

<i>Majors/Minors Abroad</i>	2
<i>Senior Honors Thesis Topics</i>	2
<i>American Studies Faculty Award</i>	2
<i>The Class of 2007</i>	3
<i>Our Faculty</i>	4
<i>Our Student Assistants</i>	4
<i>Spring at Hyde Park</i>	5
<i>American Studies Club</i>	5
<i>Academic Festival 2007</i>	9
<i>Fall Course Preview</i>	10
<i>Notes . . . Notes . . . Notes</i>	17

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The New York University Minority Dissertation Fellowship is a program Skidmore's American Studies department offers to a NYU student who is at the level of ABD (all but dissertation). Sadly, it is time to say goodbye to our current NYU Fellow, Richard Kim (find out where Richard is going on page 4). The good news is we get to say hello to yet another wonderful NYU ABD. This year that person is andre carrington.

André carrington holds a B.A. in African-American Studies from Macalester College. His dissertation, entitled "Speculative Fiction and Media Fandom Through a Lens, Darkly," investigates the significance of Blackness in science fiction and its fandom from the 1950s to the present. He has taught at Fashion Institute of Technology and Hostos Community College and is a member of the union for teaching and research assistants at NYU. His research interests include Critical Race theory, sexual politics, historical fiction, and comics.

times I humiliated myself with my ignorance of French customs, it was all wonderfully fun and interesting. I loved the time I spent in the beautiful city of Paris and will always cherish the memories that I made there.

This semester I'm in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, studying Sexuality and Gender Identity with the School of International training, and I have absolutely fallen in love with European life. It hasn't been all fun and games: I've had to re-learn how to ride a bike and handle not speaking a word of Dutch, among other obstacles. I'm living in a homestay in the 'Oud West' section of the city, very near to the center. I'm very fortunate that

queer issues as well, especially in a country like the Netherlands which is so progressive in these areas.

I'm excited to come back to Skidmore and bring with me all the experiences I've had here, but I must say it will be difficult to leave. While I'm excited about being in familiar surroundings again, I know that I'll miss Amsterdam terribly. Who knows, though, maybe I'll be back someday.

I am studying in Florence for the semester with the Syracuse University program. I have completely fallen in love with this city; the culture, the art, the food, the wine, everything is so wonderful and there's always something new to discover! I am living with an Italian host mother, Rosanna, who is in her mid-70s and speaks no English. At first, this really scared me, but now I

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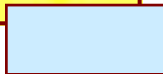
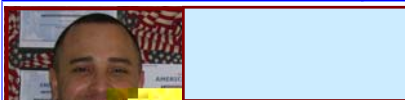
Student Government, singing in an acapella group ("Drastic Measures") and has spent a good deal of time in

, West Sand Lake,  
NY, Major

Dan, a trumpeter with the Skidmore Orchestra for all four years at Skidmore and a music minor, is looking forward to the summer in a different way than most seniors. On June 2, Dan will marry 2005 Skidmore graduate (and also an American Studies major) Kaitlin Morton-Ranney. If that weren't enough good news, Dan has been accepted at Roger Williams University, Ralph R. Papitto School of Law for the Fall semester. Along with the Skidmore Orchestra, Dan also spent all four years at Skidmore in the Jazz Band. Obviously the trumpet and jazz are among his favorite things, but he also has a strong interest in comic books (see the write up about his Senior Honors Thesis on page 2). Dan advises those who will be juniors in the fall to "decide upon your senior seminar topic *before* the fall semester of your senior year!" Dan's interest in American Studies started, as many do, with Prof. Pfitzer in AM 101/102 but Dan knew his mind was set when he took the 1950s with Prof. Lynn.

, Harrison, NY,  
Major

David's strong interest in American culture is what brought him to American Studies at Skidmore. His love of and interest in music encouraged him to pursue a minor in that field. While at Skidmore, David has been involved in the



This year [redacted] piloted a 300-level American Studies course entitled *Magazines and Modernity*. The course went well, though she is already tweaking it as she looks toward the future, when it will hopefully become a regular part of the AM offerings. Aside from that, and her usual array of courses in the English Department, Professor Casey has had plenty of writing to keep her busy: she presented three papers this year, and is also finishing up her latest book, *A New Heartland: Women, Modernity, and the Agrarian Ideal in America*, to be published by Oxford University Press in 2008. She looks forward to the fall, when she will be offering yet another new American Studies course (*American Bestsellers and Popular Culture*) and overseeing a text-and-image exhibit to be hosted in the Intercultural Center in October. Entitled *The Hidden*



ters. In her spare time she enjoys relaxing, reading, and movie going.

this year. Sarah, from St. Paul, MN, started as an SA in the AM department in the fall of 2005, but missed out being under our SA listing here last year as she was in Scotland for the semester. We were so happy when she came back and now this year we get to showcase her as one of our wonderful student assistants. Read more about Sarah in the senior section.

this academic year only, but that's long enough for us to know the office won't be the same without her. Check out, too, the article about her in the senior section.

[redacted] took a little break from the department last fall

[redacted], from West Sand Lake, NY, has been accepted at the Roger Williams University, Ralph Papitto School of Law. He has spent most to his senior year working on

Margaret is a member of the Skidmore Choir and performed in the latest Cabaret Troupe. Next year Margaret will serve as the Education Club President, as well as return as an American Studies student assistant.

[redacted], like Dan Bentley and Sarah Jeffery, will graduate this

[redacted] is another one of our Student Assistants who will graduate

year. Hailing from Amherst, NH, Sarah has given a good chunk of her senior year to an Honors Thesis and you can see page 6 for an elaboration of her topic. Sarah has been with us as a Student Assistant for

and visited Paris (see her "Abroad" article on page 2). Carrie graduated from high school in New Jersey but has called many places home. She is passionate about helping others and spreading joy! In this office, we can surely attest to that. Carrie loves everything about American Studies and is especially interested in 19th century literature and history. In her spare time she keeps us all in line here and takes care of our every need! [redacted], Carrie likes to travel, to read, and does some really creative collag-

*Story of Ourselves: Poverty and the Promise of Higher Education*, the show will be supported by the President's special funds for Intercultural and Global Understanding and will be a part of the First Year Experience program.

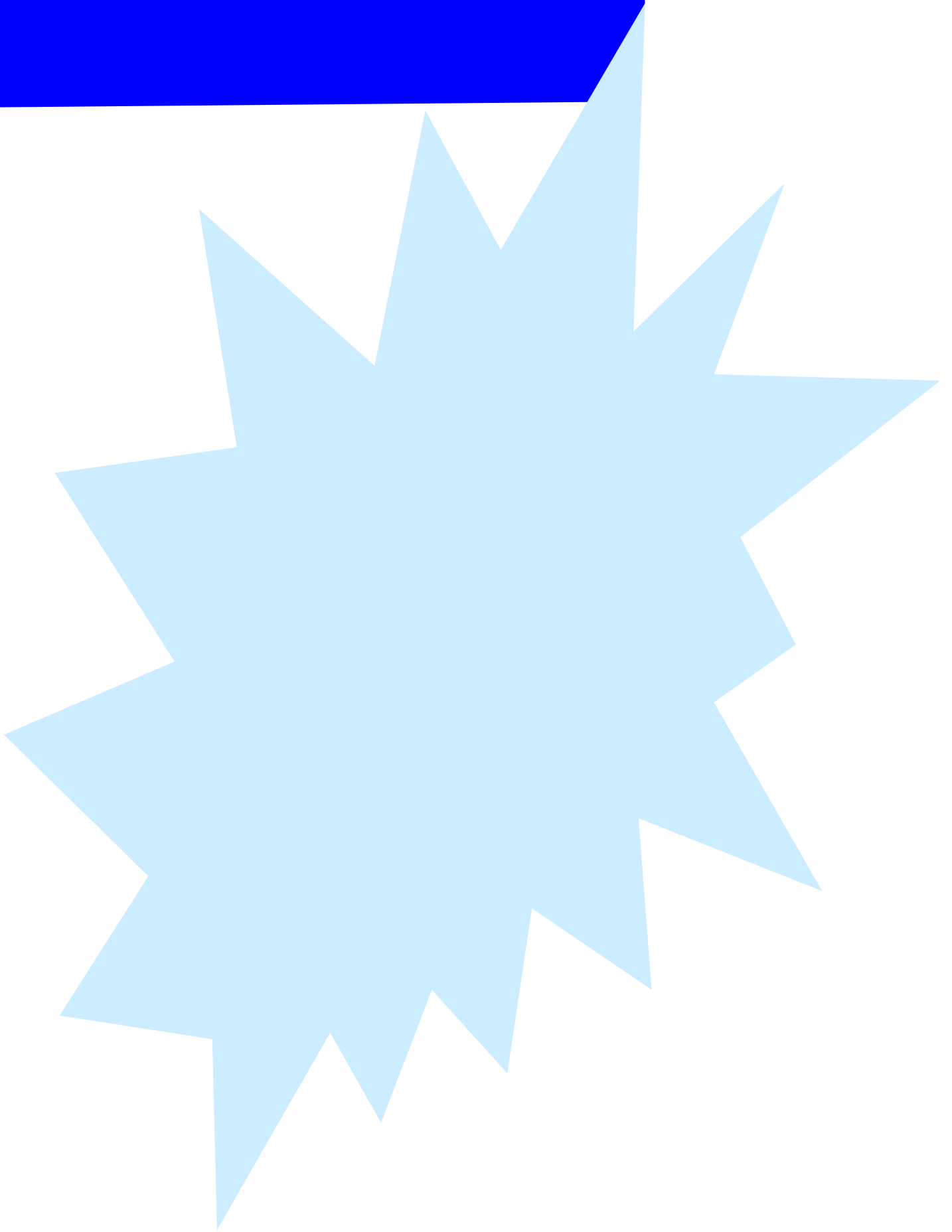
Pacifica) to discuss the impact of values voters on those elections.

In the spring, Richard taught "AIDS and the Public Sphere" and "Critical Whiteness in the U.S." (with Professor Woodfork). He also participated in a forum on bias speech and a roundtable discussion on race and speech organized by Professors Woodfork and Ford (Sociology). He leaves Skidmore to take a job as an associate editor at *The Nation*. He will miss his students and colleagues, wishes them the best of luck and thanks them for their warmth and hospitality.

During 2006-07, [redacted] continued to research and write his dissertation, *Fellow Travelers: Masculinity and Empire in U.S. Travel Writing*, which took him to the South Seas, Hawaii, the wilds of Borneo and the mountains of Peru — in books, at least. Along the way, he did make some real life detours. In the summer and fall he helped produce a statement on same-sex marriage ([www.beyondmarriage.org](http://www.beyondmarriage.org)) that was endorsed by over 250 leading scholars, lawyers, activists and writers including Gloria Steinem, Cornel West, Rabbi Michael Lerner, Barbara Ehrenreich, Judith Butler, Dorothy Allison and others. He continued to write for *The Nation* magazine where, over the past year, he's covered topics ranging from affirmative action to AIDS charities to the 2006 midterm elections. He made numerous radio appearances (BBC, Washington Post Radio, FAIR/

[redacted] has finished writing an essay on the social and cultural impact of the birth control pill, which will be printed in the catalog for the forthcoming exhibit at the Tang, "Molecules That Matter." The exhibit considers the development and effects of ten important molecules discovered during the twentieth century, including Nylon, DDT, Penicillin, DNA, and, of course, Progestin (aka the Pill). Lynn will be teaching AM 230, Born in America, next fall, and looks forward to using the exhibit

(Continued on page 8)





(Continued from page 2)

am really grateful for this opportunity because it forces me to use the language all the time, and although I'm not fluent yet I can communicate to her basically anything I want to, and we are now able to have long conversations at the dinner table about museums, music, politics, whatever we want! I hope to continue with Italian classes next semester at Skidmore, and am considering coming back to Florence after graduating and teaching English classes here for a year or two. I am taking classes in Italian, Art History, Philosophy, and Film. I

especially like my Art History class because once a week instead of meeting in the classroom we meet at a different museum or church in Florence and it's great to actually get to see these amazing works of art in person that we are learning about every week. I have gone on trips practically every weekend, all throughout the gorgeous and quaint Tuscan towns, and also on weekend trips to Venice, Rome, and Mantua/Padua. This weekend I am going to Cinque Terre, and then later in April to the Amalfi Coast. It's great to be able to do so much traveling, I feel so lucky, and it's definitely going to be really hard to leave this place. This picture was taken at the top of Piazzale Michelangelo, and you can see the Duomo and most of the Florentine skyline in the background; you don't find too many views like that in the US. I can't believe I am leaving in only a month, it seems like the time flew by way too fast. I feel really connected to this city, it has a special place in my heart, and I hope I can come back many times throughout my life. Hope all is well at Skidmore, Ciao!

Greetings from Down Under -- but don't be thinking Australia! I've been spending this semester pretty much as far away as you can get, out in the city of Auckland, New Zealand. Auckland is on



Kacey abseiling down a 300 ft. drop in Waitomo

the northern island, and so far I absolutely love living in a city and attending a city school! It's so different than Skidmore -- I think my smallest class is still well over 100 students. My classes are mostly about New Zealand history and culture, from the History of Maori Sexuality and Family Life, to the Sociology of Auckland, to a Pacific Island Music and Dance class, and I'm thoroughly enjoying all of them. It's a great change of pace out here in Kiwi land.

I've been having an absolute blast in terms of traveling, and I've gotten out of the city almost every weekend. My favorite trips have included an excursion to the beautiful Bay of Islands where we got to see baby dolphins and spend the day on a huge sailboat, abseiling (which is similar to rappelling) in the Lost World of the Waitomo Caves where I climbed a 9-story ladder and abseiled down a 300 foot drop, and learning how to surf (and actually succeeding at it!) in the beautiful region of Piha. I also found a Saratoga winery and brewery that is pretty well renowned, and their wine is delicious, of course. Our fall break is this upcoming 2 weeks -- it's Fall out here -- and I'm heading down to the South Island to hike a glacier, check out the Milford Sound, bungee jump in Queenstown, and explore Christchurch. Then it's off to the Cook Islands for the second week, where we've been warned about their flying cockroaches and meter-long centipedes, so it should be interesting!



Kacey at Saratoga

Overall, I'm having the time of my life. Kiwis (or New Zealanders) are some of the friendliest, most relaxed people I've met, and it transfers through to the culture. Everyone even walks around barefoot! I absolutely love the country, and cannot believe how fast time is flying by.

(Continued from page 2)

*If You Build It They Will Come: Professional Sports Franchise Relocation in Baltimore and Cleveland*

My thesis is a case study of Baltimore and Cleveland and the central question that I have set out to answer is: If stadiums have little to no economic value for cities then why does every municipality in the country want a new stadium and multiple professional sports franchises? By studying the Baltimore Colts move to Indianapolis and the Cleveland Browns move to Baltimore I am examining the effects these moves have on the cities and the intangible positive gains that professional sports teams have had for Baltimore and Indianapolis. My primary interest is looking at the urban renewal that has taken place in these cities and the development that has accompanied new professional sports facilities. I argue that professional sports teams are very good for cities because of the civic pride they create and the economic development and increased tourism that follows.

*On Pushing and Pulling: The United States-Mexican War, 1846-1848*

My thesis builds on my Senior Seminar paper in which I researched and discussed the causes of the United States-Mexican War, 1846-1848, and each nation's motivations in the War. For my thesis, I have added information throughout my Seminar paper to make it a more thorough and in-depth account of the War. I have broadened my research to represent the War: Mexican, Northeastern opposition, and Southern support. I have also gathered Mexican sources and translated them to English to further explain what the War meant to Mexicans in the middle of the nineteenth century. In researching for these new sections, I found that as a student in the Northeast of the United States, Mexican sources are extremely difficult to find. The experiences and struggles I encountered while researching the Mexican perspective have also contributed to my account of the War and what it meant and continues to mean to the nations involved.



- 2008: Dario Abreu  
Joshua Benjamin  
Margaret Farrell  
Jacob Freedman  
Tiffany Islar  
Meredith Lu  
Michael Matias  
Katherine Morris  
Emily Rossi  
Kacey Schneider  
Carrie von Glahn  
James White
- 2009: Luna Bajak  
Charlee Bianchini  
Rose Finn  
LaChrisha LaSane  
Samantha Levine  
Sarah Magida  
Jennifer Piepenbrink  
Amy Proulx  
Daniel Tejada
- 2008: Margaret Farris  
Amanda Gray  
Kelsey Lewis
- 2009: Courtney-Anne DeStefano  
Alison Wiggins





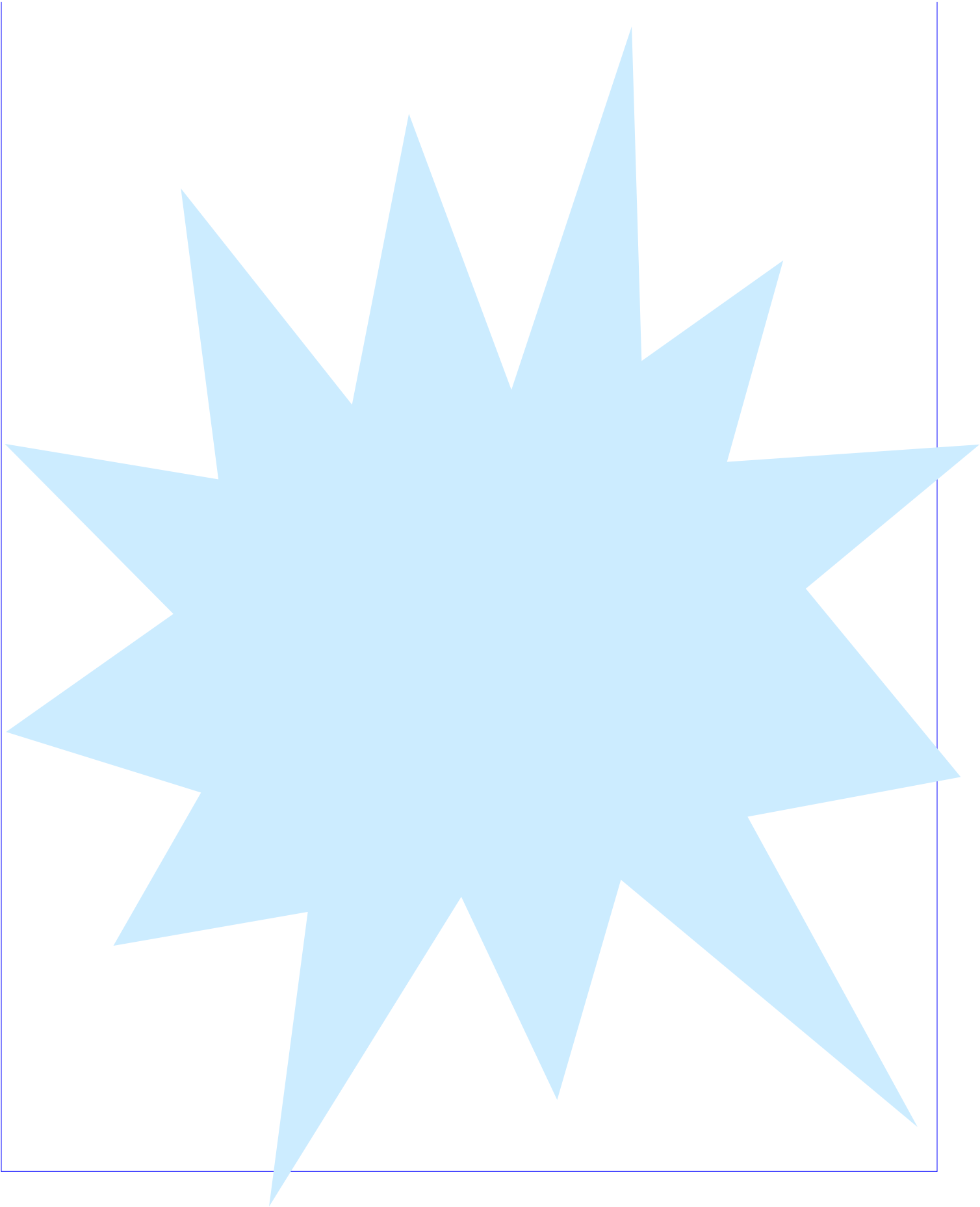
different themes and historical figures of our history." He says, "this major allows me to study something that I am really fascinated with through lots of different disciplines and has helped me to better understand where America has been and why it is the way it is today." Brian enjoys playing the guitar, reading, writing, and performing. He has been active with Skidmore's radio station, WSPN, Lively Lucy's, Skidnews, and Habitat for Humanity. Over the summer, Brian hopes to take some time to apply to graduate schools and possibly do some traveling. He hopes to someday teach American history or American literature at the high school level. He advises underclassmates to "take lots of different courses with as many of the faculty as you can — they're all great. Try to focus on the things about which you are passionate for your senior seminar project."

, New Hope, PA, Major

Alex minors in business and majors in American Studies. When asked why he became a major, Alex responded: "You can't know where you're going unless you know where you've been," which speaks well about the AM 221 theme of "Making Connections." Alex has been busy with WSPN, Skidmore's radio station, Skid-TV, and the Student Entertainment C.548ubaT5 scn0.00, afmidmore's0p0 -1.k  
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people in the United States of America live in a society where they must reconcile the realities of cultural differences with unified notions of America and American identity. This course navigates that terrain, not only by introducing students to some of the dramatically different communities that populate our nation, but also by directly addressing the interrelationships and tensions that characterize the workings of our culturally diverse democracy. American Studies 260 is committed to understanding the United States as a complex, heterogeneous society that has been profoundly shaped by both the connections and conflicts found in our multicultural heritage. We will examine how these cultural traditions intersect with debated themes, such as race, the family, adoption, gender, sexuality, and education.

assesses and puts in historical context global perspectives on and representations of the U.S., its citizens and culture. Employing an inter-

disciplinary methodology, student will consider how the U.S. appeared to Europeans in the 18th century and how others since then have made sense of this country, with an emphasis on the 20th century and the post-9/11 cultural moment. Students will examine themes including the preferred national narrative of the U.S. as a place of freedom, opportunity, democracy, and multicultural pluralism; and different forms of anti-Americanism.

n example of American culture through the lives of specific people



worked with Hands on New Orleans to help in the post-Katrina clean-up. Here are a few pictures (compliments of Sarah Mitchell), and words from Sam McHale:





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