13, Anica Odell-Smedley '13, Elizabeth Rogers '13, Gillian Stone '13, Chloe Stricklin '13, Kellye Tamura '14, KunYu Tan '13, Steven Zapata '12, Douglass Hamilton '13, Christopher Rahimi '13

The students of FJ-206 will perform three Japanese folklores: かぐや姫 (Kaguya Hime, "Princess Kaguya"), 桃太郎 (Momo Tarou, "Peach Boy") and ねずみの嫁入り (Nezumi no yomeiri, "The Mouse's Marriage"). All three tales will be recited in Japanese, and a PowerPoint will provide English subtitles.

SESSION 21 – Sexuality, The Goddess and You
Display Operational All Day Gannett Lounge -
adjacent to Gannett
Lobby

Sexuality, the Goddess, and You

Faculty Sponsor: Mary Stange, Philosophy & Religion

Presenters: Rohini Alamgir '12, Victoria Aronson '12, Zoe Bent '13, Amy Bergstraesser '11, Lucy Bonacquist '11, Ross Cioffi '12, Rainey Ferdinand '11, Sasha Flavell '11, Eve Lewis '11, Tasnia Mir '14, Natasha Mozumdar '11, Samantha Mullen '13, Julia Paino '13, Sarah Rosenblatt '12, Anna Schwartz '11, Danielle Suchman '13

This interactive, interdisciplinary multimedia exhibit connects goddesses past and present through the study of feminist spirituality. This exhibit will include Skidmore survey data on knowledge about goddesses and their worship, an original documentary film, an interpretive altar display and meditation space, and visual depictions and explanations of modern day goddesses.

The film, which will run as a continual loop, will be deeply connected to the survey and will evaluate the relationship between gendered perceptions of sexuality and female power in the representation of goddesses and amazons in the contemporary world. The altar will be an interpretive, interactive display in the center of the space and will be surrounded by depictions of modern-day goddesses and amazons.

SESSION 22 – The Candace Carlucci Backus '66
FYE Prize Presentations

12:00 – 1:00 PM

Bolton 281

Presenters: Claire Bastis '14, Alexandra Post '14, Laura Pendleton '14

Claire Bastis '14 – “Eye Opening, Mind Boggling, But Just Visiting”

My paper was the final project for my Scribner Seminar, “Afterlives.” It discusses the material I found most valuable in the class, while also

connecting the subject matter to life after the tragic death of my best friend, Nick Rosser, in January of 2009.

Alexandra Post '14 – “Country of Hope, Country of Tears: Ellis Island and Immigration in American Memory”

“Country of Hope, Country of Tears: Ellis Island and Immigration in American Memory” explores the disparity between the American dream and the American experience. Using books, songs, films, and personal histories, the paper compares the different ways that Americans remember Ellis Island.

Laura Pendleton '14 – “Staying Alive: New Orleans’s Economic Engines Damage its Natural Hurricane Defense”

Flood control and navigation activities have protected New Orleans’s port economy for centuries. But they also have left Louisiana’s coastal wetlands in a tattered, fragile state that could mean life or death if another big hurricane hits.

SESSION 23 - Visualizing Myth and the Grotesque in Film and Literature

1:00 – 2:15 PM

Palamountain 200

Geeks Bearing Gifts

Faculty Sponsor: Jackie Murray, Classics

Presenter: Erica Schnabel '11

This paper presentation examines the re-working of the myth of the fall of Troy in the two versions of the TV series *Battlestar Galactica*

Monsters in Pop Culture: Japanese Yōkai

Faculty Sponsor: Masako Inamoto, Foreign Language

Presenter: Celena Toon '11

Japanese yōkai monsters have been part of Japanese folk beliefs since ancient times, and

continue to be present in popular media such as movies and animation. I examine how portrayals of these monsters in contemporary popular culture have changed from their traditional image.

Insect Imagery and Motif in Abe Kobo's Novels

Faculty Sponsor: Masako Inamoto, Asian Studies

Presenter: Marie-Claire Churchouse '11

Inspired by the fear established in Burroughs's *Naked Lunch* of homogeneity that the planet drifts to random insect doom, I have been examining Abe Kobo's use of insect imagery and motifs in his novels. My thesis paper and presentation explores themes of identity and society in a post-war world.

"The Blakean Dialogue" and "Queers, Corpses, Cripples, and Freaks: The Queer Grotesque in American Fiction, 1919-1955"

Faculty Sponsor: Sarah Goodwin & Holly Jackson, English

Presenters: Elizabeth Adelman '11 and Anne Kenealy '11

These two English students present work from their senior theses. One considers Blake's initiation of a dialogue between text and reader in *Visions of the Daughters of Albion*; the other explores the grotesque in American modernism as a figure for inexpressible, inarticulate queerness.

SESSION 24 – Skidmore-Saratoga Entrepreneurial Partnership (SSEP) Projects

1:00 – 2:30 PM

Palamountain 202

Saratoga Skidmore Entrepreneurship Partnership

Faculty Sponsor: Roy Rotheim, Management & Business

Fortunate Cup

Presenters: Hanae Kimura '11 and Tyler Doremus '12

Name Bubbles

Man Ting Ko '11 and Samuel Brown '12

Saratoga Builders

Corey Jarecki '11 and Brian Stickles '11

Verdentity

Ann Kobylenki '11 and Margaux Hoagland '11

SESSION 25 – Skidmore at PowerShift!

1:00 – 2:00 PM

Davis Auditorium

Skidmore at Power Shift

Faculty Sponsor: Bob Turner, Environmental Studies

Presenters: Anna Graves '14, Rachel Chalat '12, Annie Bruckner '11

In April, 90 Skidmore students attended the largest youth environmental conference in the nation. They were in Washington, D.C., for a weekend to learn about key environmental issues and to undergo trainings to help prepare them to become environmental leaders in their communities. Skidmore sent the second largest student group in New York State to the conference.

This was the biggest group from Skidmore that has ever attended Power Shift. At the conference, students chose a specific campaign track: Building the Clean Energy Economy, Moving Beyond Dirty Energy, Building Political Power, or Campus Action and Sustainability. Each track was designed to provide students with a specific skill set so that they could take the lead in implementing change within their communities. Power Shift participants are expected to take part in Skid Shift, the post-Power Shift effort to engage students in sharing what they learned from the conference with the rest of the Skidmore community. We have formed students into committees with the hope that this will facilitate idea sharing and project implementation.

SESSION 26 – Documentary Films I

1:00 – 2:00 PM

Emerson Auditorium

DOCUMENTARY FILMS, GROUP 1

Faculty Sponsor: Tom Lewis, English

**Presenters: Eliza Straim '11, Brian Connor '11,
Rebecca Robinson '14, Jonathan Sheflin '11**

English 280--Documentary Film Making

Eliza Straim, *Sexual Assault at Skidmore College*

Brian Connor, *A Missing Person*

Rebecca Robinson, *Wombats*

Jonathan Sheflin, *Houseboat*

SESSION 27 – Interdisciplinary Perspectives on International Issues

1:00 – 2:30 PM

Ladd 206

Remembrance and Reconnection:

**A Holocaust Survivor's Granddaughter Returns
to the Town of her Birth**

Faculty Sponsor: John Brueggemann, Sociology

Presenter: Joelle Sklaar '11

In June 1939, 16-year-old Josefa Eberstarková and her younger sisters left their lives behind them as they fled religious persecution in their hometown aboard a Kindertransport to refuge in London. Seventy years later, Josefina's granddaughter, Joelle Sklaar, returned to their town of Trstená, Slovakia to learn what happened in the community and to her great-grandparents after the three girls escaped.

Post-Independent Kosovo: From Prescriptive to Descriptive Identities

Faculty Sponsor: Kate Graney, Government

Presenter: Marisola Xhelili '11

The presentation will focus on identity politics between Serbs and Albanians in post-independent Kosovo. Though interaction between these two

ethnicities is very limited, I will discuss the different efforts being made to foster a shared national identity. I will also discuss the importance of restoring trust in the community in order to achieve democratic success.

U.S. Bilateral Aid to Uganda: National Security at the Expense of Sustainable International Development

**Faculty Sponsor: Pushkala Prasad, International
Affairs**

Presenter: Stephanie Leutert '11

United States's bilateral aid to Uganda is appropriated with the goals of boosting U.S. national security and providing development assistance. The research found that while the national security objective has been satisfactorily fulfilled, the development assistance objective has never been fully achieved, therefore arguably demonstrating the United States's prioritization of national security over Uganda's development. The research will conclude by suggesting several policy recommendations and examining the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) as a promising model for future aid agencies.

"Does a Rising Tide Lift all Boats? A Case Study of Economic Globalization in India" Faculty Sponsor: Pushkala Prasad, Management & Business

Presenter: Madeline Vossbrinck '11

Recently, there has been much debate over whether globalization is beneficial or not. This presentation discusses globalization's effect on India and if it is truly promoting prosperity. It explores the difference between the rising middle class and the rural poor and what role globalization has played in exaggerating that gap.

Birthing Culture: The Impact of Birth Attendants on Maternal and Infant Mortality Faculty Sponsor: Catherine Berheide, Sociology Presenter: Maria DeSanto-Rose '11

My thesis comparatively analyzes the impact of skilled birth attendants on maternal and infant mortality, focusing on global, regional, and country specific trends in Guatemala and Ghana. The findings indicate a more culturally specific approach is necessary for policies that aim to reduce maternal and infant mortality.

SESSION 28 – Biochemistry Research
1:00 – 2:00 PM Dana 240

Characterization of the Pathways for *S. aureus* Asn-tRNA^{Asn} Formation

Faculty Sponsor: Kelly Sheppard, Chemistry
Presenter: Lianne Bartlett '11

Staphylococcus aureus is a bacterium that has no way of making its own free Asn. This suggests that it must use an indirect method where Asn is synthesized on its tRNA for translation uses. Many types of bacteria utilize two different pathways to attach asparagine (Asn) to its transfer RNA (tRNA^{Asn}). These pathways provide insight to the life cycle habits of these bacteria. The first pathway is the direct ligation of Asn to tRNA^{Asn} via the enzyme asparaginyl-tRNA synthetase (AsnRS). The other method is an indirect process in which the amino acid is synthesized on the tRNA itself.

Throughout the past two semesters I have been working with *Staphylococcus aureus* with the primary goal of determining if it can use this second pathway to produce Asn-tRNA. Further insight to how *S. aureus* works may provide us with better treatment options. In this presentation I will present my work so far.

Characterization of the pathways for *B. bacteriovorus* Asn-tRNA^{Asn} formation
Faculty Sponsor: Kelly Sheppard, Chemistry
Presenter: Brett Robertson '11

Two possible pathways exist for synthesis of Asn-tRNA^{Asn}. This nucleic acid is necessary for protein synthesis. The goal of the study was to determine which pathway is utilized by *B.*

bacteriovorus in its synthesis of its Asn-tRNA^{Asn}. The nature of the pathway was assessed both in vitro and in vivo.

By the end of the semester, we will have completed the in vitro assay and have a better idea of the pathway utilized by the bacteria. The determination of the pathway will allow for further work in designing ways to work against drug resistance in the bacteria.

Expanding the Genetic Code with Pyroglutamate

Faculty Sponsor: Kelly Sheppard, Chemistry
Presenter: Sean Heaton '12

Our goal is to expand the genetic code of *E. coli* to include pyroglutamate by reassigning the amber stop codon to include the modified amino acid. Our work this term--isolation, amplification and purification of tRNA-Glu from *E. coli*--will serve as a starting point for the eventual modification of this biosynthetic pathway. We hope to purify the necessary biological macromolecules for in vitro study in the near future.

SESSION 29 – Gender Issues at Home and Abroad
1:00 – 2:00 PM Tisch Learning Center 201

Undermining the Binary: The Transgender Narrative as a Form of Queering Gender

Faculty Sponsor: Sari Edelstein, English
Presenter: Zoe Johannes '11

In this paper, I argue that transgender individuals are consistently compelled to adhere to a universal life narrative of transition in order to maintain the gender binary. I then discuss methods of combating this by understanding transgender identities as inherently "queer" due to cross gender socialization and a heightened awareness of gendered behavior.

Queer Skidmore Students and Kinship Construction

Faculty Sponsor: Mason Stokes, English
Presenter: Noah Augustine '11

This project was undertaken to explore the themes of kinship, family, and queer community among queer students at Skidmore College with the goal of determining whether queer kinships are indeed forming on campus. The project has a special focus on the impact of economic class on kinship formation.

Youth Sexuality in Morocco: an Analysis of Sexual Expectations and Perceptions in a Transitioning Islamic Society

Faculty Sponsor: John Brueggeman, *Sociology*
Presenter: Grace Hale '12

As Moroccan society is deeply rooted in Islamic tradition, severe moral restrictions of appropriate sexual behavior exist for men and women. Moroccan society is going through a transitional phrase, however, and current trends are not synonymous with these moral expectations. Based on twenty interviews with students, this paper examines the changing sexual perceptions, expectations, and behaviors of Morocco's youth as a result of increasing modernity.

SESSION 30 – Ceyx and Alcyone

1:00 – 2:00 PM JKB Studio A

Ceyx and Alcyone

Faculty Sponsor: Alma Becker, *Theater*
Presenters: Ashley Belle '13, Caroline Burke '13, April Clark '11, Lowell Glovsky '14, Julia Romano '13, Sarah Ryan '13; Claire Saxe '11; Elisabeth Svenningsen '13; Alexia Zarras '14

Ceyx and Alcyone is a play based upon the 'Ceyx and Alcyone' myth from Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, translated, adapted, and directed by Claire Elizabeth Saxe, '11.

This production is a culmination of my Classics/Theater interdisciplinary independent study. The play will have been performed at the end of April as a Workshop Production in the Theatre Department.

SESSION 31 – Eco Birdhouses Incorporated

1:00 – 2:00 PM

Meet at Tang

Eco Birdhouses Incorporated

Faculty Sponsor: Karen Kellogg, *Environmental Studies*

Presenters: Rebecca Drago '11, Victoria Vitale '12; Melissa Green '13, Sarah LaBella '13

We are offering a walking tour of our Environmental Art final project. We will be walking from the Tang toward the Northwoods. We have created hand crafted bird houses using human-made and natural materials.

For our Environmental Art class this semester, we have created a meandering line of birdhouses around campus. We have chosen to use birdhouses as a mechanism to convey our theme that despite cultural tendencies to separate humans from nature, we are all connected with the Earth.

SESSION 32 – The Birth of “America”: The Formation of Identity in the Revolutionary War

2:45 – 3:30 PM

Palamountain 202

The Birth of “America”: The Formation of Identities in the Revolutionary War

Faculty Sponsor: Erica Bastress-Dukehart, *History*
Presenters: Bryce Klatsky '11 and Anni Satinover '11

The panel will discuss the ways in which Americans chose and expressed their identities before, during, and in the hectic aftermath of the American Revolution. Through the exploration of music and loyalism, the panelists will explore this transformative national experience.

This presentation will be the result of colloquium projects written for the History Department. These pieces are especially well-suited for a panel discussion as they are thematically and historiographically intertwined. The presentations will also be accompanied by PowerPoint slide shows.

SESSION 33 – Senior Poetry Readings

1:00 – 1:45 PM

Palamountain 302

Gender Poetry

Faculty Sponsor: Peg Boyers, English

Presenter: Noah Augustine '11

I will read poems I have written throughout the semester exploring the themes of gender, growing up, family, and identity.

Poems: “Scorched Milk of Dead Bees”: A Senior Project by Catherine Pond

Faculty Sponsor: Peg Boyers, English

Presenter: Catherine Pond '11

I will be reading ten or so poems that I have written in the last year as part of my senior project. In these poems, I attempt to imbue the ordinary with a sense of the marvelous and to confront emptiness or a lack. The poems describe a quest for some continuing sense of the wondrous and the mysterious in an otherwise vacant landscape.

Session 34 – Perspectives on the Environment

2:30 – 3:45 PM

Davis Auditorium

Flagging the Issue: Mobility Challenges at Skidmore

Faculty Sponsor: Alison Barnes, Environmental Studies

Presenters: Martel Catalano '11 and Gwyneth Harris '13

For almost an entire semester, our Environmental Art class has been studying contemporary and past environmental artists whose works range from monumental land art to subtle social commentaries. For our final project, we have created an installation highlighting mobility issues on campus to share our knowledge and increase community awareness about such issues as the inadequacy of walking and biking paths and bike racks around campus.

Integrated Wind Energy at Skidmore College

Faculty Sponsor: Karen Kellogg, Environmental Studies

Presenter: Drew Levinson '12

Wind energy is the fastest growing sector of the renewable energy market, and I conducted a review of potential wind energy models to meet a portion of the electricity demand at Skidmore. In particular, I assessed the potential costs and benefits of demonstrational wind turbines, energy partnerships, and paid-purchase agreements.

Better Habits Through Better Technology

Faculty Sponsor: Karen Kellogg, Environmental Studies

Presenter: Alex Brehm '12

Electricity use and data collection overlaps with several academic disciplines: Environmental Studies, Computer Science, Business, and Economics. I set out to learn about the arrays of data that Skidmore is collecting on electricity use, how that data is stored and publicized, and how it will be used to effect behavior change on campus in an internship with Riley Neugebauer, the sustainability coordinator at Skidmore. In this presentation, I will discuss how I wrote a program to query Skidmore's web-based electricity meters, compiled a publishable booklet of energy modeling software, and have used some of the electricity data to make analyses of student behavior and energy use.

Composting Feasibility Study and Recommendation

Faculty Sponsor: Kim Marsella, Environmental Studies

Presenter: Talia Arnow '13, Sarah Arndt '14, Margot Reisner '14

We will present a recommendation for developing a large scale composting system for Skidmore College. We have researched the entities on campus involved in creating a composting system and other institutions' composting methods. We will present results from the pilot project in the

Northwoods Apartments and food waste audit outcomes.

SESSION 35 – Documentary Films II

2:30 – 3:30 PM

Emerson Auditorium

DOCUMENTARY FILMS, GROUP 2

Faculty Sponsor: Tom Lewis, English

Presenters: Gaelle Mourre '11, Jenna Kellett '13, Julia Hutson '13

English 280--Documentary Film Making

Gaelle Mourre, *A House of Ideas: The Tang Museum*

Jenna Kellett, *Sharing the Truth, Personal Accounts of Keeping the Culture*

Julia Hutson, *The Local Answer: Local Farming and Food*

SESSION 36 – Senior Projects in Anthropology

2:45 – 3:30 PM

Ladd 206

Rhetoric vs. Reality: Assessing Participation-based Development in Chirapaca, Bolivia

Faculty Sponsor: Jon Zibbell, Anthropology

Presenter: Ashley Storrow '11

I examine the effectiveness of participatory development through the case study of the development project "Batallas for Productive Development" directed by the organization Pachamaman Urupa in Chirapaca, Bolivia. I assess if participatory development methods enable the community to direct their modernization process through interviews, participant observation, and NGO publications. This presentation is the culmination of my self-determined major capstone, which has involved 2 trips to Bolivia and a year-long investigation of international development in Latin America.

Reconsidering America's Best Idea: American Indian Cultural Heritage Versus the System at Yellowstone National Park

Faculty Sponsor: Heather Hurst, Anthropology

Presenter: Jessica Neubelt '11

In this paper, I examine Yellowstone National Park's use of American Indian cultural resources as an entry point for examining the complexities of contemporary narratives of the park. I reveal the incompleteness of these narratives, examine effects on American Indian identities, and, ultimately, suggest ways that Yellowstone could facilitate more nuanced understandings of both.

SESSION 37 – The Victorian Illustrated Book

Comes to Life

2:30 - 3:45 PM

Pondorff Room – Library

The Victorian Illustrated Book Comes to Life

Faculty Sponsor: Catherine Golden, English

Presenters: Meredith Mayer '13, Grace Harman '13, Rebecca Orbach '13, Maya Mortman '13, Samantha Gill '13, Anna Millhauser '12, Brian Reno '11, Allie Kruse '12, Jason Foley '13, Alex Orthwein '13, Emma Weinsten '13, Rachel Aisenson '13, Anna Wahl '13, Catherine Chang '13, Julia Post '13, Patricia Friesen, auditor

Utilizing the college's Norman M. Fox Collection, the Honors "Victorian Illustrated Book" class (EN 228H) created a library exhibit entitled "Victorians Speaking Without Words" currently on display in the Scribner Library. Fans, flowers, figurines, and telling gestures or details on a mantel speak volumes about love and marriage, heartbreak and hope once we glean the nonverbal languages of Victorian times. The presentation will include a guided tour of the exhibit and end with a Victorian tea party and discussion.

SESSION 38 – Ice Age Climate in the Yucatan**2:00 – 2:15 PM****Dana South Hallway****A Cave Stalagmite Stable Isotope Record of Ice Age Climate in the Yucatan****Faculty Sponsor: Amy Frappier, Geosciences****Presenter: Valerie Schwartz '11**

I used mass spectrometry to characterize climate variability of the Yucatàn during the last Ice Age from analysis of a cave stalagmite that grew between 63,800-64,000 years ago. I will present microdrilling methods and the latest results and interpretation, including paleoecology of the site and comparison to previously published works.

SESSION 39 – Chemistry Research**2:30 – 3:30 PM****Dana 240****Investigation of a Novel Tandem Intramolecular Diels Alder Reaction****Faculty Sponsor: Ray Giguere, Chemistry****Presenter: Vinay Trivedi-Parmar '12**

We performed the first four steps of a reaction pathway leading up to a tandem intramolecular Diels-Alder (TIMDA) reaction. Procedures for the third and fourth steps of the sequence (a PCC oxidation and an aldol condensation) were reassessed and refined so that the yield and purity of the two reactions were improved, paving the way for future study of the final TIMDA reaction.

Immobilization of a Photoswitching Ruthenium Complex on a Gold Surface**Faculty Sponsor: Steven Frey, Chemistry****Presenter: Marissa Civic '11**

We have recently synthesized the compound $[\text{Ru}(\text{tpy})(\text{edphen})(\text{dmso})](\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3)_2$, which undergoes Ru-S to Ru-O linkage isomerization when irradiated with 420 nm light. The ability to manufacture an optical storage device using this compound requires a mechanism to immobilize it in a dense, uniform manner on a solid surface. We have developed procedures to immobilize this

complex on gold and glass and are currently attempting to immobilize it on gold nanoparticles. Materials resulting from these immobilization procedures have been characterized using atomic force microscopy (AFM), Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (FT-IR), and transmission electron microscopy (TEM). Characterization suggests formation of self-assembled monolayers of $[\text{Ru}(\text{tpy})(\text{edphen})(\text{dmso})]^{2+}$ on gold and glass while characterization of gold nanoparticles is presently underway.

Using Thermo-responsive Guanosine Gels for In-capillary Preconcentration in CE**Faculty Sponsor: Kim Frederick, Chemistry****Presenter: Sarah Bashaw '11**

Capillary electrophoresis (CE) is plagued by high detection limits, so samples must be preconcentrated. In-capillary preconcentration is superior because it is rapid and less tedious and requires smaller volumes. We developed a thermo-responsive hydrogel, which can be locked into the capillary. This method was successfully employed to pre-concentrate and separate mixtures.

SESSION 40 – Perspectives on Academic Life**2:30 – 4:00 PM****Tisch Learning Center 201****A Recipe for Success: The Impact of Social and Academic Experiences on Overall College Satisfaction****Faculty Sponsor: Catherine Berheide, Sociology****Presenters: Anna Rivkin '11 and Frank Cabrera '11**

This paper examines how social experiences, extracurricular activities, student relationships, academic experiences, academic engagement, and faculty relations affect students' (particularly sophomores') overall satisfaction with their college experience.

Relationships & Balance: Navigating Job Satisfaction Among Faculty at Skidmore College and Union College**Faculty Sponsor: Catherine Berheide, Sociology****Presenter: Joelle Sklaar '11, Emma Harris '11**

A 2009 work climate survey administered to tenure and tenure-track faculty at Skidmore and Union Colleges found that objective measures of teaching and research had no effect on job satisfaction. The major factors that contribute to job satisfaction among professors are feelings of isolation, relationships with students, and work/life balance.

Outside of the Classroom: The Effects of College Service on Faculty Relationships

Faculty Sponsor: Catherine Berheide, SASW
Presenter: Emily Cooper '11

What determines satisfaction with co-worker relationships among college faculty? I propose that, due to the extensive time faculty spend interacting in service work, those who do participate will report higher satisfaction with their relationships at work. Furthermore, I hypothesize that these effects will be more salient for women.

Responsible Students: An Analysis of the Restorative Justice Process on College Campuses

Faculty Sponsor: Catherine Berheide, SASW
Presenter: Chesley Muroda '11

This research examines the question of whether the restorative justice approach actually leads to students accepting more responsibility for their offenses. The data set consists of 496 cases, each of which includes both an offender survey and a case administrator survey from eighteen schools of various types.

International Student Perspective Uncovered

Faculty Sponsor: Ela Lepkowska-White, Management & Business
Presenter: Aylin Ceylan '12 and Ali Shareef '11

This presentation investigates the international student experience at Skidmore College. Specifically, this study examines the issues international students face at Skidmore and how helpful the resources provided by Skidmore have been in addressing those issues. The study generates conclusions regarding what works

effectively and proposes suggestions on what could be improved in terms of the overall international student experience at Skidmore to facilitate a faster and smoother adjustment process.

SESSION 41 – (Dis)orderly Voices Festival

2:30 – 3:30 PM Tisch Learning Center 301

(Dis)orderly Voices Festival

Faculty Sponsor: Rebecca Krefting, American Studies

Presenters: Odemaris Alicea '11, Ann Cascella '11, Kathleen Cullum '11, Rebecca Drago '11, Sarah Elwell '11; Laverie Foster '11, Wendy Rodriguez '11, Eliza Straim '11, Mariel Bazil '12, D'Juan Gilmore '12, Nenesi Ibru '12; Shawn McGrievy '12, Olivia Morrow '12, Allison Dell Otto '12, Ivana Portes '12, Hannah Ronson '12, Sarah Rosenblatt '12; Alexander Steinberg '12, Eric Strebel '12

The (Dis)orderly Voices Festival includes performances by The Screaming Females and Andrea Gibson; a youth art project to explain issues of gender, race, and identity; and a student produced video focusing on unheard voices. The panel will focus on the process and impacts of the Festival on the Skidmore community.

SESSION 42– Dance & Choreography on Display

2:30 – 3:30 PM Dance Theater

Variations on Phrasework

Faculty Sponsor: Debra Fernandez, Dance
Presenter: Rebecca Greenbaum '11

Choreographers have distinct processes that they use when producing phrases. Merce Cunningham used computers to generate movement, a different method than Joe Goode's more organic choreographing. I used a Doug Varone prompt to generate two duets. My dancers will demonstrate the ways that we used fragmented movements to create different phrases.

Immortal Fishes: Finding a Dance within Movement Investigation

Faculty Sponsor: *Ruben Graciani, Dance*

Presenter: Emily Craver '11

This presentation explores the various movement and choreographic techniques that we used to create the dance "immortal fishes," including character development, literary influences, and Butoh exercises, all utilized in such a way that a dance piece emerged.

Finding the Pieces . . . Across the Meadow

Faculty Sponsor: *Mary Harney, Dance*

Presenter: Nicole Kadar '11

This capstone is not simply the performance, but the journey of a performer. Time matures the physiological intention of a performing artist, which creates a spell binding energy in the room he or she is performing. Training and diligence allows movement to transcend into a place deeper than words.

This presentation, which includes a video of a performance, I will to discuss the process I went through learning and taking ownership of movement from a professional choreographer, which requires openness and the ability to release negative energy that may be associated with the movement. Not may people talk about the journey of performance; I would like to share mine.

SESSION 43 – The Hazards of Love

2:30 – 3:30 PM **JKB Studio A**

The Hazards of Love

Faculty Sponsor: *Marie Glotzbach, Theater*

Presenters: Sara Jane Munford '11, Samuel Kahler '11, Robert (Skip) Suva '11, Tom Meredith '11, Angela Cascone '12, Grace Troxell '13, Kelsey Hull '14, Adrienne Schaffler '13, Jeremy Ohringer '13

Foxglove Company is a group of multi-disciplinary artists from Skidmore College, currently working

to bring the album *The Hazards of Love* by The Decemberists to life. Our presentation will include a photo slideshow of our warehouse venue, a display of the puppets we created, and excerpts of the performance.

Our warehouse venue will act not only as a performance space for the staging of the album but also as a stand-alone art installation. Set in a magical forest, *The Hazards of Love* tells the story of young Margaret and shape-shifting William pursuing their love in spite of the Evil Queen and her accomplice, The Rake. In collaboration with fellow Skidmore student artists, we have built a forest environment in which our story will take place. We will present selections from the performance and aspects of our work that are installed in the venue, including pictures of the set, puppets used in the show, and costumes and photos of the artistic process. What makes this project so special is that it is truly a labor of love; no students involved have received academic credit for their creative contributions, a culmination of our collective liberal arts education.

SESSION 44 – Art History Projects

2:30 – 3:30 PM

Somers Room – Tang

Max Beckmann's Departure

Faculty Sponsor: *Katie Hauser, Art History*

Presenter: Hillary Reder '11

This art history senior thesis examines Max Beckmann as a problematic artist in the history of modern art. I argue that common understandings and interpretations of Beckmann fall short. By focusing on the reception history and formal complexities of one of his famous *Departure* triptychs, I contextualize Beckmann in his era - the Weimar Republic - and suggest that he is, in fact, very much a modernist, but on his own terms.

Imperial Post: Views of Colonial Delhi

Faculty Sponsor: *Aditi Chandra, Art History*

Presenters: Edward Ray '11 and Gwendolyn Pryor '12

Imperial Post explores Delhi, India, through the lens of tourist souvenirs. It explores the rise and rapid dissemination of the picture postcard in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It traces the journeys of European and Indian tourists and delves into the politics of representation, exoticism, and global capitalism underlying the visual vocabulary of popular postcards.

This presentation discusses an exhibit on display in the Tang from May 4-May 22 and is an outgrowth of the Honor's Forum class, "British Raj and the Imaginaries of Travel." More information about the show is available on the Tang website:
<http://tang.skidmore.edu/index.php/calendars/view/369/tag:1/upcoming:1>

SESSION 45 – Music in Research and Performance
2:30 – 3:45 PM E.L.M. Hall – Zankel

The Public Intellectual: Leonard Bernstein's Charles Eliot Norton Lectures
Faculty Sponsor: Charles Joseph, Music
Presenter: Mary Horn '11

When Leonard Bernstein was appointed Harvard's Charles Eliot Norton Professor of Poetry, he hoped to demonstrate a Universal Musical Language through an interdisciplinary comparison of music and linguistics. This research project centers on Bernstein's educational career and the evolution of his Norton lectures as seen in the archival documents.

"do i dare?"

Faculty Sponsor: Anthony Holland, Music
Presenters: Peri Strongwater '11, Carolyn Bottelier '13, Joanna Schubert '12

My senior project has been in music composition, working with Professor Chuck Joseph and Professor Anthony Holland. I will give a short presentation on the theory and compositional aspects of one of my pieces and then have that piece performed.

The piece, called "do i dare," consists of three movements: i. coffee spoons (adagio), ii. the fool (piano interlude), iii. a soft october night (finale).

Schubert Plays Schubert(s)
Faculty Sponsor: Pola Baytelman, Music
Presenter: Joanna Schubert '12

The following half-hour program will consist of mostly Classical piano, as well as two original songs. The performance will serve as a partial representation of my multifaceted musical interests and education at Skidmore. For the Classical piano portion, I will be playing three contrasting pieces: Claude Debussy's "Suite Bergamasque Prelude," Franz Schubert's "Impromptu #3 Opus 142 in Bb Major," and Scott Joplin's "The Entertainer." For my two original songs, I will sing and play the piano and possibly feature two other student musicians as well.

SESSION 46 – Mapping Women's Status Globally
3:45 – 4:45 PM Palamountain 200

Mapping Women's Status Globally
Faculty Sponsor: Catherine Berheide, Sociology
Presenters: Victoria Aronson '11, Grace Harman '13, Sara Hickey '12, Lisa Krauss '12, Julia Paino '13, Claudia Platero Torres '11, SaraJane Rosenfeld '13, David Schlenker '13, Gabriella Stern '13, Carolyn Stuka '13, Abigail Wyant '13

Using data from the 2010 UN Human Development Report, we have created maps depicting the status of women globally, using indicators such as education and contraceptive use. We will present the maps and follow with a discussion of the status of women in specific developing/under-developed countries, such as China and Mexico.

This group presentation by students in SO331, "Women in the Global Economy" will cover the class's semester-long research project on women in developing/under-developed countries.

SESSION 47 – Short Films and New Media**4:00 – 5:00 PM****Davis Auditorium****Short Films and New Media****Faculty Sponsor: Patrick Kelley, Studio Art****Presenters: Galen Koch '11, Lindsay Droter '11;
Kengo Ikeda-Iyeki '11**

This exhibit displays the work in our New Media independent study with Professor Patrick Kelley. We will show three short works that demonstrate the ways filmmakers use new media (stop-motion animation, documentary filmmaking, and interactive multi-media installation) to communicate a message through artistic expression.

The films by Galen Koch and Lindsay Droter serve as their Senior Capstone projects. Both are interdisciplinary—one drawing from the Studio Art, Government, and English Departments; the other from the Studio Art and Spanish Language Departments. Both projects are linear works, utilizing stop-motion animation and classical filmmaking techniques. Kengo Ikeda - Iyeki is a technologist with an appetite for artistic experimentation. Throughout his independent study, he has written interactive and visual software that attempt to engage users and explore how technology may be used as a medium for [both] communication and expression.

SESSION 48 – Documentary Films III**3:45 – 4:45 PM****Emerson Auditorium****DOCUMENTARY FILMS, GROUP 3****Faculty Sponsor: Tom Lewis, English****Presenters: Melvis Langyintuo '12, Katherine Bennett '13, Tucker Costello '12, Paul Russell '11**

English 280—"Documentary Film Making"

Melvis Langyintuo, *Skidmore Basketball: Hardball Pays Off***Katherine Bennett, *Sound Therapy for Health and Healing*****Tucker Costello, *Who's Watching Skid TV*****Paul Russell, *Making a Break, Skidmore's Bicycle Club*****SESSION 49 – Farm Spring Break****3:45 – 4:45 PM****Ladd 206****Farm Spring Break****Faculty Sponsor: Kim Marsella, *Environmental Studies*****Presenters: Anna Graves '14, Sam Graves '14, Kelsey Renning '11, Anne Kenealy '11, Victoria Vitale '12, Katherine Brittenham '14, Sarah Weitzman '14, Kayleigh Kahn '13, Sam Skurdahl '13, Ethan Paul '13**

Ten students spent spring break in upstate New York farming and working with specialists and artisans to learn traditional living skills while gaining hands-on experience in sustainable agriculture. We will describe the skills and concepts we learned and how this experience was transformative for the students involved.

SESSION 50 – Biology Projects**3:45 – 4:30 PM****Dana 240****The Adaptive Significance of Female Preference in the Common Yellowthroat: Oxidative Stress, Sexual Ornamentation, and Offspring Quality**
Faculty Sponsor: Corey Freeman-Gallant, *Biology*
Presenter: Kate Littrell '13

In the Common Yellowthroat, males with more elaborate sexual ornamentation are more attractive to females, have higher survivorship, and lower oxidative stress. We combined field and molecular data on male ornamentation and fitness to determine whether the males preferred by females produce high quality young with low oxidative stress.

Axon Guidance in Zebrafish

Faculty Sponsor: *Jennifer Bonner, Biology*

Presenter: Michael Letko '11

A highly specified network of connections between neurons comprises the nervous system. Our lab studies the development of the spinal cord in the zebra fish model organism. Utilizing genetic manipulation techniques, this research focuses on identifying the genes that guide these cells in their development.

SESSION 51 – Biology Effects of Ethanol

4:30 – 5:00 PM

Dana South Hallway

Ethanol Disruption of Axon Pathfinding Mimics robo2/- phenotypes

Faculty Sponsor: *Jennifer Bonner, Biology*

Presenters: Alek Krazinski '11, Cecelia Culp '11, Andrew Ross '11, Zach Knecht '11

Ethanol (EtOH) consumption during pregnancy can lead to birth defects described as Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. These deficits are attributed to neuro-developmental abnormalities that occur as a result of EtOH exposure in utero. This study establishes an in vivo model system to examine EtOH's role in Robo2 signaling, which dictates neuronal growth patterns.

This project represents 2 years of work in which we have established a novel methodology to study the effects ethanol has on developing neurons. Initial results showed a promising phenotypic characterization, which our professor, Jennifer Bonner, had previously established. Further experiments have allowed us to theorize possible molecular interactions that ethanol has with these neurons and their molecular guidance cues, such as robo2. This research proves interesting because of the high popularity of ethanol and the surprising lack of information on the topic.

Effects of Ethanol on Zebrafish Circadian Rhythms

Faculty Sponsor: *Jennifer Bonner, Biology*

Presenters: Zachary Knecht '11 and Charles Sadle '11

This presentation builds on our summer research to adjust fly activity monitors to record circadian rhythm activity patterns in zebra fish and then to determine the behavioral consequences of ethanol exposure during vertebrate development. Previous work in our lab has focused on the effects of ethanol exposure on spinal cord development at the cellular level, so our group is now working to understand these effects on a behavioral level.

SESSION 52 – The Early Modern Era 1400-1850

4:00 – 5:00 PM

Tisch Learning Center 201

The Spring History Colloquium: The Early Modern Era 1400-1850

Faculty Sponsor: *Erica Bastress-Dukehart, History*

Presenters: Elizabeth Gronquist '11, Matthew Kelsey '11, David Inkeles '11

This presentation includes three papers from the Spring History Colloquium Class: "Transportation as a Form of Punishment and the Discourse of Colonial and Common Law in 18th- and 19th-Century Britain and Empire," "The Unthinkable History of the Haitian Revolution in the USA," and "The Extent to Which the Ideals of the American Enlightenment were Compromised by the Prolonging of United States Slavery in 18th-Century Virginia."

SESSION 53 – Into the Fog

4:00 – 5:00 PM Sports Center-Dance Studio 2

Into The Fog

Faculty Sponsor: Alma Becker, Theater

Presenters: Samuel Szabo '11, Grady Gund '12, Alex Kraft '12, Kelsey Lawler '13, Anna Long '11, Olivia Nielsen '13, Jeremy Ohringer '13, Brittany Perlmutter '13, Elly Smokler '11, Alex Stern '14, Grace Troxell '13, Gaia Waisbrod '11

INTO THE FOG is a study of the relationship between dance and theater, inspired by Yuri Norstein's *HEDGEHOG IN THE FOG*. An ensemble of actors and dancers have collaborated to devise an original work interpreting Norstein's story with an eclectic mix of music ranging from Jonsi to John Adams.

SESSION 54 – Marketing Art & Fashion

3:45 – 5:00 PM Somers Rm – Tang

An Online Handbag Customization Service

Faculty Sponsor: Doretta Miller, Art

Presenter: Eloise Nicoll '11

I created a start-up business plan for an online customizable handbag service that features my own fabric designs and patterns. This project offers a chance for women to influence the styling and dimensional aspects of an essential everyday product. My own handbags and a poster of the plan will be on display.

Changing Fashion, Changing Identity: A Comparison of the Effects of Politics on Women's Fashion in the United States during the 1960s and 1970s.

Faculty Sponsor: Kate Graney, Government

Presenter: Meredith Robinson '11

My project is part written and part sewn. I will have three outfits displayed on mannequins alongside a portfolio of sketches and images taken throughout the creative process as well as my

written paper, which accompanies the sewn outfits.

Marketing the Arts at Skidmore

Faculty Sponsor: Christine Page, Management & Business

Presenter: Jared Greenbaum '11

As a culmination of my Self-Determined Major in Arts Administration, my senior project has resulted in a marketing plan proposal for the Theater, Music, Dance, and Studio Art Departments at Skidmore. The Treuhaft Fund for Art Technology supported this project.

SESSION 55 – Environmental Art Labyrinth

All Day Tang Facing Pond Green

Environmental Art Labyrinth

Faculty Sponsor: Alison Barnes, English

Presenters: Sarah Marks '13, Emily Hudspeth '13, Kim Delli Paoli '13

Our environmental art group was inspired to install a labyrinth made of natural materials from the Northwoods. We hope to unite the community in this unique experience as we walk to reflect, think, and find peace. Not only are labyrinths peaceful, but they also are beautiful additions to the landscape.