

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

SKIDMORE COLLEGE

Spring 2013

Dear Students,

With the reelection of President Barack Obama and the start of a new Congress, Government majors and faculty at Skidmore are examining the prospects for bipartisan support to reduce government debt while maintaining social cohesion and national defense. In foreign affairs, all eyes are on what the President intends to do (and can actually do) to advance national and international interests as he embarks on the first foreign trip of his new term. From the Sahel to the Levant, from Syria to Iran and North Korea, and from drones to cyber attacks, no President can rivet on domestic politics alone.

With such an exciting backdrop at home and abroad, Government majors remain intrepid as they apply what they learn in the classroom and library to the political world. David Solomon '13 and Aaron Shifreen '13 did just that when they participated in the recent annual international Student Conference on United States Affairs at West Point. Not to be outshone, Olivia Kinnear '15 led a delegation of students to the McGill University Model United Nations conference in Montreal (accompanied by faculty advisor Dr. Feryaz Ocakli). David Solomon is a finalist for a Fulbright fellowship in Kunming, China, where he hopes to study shifting social values among youth through the medium of hip-hop culture; in addition, David was accepted by the Department of State to attend its Critical Language Scholarship Program this summer. The program affords him the opportunity to study intensive Mandarin in Suzhou, China.

We are very happy that Dr. Flagg Taylor has received tenure and promotion to the rank of Associate Professor, and we welcome Prof. Kate Graney, who is glad to be back in the classroom and looking forward to accompanying Model EU students to their simulation in April.

Your professors remain active in the field. Dr. Ocakli conducted research at the British National Archives and the British Library on the formation of legal institutions in the Mandate of Palestine and interviewed experts not only at Oxford University but at Istanbul Sehir University. Dr. Ocakli also presented papers on civil society-political party linkages at the New England Middle East Politics workshop at Brandeis. Dr. Burns is presenting papers or giving talks at numerous colleges and conferences, including the Midwest Political Science Association, and is awaiting publication of two new journal articles. This month, Prof. Natalie Taylor presents her paper, "True Grit: The State of Nature, the Rule of Law, and the Making of America," at the Western Political Science Association annual meeting.

Dr. Flagg Taylor continues to interview former Czech political dissidents while editing his forthcoming book with Kansas University Press: *The Contested Removal Power, 1789-2010*. The Joseph C. Palamountain Jr. Chair in Government, Ron Seyb, is preparing to embark on a well-deserved yearlong sabbatical starting this Fall. He has conducted research at Yale University's collection of the Walter Lippmann Papers and has given talks for alumni associations in Florida. One of our professorial colleagues in the College administration is especially busy. His name is Dr. Beau Breslin, Vice-President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty, who began his term in this office last Fall. We're glad to have Beau, a student of constitutional law, on the fourth floor of Palamountain—even though our students miss having him in class.

The Department is also delighted to welcome this Fall two political science colleagues: Visiting Assistant Professor Helen Knowles of Grinnell College, who will teach such topics as judicial process and constitutional law, and Visiting Lecturer Natalie Priya Johnson of SUNYA, who will teach such topics as women and politics, American presidency, and public policy.

Barbara McDonough and the Department assistants have done a great job redesigning the hallway bulletin boards, which now highlight student interests/photographs and Fall course descriptions. Also deserving of kudos is Jean-Ann Kubler '13, who lent her able editorial expertise in producing the newsletter. Have a close look at our newsletter to read about student experiences here at the College and further afield, upcoming events, including the Kuroda seminar, Fall term course offerings, and student and faculty news.

In sum, we recognize that it takes professors and students together to make the classroom an exciting place to study, learn, and grow. Indeed, as this newsletter demonstrates, our Department is a driving engine of intellectual energy for students and faculty alike. As a department we feel we are in a good place at a good time and invite you to work closely with us to continue to enhance curricular and co-curricular activities.

Sincerely,
Roy H. Ginsberg, Chair, Department of Government

WELCOMING NEW FACULTY

INTRODUCING PROFESSOR NATALIE JOHNSON



Hello Skidmore!

My name is Natalie Johnson and I am currently finishing up my Ph.D. in Political Science at the University at Albany. I'm excited to be joining the Government Department for the 2013 - 2014 academic year, during which I'll be teaching a range of American Government classes. I'm originally from the United Kingdom, where I studied American Studies as an undergraduate. During my time studying abroad at Le Moyne College in Syracuse, NY I took my first women and politics class. At that time I knew I wanted to pursue a career in teaching with a focus on gender and sexuality.

Through my research, I examine the role of courts in the policymaking process, specifically looking at the way judges differentiate between groups of people depending on their gender and sexuality. Specifically in my teaching, I look at American political institutions through a developmental lens to examine change over time. In my fall class, the United States Presidency, we will explore the ever-changing role of the presidency from the founding until the present, looking specifically at the aggrandizement of power during the modern presidency. I always enjoy teaching on women and politics so I will be teaching a topics course on Women, Politics and Power. During this last election cycle the role of women has been even more prominent. I look

forward to sharing my teaching and research expertise with students at Skidmore.

Outside teaching and research I enjoy running and spending time with family and friends. I've completed two marathons and a half marathon and I'm looking forward to running around the Skidmore campus! I also enjoy going to the movies and love awards season! While I'm at Skidmore if you want to talk about anything related to my teaching and research interests or my outside hobbies, please stop by my office!

Thank you to the following students and alumni who have contributed to this edition of the newsletter:

Matt Choi, Wyatt Erchak, David Goroff, Brendan James, Marcella Jewell, Connor Grant-Knight, Olivia Kinnear, Jean-Ann Kubler, Andrew Lowy, Alex Miller, Ellie Nichols, Jesse Shayne, Andy Shi, Aaron Shifreen, David Solomon, Beal St. George, Jimmy Stannitz, and Jeremy Wood

WELCOMING NEW FACULTY

INTRODUCING PROFESSOR HELEN KNOWLES

During my first year at college I fell in love. However, I was not attracted to a sentient being; rather, the object of my affection was the U.S. Constitution (of course, one could engage in an intellectual debate about whether that document is a sentient being, but this does not seem like the appropriate forum for that discussion). The concept of a written constitution that served to limit the government, and empower and protect the populace was, to someone born and raised in England, deeply intriguing.

And so, in one passionate moment in an introductory American politics and history course at college in Liverpool was born my fascination with the U.S. Constitution. Four years later, during the first five minutes of American Constitutional Law in graduate school, I began affairs with decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court. The rest is history...

All this serves to say that I am deeply passionate about the stuff I teach and research, and I try hard to convey my enthusiasm for that material to my students. If you are contemplating registering for one of my courses, however, I should warn you about the following: I will try to be there for you when you find out those things about the Constitution and the U.S. Supreme Court (and American politics generally) that lead you to question whether you want a committed relationship with any of them. However, my sympathy will come with words of reality.

I will *expect* you to question and critically analyze what you learn about, and to do so in work that exhibits very high standards of writing (you might just have to tolerate my English (as opposed to American) grammar foibles). This is because I want you to succeed while in college and then later in the post-graduate world.

For better or worse, I am the author of the first book about U.S. Supreme Court Justice Kennedy (I still find it amusing that the title – *The Tie Goes to Freedom* – was adapted from a line in an opinion in a court case in which the victorious party was Playboy Entertainment). I am currently working on two other book projects. The first is a volume of essays, which I am co-editing, about the free speech jurisprudence of numerous members of the Court.

The second is a solo project examining nineteenth century antislavery constitutionalism. This diverse set of research interests reflects the fact that I am happiest describing myself as a political-historical constitutionalist even though my Ph.D. certificate (from Boston University) indicates that at some point in time someone saw fit to identify me as a political scientist. I bring this diversity of interests to my teaching, and over the past ten years I have offered a broad range of courses.

Beyond my work...Coming with me to Saratoga Springs will be my equine companion, a 10 year-old paint Thoroughbred gelding named Doc. That name is short for "Judicial Doctrine," which sounds like rather a sad name given what I teach and write about! However, when I rescued him from the place where he was being neglected he was called "Doc Holliday"; I could not bear calling my horse after a consumptive dentist.



I do have a personal website – www.helenknowles.com (warning, it is not very sophisticated) – where you can find out more about my interests. Amongst other things, it explains my English soccer fanaticism, and tells you why you definitely should not come to class wearing a Liverpool or Manchester United team shirt (or, for that matter, a Yankees cap)!

Once upon a time I did call England home. However, in so many ways the northeastern U.S. has been my true home for almost 20 years. Lamentably, family issues temporarily took me west, and during the past three years I plied my professorial trade at two small liberal arts colleges: Whitman College (Walla Walla, WA) and Grinnell College in Iowa. I am thrilled to be returning to the northeast, and am very excited to be joining the Government Department at Skidmore.

I look forward to meeting you all in the Fall. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to email me: h.j.knowles@gmail.com.

THINKING AHEAD: NETWORKING 101 FOR GOVERNMENT MAJORS

Professor Bob Turner

The most important skill for finding jobs and internships is networking. The Government Department has an amazing array of alums, in almost every possible field, who are willing to talk to current students about internships, jobs, and graduate school. As you begin your employment search, this network is a great way for you to take advantage of our growing network of GO alums for contacts and networking.

I have created a network of Skidmore Government alums on the LinkedIn.com social networking site. LinkedIn is like Facebook for professionals and careers. It is a way for our alums and current students to connect with others working in similar fields.

Once you add me as a contact, you can contact all of the people in my network about job leads, interviews and ideas. I currently have about 300 contacts (and growing) that are a mix of Government and ES majors. There is also a LinkedIn Skidmore Government Majors group you should join. I also post job announcements, scholarships, and other career related information on the site.

There is also a Facebook group called Skidmore Political Alumni Club of DC you can join. It is a way to connect with our alums in DC. Adam Brand and Ryan Greer have graciously offered to help any alum who is going to DC with networking on the Hill and beyond.

A third source is the Opportunities in Public Affairs newsletter electronically. It has loads of jobs and internships in Government Affairs & Policy, Public Relations & Advocacy, Media & Journalism, and Entry Level positions. The jobs are on Capitol Hill, in non-profits, think tanks, institutions, the government, and in corporations and professional firms.

To read *Opportunities in Public Affairs* on-line, go to
http://www.opajobs.com/login_subs.php
 User Id: skidmore Password: saratoga
 The OPA is one of the best job/internship sources for DC.

PROFESSOR BRESLIN ACCEPTS NEW POSITION



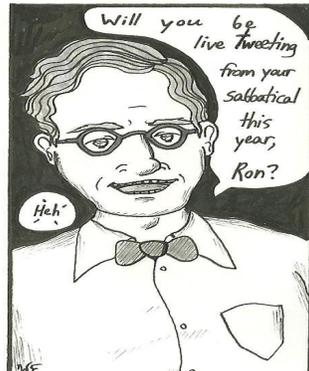
Professor Beau Breslin with David Goroff '14, Jeremy Wood '13, Jean-Ann Kubler '13, Aaron Shifreen '13, Andrew Lowy '15, and Ethan Flume '13

David Goroff '14

Professor Beau Breslin has moved from his role as Assistant Dean of the Faculty and Dean of the First Year Experience, to become Dean of the Faculty and Vice President for Academic Affairs, a role he held on an interim basis for the past year. A graduate of Hobart College and the University of Pennsylvania, Breslin—a die-hard Alabama fan—became a member of the faculty in 1998. He was formerly Chair of the Government Department and was its Constitutional Law professor; he taught courses such as *Courts, Politics, and Judicial Process In The United States*, and *Constitutional Law*.

More recently, Breslin taught the Scribner Seminar *American Liberties*, and is shown above with former students from that seminar. Breslin's teaching style is remembered by students with both fondness and a little bit of fear—a fan of the Socratic Method, Breslin's Scribner Seminar quickly earned a reputation as one of the hardest offered on campus. Said Breslin of his new position, I look "forward to working with faculty, students, and staff to find creative and innovative ways to realize our greatest aspirations."

Seybfeld

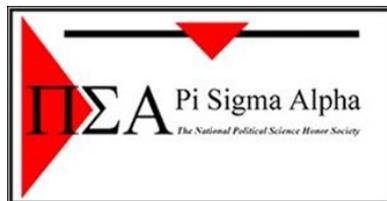


CURIOUS GEORGE FŹxà VhZÛä Źÿ PROFESSOR VACS AND THE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT



Curious George often visits the department on Tuesdays and Thursdays. *Curious* is thought to be six and a half years old and is a mix of terrier, poodle and shitzu!

The Department of Government congratulates our new and current member of the Tau Gamma chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honor Society.



Class of 2013

Margaret Abernethy, Jean Ann Kubler, Alex Miller, Elena Nichols, Daniel Raudonis, Aaron Shifreen, Shelby Smith, David Solomon, Jeremy Wood

Class of 2014

Matthew Choi, Wilson Gibbons, David Goroff, Christopher Hoch, Kyle LaVecchia, Jesse Shayne, Nicole Shepherd, Noah Throop

ABRAHAM LINCOLN SNOW SCULPTURE CONTEST

Earlier this semester, while anticipating the February 8th snowstorm a challenge was issued to government students to build a snow sculpture of Abraham Lincoln on the Skidmore quad. Professors Tim Burns, Ron Seyb and Flagg Taylor sponsored the contest with first and second place prizes awarded to the winners

Judging, by Professor Taylor, took place and the winners were:



Jessica Dunning with her first place entry.



Chrissy Popovski 's second place entry.

Congratulations and thanks for celebrating Lincoln's birthday!

EVENT PREVIEW: WHAT WOULD YOU ADD TO THE CONSTITUTION?

On April 4th, 2013, the *We The People* exhibit in the Tang will hold its last event, which will focus on the seemingly simple question, "What would you add to the Constitution?" A panel led by Dean of the Faculty and Vice President of Academic Affairs Beau Breslin and Government major David Goroff '14, and consisting of Government major Jean-Ann Kubler, '13 and English major Kate Cavanaugh '14, and Government Department professors Natalie Taylor, Ron Seyb, and Flagg Taylor, will dive head first into some of the pressing challenges facing the Constitution in the contemporary world. Join them, and hear lively discussion about topics ranging from the Equal Rights Amendment, to the Electoral College, to the Second Amendment. Conversation will be based in no small part on the *We The People* guest book, which has allowed visitors to engage in a lively, sometimes witty dialogue on the strengths and weaknesses of the U.S. Constitution. Excerpts from the guest book are available online on *The Tang's* website.

FRANKLIN FORUM HOSTS “LINCOLN’S MORAL REVOLUTION”

Connor Grant-Knight, '15, Franklin Forum President

This past winter, I had the pleasure of working with Government department administrative assistant Barbara McDonough to bring to campus Dr. Danilo Petranovich of the Political Science Department of Yale University.

The speaker, whose visit was sponsored by the Franklin Forum, the Speakers Bureau, and the Departments of Government and American Studies, delivered a new lecture, “Lincoln’s Moral Revolution,” to a fully packed room of fifty students and faculty members

In his talk, Dr. Petranovich contended that Lincoln was an abolitionist long before he issued the January 1st, 1863 Emancipation Proclamation: in the 1850s, he argued, Lincoln intentionally stirred the passions of the North so that they would morally condemn slavery and engage the South in a civil war to eventually destroy that institution.

Dr. Petranovich’s thesis was provocative, presenting Lincoln as it did in an almost Machiavellian light and contradicting the common academic conception of him that until the Emancipation Proclamation, Lincoln was not an abolitionist, but rather only anti-slavery—that is, against slavery’s expansion, but not in favor of destroying it where it existed. Indeed, Lincoln himself presented his position as anti-slavery, a fact that Dr. Petranovich did not hesitate to concede. Even during the war, it was only upon the Emancipation Proclamation that he made abolition his explicit goal.

Yet Dr. Petranovich argued that Lincoln had actually intended the abolition of slavery from the start, and that he understood civil war to be the only way to accomplish that task. In his pre-presidential speeches, Dr. Petranovich explained, Lincoln focused almost exclusively on the problem of slavery’s expansion into the western territories, using particularly moral—not economic—anti-slavery arguments.

In doing so, he was able to evoke stronger, more visceral reactions from his crowds than would have been possible by appealing merely to their desire to maintain economic superiority over the South.

Dr. Petranovich presented Lin-



coln as deliberate also in his selection of the crowds to which he would speak. He did not seek the following of skeptics, but rather sought to build support first among a strong core of anti-slavery advocates, seeking to spread his message to outer circles only after winning that base.

When he entered the Illinois Senate race in 1858, Dr. Petranovich stated, Lincoln “hounded” his debate opponent Senator Stephen Douglas, insisting that they address the question of slavery.

He became increasingly a “one-issue politician,” able to align hatred of slavery with a vision of the country in a way that surpassed even the ability of the abolitionists. Using the language of the Declaration of Independence, he effectively characterized America’s halting of slavery as a second revolution.

This rhetoric scared many in the North, who recalled the bloody war that marked the first revolution. Lincoln’s early invocation of the war-connoted Declaration was not accidental, though, for later, in his November 19th, 1863 Gettysburg Address, he would explicitly present the

war as an attempt to make good on the Declaration’s principles by bringing about a “new birth of freedom.” It was this glorious end, Dr. Petranovich contended, for which Lincoln, through a moral revolution, created the conditions in the North over a decade before the war began.

The Franklin Forum reading group, which continues to meet each Sunday night—though now in take-college-seriously business

casual—profited enormously from Dr. Petranovich in its discussions following the event, we approached the reading of Lincoln’s 1838 Lyceum Address, Gettysburg Address, and Second Inaugural Speech with

a radically new conception of Lincoln, entertaining the possibility that

he was a secret abolitionist whose every word was laced with political ambition and foreshadowed the great war to come; or—in the cases of the Gettysburg Address and Second Inaugural Speech—whose every word was chosen with great discrimination to describe the new state of freedom in which the union would now exist and for which he had so long intended to bring about.

The Second Inaugural was especially thought provoking in light of the talk, which raised questions regarding the moral responsibility of those involved in the war. (Who was responsible for causing the war? Was it God? The South? The North?)

And if one of the latter, how morally culpable should it be judged, including those of its inhabitants who were of a contrary opinion?). For the question necessarily arose, *What if it was Lincoln himself who was responsible? How, then, must we think about the responsibility of the South?*

LAUNCHING SKIDMORE EMS



Government major David Goroff '14, working with the Dean of Students, Departments of Health Services, and Campus Safety, has founded Skidmore College EMS, a New York State certified Basic Life Support First Response Emergency Medical Service.

Skidmore College EMS (SCEMS) will answer calls for medical assistance on campus and strive to provide a high level of confidential and professional emergency medical care to the Skidmore community. It will also provide students with invaluable hands on medical experience and leadership training that will follow them into their professional endeavors.

Of the experience of founding the agency--which involved writing 126 pages of standard operating guidelines, presenting to SGA, President's cabinet and the Board of Trustees, as well as countless hours of meetings--Goroff joked, "I was reminded of what Richard Armev said when he left Academia for Congress—he left because 'he couldn't stand the politics.'"

He continued, "I was able to apply what I had learned about government and politics in class to working around the myriad of government agencies and Skidmore committees and advisory boards and political nightmares." SCEMS starts taking calls for help later this month.



The Franklin Forum always welcomes new members!

Meetings are held each Sunday at 8:30pm in the Honors Forum Lounge, Ladd 321.

Email Connor Grant-Knight (cgrantkn@skidmore.edu), or faculty advisor Professor Flagg Taylor (ftaylor@skidmore.edu) for more information.

The Franklin Forum will soon be taking its curiosity on the road, as we will be traveling to and staying the weekend at the Turning Stone Resort in Verona, New York, from April 18th-20th, 2013, for the Alexander Hamilton Institute's Sixth Annual Carl B. Menges Colloquium, the topic of which this year is the thought of Samuel Huntington, the prominent 20th-century social and political theorist. In preparation for the event, we will read excerpts from the theorist's work and prepare questions about them that we, as collegiate members of the audience, will be able to ask the colloquium's expert panel.

And there's more! On the weekend of April 26th, we will be hosting at the Surrey Inn Professor of Political Science at Loyola College Diana Schaub, one of the three editors of the anthology we are reading this semester, *What So Proudly We Hail: The American Soul in Story, Speech, and Song*. It will be an honor and pleasure to speak with her about the readings that she helped hand-pick, and to dig that much deeper into the questions that we must ask ourselves as citizens of our particular and exceptional regime.

WE THE PEOPLE: TVYZZĲ Y Wĥ ǎf DĲZh Xy VĲǎ



On January 31, Government major Jean-Ann Kubler '13 led a workshop titled "Government By and For the People," as part of the We The People exhibition at the Tang Teaching Museum. During the event, participants broke up into small groups to discuss the ideals of, and obstacles to, contemporary democratic government. Kubler developed the workshop as part of a summer research fellowship with the Roosevelt Institute, a progressive policy think tank.

Photos by Andrzej Pilarczyk



THE ART OF MANIPULATING THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IN EAST STROUDSBURG, PA

Jimmy Stanitz, '15

"The European Union is one of the causes of our weakened state," asserted Front National member of the European Parliament, Marine Le Pen, to an audience at Cambridge University this past February. Ms. Le Pen is one of the many fascinating characters that Skidmore's Model European Union team will have the pleasure of encountering during this year's upcoming EUROSIM simulation.

Representing ambassadors, heads of government, and cabinet ministers of justice for the nations of Belgium and Cyprus, Skidmore's Model EU team is looking forward to a heated four days of debate over the European Union's cyber security directive at the EUROSIM conference this spring at East Stroudsburg University in Pennsylvania. Jesse Ritner '15, Roz Rothwell '14, Corinna Goodman '16, Carmen Lin '16, Anya Hein '15, and Jimmy Stanitz '15 have been diligently scanning EU cyber security documents, reading articles about the intricate structure of the EU, and presenting Power Points about the EU to each other in order to prepare for this conference.

Critiquing other teammates' research skills is the hallmark of the Model EU preparation process for the EUROSIM Conference. Each delegate whets their research abilities through the navigation of foreign news sites, scholarly articles, and disorganized European Parliament Parties' websites. The adventure that comes with deciphering sources in foreign languages and decoding European Parliament legislation makes researching one's EUROSIM alter ego a thrilling and

enjoyable process. Furthermore, participants gain valuable public speaking and teamwork skills through the EUROSIM preparation process. Club members critique each other's parliamentary form, composure, and impromptu argumentative skills through brief mock European Parliament simulations. Additionally, students from other colleges and universities contact Skidmore's EUROSIM team before the conference in order to form political alliances and to discuss backstabbing other members and parties in parliament before the conference begins. This form of teamwork is much more thrilling than the average group project done in class at Skidmore.

Model EU members also have the privilege of meeting other EUROSIM participants who come from a wide variety of backgrounds, since the conference is made up of half European and half American colleges and universities. Meeting students from diverse backgrounds makes the alliance forming stage of the preparation process truly enjoyable. Finally, the club's preparation pays off when individual members get to experience the thrill of inserting their own nationalistic or party interest into EU legislation through strategic deal making.

The club is looking forward to enhancing its knowledge of European Politics this coming April thanks to the support of the Government Department, SGA, and its advisor, Professor Kate Graney.

EXPLORING WEST POINT WITH SCUSA

Each autumn, The United States Military Academy in West Point, New York, opens its doors for three days to a select group of students from around the country for the annual Student Conference on United States Affairs (SCUSA). This conference, which has been an annual event at West Point since 1949, was originally created in order to build connections between military and civilian students in order to bridge connections between the two sectors in the future. This fall, two Government majors, Aaron Shifreen '13 and David Solomon '13, attended the conference. Read about their experiences below:

TIS THE SEASON?

Aaron Shifreen '13



This year's SCUSA theme was "Leading in Lean Times: Assuring Accountability and Assessing American Priorities in an Age of Austerity." The conference was divided into multiple roundtables, each led by two policy experts: one from the military field, and the other from academic or civilian life. My group's discussion topic was "Tis the Season?: US Democracy Promotion After the Arab Spring," and was composed of twenty students ranging from Sophomores to Seniors.

We discussed cost effective, long term solutions that would not only promote democracy within countries such as Libya, Tunisia, and Egypt, but would also strengthen each countries relationship with the United States and its citizens. We wrote a two-page memo that summarized our main suggestions to the US Department of State and the Obama Administration.

While the conference was very work intensive, there were a variety of guest speakers that spoke to all the delegates at the conference. The keynote speaker was Susan Eisenhower, granddaughter of President Dwight Eisenhower, and a policy expert on nuclear policy. In her speech, she emphasized the role of cooperation in the future and the importance of the US in global security. There were also multiple roundtables discussions with policy experts from both the military and civilian fields, with ample opportunities for questions and discussions.

The conference also provided delegates with a great chance to network with both cadets and college students from across the country. Through social events, such as weapons displays, tours, and receptions, all the delegates were able to learn more about each other and themselves throughout the conference. SCUSA was a great opportunity to see familiar policy areas from new perspectives, and learn more about military and civilian lifestyles in order to create a better future.

SERVING ON THE US-SINO ROUNDTABLE

David Solomon '13

Serving on the US-Sino Relations roundtable, I spent four days discussing major security and foreign policy issues with fifteen other young men and women, each intrigued and motivated by the rising importance of the this trans-Pacific relationship.

Advised by two leading foreign policy experts—although they played a subtle role and let the students take initiative—our group put together a foreign policy brief that included strategies for US involvement with China. This included focusing on rising security risks in the South and East China Seas, maintaining economic stability in Asia, and promoting stronger human rights standards. We eventually presented this policy brief at the final ceremony, where we also listened to briefs offered by each group.

Arriving to West Point in a blizzard, the experience began in a surreal fashion (I felt like I was pursuing a James Bond mission in the Swiss Alps.). The sidewalks of the beautiful campus were slippery and the snow was

blinding, yet 250 students from around the US—as well as several international students—flooded the scene, each eager to participate on his/her roundtable.

After eating dinner and introducing ourselves to one another the first night, we attended a panel session in a grand room that included men and women speaking from various perspectives, each connected to the military. One represented military relationship to business, another to the environment and two others that spoke from a more hands-on perspective on the current state of the US Army.

Following this panel sessions were three days of roundtable sessions. My group met on the fifth floor of a beautiful library building and discussed our knowledge of US-Sino relations, sharing our thoughts for how to continue improving them.

Led by Taiwanese-American Cadet Tim Chen—a diligent, but fun-loving young man, with whom I have remained in close touch—we outlined our policy goals, each speaking honestly about what we saw as necessary or unnecessary, productive or unproductive, worthy of our time and energy or unworthy. This was a fantastic experience, which surrounded me with other young men and women who, like me, are fascinated by this increasingly vital international relationship

Most importantly, these discussions provided a military perspective on the relationship, going beyond the political, economic, and cultural standpoints from which I normally consider the US-Sino relationship. I came to better understand that relations between the US and China will extend far beyond these mere politics and economics, as a growing Chinese military shifts the relative power structure in international relations.



In addition to this roundtable experience, we heard a keynote address from Susan Eisenhower, the granddaughter of the late President Dwight Eisenhower.

Her engaging address about security and energy policy added yet another interesting element to this dynamic conference. The following reception also included a cadet *a capella* performance. The final night of the four-day conference concluded with a night out at a popular student bar on campus, where we celebrated my birthday, which began that midnight.

My participation in SCUSA was a highly rewarding opportunity. I have become increasingly engaged and interested in military affairs in the US and the vital importance of US military engagement with China.

As I continue to develop my interest in US-Sino relations, I expect to keep military perspective on my radar. I can thank SCUSA for opening my

GETTING AROUND GUN CONTROL LAWS, STEP ONE: GO TO A GUN SHOW

Andrew Lowy '15

Following the tragic school shooting in Newtown, the nation has continued to grapple with gun control. Addressing the issue, Vice-President Biden has approached it at a national level while Governor Cuomo has already approved heightened restrictions at the state level. But what is being done locally, here in Saratoga?

The recently formed Saratogians for Gun Safety is dedicated to cancelling the gun shows held multiple times a year at the Saratoga Civic Center. There are several loopholes in legally buying a gun at a show. Federal law mandates firearm businesses to obtain a Federal Firearm License (FFL) and undertake the responsibility of conducting background checks on all buyers while maintaining records of every sale.

But private sales are exempt. Vendors selling from private collections have no obligation to keep records, conduct background checks, or even look at a customer's driver's license. Since both private vendors and FFLs sell at gun shows, there is an apparent danger when only a portion of vendors runs background checks and keeps records.

New York State requires an FFL to serve as a middleman in all private sales. This ensures that background checks occur and records are kept as guns pass from private vendors, to FFLs, to customers. However, this law is not always followed. Just last year, illegal sales were discovered to have taken place in the Civic Center parking lot during a Saratoga gun show; highlighting the problems with placing the burden of precaution on the middleman.

Another gun show loophole is the straw purchase. A straw purchase occurs when a qualified buyer purchases a product for somebody who is otherwise unqualified. In a different context, when a twenty-one year old buys alcohol for a minor, that is a straw purchase.

The FBI reports that ineligible buyers will often pay the vendor as a straw purchaser fills out the necessary paperwork simultaneously—a clear indication of an illegal purchase. In 2009, New York City put these vendors to the test.

Sending undercover investigators into multiple gun shows, the investigation staged straw purchases to see if vendors would cancel transactions as they become discernibly illegal.

Despite clearly facilitating a straw purchase—some even acknowledging such—94 percent of the test subjects completed the transaction anyway. That is, 94 percent of those dealers knowingly committed a felony. To further put the dangers of straw purchases in perspective, all weapons used in the Columbine shooting were obtained through a straw purchase.

Saratogians for Gun Safety's mission is to reduce the danger of these—and other—loopholes, not by reducing or belittling 2nd Amendment rights, but by removing the gun shows from downtown.

And while the shows still occur, through protests, petitions, and appearances before various local governing bodies (including the school board meeting held at the Tang), Saratogians for Gun Safety continues to advance their cause.

MODEL UN AT MCGILL

Olivia Kinnear '15

In January, seven Skidmore students travelled to Montreal, QC, Canada for a Model United Nations Conference. Over one thousand students were in attendance at McMun, hosted by McGill University. Most people were from Canada or the United States, but there were schools from all over, including the United Kingdom and China. It was the most diverse McMun conference to date. Model UN is a student simulation of the proceedings--past, present, and future--of the United Nations.

Skidmore's Model UN Club is composed of Olivia Kinnear '15, Jimmy Stanitz '15, Ellie Aronowsky '15, Sara Gagnon '15, Michael Casagrande '15, Stephanie Strong '15, and Aaron Lewis '16. The group drove to Montreal on the morning of January 24th and returned to Skidmore on the evening of the 27th. The four-day conference was a whirlwind of events. Opening ceremonies started promptly at 6 pm the first day with key note speaker former Canadian Ambassador Heinbecker. Mr. Heinbecker spoke prodigiously about Canada's place in the world.

After a short dinner break, committee sessions immediately began. It was a fast-paced four days, with early mornings and late nights allowing for very little rest as delegates frantically tried to pass their resolutions, make (and break) alliances, and just simply be heard—no small feat in some of the larger committees with over one hundred people.

There was no shortage of drama, intrigue, hard work, and terrible country puns (Your Djibouti is so big, I can see it from over here). The entire group left Montreal exhausted, but satisfied. Our very own Aaron Lewis won The Book Award in his economics committee--it was literally a book on economics--a very notable accomplishment.

Next year Model UN has set its sights on Italy!

Attention Junior Government Majors!

Are you eligible to
and interested in writing a
senior honors thesis?

If so, read our guidelines and
timeline for this yearlong
process on the web at

<http://cms.skidmore.edu/>

RESEARCH AND SIGHTSEEING IN SCANDINAVIA

Aaron Shifreen '13

During the last week of winter break, I had the unique opportunity to accompany Dr. Ginsberg to Copenhagen, Denmark; Malmö, Sweden; and Oslo, Norway on behalf of the State Department to co-present on "Continuity and Change in the Transatlantic Relationship during the Second Obama Administration." We met with a variety of groups, ranging from politically active high school and college students to members of business federations, to government researchers at the Norwegian Parliament. While we were nervous at first about how much each group would be interested in the material we were presenting, every group we met with came with fantastic, intriguing questions from a variety of perspectives that brought new insights into the discussion we were having.

As a research assistant, my role in the preparation and presentation process was to look up facts and information for Dr. Ginsberg that would be conducive to the themes of the discussion. I spent most of my Christmas break taking a few hours a day to commit to research and work towards the creation of the talk. While in Scandinavia, I helped present and answer questions at a variety of lectures.

This trip gave me the opportunity to hear Scandinavian perspectives on the US-EU relationship, and broaden my own knowledge on the topic and discussion. The trip also allowed me to network with political science analysts, policymakers, and experts from around the world, that I would otherwise not have had the opportunity to meet. The highlight of the trip was in Oslo where Dr. Ginsberg and I had the opportunity to meet with the US Ambassador to Norway, Barry White.



While the trip was a lot of work, there was also a fair amount of time for sightseeing as well. As someone who had never been to Europe before, walking around Copenhagen and Oslo was a truly eye opening experience. The unique art and architecture in both cities were beautiful, and having the opportunity to visit the Nobel Peace Prize Hall and Museum in Oslo was a wonderful way to get a sense of the history of the city. Taken together, the trip allowed me to experience new cultures and broaden my academic horizons. I am truly honored and thankful to Dr. Ginsberg and the Government department for the opportunity.

DEMISTIFYING THE INDEPENDENT STUDY

Alex Miller '13

When perusing the Government section of the course catalog one listing appears to be more mysterious than the rest: GO-371 Independent Study. Do not be intimidated by the vagueness of the name, GO-371 is a student's gateway to an unlimited range of topics within the discipline of political science. Furthermore, independent Studies are excellent opportunities to explore topics outside the purview of the courses currently offered by the Department. These intensive courses allow students to work with faculty in the construction of a curriculum that emphasizes those areas that the student is particularly interested in. Although the professor will offer his or her recommendations for the readings for the course, the student has significant leeway to direct the scope of the study.

Professor Natalie Taylor and I are studying the evolution of the American Presidential Selection system through the thinking of the Founders, Thomas Jefferson, Martin Van Buren and the Progressives. The course will culminate with an assessment of the relevancy of the modern convention system in an era of extended candidate centered campaigns. Professor Taylor assigns readings from both secondary and primary sources that illuminate the intellectual and historical underpinnings of our nation's greatest political minds. I recommend that every student considers enrolling in an independent study at some point in their academic career. It is not only an excellent opportunity to acts as a guide for one's own studies, but it is also a great way to get to know a faculty member of the Government Department.

GUIDELINES FOR GAINING FACULTY APPROVAL TO ENROLL IN GO 371: INDEPENDENT STUDY

The Government Department allows students who meet certain criteria to present an independent study proposal to a faculty member. An independent study usually consists of a course of intensive reading on a topic that is not addressed by one of the department's established course offerings. An independent study is not an "entitlement" or a "right." A faculty member might decide not to grant a student's request for an independent study for a variety of reasons, including (but not limited to) an independent study proposal that addresses a topic outside of the faculty member's sphere of competence, a series of other commitments that preclude the faculty member from taking on additional teaching responsibilities in a given semester, or a faculty member's concern that the student may be unable to complete the proposed course of study successfully. A faculty member will not consider an independent study proposal unless the student has met all three of the following criteria: 1) The student has completed at least one course with the faculty member. 2) The student's topic is one that is not addressed by any of the department's course offerings. 3) The student presents to the faculty member some time during the semester prior to the one in which the student hopes to enroll in the independent study a brief description (two or three paragraphs) of the proposed independent study. This description should include a discussion of both the content and the goals of the independent study. The student also will be responsible for working with the faculty member to compile a list of appropriate readings for the independent study.

THESIS DESCRIPTIONS

Three Senior Government majors who are completing GO 375 Thesis Projects share brief descriptions of their research

“Italo-Libyan Relations in the Twentieth Century: The Evolution of Libyan Political Culture” Aaron Shifreen ‘13

My thesis focuses on the relationship between Italy and Libya throughout the 20th century, and the effect of the Italian colonization of Libya on Libyan political culture and the rise of the 2011 Arab Spring and Libyan civil war. The thesis evaluates the growth and evolution of the relationship, and its importance in the rise, as well as the fall, of Colonel Muammar Qaddafi. The final section concludes the paper by looking to the future of Libya, and the growing importance of European-North African relations in the future.

“Testing the Waters: An Historical, Legal, and Theoretical Examination of China’s Policy in the South China Sea” David Solomon ‘13

Territorial conflict in the South China Sea has reached an all-time high recently, as China and its Southeast Asian neighbors posture for sovereignty in the region. Employing social constructivist and neorealist levels of theoretical analysis, this thesis considers the historical and international legal implications of the South China Sea territorial conflict to discern why tension in this region of the world has continued to escalate.

“Fighting the Tide: The Inequitable Balance of Interests in the International Drug Control Regime: How Different Political Cultures Deal with the Externalities of International Drug Trafficking” Jeremy Wood ‘13

My thesis focuses on international drug trafficking and the creation of its control regime under the auspices of the United Nations. The project starts with an explanation of why drug trafficking is a threat to international peace and security. Then, the project proceeds with an explanation of the foundation of the control regime in the early 20th century (1909) up until the goals set by the 20th Special Session of the General Assembly. In that same time period, I analyze the critical moments that led to the creation of the regime, and how that regime is inequitably enforced on countries with divergent political cultures, like Afghanistan and the Netherlands. I chose to focus on these countries in my case studies because of their unique statures in international law and politics.

MOVING SLOWLY, THEN QUICKLY, IN PARIS

Beal St. George '14

What I have learned in one month in Paris: one should never, ever run to catch the *métro*, but must always act as though there is somewhere very important to be. For me, the most striking challenge about living here has been adjusting to the pace of the city; primarily as a result of the language, quotidian activities take much longer—I could spend an hour in the grocery store perusing all of the new foods, or an entire day in the “PhoneHouse” working out the logistics of a pre-paid cell phone.

At Skidmore we complain perpetually about the density of the campus, a fishbowl of activity where the daily commute might take as long as seven minutes. Life moves much more slowly here. Even though I’m now living in a busy city, the French might take a leisurely half hour to *flâner* (stroll) across five city blocks. Paris is divided into *arrondissements* (neighborhoods), each with a different feel. Paris is, in this way, toeing the line between its identity as a cosmopolitan city and as a link to the tranquility of the provincial small towns that lie just beyond its walls.

This seems to be the basis of the contradictions I encounter; I can spend hours in the aisles at the grocery store, but at the checkout counter, I must move quickly. I should take the time to exchange niceties with the neighborhood baker; however, making eye contact with strangers is culturally prohibited. I must eat dinner slowly (any less than two hours at the table is “fast food”), but Parisians are simultaneously obsessed with McDonald’s (nicknamed “*mac-doh*”).

Many people *do* have important places to be, and for this government major, living in the country’s capital city has its perks. I live within walking distance of the French stock exchange; *L’Elysée Palace*, where President François Hollande lives; and *l’Assemblée Nationale*. I’m lucky to be taking multiple government-related courses, and have, living here, been able to apply my knowledge first-hand through visits to these distinguished national sites.

We have studied French political history since the Middle Ages, and are also discussing French political culture and the role of the media. On



January 27th, I went (with hundreds of thousands of French demonstrators—and a very diverse crowd) to the March for Marriage Equality; two weeks later, I watched the National Assembly vote in favor of same-sex marriage and adoption. Being here now, at the culmination of this decision-making, has been an incomparable experience.

I’m also lucky to be taking a class on immigration, another issue that’s at the forefront of political debates in France today. In fact, all of my classes have allowed me to explore the city at a profound level beyond the touristic. As an exchange student, I am clearly studying from an outside perspective; however, I’m beginning to feel more at ease here, to be able to navigate the challenges and understand the contradictions. That’s the vantage point from which Paris lives up to its iconic reputation: yes, the Eiffel Tower is magnificent; yes, there really are cafés on every corner; yes, City Hall sparkles at night; yes, this is the city of light.

REFLECTING ON THE WASHINGTON SEMESTER

Andy Shi '15

If you’re as intrigued by politics as I am, there really is nowhere better to spend a semester than in D.C. I spent my fall semester studying American politics at American University, but hardly any of the learning took place on the campus. A majority of classroom time was spent visiting congressmen and their aides on the Capitol, attending panels hosted by think tanks, and touring the capital’s sites of attraction including the National Archives, the Arlington Cemetery and Smithsonian.

We spoke with lawyers, lobbyists and activists, and the culmination of these experiences introduced an insider’s view of the possible jobs for a government major. Even our homework assignments were far from the usual. We were tasked with lobbying our congressmen, interviewing a professional in the government field (I interviewed a lawyer at Wilmerhale), and preparing for a simulation in which we had to diffuse tensions between Pakistan and India after a terrorist attack in Mumbai by a Pakistani terrorist group.

One of the main components of the learning experience was a part-time internship. Many of my classmates interned at the Capitol; I interned at the American Enterprise Institute, one of the nation’s leading think tanks, as a copyeditor for their online journal, *The American*. Here I was surrounded by politics, and as AEI is a conservative think tank, I was indulged in political

thought I had been wholly ignorant of up until that point.

Although the experiential-learning emphasis in the Washington Semester Program was an enjoyable switch from traditional classroom learning, undoubtedly the best part of my semester was the people I got to know and our conversations. At Skidmore, at least by my personal observation, there is little political discourse outside of government classes and students. In D.C. all talk is political, ranging from the Supreme Court to the economy, foreign affairs and political philosophy. Never have I been so intellectually challenged, and I found myself compelled to sedulously devour knowledge in order to contribute to conversation. On any and every topic that I opined, I was demanded to defend my opinion.

What I truly miss most about D.C. are these colloquies, and to be honest, I left D.C. much more confident in my own abilities to speak, debate and analyze because of these discussions. In D.C. I found people to be like-minded; the city is, after all, the epicenter of political thought.

D.C. isn’t Australia; it isn’t China nor Spain, but it offered something completely different than the aforementioned exotic destinations: introspection, civil and political understanding, personal growth, defined life goals and the excitement of living in one of the world’s most important cities, where many of the world’s most prominent men and women work.

STUDYING THE EUROPEAN UNION AT DIS

Jesse Shayne '14

I am spending the semester studying at the Danish Institute for Study Abroad in Copenhagen, Denmark. The DIS slogan is “Copenhagen as your home, Europe as your classroom,” and the program really lives up to that mantra.

I am on the European Politics core course, and have visited a number of political institutions in Denmark including the Folketing (the Danish Parliament) where we met with a couple of representatives and received a guided tour.

The highlight of the program was a five-day trip to Brussels where we visited many political institutions including the European Commission, the European Parliament, the US Mission to the EU, NATO, and more.

We conducted group interviews with various lobbyists from different member states of the EU. I met with a member of the Netherlands Product Board and a permanent representative of the Netherlands. The former is commercial lobbyist and the latter represents the nation's government. It has been very interesting to develop an understanding of the differences between commercial and political lobbying in the EU. It was also quite fascinating to discern the differences in the lobbying process both between the US and the EU and among the various member states.

I'm taking a course on political leadership with a current member of the European Parliament, Dan Jørgensen, which has granted me even more inside information into the EU political process. Jørgensen is highly involved in EU environmental initiatives and has a youthful perspective given that he was elected to the EP at the tender age of 28.

I live in a themed house with students interested in political and social activism. We meet with various Danish and international NGO's and work with MS Action Aid Denmark, an international NGO. We are helping



them plan and carry out their biggest event of the year, the Tour de Future 2013.

The Tour is a rally against large international companies that deprive poor rural communities of their land in order to grow products for biofuel. While I am a bit conflicted over the idea of protesting against a form of alternative energy, something that I would normally support, the political situation is actually quite dire and therefore important.



LIVE FROM THE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LONDON

Matt Choi '14



is not like a President 2) British democracy functions without clear separation of powers 3) We may very well be headed towards a breakup of the

I'm currently studying in London at the University College of London. UCL is the first secular university in London and I'm told it consistently ranks among the top ten universities in the world.

The School of Public Policy is where I spend most of my class time, taking classes on British politics and international security.

Three things I've learned from my study of British Politics: 1) The Prime Minister

UK as Scotland is voting on its independence next year!

It is a very exciting time to be a government major in Britain since all sorts of reform movements are in the air, including electoral reform, EU reform, and the afore mentioned Scottish independence referendum.

Of course I don't spend all my time in class and London is a wonderfully diverse city to explore. Although overall London is expensive, many cultural institutions are subsidized by the government, making them great weekend excursions for students.

Museums like the Tate Modern and the British Museum rival the finest museums around the world at a price that cannot be beat: free. Speaking of cultural experiences, I've been to several football—I mean soccer—games since I've been here and I've been blown away by the atmosphere at each match.

Although on a map London looks massive, the central areas are quite walkable and I've spent a lot of time just wandering around too, with a raincoat on of course.

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

Tyler Reny '11, has been accepted into the University of Washington Ph.D. program and was offered a research fellowship at their center for the study of race and ethnicity

This fall **Warren Bianchi '12** will attend law school; he has been accepted at Boston University School of Law and Brooklyn Law.

Amy Bergtraesser '11 has been accepted by the University of Michigan Law School.

Brendan James '12 works for Andrew Sullivan at his blog The Dish. Before graduating Skidmore, Brendan joined the staff of journalist Walter Russell Mead's blog *Via Meadia*, writing about foreign affairs, in particular Asia and the Middle East. Last summer he landed a job reporting on Election 2012 for *Yahoo! News*, covering races in the Senate and House, as well as the shifting religious demographics of the GOP. In 2013 Brendan joined The Dish under the roof of *Newsweek* magazine, until Sullivan left the media company and went independent, becoming the first blogger to attempt a totally reader-funded model without advertising or sponsorship. At the Dish, Brendan primarily covers international news such as the war in Mali, elections in Italy, and the resignation of Pope Benedict XVI. He also contributes to the rest of the blog's mash up of culture, science and literature. When he can, Brendan also freelances for magazines such as *Salon*, *The Atlantic* and *The American Interest*. He lives in Washington Heights, New York and has nothing to do with the new reality show that takes place there.

Jean-Ann Kubler '13 accepted a full time position as a Community Relations Coordinator with Success Academy Charter Schools in New York City. Jean-Ann will be working with families in underprivileged neighborhoods to ensure that their students have access to high-quality educational resources.

Alex Miller '13 will spend the summer working at the New York City non-profit organization Food & Water Watch. The organization is dedicated to protecting natural resources and consumers through grassroots advocacy and outreach. The Summer Advocacy and Organizing Internship is based in the DUMBO neighborhood in Brooklyn where he will be working at Food & Water Watch events in New York City, maintaining databases of interested individuals and accruing additional support for the organization's anti-fracking initiative.

This semester **Ellie Nichols '13** is working in NYC at an internship for MB-399 credit. "It's awesome and I'm working at a very cool company called [Art + Commerce](#) where we produce fashion campaigns and run photo-shoots from start-to-finish."

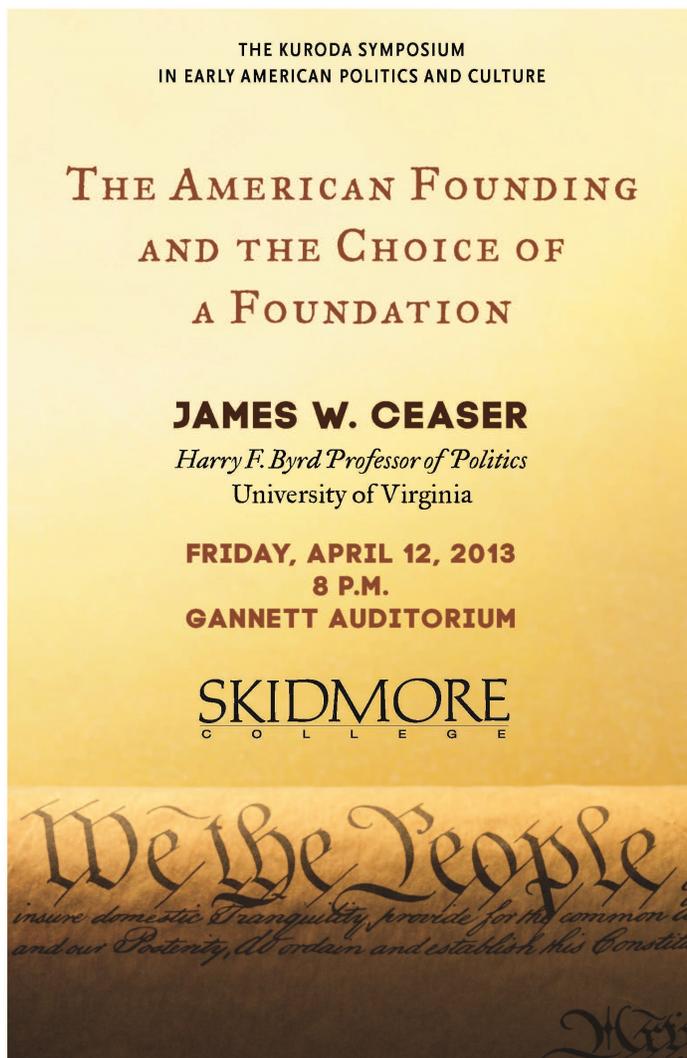
David Solomon '13 was a finalist for a *Fulbright* fellowship in Kunming, China. Based at Yunnan University, he would research shifting social values and expectations among youth through the medium of hip-hop music culture in one of China's fastest rising western cities. He was also a finalist for *Junior Fellow* in the Asia Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

Jeremy Wood '13 will be teaching English at Qufu Normal University in Shandong Province, China during the 2013-2014 academic year. Jeremy is teaching English through Skidmore's Teach in China program.

**The LEVINE INTERNSHIP AWARDS
IN AMERICAN GOVERNMENT,
POLITICS, AND LAW**

Deadline for Summer 2013 is March 29th

KURODA SYMPOSIUM IN EARLY AMERICAN POLITICS AND CULTURE



THE KURODA SYMPOSIUM IN EARLY AMERICAN POLITICS AND CULTURE was established to honor Professor Tadahisa Kuroda's contribution to American history and pedagogy at Skidmore. It is a collaborative effort between the History, Government and American Studies departments.

The symposium's keynote address will be given by James W. Ceaser, Professor of Politics at the University of Virginia, and a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution. Professor Ceaser is the author of several books on American politics and political thought, including *Presidential Selection*, *Liberal Democracy and Political Science*, *Reconstructing America*, *Nature and History in American Political Development*, and *Designing a Polity*. The lecture will be Friday, April 12 at 8 p.m. in Gannett Auditorium and is entitled "The American Founding and the Choice of a Foundation."

A panel is scheduled at the Surrey Inn on Saturday, April 13th at 9 a.m. The panel is comprised of James Ceaser and six Skidmore students, majoring in either American Studies, History, or Government. The students will deliver summaries of papers that they have written for courses within their respective majors. The names of our student panelists and the titles of their papers are listed below.

Connor Grant-Knight, Government

"Lured into Liberty: Tocqueville on How the Americans Channeled Their Love of Material Well-Being to Preserve their Love of Freedom"

Jesse Hardman, Government

"For Charity or Self-Preservation? John Locke's and John Winthrop's Arguments Concerning the Scope and Purpose of Government"

Evan Krasner, American Studies

"John James Audubon: Debunking the Myth of the Early Conservationist"

Jean-Ann Kubler, Government

"Lincoln's Extension of Federalist Concerns"

Ned Porter, History

"John Campbell: An Exploration of the Life of an American Loyalist in New York State"

Sara Vosburg, American Studies

"The Role of Witchcraft in Shaping America's History, Past and Present"

New COURSE DESCRIPTIONS for Fall 2013



GO 201: Principles of International Politics

Professor Roy Ginsberg

A survey of the tumultuous international political events of the 19th to mid-20th century and the big concepts of the period—balance of power, extreme nationalism, diplomacy, and international organization. Students explore the causes and effects of the Napoleonic Wars, the 99 Years' Peace, German and Italian unification, the arms race, and the first and second world wars with special focus on the League of Nations and the United Nations. Students study the Cold War and its thawing following the Cuban Missile Crisis when the Soviets and Americans avoided World War III.

Reading materials include Henry Kissinger's *Diplomacy* and Paul Kennedy's *Rise and Fall of the Great Powers*, GO 201 is an essential foundation for advanced study in international relations. *Prerequisite: GO 103, IA 101, or permission of instructor*

GO 251C: Women, Politics and Power

Professor Natalie Priya Johnson

An overview of the role women have played in politics throughout history — from their emergence as political players in society to breaking the glass ceiling in politics. Throughout the course we will examine a range of topics including the political participation of women; the history of women's movements; voting differences and political divisions amongst women. We will answer the following questions: What factors enhance the chance women will participate? Do women bring different perspectives to politics and leadership? Do they behave differently to men while in office? We will also consider the politics of a number of public policies having a special impact on women — employment discrimination, equal opportunity and motherhood. Particular attention will be devoted to key women in American Politics — including, but not limited to, Hillary Clinton, Sarah Palin, Nancy Pelosi, Ruth Bader Ginsberg and Sonya Sotomayor.



GO 351A: Capitalism and its Critics

Professor Flagg Taylor

Global political events since the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and the demise of Soviet Communism in 1991 seem to herald the triumph of capitalism. Yet even proponents of capitalism acknowledge that this victory has been accompanied by a broad range of political and moral challenges. Our course will focus on the core philosophic arguments both for and against capitalism in an effort to better understand the grounds on which the free market has been praised and blamed. Our goal is to transcend narrowly partisan arguments and to ascend to the permanent questions of political philosophy that are implicated in this debate over the free market: namely, whether capitalism promotes or inhibits the pursuit of virtue and excellence, whether capitalism promotes or inhibits the

quest for justice, whether capitalism promotes or inhibits the realization of human freedom, and whether capitalism promotes or inhibits the sustenance of vibrant communities

New COURSE DESCRIPTIONS for Fall 2013

GO 365: Making States, Building Democracies

Professor Feryaz Ocakli



Why are some countries democratic while others are not? What are the causes and consequences of state building and state collapse? Issues of state making, institutional effectiveness, and state failure are central to global development and security. The conditions under which democracies emerge and are consolidated are also enduring concerns for the scholars of Comparative Politics, as well as policymakers.

This course is an advanced seminar in Comparative Politics. It focuses on state making, institutional effectiveness, state failure, transitions to democracy, and democratic consolidation, among other topics. Students will analyze and discuss some of the classic works in Comparative Politics, as well as cutting-edge research in the field. The course aims to equip students with the analytical skills to assess empirical evidence and to evaluate the validity of causal arguments.

FALL 2013: WHAT COUNTS FOR WHAT?

AMERICAN	COMPARATIVE	INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS	POLITICAL THEORY
GO 211: Courts, Politics, and Judicial Process in the United States (Helen Knowles)	GO 227: Ghengis Khan to Gorbachev: Power and Pol in Russian History (Kate Graney)	GO 309: Latin America and the United States (Aldo Vacs)	GO 204: Classical Political Thought (Tim Burns)
GO 251C: Women, Politics and Power (Natalie Johnson)	GO 239: Nationalism and Pol in the Middle East (Feryaz Ocakli)	GO 201: Principles of International Politics (Roy Ginsberg)	GO 323: Dissident Political Thought (Flagg Taylor)
GO 311: Constitutional Law (Helen Knowles)	GO 365: Making States, Building Democracies (Feryaz Ocakli)		GO 351A: Capitalism and Its Critics (Flagg Taylor)
GO 315: Immigration Politics and Policy (Bob Turner)			
GH 322: The History and Political Thought of the American Revolution (Natalie Taylor and Tillman Nechtman)			
GO 334: The U.S. Presidency (Natalie Johnson)			

**GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT SCHEDULE
FALL 2013**

Burns, Tim - x5247, Ladd 316						F
Classes:	GO 102	Introduction to Political Philosophy	M/W/F	10:10-11:05 AM	Ladd 307	
	GO 204	Classical Political Thought	W/F	12:20-1:40 PM	LI 213	
	SSP 100	American Founding Principles	M/W/F	2:30 - 4:20 PM	TLC 207	
Ginsberg, Roy - x5245, Ladd 314						a
Classes:	GO 103	Intro to Comparative/International Politics	TU/TH	9:40-11:00 AM	Ladd 307	
	GO 201	Principles of International Politics	TU/TH	12:40-2:00 PM	Ladd 207	
Graney, Kate - x5242, Ladd 309						I
Classes:	GO 227	Power and Politics in Russian History	TU/TH	2:10-3:30 PM	Ladd 307	
	GW 101	Intro to Gender Studies	T/TH	11:10 12:30 PM	TLC 203	
	SSP 100	Mother Russia's Daughters and Sons	T/TH	9:10 - 11 AM	TLC 308	
	SSP 100	Mother Russia's Daughters and Sons	M	11:15AM - 12:10PM	TLC 203	
Knowles, Helen - Ladd 308						I
Classes:	GO 101-02	Introduction to American Government	TU/TH	11:10AM -12:30PM	Filene 119	
	GO 211	Courts, Politics and Judicial Process in the U.S.	TU/TH	12:40 -2:00 PM	Filene 119	
	GO 311	Constitutional Law	TU/TH	3:40 - 5:30 PM	Ladd 206	
Johnson, Natalie - Ladd 311						2
Classes:	GO 101-01	Intro to American Government	M/W/F	1:25 - 2:20 PM	Ladd 307	
	GO 251C	Women, Politics and Power	M/W/F	10:10-11:05 AM	Ladd 207	
	GO 334	The United States Presidency	M/W	4:00 - 5:20 PM	Ladd 207	
Ocakli, Feryaz, Ladd 315						0
Classes:	GO 103	Intro to Comparative/International Politics	T/TH	9:05 -10:00 AM	Ladd 307	
	GO 239	Nationalism and Politics in the Middle East	M/W/F	11:15AM - 12:10PM	Ladd 207	
	GO 365	Making States, Building Democracies	M/W	2:30 - 3:50 PM	Ladd 207	
Taylor, Flagg - x5244, Ladd 306A						1
Classes:	GO 323	Dissident Political Thought	TU/TH	9:40 - 11:00 AM	Ladd 106	
	GO 351 A	Capitalism and Its Critics	TU/TH	2:10-3:30	Ladd 106	
Taylor, Natalie - x5243						3
Classes:	GH 322	The History and Political Thought of the American Revolution	M/W	2:30 - 3:40 PM	TLC 308	
	SSP 100	Educating Citizens	T/TH	12:40 - 2 PM	LI 213	
	SSP 100	Educating Citizens	M/W	12:20 - 1:15 PM	LI 213	
Turner, Bob - x5251, Ladd 310						1
Classes:	GO 315	Immigration Politics	M/W/F	12:20 - 1:15 PM	TLC 308	
	SSP 100	Who Governs Saratoga?	M/W/F	10:10 - 11:05 AM	BO 101	
	SSP 100	Who Governs Saratoga?	M	6:30 - 7:30 PM	BO 101	
Vacs, Aldo - x5249, Ladd 319						3
Classes:	GO 309	Latin America and the United States	T/TH	11:10AM - 12:30PM	Ladd 207	
	SSP 100	Latin American Image/Reality	T/Th	3:40 - 5:30 PM	Ladd 207	