

# **Fourteenth Annual Academic Festival**

## **Wednesday, May 2, 2012**

**Message from Academic Festival Coordinators Page 1**

**Schedule of Events Page 2**

**Room Schedule at a Glance Page 42**

**Affiliated Events Page 45**

**Honors Forum Mission Page 47**

**Special Thanks Page 47**

**Academic Festival Planning Committee Page 48**

**Student Directory Page 49**



## **Message from Academic Festival Coordinators**

Students at Skidmore College strive for excellence. They write thoughtful papers, perform music, conduct scientific experiments and mathematical research, and create provocative works of art. The quality of independent thinking that characterizes the Academic Festival lies at the very heart of the definition of academic excellence.

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

This year's fourteenth annual Academic Festival involves 64 sessions, over 120 presentations, and more than 400 students. We have planned a wide range of events and activities. We believe that this year's Academic Festival promotes interdisciplinary connections and truly captures the spirit of academia at Skidmore, setting a high mark for our future aspirations.



# **Schedule of Events**

## **May 2, 2012**

*Refreshments available throughout the day:*

*Gannett Lobby  
Palamountain 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Tisch Learning Center 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Tisch Learning Center 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Ladd 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Harder 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Sports Center  
JKB (Morning only)  
Palamountain 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor (Morning Only)*



## **Session 1 - ASIAN STUDIES Past and Present**

**9:15 – 10:00 AM**

**Bolton 281**

### **The Consequences of Gender Imbalance In China**

*Faculty Sponsor: Gautam Dasgupta, Asian Studies*

**Presenter: Animée Iradukunda '12**

My presentation is about the effects of gender imbalance on Chinese society. I will be talking about the present changes that this phenomenon has made to gender demographics, family structure and familial relations, and the present and future Chinese economy.

### **Early Esoteric Sculpture in Japan**

*Faculty Sponsor: Joel Smith, Philosophy*

**Presenter: Grace Galie '12**

In the 8th century, the Buddhist monk Kukai went to China to study esoteric Buddhism. He returned and established the Shingon School in Japan. My thesis explores the relationship between visual representation, ritual, and doctrine. I focus on sculpture in the To-ji temple. Based on my own research and interviews with scholars, I provide new evidence to suggest that some of these statues had a Japanese precedent and that they were not unique to China.

## **Session 2 - Undergraduate Research Roundtable in the Natural and Social Sciences**

**9:00 – 10:15 AM**

**Palamountain 200**

### **Using zebrafish to model and explore Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder**

*Faculty Sponsor: Jennifer Bonner, Biology*

**Presenter: Andrew Ross '12**

In utero exposure to ethanol during human pregnancy can lead to birth defects characterized as Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD). Using zebrafish as an embryonic model system allows for the exploration of the molecular mechanisms responsible for these neuro-developmental abnormalities. Specifically, we have analyzed single neuron pathfinding defects in the forebrain and spinal cord. Preliminary results suggest that ethanol interrupts normal axon guidance in a subset of neurons. This project has been a culmination of research conducted over two academic years and two summers.

### **Effect of androgen activity on 2D:4D digit ratio in androgen receptor deficient (Tfm) mice**

*Faculty Sponsor: Denise McQuade, Biology*

**Presenters: Katherine Alwan '14, Michael Greenberg '13, Thomas Manna '12, Alexandra Ng '13, and Yusuke Ota '13**

Digit ratio is defined as the relative lengths of the digits, usually the second (2D) to fourth (4D). We are investigating the effects of androgen exposure on the 2D:4D digit ratio, shown to be influenced by prenatal hormonal levels. In this study, we use a truncated androgen receptor gene, resulting in mutant male mice with a non-functional receptor. By disabling androgen binding, we plan to investigate the direct effects of androgen on the 2D:4D ratio. We expect to see a higher 2D:4D (more feminized) ratio in affected male mice than in unaffected males. We will discuss our preliminary results presented at the

NEURON conference in New York City on April 1, 2012.

**Potential Synergy: Rural Schools and International Students**

*Faculty Sponsor: Hope Casto, Education*

**Presenter: Alexandra Steinhauer '13**

This presentation will describe a particular undergraduate research experience—what happens when a community brings international students to rural schools? What are the resulting financial, academic, and social situations for the school, community, and students, both local and international? The particular program has two goals of increasing both enrollment and diversity in the school. This work contributes to a better understanding of the potential synergy between schools and communities

**The Impact of Genetically Modified Maize on Kenya and South Africa: Genetic Modification or Manipulation?**

*Faculty Sponsor: Nurcan Atalan-Helicke, Environmental Studies*

**Presenter: Cheyenne Kinch '12**

This project explores the potential impact that the introduction of genetically modified (GM) maize crops has on the livelihoods of people living in Kenya and South Africa and each nation's level of food security. I will explore the positive and negative implications of the introduction of GM maize crops to both nations as well as the varied perceptions of GM crops and GMOs.

**Session 3 - MANAGEMENT & BUSINESS Senior Theses 1**

**9:00 – 10:15 AM**

**Palamountain 202**

**May We Recommend: The Effectiveness of Online Recommendation Systems on Different Product Types**

*Faculty Sponsor: Ela Lepkowska-White, Management & Business*

**Presenter: Elaine Burns '12**

Online recommendation services among e-commerce businesses are growing in importance to better understand consumers' online shopping preferences. This study examines which aspects of such services are most important when purchasing specific product types.

**The Effects of Implicit Theories on Evaluating Firms With Variable Social Images**

*Faculty Sponsor: Mark Staton, Management & Business*

**Presenter: William Powell '12**

Companies often face social challenges, and controlling their public image is difficult when consumers fail to forgive a mistake or are unwilling to believe a positive change. The goal of this paper is to examine the impact of a person's implicit personality orientation on his or her perception of a firm that has undergone either a positive or negative social change.



### **Money Market Mutual Funds: A Closer Look at Fund Structure and Regulatory Reform**

*Faculty Sponsor: Aiwu Zhao, Management & Business*

**Presenter: Jonathan Zeidan '12**

Money Market Mutual Funds, originally designed as a safe channel for investors' money, experienced staggering industry-wide withdrawals during the economic downturn of 2008. In order to prevent Money Market runs, regulatory action is necessary. Following the regulatory structure in banking industry, this paper empirically examines the possibility and effectiveness of employing two regulatory approaches, an industry-wide insurance system and a fund level risk monitoring system, in Money Market industry.

### **Cash, Credit or Phone? Exploring Consumer Adoption of Mobile Payments in the U.S.**

*Faculty Sponsor: Christine Page, Management & Business*

**Presenter: John Morris '12**

Mobile payment technology has been very popular in Asia, but curiously has not been widely accepted in the U.S. This research explores the adoption of mobile payments by consumers in the U.S. by focusing on the shared psychological traits of both early adopters and non-adopters to provide insights on how to better introduce mobile payments to this market.

### **Revitalizing the Classics: An Investigation into the Motivations behind Attendance to Classical Performing Arts Events**

*Faculty Sponsor: Christine Page, Management & Business*

**Presenter: Julia Robins '12**

According to a report conducted by the National Endowment for the Arts, attendance at classical performing arts events dropped by 27.5% between 1982 and 2008. This study examines the importance of the arts, trends in attendance, and ways in which organizations have tried to market to increase attendance to such events. Then, the presentation will offer marketing strategies based on sample responses from frequent and infrequent attendees to classical performing arts events.

## **Session 4 - Endeavors in Environmental Studies**

**8:40 – 12:15 PM**

**Davis Auditorium**

### **Environmental Studies Capstone Presentations**

*Faculty Sponsor: Karen Kellogg, Environmental Studies & Josh Ness, Biology & Environmental Studies*

**8:40 a.m. Introduction**

**8:45 a.m. Will Dowling '12**

### **Skidmore Supported Agriculture: Bringing More Local Food to the Skidmore College Community**

The current industrial agriculture system in the United States has damaged the environment and distanced people from their food and farms. The organic and local food movements have arisen in response to this system's flaws. Through programs such as Community Supported Agriculture, people are gaining access to wholesome, local food while reconnecting with their food and communities. This project seeks to provide the benefits of this service to the greater Skidmore College community.

**9:00 a.m. Trisha Carile '12 and Ian Bain '12**

**The Homeowner's Guide to Green Building**

Buildings in the United States are responsible for a significant fraction of our overall water consumption, energy use, greenhouse gas emissions, and waste production. By combining new interview data with data from a previous capstone project, we identified several persistent challenges to increasing green building in Saratoga County, including costs and client awareness. In response, we created an online sourcebook of regional green building techniques and products for homeowners.

**9:15 a.m. Kelly McDonnell '12 and William Moseley '12**

**Promoting Environmental Sustainability Initiatives: The Role of a Chamber of Commerce**

A significant, positive association exists between environmental stewardship and economic growth. Taking this into consideration, our study focuses on the role of chambers of commerce in promoting environmental sustainability initiatives. This study incorporates interviews with twenty chambers of commerce and interviews with Saratoga County Chamber members. Our research culminated in a series of recommendations for the Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce to promote environmental sustainability in Saratoga.

**9:30 a.m. Sam Glickman '12 and Drew Levinson '12**

**SEQRA: The Construction of Effective Change**

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation is in the process of creating a set of proposed revisions to the documents associated with the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA). We conducted a stakeholder analysis to evaluate the effectiveness of the SEQRA process. We then compared our findings with the proposed revisions to determine if these changes are addressing the identified inadequacies within the SEQRA process.

**9:45 a.m. Break**

**10:00 a.m. Olivia Berry '12 and Tessa Leverone '12**

**Keeping up with the Karners: Habitat, Population and Persistence of a Local Federally Endangered Species**

One of the largest populations of the Karner Blue Butterfly, a federally endangered species, is located in the Saratoga Watershed. We synthesized five years of demographic and habitat data collected by The Nature Conservancy and NY-DEC. Our results demonstrate that habitat characteristics and existing population size can predict much of the variation in how sub-populations grow or shrink in size over time and reinforce the importance of targeted and consistent management practices in the future.

**10:15 a.m. Paige Reeves '12 and Sarah Hunter '12**

**The Toxicology of Saratoga's Drinking Water: Herbicides Impact Aquatic Organisms**

Our drinking water reservoir, Loughberry Lake, is treated with a chemical algicide, copper sulfate. We investigated the effects of copper sulfate on non-target aquatic invertebrates by exposing aquatic snails, insects, and leeches to one of three copper concentrations, all below the limit set by the EPA. All three types of organisms experienced altered metabolic responses as well as increased mortality rates in the presence of copper sulfate relative to controls with no copper sulfate added.

**10:30 a.m. Pia Ruisi-Besares '12 and Peter McInerney '12**

**A Cultured Revolution: Growing Native Algae in Wastewater to Produce Ethanol**

Production of bioethanol from algae presents a sustainable alternative to first generation biofuels and fossil fuels. We grew two native algal species in different treatments of wastewater and measured total biomass and ethanol production. *Penium margaritaceum* and *Scenedesmus quadricuada* were most productive in 50% wastewater treatments; *S. quadricuada* produced greater amounts of biomass per treatment and ethanol per gram. Wastewater composition determined the total biomass per treatment while cell physiology determined ethanol production.

**10:45 a.m. Rachel Chalot '12 and Leandra Cooper '12**

**S.O.S (Solar on Skidmore)**

We examined the technological and financial feasibility of a solar installation for the Williamson Sports Center and the Van Lennep Riding Center at Skidmore College. The technical portion of this study evaluates practical installation considerations for each site, and the financial portion provides monetary incentives and options. Ultimately, our study provides possible opportunities to help Skidmore continue to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions.

**11:00 a.m. Break**

**11:15 a.m. Eva Fillion '12, Jackie Slocombe '12, and Roz Freeman '12**

**The Gift That Keeps on Giving: Skidmore College's New Land**

Skidmore College recently received a gift of 200 acres of forest just north of the College's riding stables. We investigated the educational and recreational value of the new land, estimated the carbon sequestration capacity of the forest within the context of the greenhouse gasses emitted by the College, and explored how our peer and aspirant colleges are using comparable forests. We offer recommendations to balance effective use and preservation.

**11:30 a.m. Adam Schmelkin '12 and Charlie Glassberg '12**

**Understanding the Competing Uses of Skidmore's Commons: A Stakeholder Analysis of the North Woods**

The North Woods is a 165-acre forest on Skidmore's campus that is used by different groups with distinct concerns, values and perceptions of the resource. Interviews were conducted with students, faculty/staff, and community members to understand these diverse interests. These interviews informed the creation of recommendations to promote the long-term preservation of the forest and balance individual use, scholarly use, and potential development plans.

**11:45 a.m. Sara Velardi '12 and Adam Cohen '12**

**No Child Left Indoors: An Analysis of Local Place-based Elementary Environmental Education**

As children spend less time outdoors, they may lose connections to the natural world—an important aspect to the development of environmental stewardship. In analyzing thirteen local elementary schools, we found that land use (composition of areas adjacent to schools), school resources, and teachers' initiatives are the primary factors influencing outdoor experience in science lessons. Teachers' motivation to include experiential outdoor lessons proved the most effective method to promote environmental education.

**12:00 p.m. Gordon MacPherson '12 and Alex Ethier '12**

**Sights and Sounds: Building a Broader Audience for Environmental Issues**

Current messaging techniques make it easy to consider issues of sustainability and environmentalism as solely under the dominion of “the environmentalists.” To combat this mentality and give environmental issues the societal and political attention they deserve, we developed two projects. We worked with student artists to create a campus-wide photo installation that raises awareness of college sustainability initiatives, and we produced two short radio stories to determine the effect of narrative in engaging and educating a broader audience for environmental issues.

**12:15 p.m. Lunch**

**Session 5 – Anthropologically Examining Saratoga's Venues and Nightlife**

**9:00 – 10:15 AM                      Emerson Auditorium**

**Anthropologically Examining Saratoga's Venues and Nightlife**

***Faculty Sponsor: Michael Ennis McMillan & Heather Hurst, Anthropology***

**Presenters: Leah Puro '12, Elaine Lai '12, Kerry Kearney '12, and Patrick Klimaszewski '12**

We explored institutions and the workforce in Saratoga Springs to help conceptualize the city. Puro examined gambling and casino culture. Kearney engaged with the town's night workers to understand what it is like to work when everyone else sleeps. Lai analyzed restaurants and the food they offer to understand what eateries say about Saratoga. Klimaszewski examined bars and bartenders to understand how their existence and culture contribute to a larger understanding of Saratoga Springs.

**Session 6 - Topics in the Age of Augustus**

**9:00 – 10:15 AM                      Ladd 206**

**Topics in the Age of Augustus**

***Faculty Sponsor: Michael Arnush, Classics***

**Presenters: Alissa Belcastro '12, Stormie Romero '12, Emily Levenson '12, Shannon Dubois '13, Emily Kowal '13, and Victoria Burmeister '14**

Members of HI 363 Age of Augustus are presenting a series of topics that were pertinent during the time period. Topics include Augustus's use of astrological events and imagery in his political and religious program; famous Augustan women, including his sister, Octavia, and his wife Livia; and analyses of Augustan authors, such as Virgil, Horace, and Augustus himself, and their specific works, including *The Aeneid*, *Carmen Saeculare*, *Odes*, and the *Res Gestae*.

**Session 7 - Psychology/Neuroscience Senior Thesis Research Projects**

**9:00 – 10:30 AM**

**Tisch 1<sup>st</sup> Floor**

**Psychology/Neuroscience Senior Thesis Research Projects**

***Faculty Sponsor: Rebecca Johnson, Psychology***

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

**Presenters:**

**Samuel Brook '12**

**Residual Effects of Adult Cannabinoid Treatment Following Adolescent Pre-exposure**

**Becky Bui '12**

**The Effects of Embedded Word Processing in Pure Alexia**

**Isabel H. Cain '12**

**Measuring Gratitude in the Workplace**

**Leo Cancelmo '12**

**The Effect of Music on Face Perception**

**Aliza Chimene-Weiss '12**

**The Effect of Adult Knowledgeability On Children's Imitation Learning**

**Jacob Cohen '12**

**The Effects of Task Experience and Item Difficulty on Hindsight Anagram Difficulty Ratings**

**Maxwell Drascher '12**

**Object Completion With Limited Processing Time**

**Adina Fried '12**

**Don't Judge a Book by its Author: Examining Readers' Expectations Based on Author Ethnicity**

**Maggie Luckhardt '12**

**The Influence of Social Threat on the Us-Them Divide and Threat Vigilance**

**Kathryn Mascitelli '12**

**The Effects of a Multi Sensory Stimulation Room on Students' Concentration Levels**

**Laura Meli '12**

**The Effects of Gratitude on Burnout and Job Satisfaction among Human Service Professionals**

**Emma Pelosi '12**

**The Effect of Digital Media on Children's Reading**

**Liza Rimsky '12**

**To "Self" or Not to "Self": Exploring the Mechanisms that Underlie the Advantage of the Self-Reference Effect (SRE) in Memory**

**Samantha Savoy '12**

**The Effects of the Biopsychosocial Model of Etiology and Gender on Depression Stigma**

**Mila Woodfield '12**

**Can't Buy me Love: Does Ostracism Cause Self-Indulgence or Pro-social Gifting?**

**Beiwen Zhu '12**

**The Relation of the Automatic Us-Them Divide to Aggression**

**Session 8 - Visual Feminism**

**9:15 – 10:15 AM**

**Tisch 301**

**Feminism and the Graphic Narrative: From Bechdel to Rosenblatt**

***Faculty Sponsor: Beck Krefting, American Studies***

**Presenter: Sarah Rosenblatt '12**

This presentation examines political, feminist, and queer content in comics and graphic novels, particularly in Alison Bechdel's *Dykes to Watch Out For* and *Fun Home*, Marjane Satrapi's *Persepolis*, and Art Spiegelman's *Maus*, among others. In conjunction with this feminist reading of graphic narratives, Rosenblatt shares her own graphic memoir, explaining her artistic process as well as her contribution to the growing body of feminist and queer graphic narratives.

**That Berthe, She's One of Us: Art Fiction and Constructing Morisot Through 21st Century Female Narratives**

***Faculty Sponsor: Mimi Hellman, Art History***

**Presenter: Ariel Levine '12**

Impressionist Berthe Morisot's recent resurgence in popularity has led to an attempt to understand a woman who stood out from the norm as a successful female artist, but also occupied a socially acceptable space of domesticity. In the quest to find the "true" Morisot, literary and scholarly writers have occasionally defined her through 21<sup>st</sup>-century female narratives. Morisot is either posed as an independent woman or a victim of propriety, social space, and gender expectations.

**Session 9 - Body Matters: Exercise Science Research Projects 1**

**9:00 – 10:00 AM**

**Sports and Rec. Room 201**

### **What is the Relationship Between Balance and Sports Performance?**

*Faculty Sponsor: Mark Badurak, Athletics & Christopher Repka, Health & Exercise Sciences*

**Presenter: Cristina Velez '12**

The purpose of this study was to investigate the relationship between balance and sports performance among Division III male athletes at Skidmore College. The study assessed athlete's balance via the Balance Error Scoring System (BESS) and quantified sports performance via NCAA sports statistics. Pearson correlation coefficients offered a means to determine relationship strength between the two variables.

### **The Effect Of Caffeine Supplementation On Short-Duration Aerobic Exercise**

*Faculty Sponsor: Maxwell Ruby, Health & Exercise Sciences*

**Presenter: Andy McLaughlin '12**

The purpose of this study was to examine the effects of caffeine supplementation on athletic performance during a high-intensity, short-duration bout of aerobic exercise. A lot of research exists on the effects of caffeine on low-intensity aerobic exercise, but not on aerobic exercise conducted at higher intensities. All of the participants were Skidmore College students with endurance training.

### **The Effect of Compression Socks on Blood Lactate Levels During Maximal Exercise**

*Faculty Sponsor: Christopher Repka, Health & Exercise Sciences*

**Presenters: Alexandra Carney-Knisely '12 and Isabel Ramos-Mucci '12**

While many studies have shown the benefits of compression socks on recovery, few have examined benefits during exercise. Compression garment manufacturer CEP claims that compression socks improve lactate reuptake, but research does not verify this. The purpose of this study was to determine if compression socks can improve performance during maximal exercise. Findings from this study may help athletes increase performance during exercise, verify claims made regarding compression socks, and add to current literature.

### **The Effects of Dehydration on Cardiovascular Function**

*Faculty Sponsor: Denise Smith & Pat Fehling, Health & Exercise Sciences*

**Presenter: Jillian Bensko '12**

The purpose of this study was to determine the effects of dehydration on cardiac and vascular function in ten healthy, active males. It was hypothesized that dehydration would increase cardiac strain (increased heart rate, decreased cardiac output, modified cardiac dimensions, and volumes) and alter the function of the vascular system as measured by central blood pressure, endothelial function, and macro and micro blood flow.

### **Session 10 - Quoi?: An Ensemble Moment of 6-8 Actors**

**9:00 – 10:00 AM**

**JKB Studio A**

**Quoi?: An Ensemble Moment of 6-8 Actors**

*Faculty Sponsor: Will Bond, Theater*

**Presenters: Jeremy Ohringer '13, Alex Chernin '15, Alison Schilling '15, Emma Friedman '14, Emily Pintel '13, Emma Weiss '13, Julia Romano '13, Larissa Van Rensselaer '13, Sarah Ryan '13**

Through writings, YouTube clips, and podcasts on acting, art, directing, and clowning, we sought to construct a moment of theater that confronts some performance norms while allowing us to grow as actors and director. We have developed a tightknit ensemble; from conversation and practice, we have discovered our patterns individually and as a group. We attempt to breaks those patterns.

**Session 11 - Does This Count? Tackling the Myths of Domestic Violence**

**9:00 – 10:15 AM**

**Gannett Lounge**

**Does This Count? Tackling the Myths of Domestic Violence**

***Faculty Sponsor: Mary Stange, Gender Studies and Religion***

**Presenters: Caitlin Hoey '14, Sydney Magruder '14, Brynne Mullen '14, Juliet Kleber '15, Erica Johnson '14, Leandra Jones '14, Jessica Bolz '14, Emily Willstatter '14, Dorothy Franks '14, Madjiguene Ciss '14, Callie James '14, Kiira Lizza '13, Tessa Resta-Flarer '12, Emily Drew-Moyer '12, Rena Linden '12, Amber Butcher '12, Susan Uppling '14, Annelieke Rietsema '13, and Hannah Stein '12**

This session is a about a civil service project for the Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Center of Saratoga Springs undertaken by the Gender Studies 201 section, comprised of multiple Public Service Announcements that class members researched, wrote, and edited. Showing statistics, various scenarios, and statements that defy underlying stereotypes surrounding abuse, this project seeks to educate the public about the warning signs of domestic violence and on ways to help report and prevent it. This is a unique combination of community outreach and relational theory and practice.

**Session 12 - Skidmore in the Saratoga Community Roundtable**

**9:30 – 11:00 AM**

**Palamountain 303**

**Cool Cities - Sustainability Partnership Between Saratoga Springs and Skidmore College**

***Faculty Sponsor: Karen Kellogg, Environmental Studies***

**Presenters: Emma Kurs '12, Roz Freeman '12, Charlotte Levy '13, Evan Nathan '15, Christina Walker '14, Stephanie Seidmon '13, Beal St. George '14, Anna Farrell '13, and Sondra Lipshutz '13**

The Skidmore Cool Cities Working Group partners with the City of Saratoga Springs to further sustainability initiatives in compliance with the Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement, which the Mayor signed in 2009 as a result of the Working Group's efforts. Our efforts include a transportation proposal that encompasses bicycle infrastructure (such as sharrows and lanes), hybrid vehicles, and an idling policy for the City; and a municipal greenhouse gas emissions inventory.



### **Reading and the Community**

*Faculty Sponsor: Catherine Golden, English*

**Presenter: Carol Brown '13**

In my three years at Skidmore, I have spent 2-3 days a month reading aloud with a book club at the dementia unit of Wesley Health Center, and I have participated in a Saratoga Reads book talk at Prestwick Chase once each year. Through these experiences, I've seen the power that the common thread of shared literature can bring to interactions with all types of people: reading together can transcend the gap between college-aged students and retirement-aged community members.

### **Saratoga Reads--A Citizenship Project Experience**

*Faculty Sponsor: Catherine Golden, English*

**Presenters: Rachel Segal-Sklar '12 and Brianna Wellen '14**

We are screening the short film we created to go with our Citizenship Project that documents the process of getting ready for Saratoga Reads, Junior Reads!. Afterwards, we will discuss our personal experiences with the project and how it has affected our understanding of the Saratoga Springs community.

### **Saratoga Reads!--Combining Skidmore Classroom and Community**

*Faculty Sponsor: Catherine Golden, English*

**Presenter: Daniel Johnstone '14**

Saratoga Reads! offers Skidmore students the opportunity to give back to the community. Each February, Skidmore students pair with local Saratoga High School students to lead discussions with 4th-6th graders about a book that relates to the adult selection chosen by the entire Saratoga Springs community. I will talk about my experiences teaching *The Invention of Hugo Cabret* and *Phineas Gage: A Gruesome but True Story About Brain Science* over the past two years and recommend this opportunity to other Skidmore students.

### **Mapping Accessibility in Saratoga Springs**

*Faculty Sponsor: Alex Chaucer, GIS*

**Presenters: Stephanie Seidmon '13 and Charlie Glassberg '12**

In 2011, Stephanie and Charlie each interned with Shared Access Saratoga, a group bringing together members of government, non-profits, and active citizens to accomplish one goal: more accessible and sustainable transportation in Saratoga Springs. Working in low-income areas, they coordinated volunteers and organized GPS data collection of transportation infrastructure, including crosswalks, curb cuts, and where sidewalk maintenance was needed. GIS maps were created to show areas in need of improvement.

### **Teaching Preschoolers through Story and Song**

*Faculty Sponsor: Roy Rotheim, Business*

**Presenter: Kortney Sumner '12**

I volunteer at the Jefferson Terrace Head Start preschool in town. I noticed the kids love story and song activities. I decided to write and create an extended storybook performance that incorporates songs, movement, and an overall narrative. The performance serves to provide the preschoolers with an original, engaging, dynamic, and interactive teaching experience drawing from my experience as a Psychology major and a volunteer at this wonderful preschool.

**Session 13 - This is Fake Real Life**

**9:00 – 9:45 AM**

**Gannett Auditorium**

**This is Fake Real Life**

***Faculty Sponsor: Tom Lewis, English***

**Presenter: Rebecca Landman '12**

*This is Fake Real Life* examines the rules of improv comedy and their relevance in art and life. In this documentary film, improvisers from three dominant comedy-hubs of Chicago, New York City, and Los Angeles discuss the cultural impact of improvisation on the present-day social and political climate in America.

**Session 14 - African Arts from the Old World to the New**

**9:00 – 10:00 AM**

**Filene 115**

**SSP100-001 African Arts from the Old World to the New**

***Faculty Sponsor: Lisa Aronson, Art History***

Students in Lisa Aronson's FYE course, African Arts from the Old World to the New, were required to research and give an oral presentation on an aspect of African-American visual, audio, or material culture of their choice. The assignment asked them to consider the African roots of these traditions as well as the role these traditions played in shaping African-American identities in the New World. The students selected these five presentations as the best in the class.

**Presenters:**

**Emily Kortright '15**

**"Bottle Trees"**

**Alleia Pluymers '15**

**"Artist Lois Mailou Jones & her African Connections"**

**Katie Rodriguez '15**

**"Gospel"**

**Mirza Tanovic '15**

**"Rock and Roll"**

**Rosalie Wright-Lapin '15**

**"Soul Food"**

**Elizabeth Scirica '15**

**(moderator)**

**Session 15 – Writing the 1890s, Panel 1**

**9:00 – 10:00 AM**

**Palamountain 300**

**The Wild(e) Nineties**

**Writing the 1890s, Panel 1**

***Faculty Sponsor: Barbara Black, English***

**Presenters: George Cashion '12, Rebecca Epstein '12, Mackenzie Ginsburg '12, Lauren Gradowski '12, Anthony Princi '12, Marjie Hochberger '12, and Savannah Grier '12**

Authors from the English Department's Senior Seminar "The Wild(e) Nineties" will speak about their work and read selections from their capstone projects. This panel should interest those who wish to learn more about the 1890s, an infamous and wild decade in England, and to hear some fine prose read aloud.

**Session 16 – Transformation Isometry Cookbook**

**9:00 – 10:15 AM**

**Harder 202**

**Transformation Geometry Isometry Cookbook**

***Faculty Sponsor: R. Dan Hurwitz, Mathematics & CS***

**Presenters: Steven Anton '12, Michelle Bakker '12, Alexander Brehm '12, Genevieve Brett '12, Garrett Bush '12, Rebecca Conneely '12, Carlo D'Angelis '12, Reed Fagan '12, Yinebeb Girma '12, Amber Leonard '12, Jonathan Metais '12, Lyle Reed '12, Jonathan Reeves '12, Caroline Rutherford '12, William Sundstrom '12, Emma Whitman '12, Xiao Qian Zhang '12**

It is well known that the symmetry group for the Euclidean plane has four types of elements: translations, rotations, reflections, and glide reflections. While it is not too difficult to classify the types to which compositions of these isometries lead, specific details (such as rotocenters, axes, displacements) require more attention. In this panel, we use The Geometer's Sketchpad to show the complete descriptions of isometries resulting from all 16 compositions.

**Session 17 - Religion & Industry in French Culture**

**10:30 – 11:15 AM**

**Bolton 281**

**The Ski Industry in France and the U.S.: Where It Came From and Where It's Going**

***Faculty Sponsor: John Anzalone, Foreign Languages***

**Presenter: Kelsey Weiss '12**

Skiing is a very unique passion. Its history has taught us about the complexities of the ski industry; making future strategies for an uncertain industry is definitely a unique challenge. My thesis compiles a wide range of research from global warming to snow trends, resort operations, and to interviews with both the former and current Presidents of the North American Operations for Rossignol (a leading French ski retailer). I have created strategic assessments both for the ski industry in general and particularly for Rossignol.

### **Islamic Women's difficulties in France**

*Faculty Sponsor: Marc Wiesmann, IA*

**Presenter: Soon Lee '12**

Since the late 1980s, Muslim women in France have been increasingly targeted for their supposed inability to “assimilate” and “integrate” into French society. Though there are a number of reasons for why this has become the case, leading sociologists and political theorists argue that one contributing factor is that Muslim women have been used as scapegoats to justify existing xenophobic thoughts, tendencies, and beliefs within France. This paper therefore explores the various ways in which Muslim women in France have been targeted and aims to: (1) dispel the misconceptions one may have of the hijab and niqab in terms of female oppression, and (2) demonstrate how these bans have not only encouraged the stigmatization of Islam and Muslim women, but how they have also contributed to an increase in their social, political and economic marginalization.

### **Session 18 - Issues in Education: Senior Research Poster Session**

**10:30 – 11:30 AM**

**Palamountain 200**

#### **Issues in Education: Senior Research Projects**

*Faculty Sponsor: Hope Casto, Education*

**Presenters: Megan Barlow '12, Jenna Borden '12, Elizabeth Buckholz '12, Meghan Hurley '12, Tessa Resta-Flarer '12, Hayley Speisman '12, and Elizabeth Warren '12**

This poster session includes senior research projects on topics including the history of schooling in Boston, gender in the elementary classroom, the changing definition of autism, the homework culture in elementary school, teachers' perceptions of inclusion, religion in public schools, and Visual Thinking Strategies as an example of how art education can be reintroduced into the traditional elementary classroom.

### **Session 19 - Management & Business: Senior Theses 2**

**10:30 – 11:45 AM**

**Palamountain 202**

#### **Giving Annie Her Guns: The Marketing of Fear, Glamour, and Feminism by the Gun Industry**

*Faculty Sponsor: Pushi Prasad, Management & Business*

**Presenter: Penhleak Chan '12**

During peacetime in America, gun ownership not only lost its pragmatic purpose but also drew serious controversy. In view of the revenue decline in mid-1980s, the gun industry was anxiously in search for ways to broaden its market and strengthen its legitimacy. This paper examines a key strategy the gun industry used to improve its legitimacy, which in brief was to woo large sections of the female population to become regular gun users.

#### **Building Bridges: How a Teambuilding Activity Factors into Team Dynamics and Performance**

*Faculty Sponsor: Caroline D'Abate, Management & Business*

**Presenter: Raiza Nazareth '12**

This pretest-treatment-posttest study makes use of a cohort design to examine how team dynamics (i.e., goal congruence, cohesion, social loafing, team potency) evolve over time and whether a teambuilding intervention can have a beneficial impact on team dynamics and effectiveness. With teams increasingly utilized in the workplace as well as in academic curricula, understanding how to make them more effective is critical. This presentation will share results of the study as well as practical implications for undergraduate course design.

**Can't Buy Me Love: Does Ostracism Cause Self-Indulgence or Pro-social Gifting?**

*Faculty Sponsor: Mark Staton, Management & Business & Sheldon Solomon, Psychology*

**Presenter: Mila Woodfield '12**

Comprehensive research has revealed that when our precious social ties are threatened, we have intense negative psychological reactions. Interestingly, less research has focused on how exclusion might affect behavior. This study serves to fill this void by investigating whether ostracized individuals spend money on themselves or friends. Will excluded individuals choose to gift in an effort to compensate for severed social ties? Or will they self-indulge to improve a negative mood state?

**Contingent Worker Satisfaction: Effects on Organizational Commitment**

*Faculty Sponsor: Colleen Burke, Management & Business*

**Presenter: Philip Diamond '12**

The workforce contains between five and twenty percent contingent, or non-employee, workers. As this is such a large part of the workforce, understanding what makes them effective workers is important. One of the greatest problems employers face when utilizing contingent workers is a lack of organizational commitment. This research examines whether or not increased job satisfaction improves organizational commitment, which is known to impact productivity. From the findings, this presentation will offer informed hiring and management recommendations.

**A Longitudinal Analysis of the Cross-Promotion of Website References in Print Advertisements**

*Faculty Sponsor: Ela Lepkowska-White, Management & Business*

**Presenter: Aylin Ceylan '12**

This is an investigation into how cross-promotion of website references in print advertisements has changed over time. Cross-promotion is becoming a more significant part of advertising as advertisers strive to create a consistent, strong brand image by developing synergy among different channels of advertising. The purpose of this study is to examine whether advertisers are now utilizing guidelines on how to effectively cross-promote websites in print advertisements and to test whether the situation has improved over time.

**Session 20 - Jane Austen: Unexpected, Expected, and Relevant**

**10:15 – 11:15 AM**

**Palamountain 302**

**Jane Austen: Unexpected, expected, and relevant**

*Faculty Sponsor: Catherine Golden, English*

**Presenters: Sergio Hernandez '12, Jillian Bensko '12, Marina Filisky '12, Rohini Alamgir '12, and Rebecca Gaynon '13**

We often think of Jane Austen as the writer of “love” novels. However, this is the result of the Austen-  
mania in our culture. The film industry is one of many institutions infatuated with Austen’s novels,  
producing spin-offs and “newer” versions of her original works. In this panel, we will discuss how Jane  
Austen’s image functions in our culture, industry, and lives. We will try to find a universal truth about  
Jane Austen.

**Session 21 – Exploration of a Provocative Word: "I'm Not a Slut"**

**10:30 – 11:15 AM**

**Emerson Auditorium**

**"I'm Not A Slut"**

**Faculty Sponsor: Beck Krefting, Gender Studies**

**Presenter: Olivia Morrow '12**

“I’m Not a Slut” is a thorough exploration of the word “slut.” Through a multiplicity of interviews and  
feminist theory, I provide a representation of how the word “slut” functions in society and more  
specifically my generation.

**Session 22 - Sociology Senior Seminar Posters**

**1:00 – 2:30 PM**

**Gannett Lobby**

**Sociology Senior Seminar Posters**

**Faculty Sponsor: Deborah Warnock, Sociology, Anthropology, & Social Work**

**Presenters: Stephen Bissonnette '12, Amber Butcher '12, Rebecca Donner '12, Benjamin  
Harwick '12, Alexander Jarvis '12, Willa Jones '12, Kathryn Lazell '12, Rena Linden '12,  
Andrea Roman Alfaro '12, and Alyson Singer '12**

Throughout the fall semester, senior Sociology majors conducted individual research projects to examine  
a wide range of social issues in the U.S. and abroad. The research presented here includes investigations  
of Americans' perceptions of immigration, xenophobia in Europe and in South Africa, the sexual double  
standard, the relationship between race and homophobia, the effects of religiosity on trust, perceptions of  
environmental issues and economic growth, and the importance of family-friendly policies for college  
faculty.

**Session 23 – Development Issues at Home and Abroad**

**10:30 – 11:45 PM**

**Ladd 206**

**The Role of FED's Interest Rate Policy and Financial Innovations in the Great Recession**

**Faculty Sponsor: Roy Rotheim, Economics**

**Presenters: Yinebeb Girma '12 and Nicholas Dupuis '12**

The financial crisis (2007/2008) and the subsequent recession did not result from a single factor. This presentation examines the role of two of these factors. First, we will show how the Federal Reserve's misguided interest setting policies in the years preceding the crisis skewed mortgage prices and helped fuel the mortgage bubble. Second, we will present the crucial role that financial innovations, particularly the securitization instruments, played in creating and sustaining the mortgage bubble.

### **"Economic Sanctions and International Poverty"**

*Faculty Sponsor: Lynda Vargha, Economics*

**Presenter: Alexander Brehm '12**

Summary: Trade and financial embargoes increase poverty in the nations they target, often done for a larger political goal. However, certain factors make some nations more susceptible than others, and it may be the case that sanctions cause economic harm but do not succeed in their political aims. Using historical data, we can understand when sanctions are likely to cause more or less economic harm and when they are likely to be politically successful. Knowing these statistics can inform better US international policy.

### **Quest for Humanity: Experience in Swaziland**

*Faculty Sponsor: Rebecca Krefting, American Studies*

**Presenter: Halé Hall '14**

During Winter Break, I was one of 50 young leaders from all over the world to participate in the United World College Course "Together for Development!" For 2 ½ weeks, I studied community development in a dynamic multicultural environment and learned much more than I expected about my own self and the world. In this presentation, I will share my experience abroad and the connections I have made since this experience.

### **Dynamic Models of Residential Segregation**

*Faculty Sponsor: Tom O'Connell, Computer Science*

**Presenter: Tim Nichols '12**

The 1968 Civil Rights Act aimed to eliminate explicit discrimination in the housing market. Today, anonymous surveys reveal universal preference for ethnically mixed neighborhoods in urban areas, yet the vast majority of neighborhoods demonstrate seemingly organized patterns of residential segregation. We use a series of Game Theory methods and simulations (programmed in Java) to show how individual preference and initial spatial distributions can lead to segregated outcomes in American neighborhoods.

### **Session 24 - Topics in Number Theory Poster Session**

**10:45 – 12:00 PM**

**Dana Atrium**

#### **Topics in Number Theory**

*Faculty Sponsor: Gove Effinger, Mathematics & CS*

**Presenters: Ahmad Almanassra '13, Steven Anton '12, Johanna Branagan '12, Madeline Burkhart '15, Garrett Bush '12, Kimberly Caceres '14, Holly Cartwright '14, Adrian Cowles '13, Jessica Dankner '12, Daniel De Beradinis '13, John Ireland '14, Francis Lyons '14, Alexandra McGlinchy '14, Jonathan Metais '12, Conor Molloy '14, Michael Perlow '13, Sophie Richards '13, Caroline Rutherford '12, Matthew Stone, and Huang Zou '15**

Teams of students from the course Theory of Numbers (MA 214) will present posters on a variety of topics including Carmichael numbers, irrational numbers, Pascal's Triangle, Fibonacci numbers, sums of squares, Pell's equation, and Square-Triangular numbers.

**Session 25 - Race, Difference and American Culture: American Studies Senior Theses**

**10:30 – 11:45 AM**

**Tisch 301**

**American Studies Senior Theses; or Race, Difference, and American Culture**

***Faculty Sponsor: Daniel Nathan, American Studies***

**Presenter: Allison Dell Otto '12**

What if Malcolm X was queer? This paper examines the responses in the Black community to suggestions made in two biographies that Malcolm X engaged in same-sex activity. Most of these reactions were negative, and through an investigation of them, and of the life of openly gay Civil Rights leader Bayard Rustin, we can gain a new understanding of X's legacy, homophobia and hyper-masculinity, and the potential for mending divisions between Black and queer identities.

**Presenter: Kathryn Lazell '12**

Tourism has been an essential element in the development of several American towns, including Saratoga Springs, New York, and Martha's Vineyard. For nearly as long as Saratoga and the Vineyard have drawn crowds, they have also drawn African Americans who worked in the tourist industry. The different attitudes towards black history in Saratoga and the Vineyard have affected African Americans' ability to gain equal status and opportunity.

**Presenter: Callison Stratton '12**

This paper discusses how museums and memorials have played a role in shaping American memories and opinions about the Civil Rights movement and its most recognizable figure, Martin Luther King, Jr. Through an examination of the National Civil Rights Museum at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee, and the new MLK Memorial on the National Mall, I explore the impact of romanticized history on public memory and its potential repercussions in the future.

**Presenter: Jacob Wolf '12**

This critical reading of National Basketball Association (NBA) race relations dispels the myth that America is a post-racial society. Through critiques of Ron Artest and the 2004 Malice in the Palace Brawl, the implementation of a league-wide dress code, pre-draft evaluations of White prospects, and the 2012 cultural phenomenon of Linsanity, this paper demonstrates how racial stereotyping by fans, the media, and league administrators remains prominent in the NBA.

**Session 26 - New York City Urban Project: Spring Break Plunge**

**10:45 – 12:00 PM**

**Tisch 201**

**New York City Urban Project: Spring Break Plunge**



*Faculty Sponsor: Rebecca Johnson, Psychology*

**Presenters: Makenzi Knight '13, Adrienne Fuller '13, Anna Hall '14, Ann-Marie Raphail '14, Lin Liang '14, Najwa Webster '14, Christian Hemerling '15, Heather Zhang '15, Jesina Muvekwa '15, and Timothy Kim '15**

At the New York City Urban Project, students are challenged to consider injustice at personal, relational, and systemic levels. While being informed about issues of human trafficking, educational inequality, and excessive consumption, students learn about how Christian faith engages these concerns. They either work at the Bowery Mission or help out on the streets of NYC to serve the impoverished members of the community.

**Session 27 - Body Matters: Exercise Science Research Projects 2**

**10:15 – 11:15 AM**

**Sports and Rec. Room 201**

**The Effects of Carbon Monoxide Treatment on HO-1 Expression, Body Weight, Adiposity, Food Intake, and Insulin Sensitivity**

*Faculty Sponsor: T. H. Reynolds, Exercise Sciences*

**Presenter: Benjamin Sell '12**

The purpose of this study is to test the effects of carbon monoxide treatment on HO-1 expression, body weight, adiposity, food intake, and insulin sensitivity. Eight mice received 250 ppm of carbon monoxide (CO) for one hour per day for 10 days. CO treatment decreased insulin sensitivity but did not alter any other variable studied.

**The Effects of a Brief, Daily Mindfulness Meditation Intervention on Cardiometabolic Risk Factors in People with High-Stress, Sedentary Jobs**

*Faculty Sponsor: Maxwell Ruby, Health & Exercise Sciences*

**Presenter: Gabriel Zieff '12**

The purpose of this project was to test the effects of a 7-week mindful meditation intervention on cardiometabolic risk factors in people working full time in high stress, sedentary jobs. Subjects were trained in mindfulness meditation, focusing on breathing and non-judgmental awareness, and were instructed to practice for 15 minutes daily. Participants' glucose tolerance, blood pressure, stress, and body composition were compared before and after the intervention.

**The Effects of a Short-Term Exercise Intervention on the Physical and Mental Health Variables in a Population of Adults with Intellectual Disabilities**

*Faculty Sponsor: Pat Fehling, Health & Exercise Sciences & Crystal Moore, Social Work*

**Presenters: Rachel Sotak '12, Joe Mooney '12, Sam Crose '12, and Aly Kessner '12**

Our study's purpose was to investigate the effectiveness of a seven-week exercise intervention in promoting exercise self-efficacy and quality of life, as well as improving balance, functional strength, and functional mobility, in a population of adults with mild to moderate intellectual disability. We collaborated with Saratoga Bridges Alpha Day Services and 16 of its participants.

**The Effects of Manganese Tetrakis Benzoic Acid Porphyrin (MnTBAP) on Adiposity and Insulin Sensitivity in Mice Fed a High-Fat Diet**

*Faculty Sponsor: T.H. Reynolds, Health & Exercise Sciences*

**Presenters: Leila Fussell '12 and Elena Stansky '12**

One of the major conditions associated with type 2 diabetes is obesity. Although there are treatment options for improving insulin action, there are few viable treatment options to reduce adiposity. Therefore, there is a need to develop new anti-obesity compounds. The purpose of this study is to determine the effects of MnTBAP on adiposity and weight loss in obese mice.

**Session 28 - Lost and Found in Translation**

**10:15 – 11:30 AM**

**JKB Studio A**

**Lost and Found in Translation**

*Faculty Sponsor: Eunice Ferreira, Theater*

**Presenters: Elizabeth DeVito '12, Salome Egas '14, Elyssa Schaeffer '12, Alison Schaufler '14, and Elisabeth Svenningsen '13**

Answering the call as scholar/artists, students have applied translation theory in practice and performance by translating new plays into English. Five first-ever English translations premiere in this staged reading of 10-minute excerpts. The plays address the themes of marital strife, exile, politics and religion, border crossings, and Greek myth. In translating playwrights from France, Africa, Ecuador and Mexico, the students make an original contribution to the field of translation studies and to theatre practice in the U.S.

**Session 29 - Nietzschean Solitude vs. Aristotelian Friendship**

**11:30 – 12:15 PM**

**Emerson Auditorium**

**Nietzschean Solitude vs. Aristotelian Friendship**

**Group Presentation by 2 Philosophy Senior Thesis Writers**

*Faculty Sponsor: Reg Lilly, Philosophy*

**Presenters: Rose Bouboushian '12 and Ariane Vokes '12**

An excellent human being must find a way to relate to others or flourish in spite of them. To Aristotle, a virtuous person belongs in a city, with friends, and must balance self-regard with other-regard, while the Nietzschean free spirit perpetually overcomes the self and others via solitary mountain-climbing and desert-drifting. Our presentation will explore the intra- and interpersonal intricacies of leading a meaningful life by embracing either friendship or solitude.

**Session 30 - Studies in Victorianism & Modernism**

**11:15 – 12:00 PM**

**Palamountain 303**

**Ulysses**

***Faculty Sponsor: Tom Lewis, English***

**Presenter: Douglas Pilawa '12**

In my senior capstone on Joyce's *Ulysses*, I outlined the major historical events of the Roman Catholic Church in the 19th and 20th centuries in Ireland and analyzed how these events manifest themselves in two chapters of the novel—all without focusing on the two main characters of the text.

**"The Degree May Be Attained By Any Man:" Masculinity, Class, Narrative, and Heroism in Charles Dickens's *Our Mutual Friend***

***Faculty Sponsor: Barbara Black, English***

**Presenter: Marina Filisky '12**

*Our Mutual Friend*, Charles Dickens's final completed novel, is a fascinating departure, thematically and stylistically, from his previous works—no more so than in his treatment of the three young men at the heart of his intertwined plots. My thesis examines how these characters represent both a culmination of Dickens's lifelong struggles with the themes of masculinity, class, and identity and a departure from them, as he offers the possibility of a new Victorian hero.

**Session 31 – The Candace Carlucci Backus '66 Prize Presentations**

**12:00- 1:00 PM**

**Bolton 281**

**The Candace Carlucci Backus '66 Prize Presentations**

***Sponsor: FYE***

**Presenters: Julietta Cole '15, Mayumi Kohiyama '15, Eleanor Wood '15**

**Julietta Cole '15 – “Nature Journal Entries”**

I was delighted to be admitted into the seminar *Life in the North Woods* because it complimented my rural Vermont upbringing and dug into a creative well hitherto untapped. I was able to explore my life so far in a new light, as we were encouraged to ponder deeply man's relationship with nature and to express our thoughts in writing. This contemplation as well as my own experience in nature inspired these journal entries.

**Mayumi Kohiyama '15 – “The Importance of Literacy in Pre-Civil War Slavery”**

“The Importance of Literacy in Pre-Civil War Slavery” examines the multifaceted role of literacy in a pre-Civil War slave culture. Literacy was a crucial means to freedom, a form of resistance against slave masters, and a critical tool for the formation of a cultural identity through literature and religion.

**Eleanor Wood '15 – “A First Grade Lesson”**

Film has an amazing ability to make history leap from the two-dimensional page to the unique three-dimensional, tangible world, making it easier for audiences to connect to the stories of the past. Justin Chadwick's *The First Grader* (2010) is an effective historical film that allows the viewer to feel empathy for the characters without damaging any of the story's historical integrity. The film tells the story of

Kimani N'gan'ga Maruge, an 84 year-old Kenyan villager who fights for his right to go back to school in 2004 when the Kenyan government announced free universal education.

**Session 32 - Literary Trivia Challenge**

**12:00 – 1:00 PM SPA**

**Literary Trivia brought to you by Skidmore's Literary Society**

**Literary Trivia Challenge**

*Faculty Sponsor: Catherine Golden, English*

**Presenters: Amanda Ostrove '13, John Maher '12, Lilly Richardson '12, Dale Obbie '12, Adina Fried '12, and Maya Gittelman '14**

The Skidmore Literary Society, Skidmore's only club dedicated to the appreciation of literature, presents a literary trivia challenge! The topics will be wide-ranging, including anything from *Beowulf* to Shakespeare to Harry Potter. Come see if you are the literary trivia master! All are welcome, including groups and individual players. There will be prizes!

**Session 33 - Bursting the Bubble: Beyond Broadway**

**1:00 – 2:30 PM Palamontain 200**

**Bursting the Bubble: Beyond Broadway**

*Faculty Sponsor: Crystal Moore, Social Work*

**Presenters: Tami Cohen '13, Niki Deininger '15, Rachel Fell '14, Rebecca Gilligan '13, Kelsey Hull '14, Aly Kessner '12, Jake Lewis '13, Aly Miller '14, Julia Pichardo '14, Ashley Reynolds '14, Zuliani Rosario '14, Mackenzie Staub '13, Phoebe Stein '14, and Anjanette Tucker '13**

Beyond Broadway's mansions, Saratoga Springs community members with social, physical, mental, and economic challenges strive to improve their lives. Community Engagement is a student-driven course designed to make positive contributions to those beyond the "Skidmore bubble." Students from various academic disciplines explore the nonprofit sector and work with groups to promote social justice and well-being. Our work with environmental justice, elders, people with intellectual disabilities, prisoners, low-income neighborhoods, and family services is the focus of our panel.

**Session 34 - Skidmore-Saratoga Entrepreneurial Partnership Final Consultancy Case Studies**

**1:00 – 3:15 PM Palamontain 202**

**Skidmore-Saratoga Entrepreneurial Partnership Final Consultancy Case Studies**

*Faculty Sponsor: Roy Rotheim, Management & Business*

**Session I**

**Seamless Event Tailoring**

**Presenters: Colin Bessey '12, Ginny Calderon '12, and Minh Uong '14**

**Washington Inn**

**Presenters: Cyrus Park '12 and Kelsey Rogers '13**

## Session II

### Spring Street Incubator Project

**Presenters:** Tyler Doremus '12, Kiyo Egashira '12, and Julian Malakorn '13

### Saratoga War Horse

**Presenters:** Tim Nichols '12, William Powell '12, and Anthony Giacin '14

### Technology for Public Good

**Presenters:** Zachary Sweebe '12 and Mila Woodfield '12

Students in the Partnership will be presenting their Final Business Consultancy Case Studies.

## Session 35 - Managing Work-Family Conflict

**1:00 – 2:00 PM**

**Emerson Auditorium**

### Managing Work-Family Conflict

*Faculty Sponsor: Catherine White Berheide, Sociology, Anthropology, & Social Work*

**Presenters:** Anisha Asundi '12, Eliza Berman '13, Molly Canavan '12, Kyle Clark '12, Kathryn Flick '13, Amanda Hill '13, Marjorie Hochberger '12, Quenten Howard '14, Gerard O'Shea '12, Julie Rudnick '13, Emily Soffa '13, and Terron Victoria '12

This panel examines work-family dynamics from both a macro and a micro viewpoint. Starting from a global perspective, we analyze US policies, comparing them to those of other countries. Next we focus on the individual level and discuss how family-friendly policies affect employees' personal lives, including leisure time. In conclusion, we will help you manage these work and family conflicts, suggesting how to create a more flexible future for employees.

## Session 36 – Topics in 20th-century German Studies

**1:00 – 2:00 PM**

**Ladd 206**

### 20th Century German Topics

*Faculty Sponsor: Mary-Beth O'Brien, Foreign Languages*

**Presenters:** Thomas Coon '12, Lilly Richardson '12 and Warren Bianchi '12

Three German majors present their senior theses on topics relevant to Germany in the 20th century. Topics include the use of Neo-Classical architecture in Hitler's propaganda, a Queer Theory reading of Herman Hesse's *Steppenwolf*, and the status of non-German immigrants in Germany. The presentations deal with interdepartmental topics, including sociology, literature, and race studies.

### **Session 37 - The Implications of Economic Globalization and Reform**

**1:00 – 2:00 PM**

**Pohndorff Room**

#### **The Implications of Economic Globalization and Reform**

***Faculty Sponsor: Roy Rotheim, Economics***

**Presenters: Sonja Chai '12, Maximilian Bevan '12, and Penhleak Chan '12**

The globalization of markets prompted a multitude of political and economic reforms worldwide. This panel looks at the consequences and implications of three different regional responses to the globalization phenomenon. The following topics will be presented: The political and economic decisions that led to over-financialization in the Eurozone periphery, socioeconomic disparity in China after the reform era, and the factors leading to Cambodia's stagnant growth during the economic downturn of 2008-9.

### **Session 38 - Developments in Chemistry Research**

**12:45 – 2:15 PM**

**Dana 240**

#### **Synthesis and Immobilization of a Novel, Photoswitchable Ruthenium(II) Complex**

***Faculty Sponsor: Steven Frey, Chemistry***

**Presenter: Nicholas Blair '12**

Certain metal complexes undergo a color change when irradiated with light of a particular wavelength and are, therefore, of interest with regard to the storage of optical data. We have recently optimized the synthesis of a novel "light-switching" ruthenium complex and are currently working on methodology to immobilize it on glass or gold surfaces. Characterization of the complex itself and solid materials that result from its immobilization have been a focus of this study.

#### **Characterization of the Pathways for *B. bacteriovorus* Asn-tRNA<sup>Asn</sup> Formation**

***Faculty Sponsor: Kelly Sheppard, Chemistry***

**Presenter: Brittany Ulrich '12**

Two routes have evolved for attaching asparagine (Asn) to its transfer RNA (tRNA<sup>Asn</sup>), an essential step in translation. In one pathway, Asn is ligated to tRNA<sup>Asn</sup> by AsnRS. In another pathway, a non-discriminating AspRS attaches Asp to tRNA<sup>Asn</sup> and GatCAB converts Asp to Asn. *Bdellovibrio bacteriovorus* encodes the direct route and may encode the indirect route. The question we examined is whether its AspRS is non-discriminating or not. We are assaying the *B. bacteriovorus* AspRS.

#### **An Investigation of a Novel Tandem Intramolecular Diels-Alder Reaction**

***Faculty Sponsor: Ray Giguere, Chemistry***

**Presenter: Vinay Trivedi-Parmar '12**

My research focuses on the synthesis of a unique tetracyclic ring system via a tandem intramolecular Diels-Alder (TIMDA) reaction. One major goal of this project is to investigate the mechanism and stereochemistry of this tandem reaction, and we made progress this term by studying the closure of one intramolecular Diels-Alder reaction of the precursor molecule. The findings of these studies will be presented.

### **Expanding the Genetic Code of E. Coli with Pyroglutamate**

*Faculty Sponsor: Kelly Sheppard, Chemistry*

**Presenter: Sean Heulton '12**

We are working to expand the genetic code of E. coli with the unnatural amino acid pyroglutamate to facilitate research into its function in proteins. To this end we are utilizing a modified two-step archaeal pathway to form pyroglutamate on the tRNA itself during translation. To date, we have successfully synthesized a tRNA with an anti-codon complementary to the UAG stop codon and purified the necessary enzymes to test our pathway in vitro.

### **Aminoacylation Pathways in *Bacillus Halodurans***

*Faculty Sponsor: Kelly Sheppard, Chemistry*

**Presenter: Sanida Luković '12**

Protein synthesis in *Bacillus halodurans* can occur by two pathways. In the direct pathway, tRNA attaches asparagine (Asn) directly to the growing polypeptide chain. In the indirect pathway, on the other hand, tRNA bears an aspartic acid (Asp) residue that must be converted to Asn by an intermediary enzyme, GatCAB. The objective of this capstone research project is to understand the evolution and specificity of the enzymes involved in the direct translation pathway.

### **Microfluidic Detection of D-Lactate**

*Faculty Sponsor: Kimberley Frederick, Chemistry*

**Presenter: David Remillard '12**

In humans, D-lactate is a minor metabolite, produced in low physiological concentrations. Elevated levels of D-lactate have been linked to several disease states, including malarial infection, making its detection an important diagnostic tool. Currently, existing detection methods suffer expenses from costly equipment and large reagent volumes, precluding application in resource-poor environments. This work aims to develop a simplified microfluidic system for the detection of urinary D-lactate levels through the use of an enzymatic fluorescence assay.

### **Session 39 - Land Use: Past & Present**

**1:00 – 1:45 PM**

**Tisch 301**

### **Property Politics: The Behavioral Implications of Legislated Land Exchanges**

*Faculty Sponsor: Ronald Seyb, Government*

**Presenter: Alison Wrynn '12**

Every year, federal land agencies trade thousands of acres of government land for privately owned tracts to consolidate inholdings and improve management. These transactions have recently become contentious due to increased public awareness and calls from third party groups to reform the process. This scrutiny has made members of Congress hesitant to support exchange proposals. This niche land policy area provides insight into larger trends of political behavior.

### **Horses, Troops, and Business: Saratoga Springs During the Civil War**

*Faculty Sponsor: Eric Morser, History*

**Presenter: Devin Mellor '12**

Though Saratoga Springs is hundreds of miles from the nearest Civil War battle site, the war altered the town's culture, business landscape, and clientele. Over the course of four years, while soldiers fought and loved ones looked on from afar, Saratoga transformed from a relaxing, Southern-dominated destination to a fast-paced, capitalist-driven resort town. Saratoga links the histories of leisure and war in a way not explored by many professional historians. My presentation goes into depth as to how the Civil War altered Saratoga.

#### **Session 40 - Transformation: Body & Identity**

**1:00 – 2:00 PM**

**Tisch 201**

##### **Self On Skin: Tattoos and Transformation**

*Faculty Sponsor: Marla Segol, Religion*

**Presenter: Zoe Katzen '12**

Spiritual tattoos, as personal religious symbols, transform more than just the physical dimension of the body; they are a part of a reflexive process of bodily and psychic transformation. This presentation includes an analysis of how tattoos function as technologies for transformation, an examination of the role of pain and the body in a transformative process of self-development and self-growth, and an exploration of the relationship between New Age Discourse and the contemporary practice of spiritual tattooing.

##### **Liberalism vs. Radicalism in LGB(T) and Queer activism**

*Faculty Sponsor: Kim Tauches, Sociology*

**Presenter: Becks Kolins '12**

I compared the liberal approach of the mainstream LGB(T) movement with the radical approach of the Queer movement. Using social movement theory, queer theory, theories of anger, and the history of the gay rights movement, I provided a foundation to better analyze mainstream LGB(T) organizations and radical queer groups. Using the analytic framework of trans-activist Dean Spade to analyze five organizations, I concluded that in order to achieve true liberation, a radical movement is necessary.

##### **Wide Versus Closed: A Critical Look at Gendered Body Language in Transsexual Individuals at Skidmore College**

*Faculty Sponsor: Kristie Ford, Sociology*

**Presenter: Caleb Stoeffler '12**

This study focuses on transsexual men in the Skidmore community who have worked, through gendered body language norms, to create a public perception of themselves as male. Through in-depth interviews, this research uncovers 6 central themes: sexual orientation, transitional status, space, comfort with identity, general perception of transsexuality, and others' perception of transsexuality.

#### **Session 41 - Writing Across the Genres**

**1:00 – 2:15 PM**

**JKB Studio A**

##### **The Evolution of a Play**

*Faculty Sponsor: Stephanie Fleischmann, Theater*



**Presenter: Nikkitha Bakshani '12**

3.14, It's Not About the Frappuccino, Geworfenheit, Almond-ness - these were some of the potential titles for a play I wrote in my Playwriting II class, a play I have been working on for almost two years, before it reached its final title: Self-Fictionalize. This presentation will display the evolution of this play from the banter I wrote down in the middle of night in my kitchen, to a full Black Box theater production. In this play, I used information I learned from various classes I have taken at Skidmore, including classes in the Philosophy, English and Anthropology programs.

**Just Beneath the Surface**

*Faculty Sponsor: Martha Wiseman, English*

**Presenter: Kristin Travagline '12**

My experiences growing up on a farm in New Jersey inspired my nonfiction piece. My great grandfather emigrated from Italy to the U.S. in the late 1800s and purchased our farm where my grandfather's sister, Jennifer, drowned her children in a local water source and committed suicide. In the Classical fashion, I seek out my family's past to know myself using a lyrical, collage format with excerpts from the ancient Roman Eclogues, Odes, and Epodes.

**Murder, Memory, and Methodology: Constructing a British Indian Historical Novel**

*Faculty Sponsor: Tillman Nechtman, History*

**Presenter: Gwen Pryor '12**

In 1787, the Honorable Basil Cochrane murders his accountant, Videnadah, or so it seems. The influences of the East India Trading Company, the questions of race and rank within the British Empire, and the impact of imagination muddle the clarity in this Madras trial. The witnesses' shifting incentives, incomplete memories, and biased perspectives further complicate the course of the trial by blending fact with fiction. This presentation will explore the process, problems, and methodology behind transforming Basil Cochrane's unpredictable hearing into a British historical crime novel.

**Session 42 - Visualizations of Politics, Royalty and the Divine**

**1:00 – 2:30 PM**

**Somers Room - Tang**

**Botticelli's Primavera: A Personification of Florentine Politics in a Marriage Painting**

*Faculty Sponsor: Jennifer Courts, Art History*

**Presenter: Victoria Engros '12**

By contextualizing Botticelli's Primavera in its original domestic location and in relation to its commission as a marriage gift, this presentation reveals the work as a microcosm of Lorenzo de' Medici's political aspirations. Framing self-display by synthesizing ancient and courtly images, Lorenzo constructed Florence's new native myth. Just as propaganda was employed to legitimize political authority to the public, I argue that the Primavera similarly functioned in the home to reinforce Lorenzo's "golden age."

**Portrait of the King: Gabrielle d'Estrees, Henri IV and Bathing Portraits in Sixteenth-Century France**

**Faculty Sponsor:** *Jennifer Courts, Art History*

**Presenter:** **Hannah Kagan-Moore '12**

My thesis examines Gabrielle d'Estrees and One of Her Sisters, the Duchesse d'Villars, In the Bath (1594; Paris: Louvre), which is usually addressed by scholars in terms of erotic lesbianism or pregnancy. I argue that it relates politically to the court where it was produced, that of King Henri IV of France, and that the painting's homoeroticism, in fact, serves a patriarchal and heterosexual agenda.

### **The Sacred as Tangible: Experiencing the Multi-Sensory Nature of the Hours of Catherine of Cleves**

**Faculty Sponsor:** *Jennifer Courts, Art History*

**Presenter:** **Amanda Hawkins '12**

I argue the novel visual program of the Hours of Catherine of Cleves (ca. 1440; New York: Morgan Library) creates a sensory relationship between Catherine and the divine by encouraging the participation of her own body and physical senses. I examine the border illustrations and discuss how these decorations create tactile and multi-sensory experiences that demonstrate how the personalization her manuscript could provide Catherine with a heightened sense of spiritual freedom.

### **The Sanctuary of the Great Gods at Samothrace: Hellenistic Patronage and Politics**

**Faculty Sponsor:** *Leslie Mechem, Classics/Art History*

**Presenter:** **Bryn Schockmel '12**

In the early third century BCE, Queen Arsinoe II and King Ptolemy II erected two structures, a Rotunda and Propylon, at the Sanctuary of the Great Gods on the Aegean island of Samothrace. My presentation will examine the artistic and political significance of these monuments. I argue that Arsinoe and Ptolemy patronized the Sanctuary with building projects to forward their imperial ideologies and cement their legitimacy as rulers after the death of Alexander the Great.

### **Session 43 - Visual Communications Roundtable**

**1:00 – 2:30 PM**

**Palamountain 303**

### **Managing and Recording Invasive Garlic Mustard in Skidmore's North Woods**

**Faculty Sponsor:** *Riley Neugebauer & Joshua Ness, Biology*

**Presenters:** **Adam Schmelkin '12 & Charles Glassberg '12**

Invasive species have been identified as a leading cause of habitat degradation worldwide. Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) is recognized as an invader of temperate deciduous forests in the eastern United States, as this exotic species is adept at colonizing undisturbed habitats. As North Woods Stewards, we pulled > 15,000 garlic mustard plants within the Skidmore College North Woods. Using GIS Technology, we constructed a density map to show the "hot spots" of this invasive species.

### **Learning to Read like a Victorian**

**Faculty Sponsor:** *Catherine Golden, English*

**Presenter:** **Tyler Devine '14**

For my roundtable discussion, I will give a presentation on how to read Victorian Illustrations. I will use examples from *Oliver Twist*, as well as George Cruikshank's *The Bottle* to demonstrate the ways in which Victorians utilized symbolism to convey different meanings to their audience.

### **Documentary Film Writing**

**Faculty Sponsor:** *Tom Lewis, English*

**Presenters:** **Willa Jones '12, with Maria Villar Rodriguez, Raphael Karen '14, Erica Kleinman '13, Timothy Lueders-Dumont '12, Sarah Roberts '15, Patrick Klimaszewski '12, and Noah Throop '14**

Students from Tom Lewis's documentary film classes will discuss the challenges and rewards of writing and making documentaries.

### **Pointing the Way in Victorian Studies**

**Faculty Sponsor:** *Catherine Golden, English*

**Presenters:** **Carly Stokes '13 & Andrew McLaughlin '12**

The Victorian novel is deeply rooted in its historical context. This semester, we explored this connection in cultural studies reports with three components: a written report, an oral presentation, and a power point. In this session, we will talk about how creating a power point offered a way to organize our thoughts before writing a paper as well as the power of the visual to make vivid to our classmates the excitements of the Victorian age.

### **Session 44 - After.**

**1:00 – 2:30 PM**

**Bolton 382**

*After.*

**Faculty Sponsor:** *Carolyn Anderson, Theater*

**Presenters:** **Anne Dufault '12, Ryan Crotty '15, Will Hoeschler '14, Olivia Kinnear '15, Alex Orthwein '13, Dara Silverman '13, Zac Uslainer '14, Lena Wellhoefer '14, and Brittany Voicy '15**

*After* by MacRorie Dean, directed by Anne Dufault '12, is a piece of theater about college kids suddenly overrun by the reality of sexual assault. This play explores ideas of rape, recovery, and responsibility, not just for the individuals involved but for their whole community. There will be a brief discussion about the issues raised in the play following the performance.

**Session 45 - Writing the 1890s, Panel 2**

**1:00 – 2:00 PM**

**Palamountain 300**

**The Wild(e) Nineties**

**Writing the 1890s, Panel 2**

*Faculty Sponsor: Barbara Black, English*

**Presenters: Sergio Hernandez '12, Chris Hirokawa '12, Marjie Hochberger '12, Cameron Keady '12, Anna Linscott-Zask '12, and Annie Tibbitts '12**

Authors from the English Department's Senior Seminar "The Wild(e) Nineties" will speak about their work and read selections from their capstone projects. This panel should interest those who wish to learn more about the 1890s, an infamous and wild decade in England, and to hear some fine prose read aloud.

**Session 46 - Research in Mathematics & Computer Science**

**1:00 – 2:00 PM**

**Harder 202**

**Analyzing Sabermetrics with Examples and Potential Applications**

*Faculty Sponsor: Dan Hurwitz, Mathematics*

**Presenter: Amber Leonard '12**

Analyzing Sabermetrics with Examples and Potential Applications explores the world of statistical analytics in sports. It tracks the work that has already been done within the field, with a concentration on baseball. Special attention is given to analyzing existing formulas, their accuracy, and their use. Possible areas of expansion are included, with an in depth examination of the statistical effects of the first pitch in baseball.

**Symmetry in Knitting**

*Faculty Sponsor: Dan Hurwitz, Mathematics*

**Presenter: Ava Hamilton '12**

This presentation examines the concepts of symmetry, and how they can be applied to a piece of knitting. We will cover the symmetry of an actual knit stitch as well as the implementation of symmetry patterns within the knit medium. These patterns include frieze patterns, wallpaper patterns, and Archimedean tessellations. Knit pieces, including sweaters demonstrating frieze patterns, will be shown as well.

**Modeling Fluid Mixing in the Ocean: An Analytic and Numerical Case Study**

*Faculty Sponsor: Rachel Roe-Dale, Mathematics & CS*

**Presenter: Genevieve Brett '12**

The distribution of energy and velocity in the ocean under breaking waves is examined based on work by Craig ('96) and Burchard ('01). Analytic and numerical solutions are found, and the numerical study is subjected to sensitivity analyses.

**Session 47 - Mexico & Costa Rica: A Scientific Exploration**

**2:00 – 3:00 PM**

**Bolton 281**

**The proximity debate for environmental awareness and activism: A story from Costa Rica**

*Faculty Sponsor: Karen Kellogg, Environmental Studies*

**Presenter: Rachel Chalat '12**

The purpose of this study is to examine if people are more concerned with local environmental problems or global problems. This study examines rural communities in Costa Rica, utilizing data from interviews to compare how residents perceive the local problem of waste management and the global problem of climate change. Ultimately, the results identify the important variables of residents' willingness to pay for each problem and to provide recommendations for further mitigation of both problems.

**Determining the paleoclimate of Yucatán, Mexico from a stalagmite using geochemical analysis**

*Faculty Sponsor: Amy Frappier, Geosciences*

**Presenter: Logan Brenner '12**

Anthropogenic greenhouse emissions are pushing climate to deviate from Quaternary patterns. In predicting future change, two analogs are the end of the last glacial and the penultimate interglacial: Eemian Stalagmites note the isotopic composition of rainwater elucidating climate shifts; Stalagmite YAX-2 was deposited in Yucatán during the analogs. Geochemical analysis indicated a drier previous interglacial and Mayan presence than had heretofore been thought.

**Mud and the Maya: A 2,203 year record of hydroclimate in Yucatan, Mexico from an annually layered stalagmite**

*Faculty Sponsor: Amy Frappier, Geosciences*

**Presenter: Aurora Pinkey-Drobnis '12**

I will be presenting my geoscience senior thesis research, which is based on interdisciplinary work conducted over the past two years with the Anthropology and Geoscience Departments. Historically, climate driven changes have amplified or lessened the risks tropical cyclones pose to humans, affecting the intensity and frequency of storm events. Stalagmite CH-1 from Yucatan, Mexico was used as a proxy for 2,203 years of environmental change and tropical cyclone events. The chronology spans the time of the Terminal Classic Period, giving insight into the mystery of climatic change leading to the Mayan Collapse. CH-1 also provides a long-term record of storm precipitation, clarifying the links between climate and storm activity.

**Session 48 - Advanced Projects in Poetry Writing**

**2:30 – 3:30 PM**

**Davis Auditorium**

**Advanced Projects in Poetry Writing**

*Faculty Sponsor: April Bernard, English*

**Presenters: Phillip Colantti '12, Anna Fox '12, Madeline Hennessey '12, John Maher '12, and Jolene Paternoster '12**

We five poets will collaborate in sharing our most recent work toward our respective poetry capstone projects.

**Session 49 - Documentary Films from English 280**

**2:45 – 3:45 PM            Emerson Auditorium**

**Documentary Films from English 280**

***Faculty Sponsor: Tom Lewis, English***

**Presenters: Jordan Lilly '14, Rosemary Berardino '14, Gordon MacPherson '12 and Amanda Roddy '14**

Four representative films from Professor Tom Lewis' s introductory documentary film writing class. This year's subjects are an indie band, beer making, Skidmore's night shift workers, and class and money.

**Session 50 - Life in the Arts Sector**

**2:30 – 3:45 PM            Ladd 206**

**Life in the Arts Sector**

***Faculty Sponsor: Natalie Taylor, Government***

**Presenters: Rachel Bier '12, Hattie Young '12, Kelly Martinet '13, and Katherine Imboden '13**

How does the Skidmore curriculum prepare students for professional careers in the arts sector? Non-profit arts institutions face unique challenges staying relevant in today's economy and culture. Four students present their experiences working in and researching non-profit structure, funding and development, and marketing for the arts. Panelists will discuss arts administration opportunities at Skidmore, summer research with a non-profit theater, the future of government grants for the arts, and the creation of a dance company.

**Session 51 - Insights in Biology**

**2:30 – 3:30 PM            Dana 240**

**A Model for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder in Zebra fish**

***Faculty Sponsor: Jennifer Bonner, Biology***

**Presenter: Aaron Beck '14**

Zebra fish are used as a model organism to further understand the biological effects that ethanol has on a developing embryo's nervous system.

**Sex-dependent shifts in digit ratio of *Octodon degus* across puberty**

***Faculty Sponsor: Denise McQuade, Biology***

**Presenters: Julianne Power '12 and Elena Stansky '12**

Digit ratio, the relative lengths of fingers, is sexually dimorphic in humans, determined by prenatal hormone exposure, and correlated with a large number of medical states. The slowly developing rodent, *Octodon degus* is exposed to hormones both pre and postnatally. The purpose of this study was to establish patterns of digit ratio across sex and age in this new model organism. Pubertal shifts in digit ratio were observed in male degus.

### **Microscopy: A Tool for Understanding the Invisible World of Pectins**

**Faculty Sponsor:** *David Domozych, Biology*

**Presenter:** **Hannah Brechka '12**

You may have never heard of homogalacturonan before, but you've probably eaten these polysaccharides in jam and pill capsules. Fluorescence and electron microscopy reveal the structure of pectins and can determine their interaction with other macromolecules. The single-celled green alga *Penium margaritaceum* is used as a model system for the formation of the pectin lattice structure in the cell wall, allowing for insights into plant evolution and cell division.

### **Session 52 - Senior Research in Physics II**

**2:15 – 3:15 PM**

**Harder 203**

#### **Senior Research in Physics II**

**Faculty Sponsors:** *Mary Crone Odekon, Physics & Kendrah Murphy, Physics*

**Presenters:** **William Sundstrom '12, Ka-Loi '12, Chris McGowan '12, and Lyle Reed '12**

We will present the results of four senior research projects that address problems in astrophysics using Interactive Data Language programming. We will first discuss how galaxies interact using a program that identifies groups of galaxies and characterizes the environment of each galaxy; this allows us to test hypotheses concerning the fate of loose gas within interacting galaxies. We will then demonstrate the results of simulations of gravitational orbits with two and three massive bodies.

### **Session 53 - Issues in the Age of the Internet**

**2:00 – 2:45 PM**

**Tisch 301**

#### **Testing Twitter: The Role of Social Media in Defying Dictators**

**Faculty Sponsor:** *Katherine Graney, Government*

**Presenter:** **Emma Kurs '12**

Fascinated by an article I read about dissidents who "tweeted" from inside their prison cells, I wrote my thesis on the relationship between social media and authoritarian regimes. Because of the recent hype over websites like Twitter (i.e. "In Egypt, Twitter Trumps Torture") I wanted to investigate whether citizens can employ social media as a tool to defy and destroy repressive states. To do this, my thesis analyzes social media's role in two revolutionary moments: the 2009 Iranian uprisings and the 2011 Egyptian revolution.

#### **Comparative Impact on Information Privacy of Anti- Piracy efforts in the United States**

**Faculty Sponsor:** *Scott Mulligan, IA/Government*

**Presenter:** **Alex Grossman '12**

This presentation is one component of a larger collaborative research project which conducted comparative analysis on current and proposed anti-piracy legislation in both the United States and Europe

and their effects on privacy. Focusing only on the United States' component, this presentation will look specifically at how the proposed laws SOPA, PIPA, and OPEN have the potential to change the privacy balance created under current law, the Digital Millennium Copyright Act.

**Session 54 - Reaching New Audiences, Tapping Emotions, and Inspiring Action: An Exploration of the Activist and Educational Potential of Socio-Political Theatre**

**2:30 – 3:15 PM Somers Room – Tang**

**Reaching New Audiences, Tapping Emotions, and Inspiring Action: An Exploration of the Activist and Educational Potential of Socio-Political Theatre**

***Faculty Sponsor: Mary Stange, Gender Studies***

**Presenter: Margaret Smith '12**

A retrospective reflection on how I used my privileged position as student director of the Theatre Department's Blackbox production of "Dog Sees God" as a platform from which to consciously explore and test, through both process and product, the extent to which drama can be used as a vehicle to promote social change. The event will feature an oral presentation, excerpts from the performance, and a remounted version of the art installation created in conjunction with the production.

**Session 55 – “Be Alternative” Roundtable: The Academic and Personal Benefits for a Skidmore Student to Learn Abroad**

**2:45 – 4:00 PM Palamountain 303**

**“Be Alternative” Roundtable: The Academic and Personal Benefits for a Skidmore Student to Learn Abroad**

***Faculty Sponsor: Beatriz Loyola, Foreign Language***

**Presenters: Skylar Sasson '12, with Cheng Ng '14, Ryan Ahern '14, Sarah Minney '13, Luke Conely '14, Hannah Gorfinkel '14, and Jen Evans '14, Maggie Luckhardt '12, and other participants**

Through our personal experience in twelve countries, we will argue studying abroad is essential to “mind and hand” academics. Our informative and interactive presentation will help peers seek opportunities and funding for both foreign and domestic travel that can foster their personal development.

**Session 56 - Icarus: An Original Greek Tragedy in English**

**2:45 – 4:00 PM Greek Theater (next to Zankel) or Filene Auditorium (rain location)**

**Icarus: An Original Greek Tragedy in English**

***Faculty Sponsor: Dan Curley, Classics***

**Presenters: Jovany Andujar '13, Eric Beriguete '15, Lucile Campbell '13, Thomas Coon '12, Noam Dagan '13, Emily DeFiore '15, Emma Friedman '14, Nicole Friedman '15, Javier Garcia '15, Frasier Glenn '15, Zoe Gross '15, William Hoeschler '14, Marcella Jewell '15, Elizabeth**



**Pierce '12, James Rimmer '15, Julia Romano '13, Mohamed Sylla '14, Hallie Thesing '15, and Annaleah Westerhaug '14**

*Icarus* tells the story of the famous inventor, Daedalus, and his daring escape from the clutches of the tyrannical king, Minos. Crafting wings for himself and his son, Icarus, he flies away from bondage, while Minos' daughter, Ariadne, escapes with a mysterious stranger. What happens when mortals test the limits of human ingenuity and trust to the bonds of love?

**Session 57 - Feasibility of Opening a ROSSIGNOL Ski Outlet in the US**

**3:15 – 4:15 PM**

**Bolton 281**

**Feasibility of opening a ROSSIGNOL ski outlet in the US**

*Faculty Sponsor: Marc Wiesmann, IA*

**Presenter: Kelsey Weiss '12**

Skiing is a very unique passion. Its history has taught us about the complexities of the ski industry. Rossignol is the French company I have investigated in order to possibly open a subsidiary in the USA.

**Session 58 - Skidmore Tobacco Policy**

**3:30 – 4:30 PM**

**Palamountain 202**

**Skidmore Tobacco Policy**

*Faculty Sponsor: Christine Kopec, Management & Business*

**Presenters: Natalie Agajanov '13, Riley Alsman '13, Lauren Bennett '12, Jeffrey Caruso '12, Devon Childs '13, Douglas Crisona '12, Christopher Damm '15, Matthew Diaco '14, Robert Feliciano '12, Solomon Goldberg '12, Makenzi Knight '13, Molly McQuade '12, Sarah Mohrman '12, Astrid Moresco '12, Nicholas Ober '12, Ryan Paradis '12, Ivana Portes '12, Rasheed Rankine '12, Zachary Sweebe '12, and Elise Zion '12**

Two college committees are reviewing the campus smoking policy; our class decided to adopt the issue as our service learning project. In our presentation we explore the current smoking policy, policies at similar colleges, and the impact of a change on stakeholders (students, faculty, other employees, admissions, Saratoga community). As a result of our study, we will offer a recommendation: retain the current policy, restrict smoking in some way, or go smoke-free. Come hear the outcome!

**Session 59 - Manga Life**

**3:30 – 4:30 PM**

**Gannett Lobby**

**Manga Life**

*Faculty Sponsor: Masako Inamoto, Foreign Languages*

**Presenters: Jia Min Huang '14, Alexander Arthur '15, Isabel Cordero '15, Melanie Hoermann '13, Fen Jiang '15, Megan Knowlton '15, Shu Ming Liu '15, Haoran Ma '12, Murtaugh Elizabeth '13, and Shea Sonsky '15**

Manga has been a huge cultural presence in Japan. We adventured into the making of manga for our final project. We applied our study of the language and culture in class while creating the manga.

**Session 60- An Illustrated Look at Regency and Victorian Times vs. Today: An Exhibition & Tea Party**

**3:00 – 4:15 PM**

**Pohndorff Room**

**"The Victorian Illustrated Book"**

***Faculty Sponsor: Catherine Golden, English***

**Presenters: Kyle Amato '15, Kristen Annunziato '15, Zoe Bent '13, Tyler Devine '14, Gwyneth Harris '13, Sean Heulton '12, Philip Konecky '13, Harlyn Lane '13, Julia Leef '14, Bree Loethen '14, Sophie Matyas '14, Anthony Princi '12, Christina Rewinski '14, Sarah Roberts '15, Rachel Segal-Sklar '12, Hugh Ward '13**

Our exhibition examines aspects of our modern world in relation to Regency and Victorian times. The five cases in our exhibition focus on past and present in beverage consumption, fashion, popular icons, childhood, and entertainment. Together, the cases provide an illustrated look at how our world resembles and departs from the past and rekindles interest in the Victorian age as the dawning of our modern era. A tea party in the Pohndorff Room follows our presentation.

**Session 61 - Posters in the Natural Sciences**

**3:45 – 4:45 PM**

**Dana South Hallway**

**The Effect of Copper on Locomotor Activity in a *Drosophila* model of Alzheimer's Disease**

***Faculty Sponsor: Sylvia McDevitt, Biology***

**Presenter: Jennifer Zacharia '12**

This study reports on the effect of copper treatment on the locomotor activity of Alzheimer's Disease transgenic flies. Previous studies have suggested a correlation between abnormal copper levels and Alzheimer's pathology.

**The Impact of Copper Sulfate Addition on Sediment Bacterial Communities in Loughberry Lake, NY**

***Faculty Sponsor: Catherine Gibson & Sylvia McDevitt, Biology***

**Presenter: Sarah Hunter '12**

Saratoga Springs' drinking water reservoir's sediments have elevated copper due to necessary algaecide treatments. I hypothesized that reservoir sediment bacteria would exhibit copper resistance. I collected sediments, isolated and grew bacterial colonies with increasing exposure to copper, and measured

metabolic activity. Sediment bacteria from the lake routinely grew in 2 mM copper conditions. My findings suggest that these bacterial communities show copper resistance and high functioning despite high sediment copper concentrations.

### **Conical intersections of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons**

*Faculty Sponsor: William Kennerly, Chemistry*

**Presenter: Giang Nguyen '12**

Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) are ubiquitous chemicals. They are building blocks for modern materials in electronic devices. They are also carcinogenic pollutants. While much work has focused on the ground state properties of PAHs, excited states must be studied to understand their photochemistry. In particular, we use computational approaches to analyze conical intersections (CI) of benzene, with a long-term goal of calculating CI of larger polyacenes to understand these properties.

### **Effect of androgen activity on 2D:4D digit ratio in androgen receptor deficient (Tfm) mice**

*Faculty Sponsor: Denise McQuade, Biology*

**Presenters: Katherine Alwan '14, Michael Greenberg '13, Thomas Manna '12, Alexandra Ng '13, and Yusuke Ota '13**

Digit ratio is defined as the relative lengths of the digits, usually the second (2D) to fourth (4D). We are investigating the effects of androgen exposure on the 2D:4D digit ratio, shown to be influenced by prenatal hormonal levels. In this study we use a truncated androgen receptor gene, resulting in mutant male mice with a non-functional receptor. By disabling androgen binding, we plan to investigate the direct effects of androgen on the 2D:4D ratio. We expect to see a higher 2D:4D (more feminized) ratio in affected male mice than in unaffected males. Preliminary results were presented at the NEURON conference in New York City on April 1, 2012.

### **Morphometric Analysis of Cinder Cone Fields in the Oregon Cascades**

*Faculty Sponsor: Sarah Stelmack, Geosciences*

**Presenter: Michael Gallant '12**

Morphometry is a study that uses the ratios between parts of an object to quantify the object's shape. This study uses morphometric ratios of small volcanic cones in Oregon to try to determine what factors can impact the change of cone shape over time.

## **Session 62 - Senior Research in Physics I**

**3:30 – 4:30 PM**

**Harder 203**

### **Senior Research in Physics Panel 1**

*Faculty Sponsor: Greg Gerbi & Lawrence Brehm, Physics*

**Presenters: Brenden Hedblom '12, Liz Wylie '12, Genevieve Brett '12, Anastasia Rodzianko '12 and Becca Conneely '12**

Five seniors present individual physics research projects. Titles include “Harnessing the Principles of a Ballistocardiograph to Minute Mechanical Structures”, “Studies of Stress Birefringence and Other Optical Phenomenon in Gelatin”, “The Deepening Rate of the Ocean Surface Boundary Layer Under Breaking

Waves”, "Assessment of Observational Parameters to Optimize Estimates of Upwelling Solar Radiance", and "Determining Cloudiness for Irradiance Data from an Autonomous Profiling Float".

**Session 63 - Beyond Bars: Skidmore Students Lead Reintegration Workshops at Mt. McGregor Correctional Facility**

**3:30 – 4:00 PM                      Tisch 201**

**Beyond Bars: Skidmore Students Lead Reintegration Workshops at Mt. McGregor Correctional Facility**

*Faculty Sponsor: Dr. David Karp, Associate Dean of Student Affairs*

**Presenters: Hannah Levine '14, Phoebe Stein '14, and Ronald Solis '12**

Rarely are Skidmore students afforded the opportunity to interact with the underrepresented citizens living behind bars. As an independent study project, we researched employment, stress management, conflict resolution, family reintegration, and housing, and presented our findings to the inmates of Mt. McGregor Correctional Facility. Throughout our time at this medium security prison, we have engaged in rewarding dialogue, and are eager to share our experiences.

**Session 64 - Family Feud**

**3:45 – 4:45 PM                      Spa**

**Family Feud**

*Faculty Sponsor: Catherine Golden, English*

**Presenter: Timothy Nichols '12**

Students, Faculty, and members of the Skidmore Community are invited to attend a Family Feud challenge focused on the history, academics, and student-life of Skidmore College. Expect to learn and laugh as teams try to answer trivia questions not with the correct answer, but with the answer most commonly supplied by a poll of Skidmore students. Those interested in participating are encouraged to arrive with teams of up to eight other players. Prizes will be awarded by the Periclean Honors Forum.











# *Masterworks*

*A Celebration of Interdisciplinary Graduate Study*

Thursday, May 3, 2012 10:00 am Zankel Room 117

*A Roundtable Presentation and Discussion of Master's Program Final Projects*

*Featuring:*

**Megan Mercier: “A Path-Goal Model of the Leader-Volunteer Relationship in Higher Education”**

Within the nonprofit sector, specifically higher education, volunteer work is crucial to organizational success. Institutions of higher education benefit from an understanding of volunteer management practices and principles, specifically the relationships that develop between paid professional advancement staff and volunteers. Multiple factors contribute to the leader-volunteer relationship and enhance the skills of both, thereby increasing opportunities for successful organizational outcomes over time. The focus of this project has been to create a model of this relationship development process. Megan will present her Path-Goal Model of Leader-Volunteer Relationship Development.

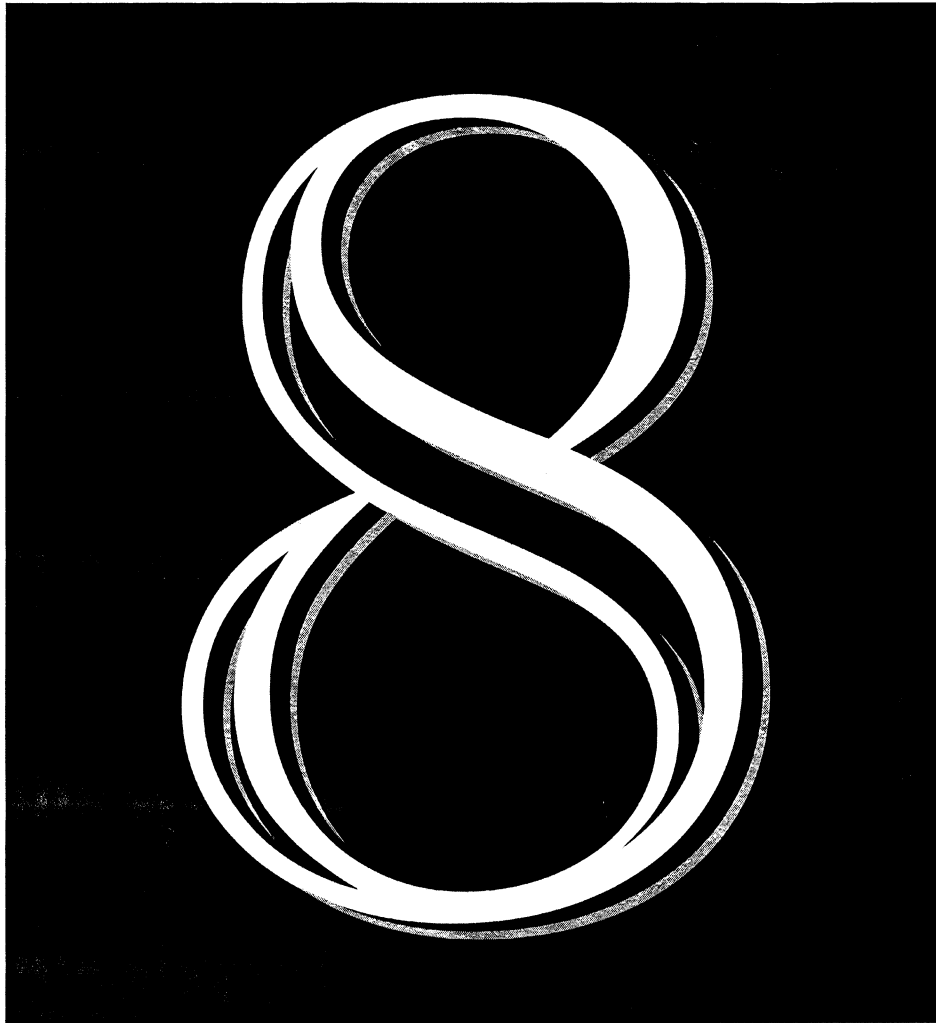
**Hillarie Logan-Dechene: “Nonprofits as a Model for Community Sustainability”**

Nonprofit organizations operate to fulfill a stated purpose referred to as their mission statement or charter. As certain nonprofit organizations mature, they transform and occasionally assume a role in the community beyond what the founders had originally conceived. The deliberative process of strategic transformation keeps organizations healthy, nimble, and able to adjust to change. Such organizations demonstrate characteristics of leadership that can inform and assist a community in achieving stability. Hillarie's research explores the possible impacts of nonprofit organizations beyond their stated mission and questions whether the strategic transformation of one nonprofit organization can model leadership for community sustainability. The Wild Center, located in the town of Tupper Lake in New York's Adirondack Park, serves as a case study for exploring this thesis.

**Jim Powell: “Art as a Means of Resistance: the Work of David Wojnarowicz”**

The work of artist David Wojnarowicz continues to elicit controversy 20 years after his death. Recently censored at the Smithsonian, his work is an example of the power of art as a tool for resistance and elucidation of not only political, but cultural oppression. Wojnarowicz explored the hegemonic relationship between agency and structure, making private moments public so as to dispel the notion of a “one tribe nation.” Starting with a theoretical framework based on Pierre Bourdieu's concept of field production and ending with Giorgio Agamben's theory on the state of exception, Jim will examine this iconoclastic artist to explore the power of his work from the late 1970s to the height of the AIDS crisis

*Please join us for what promises to be an exciting series of conversations.*



A student cast from Skidmore College is making the case for marriage equality. The Skidmore Theater Department and AIDS Benefit partner with Honors Forum to present the kick off event to Academic Festival 2012. Come see a staged reading of "8," a new documentary play by Dustin Lance Black about the federal case for marriage equality. Following the performance, stick around for a Q&A with Skidmore faculty and members of Skidmore,s Pride Alliance to learn more about the fight for equality.

The performance is at 7 pm on May 1st in Filene Recital Hall. Tickets are FREE with donations to the American Foundation for Equal Rights gratefully accepted. For reservations, please email [8skidmore@gmail.com](mailto:8skidmore@gmail.com) or call 845-797-7651

# Periclean Honors Forum

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 inclusive community of highly motivated students who have promise to become student leaders and globally informed citizens. 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.

## SPECIAL THANKS

President Philip A. Glotzbach, Periclean Honors Forum, Student Government Association, Facilities Services, Dining Services, Media Services, Office Services, faculty sponsors, student volunteers, and Deb Hall for our logo.

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Agajanov, Natalie '13.....	37	Butcher, Amber '12.....	12, 18
Ahern, Ryan '14.....	36	Caceres, Kimberly '14.....	19
Alamgir, Rohini '12.....	17	Cain, Isabel '12.....	9
Alfaro, Andrea Roman '12.....	18	Calderon, Ginny '12.....	24
Almanassra, Ahmad '13.....	19	Campbell, Lucile '13.....	36
Alsman, Riley '13.....	37	Canavan, Molly '12.....	25
Alwan, Katherine '14.....	39	Cancelmo, Leo '12.....	9
Amato, Kyle '15.....	38	Carile, Trisha '12.....	6
Andujar, Jovany '13.....	36	Carney-Knisely, Alexandra '12.....	11
Annunziato, Kristen '15.....	38	Cartwright, Holly '14.....	19
Anton, Steven '12.....	15, 19	Caruso, Jeffrey '12.....	37
Arthur, Alexander '15.....	38	Cashion, George '12.....	15
Asundi, Anisha '12.....	25	Ceylan, Aylin '12.....	17
Bain, Ian '12.....	6	Chai, Sonja '12.....	26
Bakker, Michelle '12.....	15	Chalat, Rachel '12.....	7, 33
Bakshani, Nikkitha '12.....	29	Chan, Penhleak '12.....	16, 26
Barlow, Megan '12.....	16	Chernin, Alex '15.....	12
Beck, Aaron '14.....	34	Childs, Devon '13.....	37
Belcastro, Alissa '12.....	8	Chimene-Weiss, Aliza '12.....	9
Bennett, Lauren '12.....	37	Ciss, Madjiguene '14.....	12
Bensko, Jillian '12.....	11, 17	Clark, Kyle '12.....	25
Bent, Zoe '13.....	38	Cohen, Adam '12.....	7
Berardino, Rosemary '14.....	34	Cohen, Jacob '12.....	9
Beriguete, Eric '14.....	36	Cohen, Tami '13.....	24
Berman, Eliza '13.....	25	Colantti, Phillip '12.....	33
Berry, Olivia '12.....	6	Conley, Luke '14.....	36
Bessey, Colin '12.....	24	Conneely, Rebecca '12.....	39
Bevan, Maximilian '12.....	26	Coon, Thomas '12.....	25, 36
Bianchi, Warren '12.....	25	Cooper, Leandra '12.....	7
Bier, Rachel '12.....	34	Cordero, Isabel '15.....	38
Bissonnette, Stephen '12.....	18	Cowles, Adrian '13.....	19
Blair, Nicholas '12.....	26	Crisona, Douglas '12.....	37
Bolz, Jessica '14.....	12	Cröse, Sam '12.....	21
Borden, Jenna '12.....	16	Crotty, Ryan '15.....	31
Bouboushian, Rose '12.....	22	Dagan, Noam '13.....	36
Branagan, Johanna '12.....	19	Damm, Christopher '15.....	37
Brechka, Hannah '12.....	35	D'Angelis, Carlo '12.....	15
Brehm, Alexander '12.....	15, 19	Dankner, Jessica '12.....	19
Brenner, Logan '12.....	33	De Beradinis, Daniel '13.....	19
Brett, Genevieve '12.....	15, 32, 39	DeFiore, Emily '15.....	36
Brook, Samuel '12.....	9	Deiningner, Niki '15.....	24
Bui, Becky '12.....	9	Devine, Tyler '14.....	31, 38
Burkhart, Madeline '15.....	19	Devito, Elizabeth '12.....	22
Burmeister, Victoria '14.....	8	Diacò, Matthew '14.....	37
Burns, Elaine '12.....	4	Diamond, Philip '12.....	17
Bush, Garrett '12.....	15, 19	Donner, Rebecca '12.....	18

Doremus, Tyler '12.....	25	Grossman, Alex '12.....	35
Dowling, Will '12.....	5	Hall, Hale '14.....	19
Drascher, Maxwell '12.....	9	Hamilton, Ava '12.....	21
Drew-Moyer, Emily '12.....	12	Harris, Gwyneth '13.....	38
Dubois, Shannon '13.....	8	Harwick, Benjamin '12.....	18
Dufault, Anne '12.....	31	Hawkins, Amanda '12.....	30
Dupuis, Nicholas '12.....	18	Healton, Sean '12.....	27, 38
Egas, Salome '14.....	22	Hedblom, Brenden '12.....	39
Egashira, Kiyo '12.....	25	Hemerling, Christian '15.....	21
Engros, Victoria '12.....	29	Hennessey, Madeline '12.....	33
Epstein, Rebecca '12.....	15	Hernandez, Sergio '12.....	17, 32
Ethier, Alex '12.....	8	Hill, Amanda '13.....	25
Evans, Jen '14.....	36	Hirokawa, Chris '12.....	32
Fagan, Reed '12.....	15	Hochberger, Marjie '12.....	15, 25, 32
Farrell, Anna '13.....	12	Hoermann, Melanie '13.....	38
Feliciano, Robert.....	37	Hoeschler, William '14.....	31, 36
Fell, Rachel '14.....	24	Hoey, Caitlin '14.....	12
Filisky, Marina '12.....	17, 23	Howard, Quentin '14.....	25
Fillion, Eva '12.....	7	Huang, Jia Min '14.....	38
Flick, Kathryn '13.....	25	Hull, Kelsey '14.....	24
Fox, Anna '12.....	33	Hunter, Sarah '12.....	6, 38
Franks, Dorothy '14.....	12	Hurley, Meghan '12.....	16
Freeman, Roz '12.....	7, 12	Imboden, Katherine '13.....	34
Fried, Adina '12.....	9, 24	Iradukunda, Animee '12.....	3
Friedman, Emma '14.....	12, 36	Ireland, John '14.....	19
Friedman, Nicole '15.....	36	James, Callie '14.....	12
Fuller, Adrienne '13.....	21	Jarvis, Alexander '12.....	18
Fussell, Leila '12.....	22	Jewell, Marcella '15.....	36
Galie, Grace '12.....	3	Jiang, Fen '15.....	38
Gallant, Michael '12.....	39	Johnson, Erica '14.....	12
Garcia, Javier '15.....	36	Johnstone, Daniel '14.....	13
Gaynon, Rebecca '13.....	17	Jones, Leandra '14.....	12
Giacin, Anthony '14.....	25	Jones, Willa '12.....	18, 31
Gilligan, Rebecca '13.....	24	Kagan-Moore, Hannah '12.....	30
Ginsburg, Mackenzie '12.....	15	Karen, Raphael '14.....	31
Girma, Yinebeb '12.....	15, 18	Katzen, Zoe '12.....	28
Gittelman, Maya '14.....	24	Keady, Cameron '12.....	32
Glassberg, Charlie '12.....	7, 13, 30	Kearney, Kerry '12.....	8
Glenn, Frasier '15.....	36	Kessner, Aly '12.....	21, 24
Glickman, Sam '12.....	6	Kim, Timothy '15.....	21
Goldberg, Solomon '12.....	37	Kinch, Cheyenne '12.....	4
Gorfinkel, Hannah '14.....	36	Kinnear, Olivia '15.....	31
Gradowski, Lauren '12.....	15	Kleber, Juliet '15.....	12
Greenberg, Michael '13.....	39	Kleinman, Erica '13.....	31
Grier, Savannah '12.....	15	Klimaszewski, Patrick '12.....	8, 31
Gross, Zoe '15.....	36	Knight, Makenzi '13.....	21, 37

Knowlton, Megan '15.....	38	McInerney, Peter '12.....	7
Kohiyama, Mayumi '15.....	23	McLaughlin, Andy '12.....	11, 31
Kolins, Becks '12.....	28	McQuade, Molly '12.....	37
Konecky, Philip '13.....	38	Meli, Laura '12.....	9
Kortright, Emily '15.....	14	Mellor, Devin '12.....	27
Kowal, Emily '13.....	8	Metais, Jonathan '12.....	15, 19
Kurs, Emma '12.....	12, 35	Miller, Aly '14.....	24
Lai, Elaine '12.....	8	Minney, Sarah '13.....	36
Landman, Rebecca '12.....	14	Mohrman, Sarah '12.....	37
Lane, Harlyn '13.....	38	Molloy, Connor '14.....	19
Lazell, Kathryn '12.....	18, 20	Mooney, Joe '12.....	21
Lee, Soon '12.....	16	Moresco, Astrid '12.....	37
Leef, Julia '14.....	38	Morris, John '12.....	5
Leonard, Amber '12.....	15, 32	Morrow, Olivia '12.....	18
Levenson, Emily '12.....	8	Moseley, William '12.....	6
Leverone, Tessa '12.....	6	Mullen, Brynne '14.....	12
Levine, Ariel '12.....	10	Murtaugh, Elizabeth '14.....	38
Levine, Hannah '14.....	40	Muvekwa, Jesina '15.....	21
Levinson, Drew '12.....	6	Nathan, Evan '15.....	12
Levy, Charlotte '13.....	12	Nazareth, Raiza '12.....	16
Lewis, Jake '13.....	24	Ng, Alexandra '13.....	3, 39
Liang, Lin '14.....	21	Ng, Cheng '14.....	36
Lilly, Jordan '14.....	34	Nguyen, Giang '12.....	39
Linden, Rena '12.....	12, 18	Nichols, Tim '12.....	19, 25, 40
Linscott-Zask, Anna '12.....	32	Obbie, Dale '12.....	24
Lipshutz, Sondra '13.....	12	Ober, Nicholas '12.....	37
Liu, Shu Ming '15.....	38	Ohringer, Jeremy '13.....	12
Lizza, Kiira '13.....	12	Orthwein, Alex '13.....	31
Loethen, Bree '14.....	38	O'Shea, Gerard '12.....	25
Loi, Ka-lo '12.....	35	Ostrove, Amanda '13.....	24
Luckhardt, Maggie '12.....	9, 36	Ota, Yusuke '13.....	3, 39
Lueders-Dumont, Timothy '12.....	31	Otto, Allison Dell '12.....	20
Lukovic, Sanida '12.....	27	Paradis, Ryan '12.....	37
Lyons, Francis '14.....	19	Park, Cyrus '12.....	24
Ma, Haoran '12.....	38	Paternoster, Jolene '12.....	33
MacPherson, Gordon '12.....	8, 34	Pelosi, Emma '12.....	10
Magruder, Sydney '14.....	12	Perlow, Michael '13.....	19
Maher, John '12.....	24, 33	Pichardo, Julia '14.....	24
Malakorn, Julian '13.....	25	Pierce, Elizabeth '12.....	37
Manna, Thomas '12.....	3, 39	Pilawa, Douglas '12.....	23
Martinet, Kelly '13.....	34	Pinkey-Drobnis, Aurora '12.....	33
Mascitelli, Kathryn '12.....	9	Pintel, Emily '13.....	12
Matyas, Sophie '14.....	38	Pluymers, Alleia '15.....	14
McDonnell, Kelly '12.....	6	Portes, Ivana '12.....	37
McGlinchy, Alexandra '14.....	19	Powell, William '12.....	4, 25
McGowan, Chris '12.....	35	Power, Julianne '12.....	34

Princi, Anthony '12.....	15, 38	Slocombe, Jackie '12.....	7
Pryor, Gwen '12.....	29	Smith, Margaret '12.....	36
Puro, Leah '12.....	8	Soffa, Emily '13.....	25
Ramos-Mucci, Isabel '12.....	11	Solis, Ronald '12.....	40
Rankine, Rasheed '12.....	37	Sonsky, Shea '15.....	38
Raphail, Ann-Marie '14.....	21	Sotak, Rachel '12.....	21
Reed, Lyle '12.....	15, 35	Speisman, Haley '12.....	16
Reeves, Jonathan '12.....	15	St. George, Beal '14.....	12
Reeves, Paige '12.....	6	Stansky, Elena '12.....	22, 34
Remillard, David '12.....	27	Staub, Mackenzie '13.....	24
Resta-Flarer, Tessa '12.....	12, 16	Stein, Hannah '12.....	12
Rewinski, Christina '14.....	38	Stein, Phoebe '14.....	24, 40
Reynolds, Ashley '14.....	24	Steinhauer, Alexandra '13.....	4
Richards, Sophie '13.....	19	Stoeffler, Caleb '12.....	28
Richardson, Lilly '12.....	24, 25	Stokes, Carly '13.....	31
Rietsema, Annelieke '13.....	12	Stone, Matthew.....	19
Rimmer, James '15.....	37	Stratton, Callison '12.....	20
Rimsky, Liza '12.....	10	Sumner, Kortney '12.....	13
Roberts, Sarah '15.....	31, 38	Sundstrom, William '12.....	15, 35
Robins, Julia '12.....	5	Svenningsen, Elisabeth '13.....	22
Roddy, Amanda '14.....	34	Sweebe, Zachary '12.....	25, 37
Rodriguez, Maria Villar.....	31	Sylla, Mohamed '14.....	37
Rodzianko, Anastasia '12.....	39	Tanovic, Mirza '15.....	14
Rogers, Kelsey '13.....	24	Thesing, Hallie '15.....	37
Romano, Julia '13.....	12	Throop, Noah '14.....	31
Romero, Stormie '12.....	8	Tibbitts, Annie '12.....	32
Rosario, Zuliany '14.....	24	Travagline, Kristen '12.....	29
Rosenblatt, Sarah '12.....	10	Trivedi-Parmar, Vinay '12.....	26
Ross, Andrew '12.....	3	Tucker, Anjanette '13.....	24
Rudnick, Julie '13.....	25	Ulrich, Brittany '12.....	26
Ruisi-Besares, Pia '12.....	7	Uong, Minh '14.....	24
Rutherford, Caroline '12.....	15, 19	Uppling, Susan '14.....	12
Ryan, Sarah '13.....	12	Uslainer, Zac '14.....	31
Sasson, Skylar '12.....	36	Van Rensselaer, Larissa '13.....	12
Savoy, Samantha '12.....	10	Velardi, Sara '12.....	7
Schaeffer, Elyssa '12.....	22	Velez, Cristina '12.....	11
Schaufler, Alison '14.....	22	Victoria, Terron '12.....	25
Schilling, Alison '15.....	12	Voicy, Brittany '15.....	31
Schmelkin, Adam '12.....	7, 30	Vokes, Ariane '12.....	22
Schockmel, Bryn '12.....	30	Walker, Christina '14.....	12
Scirica, Elizabeth '15.....	14	Ward, Hugh '13.....	38
Segal-Sklar, Rachel '12.....	38	Warren, Elizabeth '12.....	16
Seidmon, Stephanie '13.....	12, 13	Webster, Najwa '14.....	21
Sell, Benjamin '12.....	21	Weiss, Emma '13.....	12
Silverman, Dara '13.....	31	Weiss, Kelsey '12.....	15, 37
Singer, Alyson '12.....	18	Wellen, Brianna '14.....	13



Wellhoefer, Lena '14.....	31
Westerhaug, Annaleah '14.....	37
Whitman, Emma '12.....	15
Wilstatter, Emily '14.....	12
Wolf, Jacob '12.....	20
Wood, Eleanor '15.....	23
Woodfield, Mila '12.....	10, 17, 25
Wright-Lapin, Rosalie '15.....	14
Wrynn, Alison '12.....	27
Wylie, Liz '12.....	39
Young, Hattie '12.....	34
Zacharia, Jennifer '12.....	38
Zeidan, Jonathan '12.....	5
Zhang, Heather '15.....	21
Zhang, Xiao Qian '12.....	15
Zhu, Beiwen '12.....	10
Zieff, Gabriel '12.....	21
Zion, Elise '12.....	37
Zou, Huang '15.....	19