The Members Guide to the Honors Forum

Academic Year 2021-22

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Congratulations on your acceptance and continued membership in Skidmore's Periclean Honors Forum. This booklet presents the academic, leadership, and community service opportunities the Forum makes available to you. We hope that you this Members Guide will answer questions you have about your continuing membership in the Forum: people and offices to contact, membership responsibilities and requirements, annual events, and information that we hope you will find useful in making the most of your years in the Honors Forum.

What is the Honors Forum?

Honors Forum's Mission

Skidmore College is a small, highly selective liberal arts college that fosters academic inquiry and creative thought and expression. Honors Forum promotes these goals. Skidmore founded the Honors Forum in 1997 as an intellectually vibrant community of highly motivated students who value learning for its own sake and are seeking to enhance their intellectual development. Our goal is to encourage students to take ownership of their academic and co-curricular education and to reflect meaningfully on their personal and professional goals. The Honors Forum invites all first- and second-year students with a 3.5 GPA to apply to the Forum.

Honors Forum introduces extraordinary rigor into academic programs as students consider complex questions and examine sophisticated materials. Honors Forum students develop what we refer to as "the life of the mind" by working alongside their faculty on research projects in labs, at field sites, in libraries, and in studios, often helping to shape the curriculum with which they engage. The Forum promotes and supports student-organized co-curricular activities (e.g. lectures and panel discussions) and leadership and civic engagement opportunities where students guide fellow peers, faculty, and staff within the Skidmore community and beyond. We also encourage all students at Skidmore College to take an Honors course, add-on, or independent study to become invested in a community of scholars and leaders.

Honors Forum membership is not something you can just frame and hang on your wall. It is a community in which you must be an active member. Moreover, many of the students accepted as members of the Honors Forum serve as the intellectual and leadership core for the larger student community. The Honors Forum is designed to provide extra support for the academic interests and goals of its members. Its purpose is to help you obtain support for academic projects, for example, designing your own independent studies, organizing and participating in events and activities, accessing school resources, and taking full ownership of your education.

Important People to Know and Their Contact Info

The Honors Forum Administrative Assistant is **Lisa Bradshaw**. See Lisa in the Honors Forum Office, Ladd 321, if you have any questions, problems, or requests (x5102, lbradsha@skidmore.edu).

The Honors Forum Interim Director is **Professor Flagg Taylor**. Professor Taylor's office is Ladd 306B, and he can help you with co-curricular and academic issues related to Honors Forum, such as Honors courses, Honors add-ons, independent studies, and field trips (x5244, ftaylor@skidmore.edu).

The Honors Forum President is Hannah Tuohy '22. She can answer questions about the Forum and hear any suggestions you may have. She may also direct you to the Vice President.

The Honors Forum Vice Presidents are Caitlin Neuhaus Kilgore '22 & Emily Chase '22.

The Honors Forum Council will be in charge of Service Requirements, and Michelle Hubbs, Director of Community Service Programs, will serve as a consultant. Contact Professor Flagg Taylor or Michelle Hubbs with any questions regarding the Service Requirement or ideas to pursue (ftaylor@skidmore.edu and mhubbs@skidmore.edu).

History of the Honors Forum

In 1997, Skidmore created the Honors Forum, but the idea for an honors program at Skidmore College was not new. The College considered an Honors program in the 1920s, 1970s, and the 1980s, but the decision to finally institute an honors program grew out of two principal needs of Skidmore's best students:

1) Further academic challenge for Skidmore's highest achieving students, especially early in their freshman and sophomore years,
2) Opportunities for social networking among students who are especially academically motivated.

The idea of an Honors Forum came from former Dean of Studies Jon Ramsey, who worked with a faculty/student/administration task force. Together, they created a proposal for an organization designed to support Skidmore's top students in their academic and co-curricular endeavors. The College endorsed the proposal. The annual Jon A. Ramsey lecture honors Dean Ramsey's vision.

The Forum's designers developed the program to enrich the academic lives of *all* Skidmore students. Honors classes are open to any student prepared for the academic challenge; likewise, Honors Forum events are almost always open to the entire student body.

The Honors Forum inducted its first twenty-eight members in the spring of 1997 and offered its first courses in September 1998. The Skidmore Class of 2001 included the first graduating class of fourteen Honors Forum members.

There have always been close connections between the Honors Forum and the ***Periclean Society***, which was a separate college honors society from 1956-2008 mainly for juniors and seniors. For example, the student officers of the Periclean Society always sat on the Honors Forum Council, and the Society helped the Honors Forum sponsor major events such as Academic Festival. In 2008, the Periclean Society was de-chartered as an SGA club, so negotiations began for the Honors Forum to take over the management of the Periclean Society. The result is that beginning with the class of 2012, the Periclean Society is fully merged with Honors Forum, which is now called the Periclean Honors Forum.

The People in Charge

Honors Council

The Honors Council is the faculty/administration/student governing body of the Honors Forum. Honors Council members are the people to see if you want to create an independent study, suggest an idea for a new Honors course, or have any questions/suggestions regarding Honors Forum policy or procedure.

Other responsibilities include overseeing and approving Honors courses and curricular opportunities, planning Academic Festival, selecting the annual Jon A. Ramsey faculty lecturer, running the Periclean Scholar awards, reviewing applications for new members, Service requirement, and planning and hosting the yearly induction ceremony for new members.

2021-2022 Honors Council

Flagg Taylor, Honors Forum Director, Political Science
ftaylor@skidmore.edu x5244

Lisa Bradshaw, Administrative Assistant for Honors Forum & Civic Engagement
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Vojta Kejzlar
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Hannah Tuohy '22, President of Honors Forum, Student Executive Committee htuohy@skidmore.edu

Student Executive Committee

The Student Executive Committee (or Exec Co, as we commonly call it) is the student governing body of the Honors Forum.

Vision Statement: The Executive Committee provides leadership and direction to Honors Forum members. It offers interest meetings to attract incoming members and opportunities for intellectual discourse, community service, and cultural experiences for HF members and the community at large. Exec Co also serves as a resource to Honors Forum members to realize their aspirations.

Exec Co's members are responsible for creating, planning, and implementing. They make suggestions regarding policy and programming but must report to the Honors Council for approval. Exec Co consists of the HF President, Vice Presidents, Service Requirement Coordinator, and many new leadership positions (TBD).

Concerns, Questions, and Suggestions Is there an issue that you'd like the Honors Council or Student Executive Committee to address? Contact any of the Executive Committee members, and they will bring your concern to the attention of the Council, or invite you to attend a meeting.

2021-2022 Student Executive Committee Officers and Duties:

Hannah Tuohy '22, President of Honors Forum, Student Executive Committee
htuohy@skidmore.edu

Caitlin Neuhaus Kilgore '22, Vice President of Honors Forum, Student Executive Committee

Emily Chase '22, Vice President of Honors Forum, Student Executive Committee

Want to serve?
To volunteer to sit on Exec Co or on the subcommittees, see or email the HF President. We would like at least two volunteers from each class to serve on Student Exec Co

How did I get here?

The Selection Process

Skidmore students (including London freshmen) have two opportunities to join the Forum. After the first semester of your freshman year, if you have attained a 3.50 GPA or above, you will be eligible to apply to the Forum. Students who have been found guilty of an Academic Integrity violation will not be considered for admission to the Honors Forum. The application form is available on the Honors Forum website.

Didn't hit the mark your first semester? Don't worry. The same process applies after the first semester of your sophomore year.

To determine acceptance, a team of at least one faculty member and one Honors Forum student reviews a student's application. Together, the team considers the applicant's personal statement, academic record, and faculty recommendations in making their decision on a student's acceptance into the Forum. New membership is limited to approximately 10% of the freshman and sophomore classes.

Note:
Though Honors Forum is not officially a college minor, you'll find Honors Forum requirements are tracked and designated on degree status forms as a minor for administrative purposes.

Continuation Requirements

Membership in the Honors Forum signifies a special commitment to Skidmore's intellectual community. To demonstrate that commitment, members must complete the following requirements:

a. Maintain a 3.50 GPA or higher each semester and a minimum 3.50 cum GPA at the end of senior year.

b. Take at least 3 Honors classes, add-ons, or independent studies **or** 7 Honors credits. You will have until the end of your senior year to complete your course requirements.

c. Complete the Service Project Requirement by the end of your junior year.

d. Complete an Honors Capstone project and present it during your senior year. The Honors Forum Capstone is usually completed in the course or courses your major requires/offers as a **departmental capstone** (thesis, senior project, senior research seminar, senior art show, performance, independent study, etc.) and usually coincides with the requirement for departmental honors in your major. If your department does not have a format for presentation, consider presenting your capstone at Academic Festival or at an HF student meeting.

e. Maintain social and academic integrity as outlined by the Student Handbook. Honors Forum members found guilty of an Academic Integrity violation will lose their membership.

f. Participate actively in planning, coordinating, presenting Honors Forum events.

Ways to Get Honors Credit

Classes

Any class can become an Honors course. Just ask your professor to sponsor a one-credit Add-On to an existing course in any department or program. See below!

Designated Honors classes are open to the entire Skidmore Community; however, HF members are required to take either seven Honors Forum credits or three Honors Forum classes designed to be intellectually rigorous and engaging by the end of the senior year. Honors classes are in many disciplines; however, we are always hoping to offer more courses in various departments. For a list of Honors Forum classes, check out the course list on the Honors Forum website.
Have you taken or do you know of a class that you think deserves honors credit? If you think a course would be a good addition to our honors offerings, suggest that the professor may wish to propose it to Honors Council. The Honors Council assists faculty in designing new honors courses or revamping existing courses to achieve honors designation.

Course Add-ons (1 credit)

Can't find an HF class that interests you? One credit hour add-ons are a great way to add intellectual challenge to any pre-existing course. Some courses have group HF add-ons listed on the Registrar's Master Schedule under "Honors Forum," which students can choose to take in addition to the regular course.

If there is no scheduled add-on for a course you would like to take for Honors Forum credit, you can work with the professor to propose an attached independent or group independent study. These are usually extended studies of material covered in the course that the student/s and professor would like to study in more detail. Proposing an add-on is the same as proposing an independent study. You and your professor will need to submit the independent study proposal form, available on the Honors Forum website, to the HF Director for approval.

EN303H: Peer Tutoring (4 credits) & the Writing Center

Ever had a paper that you knew needed lots of help but couldn't figure out what do to with it? The Writing Center is a wonderful resource on campus. Located in Room 440 in Lucy Scribner Library, The Writing Center is staffed by students and faculty who are prepared to provide help with writing assignments in any stage of their completion – or lack thereof. You

can bring the writing tutors a page of notes, an outline, or an entire rough draft, and they are there to help you "kick it up a notch."

Want to become a writing tutor? You must be a sophomore, junior, or senior and complete EN303H: Peer Tutoring, a course designed to train you in the fine art of tutoring writing. Enrollment in the course requires a writing sample and recommendation from a professor. Peer tutoring at the Writing Center is an excellent form of community service.

Independent Studies (1-4 credits) When it comes to honors independent studies, you have two options: HF271/272 (Fall/Spring) for sophomores or HF371/372 (Fall/Spring) for juniors and seniors. These classes designed to allow flexibility in the education of Honors Forum members who choose to pursue projects, research, or advanced studies in areas of particular interest.

The Process:

1) Find a faculty sponsor who will oversee your study.
2) Write a proposal with your sponsor, detailing what you will be doing during the semester in your independent study and when you will do it, explaining why the independent study deserves HF credit and how it will add to your intellectual development. Take time writing a clear, specific, and well-written proposal.
3) Submit this proposal to the Honors Council via HF Director, Professor Flagg Taylor, for approval. The Director may request revisions before approving your course; not all proposals are deemed Honors-worthy.

Visit the Honors Forum website under "Curriculum" for further detailed information and suggestions.

We no longer grant Honors Forum credit for study abroad portfolios. Since admission to Honors Forum is based on Skidmore College course work, the requirements must be met with Skidmore College courses.

*Honors Forum members can **pre-register** for honors classes on the Honors Forum website or by emailing Lisa Bradshaw

The Service Requirement

The Honors Forum holds that all of its members should use their talents to contribute to campus and/or community life. A Service Project will give you the opportunity to develop a creative and intellectually substantive endeavor outside of the classroom or as an extension of a classroom experience. The Honors Forum allows you to choose one of two paths for completing this requirement.

The Great Conversation Path

Skidmore College is an institution dedicated to promoting the life of the mind both inside and outside of the classroom. Honors Forum students have insatiable and diverse intellectual appetites and are dedicated to fostering a vibrant intellectual campus life. Honors Forum seeks to harness this energy to enable its members to contribute to the broader Skidmore community. Students choosing the Great Conversation (GC) path must design and implement a means of extending their intellectual conversations in a rigorous and serious way.

GC projects are reading and discussion groups which meet for a minimum of seven to eight (7-8) one hour sessions during the course of one semester. Examples include:

- groups organized around a single text of enduring significance (novel, philosophical, treatise, etc.)
- groups organized around readings of primarily intradepartmental or interdepartmental interests
- groups organized around the watching and discussion of films
- groups organized around the study/discussion of current events
- groups organized around a particular artist and gallery exhibition
- groups organized around a particularly noteworthy paper in a scientific journal
- groups organized around a faculty member's research and writing

Requirements for completing your Great Conversation Project:

- **Deadline**: GC proposals must be submitted by the third Friday of the semester during which the project will occur. The

Council aspires to respond within one week of submission. Projects may be completed during any semester except the spring semester of a student's senior year.

- **Proposal:** Submit a project proposal which outlines the readings and the schedule of the discussions (in other words, something like a syllabus). Proposals are submitted on behalf of all the HF members who are seeking credit for their service project in the group (that is, each HF member need not submit a separate proposal). The Honors Council must approve for your project to count toward the Service Requirement. The Council may ask for revisions before approving your proposal. The Council welcomes consultation as you prepare your proposal. Proposals must be submitted to Lisa Bradshaw (lbradsha@skidmore.edu).
- **Faculty Sponsor**. You must designate a faculty sponsor who can assist you in identifying the readings.
- **Participants**. Group membership must include a minimum of 3 HF members and a maximum of 5. Non-HF members may and are encouraged to participate as well.

Project Report

There are two aspects to the final report for GC projects. One is a discussion script for one of the meetings. Each HF member who is seeking credit for their service project must lead at least one discussion during the course of the semester. Second, each member seeking credit for their service project must submit a final reflection about the readings and discussions over the course of the semester (1,200 words max). Reports must be submitted by the last day of classes at end of the semester during which the group met. Email your final report to Lisa Bradshaw (lbradsha@skidmore.edu). Your report must include the following:

- Project Title and Your Name(s)
- Critical Analysis: Review what you learned from the readings and discussions. What further questions were raised about the topic that you would like to pursue?

Things to consider when designing your Great Conversation project:

- **Reading selection:** Is there a classic text which you have always wanted to read but you have not found on any syllabus? Is there a theme to which many authors have addressed themselves that appeals to students across disciplines? Is there a noteworthy journal article which is getting lots of scholarly attention? Answering these or similar questions will assist you in selecting a substantive reading that will keep you interested and motivated over the course of your project. Don't hesitate to ask the Honors Forum Council or other faculty members for advice.
- **Hours**. Although the project only requires a minimum of 5 hours of actual meeting time, we hope and suspect that students will go beyond this. Also note that those meetings, in order to be interesting and productive, assume additional hours of preparation (reading time, preparation of discussion questions, etc.)
- **Group Selection**. The project requires a core of 3-5 HF members but you should try to expand your group. The maximum number of a vibrant reading group is roughly 8-10.
- **Academic Credit**. Though your project cannot receive academic credit, it may relate to a course.

The Civic Life Path

Skidmore College has always been an institution that emphasizes and cultivates an ethic of service. Students choosing this path must design and implement a community service project. Your Civic Life (CL) project should be both process- and product- oriented, as well as intellectually rigorous; it will require initiative, planning, organization, leadership, and personal reflection. The project should stretch you creatively and intellectually beyond the scope of a normal academic or extracurricular undertaking.

Requirements for completing your Civic Life Project:

- **Deadline**: CL Proposals must be submitted by October 15 for projects which begin during the fall semester and by February 15 for projects which begin during the spring semester. The Council aspires to respond within two weeks of submission.

Projects may be completed during any semester except the spring semester of a student's senior year.

- **Proposal:** Submit a project proposal for approximately 15 hours of effort (excluding the time taken to write the proposal and final project report). The Honors Council must approve for your project to count toward the Service Requirement. The Council may ask for revisions before approving your proposal. The Council welcomes consultation as you prepare your proposal. The Council will not approve proposals for projects that have already been completed.
- **Faculty Sponsor**. Because we are looking for intellectually rigorous projects, we require you to have a trusted faculty member evaluate your proposal before you submit it to the Committee. You and your faculty member can review the project criteria.
- **Participants**. Students may work as individuals or in groups to complete a project. Each member should complete at least 15 hours of work on the project; for a three-person group, a total of 45 hours is expected. If you choose to work in a group, you may submit one proposal and one final report. Both should detail the specific contributions and time given to the project by each member. Credit may not be awarded to each participant if his or her role is not articulated.
- **Extensions**. In extenuating circumstances, the Honors Council will grant extensions on deadlines for projects. Study abroad is not grounds for an extension. If you are planning on going abroad and would like to complete a project when you return, you must submit a proposal before you leave. To petition for an extension, email the Chair of the Council. The Honors Council is here to help brainstorm possible projects, finalize ideas, point out potential problems, and help students find others for group projects. Another great resource is Michelle Hubbs, Director of Community Service. Her office on the 2nd floor of Case Center.
- **Can ongoing volunteer projects count toward the requirement**? There are many wonderful community programs already in place (Saratoga Reads! for instance). It is acceptable to work with a previously established program or organization only if you take on a leadership role and clearly specify in your proposal how your project moves you beyond

what you are already accomplishing in this ongoing community project.

- **Can I do my project when school is not in session**? Completing a citizenship project over the summer or winter break is allowed, provided that you submit a proposal the semester before the break.

Project Report

The report is a summary and analysis of your project. Groups that work together can submit one report. Reports must be submitted by the last day of classes at end of the academic year in which the project was completed. Email your final report to Lisa Bradshaw (lbradsha@skidmore.edu). Your report must include the following:

- Project Title and Your Name(s)
- Summary of Activities: Summarize the project including who participated and timeline of events. If relevant, include products of your project: photos, displays, etc. We are always looking for good pictures to post on this website.
- Critical Analysis: Review what you learned about the issue you were addressing. Explain how well your project met a community need. Evaluate the success of the project and what might you have made it even more effective.
- Final Reflection: For group reports, it is essential that each individual write their own reflection in this space. What did you personally gain from undertaking this project? Evaluate the effort you put into the project. Will you continue to work on this project or on this topic?

Things to consider when designing your CL project:

- **Community Involvement**. Your project must benefit a group or community, insider or outside Skidmore College. Any events or services must be not-for-profit. What or whom does your project benefit? Why is this an important addition to the community in which you plan to work?

- **Intellectual Rigor**. Your project should challenge you to reflect, think critically, and demonstrate initiative; you will also want to challenge or inspire the intended audience. Is the community need defined with reference to academic scholarship? Are you demonstrating an academic understanding of the issue? Do you provide any research evidence that supports this kind of project? Is there evidence that this approach will be effective?
- **Hours**. Your project should involve at least 15 hours of work, including planning, preparation, and execution. The time to write your proposal and project report is not included in the 15 hours.
- **Clubs and Organizations**. You may use a student club or organization as a platform from which to launch your project, but you must extend your endeavors beyond the normal duties of a member. Simply acting as a club officer or an SGA senator, for example, will not suffice.
- **Group Projects**. Consider a project that involves working with one or more fellow HF members. Such projects often prove to be the most fun and fruitful. The Honors Council can help you find like-minded students, if you wish.
- **Academic Credit**. Though your project cannot receive academic credit, it may relate to a course. In fact, expanding upon coursework may help you get the most out of the experience.
- **Financial Support**. Should your project require a budget, you can apply to the Dean of Studies for Student Opportunity Funds. The Honors Forum has limited funds available to students completing Citizenship Projects, but funding is not automatic; you can apply for funding when you submit your proposal.

Senior Capstone

Each graduating Honors Forum member must complete a culminating Capstone project in his/her senior year. Most of the time, the Honors Capstone coincides with a culminating departmental experience *or* Honors requirement such as a thesis, research report, performance, 300-level class, exhibit, etc. Sometimes, a student's capstone is completed by an independent study. Honors Forum members are encouraged to present their Senior Capstone projects publicly. This may be done as part of the department's senior presentation, an exhibit, a performance, a concert, or, in some cases, at Academic Festival.

In order for a project to count toward the Honors Forum Capstone requirement, the Director of the Forum must approve it by the end of the second week of classes for that semester. There is a form online, "Proposal for Senior Capstone Requirement." Please give thought and care to your proposal. Define your project clearly, explain your culminating project fully (both the research and the outcomes), and explain how this project offers a culmination to your academic career both in Honors Forum and in your major. Make sure to write your proposal well. Model capstone proposals from former students are located on the HF website.

Housing

Honors Forum housing is available in Jonsson Tower for sophomores, juniors, and seniors. Housing is ideal for those looking for a quieter and more work-focused environment and a greater sense of an HF community. Students accepted into Honors housing will complete their Service Requirement during the Fall or Spring semesters; those who have already completed their Service Requirement will act as mentors to those currently completing their projects. Discussions are underway for Housing for the 2022-23 academic year. Stay tuned!

Honors Lounge (Ladd 321)

The Honors Lounge is a space available to Honors Forum members. Currently the space is used for Honors Council, Executive Committee meetings, and the HF Newsletter staff. Students can reserve the Honors Lounge for formal meetings and events by contacting Lisa in the HF Office (lbradsha@skidmore.edu). Otherwise, it is open to Honors Forum members for informal study groups or personal use. We have tables, chairs and couches as well as a library; come and check it out. Students also can use the room to display artwork or posters from scientific research.

Conditions for use of the Honors Forum Lounge:

1) The lounge is available for academic and co-curricular activities only. Any evidence of inappropriate usage of the lounge may result in it being available by reservation only.

2) People and groups with reservations made through Lisa in the Honors Forum office (Ladd 321, ext 5102, lbradsha@skidmore.edu) are ensured use of the lounge at their reserved time. If the lounge is not currently reserved, Honors Forum members are entitled to use the space. Others interested in using the lounge must first check with Lisa for availability.

3) Please leave the lounge in the condition in which you find it. This means:

i) No furniture or office supplies may be removed from the lounge for any reason.
ii) If you and/or your group have food in the lounge, please remember to throw away your trash and wipe off tables and chairs. Only one person can sit in the chairs at a time.
iii) If you use the white board, please erase it before you leave.

Events and Activities

Annual Honors Forum Events

Jon Ramsey Honors Forum Lecture named for the professor of English who served as Dean of Studies for twenty-three years and who was one of the founders of the Honors Forum. Past lecturers, chosen by Honors Council and the Dean of Faculty, have included Professor Jennifer Mueller, Sociology; Professor Roy Rotheim, Economics; Professor Mahesh Shankar, International Affairs; Professor Kate Greenspan, English; Professor Grace Burton, World Languages & Literatures; Professor Barbara Black, English; Professor Linda Hall, English; Peter McCarthy, Social Work; Professor Sheldon Solomon, Psychology; Professor Flip Phillips, Psychology/Director of Neuroscience; Professor Michael Arnush, Classics; Professor Steven Frey, Chemistry; Professor Pushkala Prasad, Management & Business; and Professor Timothy Burns, Government. Students nominate their favorite professor. This event will take place in the fall semester.

Honors Forum Policy Debate With this event series the Forum seeks to bring distinguished thinkers and writers to campus for conversation and debate about a political, philosophical, or ethical question of great public concern. The topic for the 4th annual event in this series in 2020 was The Rise of Populism and the Future of Left and Right. Our speakers were Matthew Continetti, Resident Fellow, American Enterprise Institute and Paul Glastris, Editor-in-Chief, *The Washington Monthly.*

students to discuss a timely issue in the news or on campus. Honors Forum Presents is currently inactive, and at present students are meeting on **Faculty to Faculty Dialogues.** The Honors Forum sponsors a discussion between the director and another faculty member about his or her research and path to becoming a professor. This event allows the Honors Forum the opportunity to showcase one of Skidmore's excellent faculty members and provide them the opportunity to speak about their current research agenda and what led them to it. Students will thus have a greater appreciation for how research agendas are formed and how and why people choose the academic life.

Academic Festival Every school year on the day after spring semester classes end, Skidmore students in all four academic years of their college careers present their past year's academic achievements to the greater

Skidmore Community. Departments and Programs will submit proposals. Student presentations have included research papers, student-created films, dances, music performances, poster presentations, panel discussions, art exhibits, slide shows, and more. This event is a great opportunity to explore disciplines you aren't familiar with and to learn about
your fellow students' work from the past year. Community members also regularly look forward to this event.

Service Requirement Events and End of Year Dinner

Throughout the year, your fellow Honors Forum members will be organizing events of all kinds to fulfill their Service Requirement. These events come in many forms including informative presentations on topics like Lyme disease to movie viewings followed by panel discussions featuring the movie's cast and crew, and benefit walks in Saratoga for worthy causes among many other projects. Some students create projects that benefit the Saratoga community and the larger global community. We urge you to take advantage of your fellow students' hard work and come out to support their endeavors. Keep an eye out for e-mail notifications of Service Requirement events, which are sent to all Honors Forum members. Those students living in Honors Housing will complete their Service Requirements or serve as mentors if they have already completed their Service Requirements. In addition, students will speak briefly about their projects, and some will be selected to give presentations of these projects at the annual End of Year Dinner or another event in the HF Lounge.

Honors Forum Presents First introduced in 2005-2006 as Fridays @ 4, these events provide a place for informal discussion where Honors Forum members gather for a themed discussion with faculty members or fellow weekday evenings in the lounge. Please email any member of the Exec Co if you have an idea for a weekly get together.

Trips The Honors Forum traditionally sponsors one trip per semester. The Student Executive Committee in conjunction with the Honors Council organizes these excursions, but anyone is invited to suggest potential destinations. Past excursions have included trips to New York City to see *The Color Purple* and to Proctor's Theater to see *The Lion King*, the New York Metropolitan Opera, the Bodies Exhibit, Massachusetts Museum of

Modern Art, Hyde Museum, Norman Rockwell Museum, New England Aquarium in Boston, and Saratoga Battlefield.

Honors Forum Newsletter The Honors Forum Newsletter keeps members up-to-date with the latest HF events and news. Look for it in your inboxes or, better yet, volunteer for it yourself by contacting the HF Administrative Assistant or any member of the Exec Co.

Debate Society The Skidmore Debate Society began in fall 2004 when Honors Forum student Matthew Cronin '06 took the initiative to propose the idea to Honors Council. Currently, the Debate Society participates in parliamentary style debate tournaments against teams from such colleges as Bates, BU, Colby, Harvard, Mt. Holyoke, and Vassar. Debates range from serious national, international, and ethical topics to comedic topics, such as "Should Batman kill the Joker?"

Debate Society members have traveled to a number of intercollegiate debates, and our debaters have won several awards. With enough student interest, a one-credit independent study on rhetoric and debate preparation could be offered. To join the Debate Society, request information, or ask questions, contact Lisa in the Honors Forum office (lbradsha@skidmore.edu) or Phil Boshoff (pboshoff@skidmore.edu). We are eager for students to reinvigorate the Debate Society.

Co-sponsored Events Honors Forum provides co-sponsorship funding for numerous college events each semester—departmental events as well as those sponsored by clubs and organizations. Our funding has helped bring noteworthy speakers and performers to campus and has helped support such events as Academic Fair and excursions into the Northwoods. In past years, we helped SGA with the Halloween Haunted House for children of the Skidmore community. If you have a suggestion for the co-sponsorship of an event, email the Community Liaison, or another member of the Exec Co.

Have Your Own Idea?

Events/Activities So you have your own idea for an event or activity—fabulous! The Honors Forum thrives on its members' creativity and leadership, but now what? Actually, proposing and leading programs in conjunction with the Honors Forum is easy.

> **Step 1**- Do you have an idea for a fun and educational event or activity that would benefit the Skidmore/ Honors Forum community? Make it happen by submitting your idea on the Honors Forum website. It's as easy as filling out the "Activities and Co-Sponsorship Request" form under **Students>Student Forms.**
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> **Step 2**- Your form will be sent to Honors Forum Administrative Assistant, Lisa Bradshaw. She will be your liaison with Honors Council and Executive Committee and the appropriate person will email you a response respond to discuss and help you develop your idea.

Co-Sponsorships The Honors Forum welcomes pre-existing clubs and departments to apply for the co-sponsorship of their events and activities. This is an excellent way to increase your club or department's capacity for hosting large scale events and programs.

The Honors Forum can provide modest financial support (typically in the range of $50-$75) and publicity for events that we co-sponsor. In exchange, we require any publications related to the event to have printed on them "co-sponsored by Honors Forum."

To apply, simply fill out the "Activities and Co-Sponsorship Request" form under **Students** on the Honors Forum website which details the type of event and the proposed budget. The form will be sent to Honors Forum Administrative Assistant Lisa Bradshaw, who will be your liaison with Honors Council and Executive Committee and who will respond to you via email.

Frequently Asked Questions

What do I receive with my Honors Forum membership?

Foremost, you will receive an intellectually enhanced college education and opportunities for academic and leadership growth. In terms of tangibles, members receive a coffee mug, a lounge to use for study, recognition of Forum membership on the college transcript (which is listed as a minor in Honors Forum), and an Honors Forum medallion to be worn at graduation.

What happens if my GPA drops below a 3.50?

You will receive a warning from the Honors Forum Director if your GPA slips below 3.50 for one semester. After two consecutive semesters below 3.50, you will lose your Forum membership.

What counts as an HF capstone?

Any experience (300-level class, independent study, thesis, performance, exhibit, student teaching, senior art show, concert, internship, etc.) that your academic advisor or the department chair for your major will consider a culmination for your major.

Once the Periclean Society becomes part of the Honors Forum, what happens to the annual Periclean Scholar Awards?

Nothing. The Periclean Scholar awards will continue as they have for years. You do not have to be a member of the Honors Forum to submit a project for consideration for this award. All graduating seniors are eligible.

Once the Periclean Society becomes part of the Honors Forum, are there still opportunities available for non-Honors Forum members to earn academic honors?

Of course! This community has no shortage of opportunities for academic honors and accolades. You may still graduate with the Latin Honors (cum laude, summa cum laude, magna cum laude.) You may still earn

Departmental Honors in your major program. Also, many disciplines have national Honors Societies with chapters represented at Skidmore (for example Phi Alpha Theta in History, Alpha Kappa Delta in Sociology, and Pi Mu Epsilon in Mathematics.) Also, Skidmore has a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, the interdisciplinary national honor society. Election into membership of any of these societies is a notable achievement. Finally, there are many academic prizes available which are awarded each year at the Honors and Prizes banquet. And, all seniors are eligible to apply for the Periclean Scholar Awards, as noted above. The Periclean Honors Forum represents just one of many possible avenues to academic distinction.

Honors Forum Events to Watch For*

Annual Events

- Welcome Back Dinner Picnic
- Jon Ramsey Memorial Lecture
- Honors Forum Policy Debate
- Faculty to Faculty Dialogues
- Holiday Party/Study Break
- Honors Forum Induction and Reception
- Annual Academic Festival
- Senior Reception for Honors Forum Graduates
- End of Year Honors Forum Dinner

Other Events

- All-Forum Meeting
- Class Gatherings
- Service Requirement Events
- Honors Forum Presents
- Trips!

Informational Meetings and Email Updates

- Service Requirement Info Sessions- **for First Year Students, Sophomores, and Juniors!**

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* **All dates, times, places and corrections about events are announced via e-mail.**