

discuss the place of writing in the discipline. We are anxious to make the role of writing more visible in our curriculum, and, to that end, professors



AMERICAN STUDIES

Skidmore College
AMERICAN STUDIES —

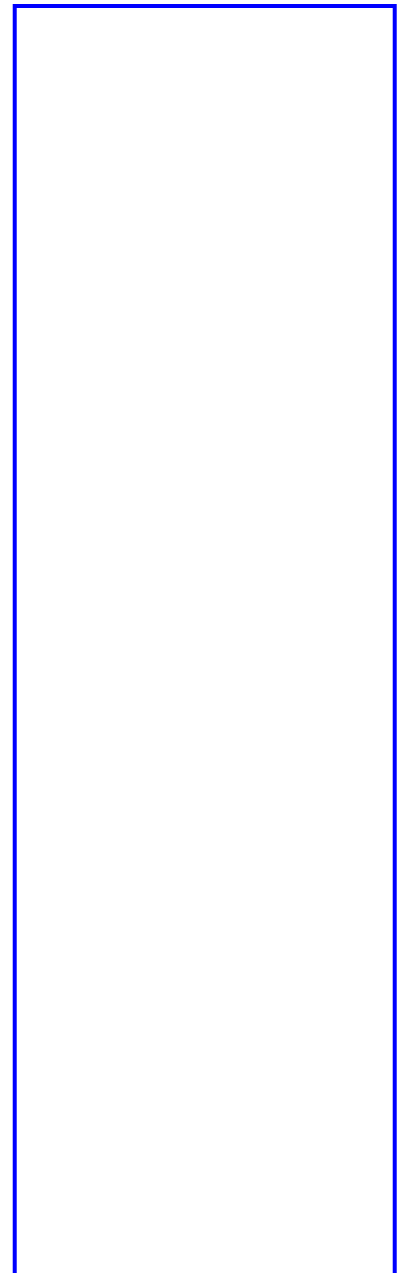
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Our Department A Word from Gregory M. Pfitzer, Chair

Dear American Studies Folks:

The academic year 2008-2009 has been a productive one for the Department of American Studies at Skidmore. Despite the slipping economy, we managed to host or co-host a number of important speakers and invited guests, including Elaine Showalter, Eve Pell, and Jill Lepore. Lepore, a Professor of American History at Harvard University and a frequent contributor to the *New Yorker*, was the third Tad Kuroda Seminar lecturer. She spoke on the "loving but long-distance relationship" of *War and Remembrance*. *War and Remembrance* received nice reviews from the faculty and students present.

The Department made some noteworthy changes to its curriculum this year, eliminating AM 101 and 102 as the gateway courses to the major and replacing them AM 103: INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN STUDIES. These courses vary topically with instructor, and emphasize reading critically, thinking historically, practicing interdisciplinarity, and acknowledging diversity. Students analyze and synthesize multiple kinds of primary sources (such as fiction, film, music, art) and disciplinary perspectives (sociology, economics, media criticism) to appreciate better the complexity of American life and culture. Professor Nathan taught the first AM 103 in the fall on Basketball, followed in the spring by Nature and Culture (Hollenbeck) and Becoming Americans (Lynn). Next semester Professor Woodfork will teach an AM 103 on Adoption. Other new courses added to the curriculum this year included Gender and Sexuality, Childhood in America, Law and American Culture, and E. L. Doctorow's America.



**American Studies
Majors/Minors Abroad**

Emily Bresnick '10

In the fall 2008 semester I studied in Paris, France through the Paris Fall Seminar Program. Our class focused on North African Immigrants and Paris of the Surrealist. Through visits to several interesting museums, parks, and neighborhoods,

Professor Jaouad exposed to us a unique and important side of Paris and the lives of those who live there. These visits to incredible places within the city were complemented by meeting notable filmmakers, authors, and politicians, with whom we always ended up sharing cups of chocolate

or café au lait. I also visited the U.S. Department of Justice, DEA, ATF, FBI headquarters and the training facility in Quantico, Baltimore prisons including death row, the Federal Witness Security (Protection) Program, witnessed oral arguments at the Supreme

Court, U.S. Capitol, and heard from non-profit organizations that are passionate about informing the public on their issues. I also participated in a course required police ride-along and responded to a shooting and child services call.

I have had a great opportunity to learn about the American justice system and the impact laws have on our country. Next week I'm

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**American Studies
Faculty Award 2009**

Our Seniors: The Class of 2009

Luna Malachowski Bajak

(Major)

When Luna graduates in May she will stay in Saratoga the month of June restructuring the curriculum for future IGR White Racial Identity dialogues here on campus. Luna plans to go to graduate school for Social Justice/Social Work; she envisions herself aiding populations in the United States that are plagued with hardships and unjust circumstances. The interdisciplinary approach of American Studies is what attracted her to the major as it "coincided with my interest in social justice, providing courses which continuously challenged me and fueled awareness." A singer and painter who loves to travel, Luna advises non-senior majors and minors "to never doubt how vital the cultural study of the past through present of this country is."

Charlee Bianchini (Major)

Charlee calls Gloucester, MA home (in fact, her Senior Thesis is about her home and a sense of place), loves to paint, write, dance (especially), travel and listen to music. She plans to hang out in Gloucester for the summer working on her painting and writing for the local newspaper. In the fall she will head out to China to teach with the Skidmore Teach in China Program. She hopes this will be a trend-setting lifestyle for her — teaching in foreign countries — for the next few years. At Skidmore, Charlee has held the vice-president position in International Affairs Club every year except her senior year, and last year was co-president. She would like underclassmates to "milk the experience

Majors/Minors Abroad

looking forward to a class tour of
the Pentagon.

Hope all is well in Saratoga!

LaChrisha LaSane '09

Fall semester of 2008 I studied
abroad in Melbourne Australia at

**American Studies Club, 2008-2009
by Danny Tejada, President**

On February 17, 2009, Elaine Showalter, Professor Emerita at Princeton University, and a founder of feminist literary criticism in American academia and controversial theorist of hysteria in

ACADEMIC FESTIVAL—30 April 2009

Majors & Minors

MAJORS

2010: Elizabeth Arzt
Emily Bresnick
Rachel Cohen
Krista Glencross
Andrew LaSane
Elena Milius
Kathleen Mullins

Below are pictures from the American Studies portion of Academic Festival. Students presenting (Charlee Bianchini '09, Sarah Magida '09 and Claire Solomon '10) commented on the challenges of doing historical research and preserving cultural memory in the context of honors thesis work. Presenting in three widely different areas of historical investigation, Charlee (), Sarah (), and Claire () discussed the common methodological challenges they faced in researching the past and analyzed the consistent patterns of interpretation they employed in investigating the place of historical memory in the American consciousness.

While at Skidmore, Mike was co-founder of the Hip Hop Alliance Club, and has been involved with Project Unity since 2006. he was also involved in Students Organ-

ized Against Racism and acted as treasurer of this organization this past year. He enjoys reading, writing and "starting trouble."

Mike became a minor because he "thought another concentration



FACULTY—STUDENT WHIFFLEBALL CHALLENGE

I do believe the students took the cup for this tournament!



FACULTY—STUDENT BOWLING CHALLENGE

And then the faculty cleaned up....

Fall, 2009, Course Offering Preview

This course provides perspectives on the development and materialization of Black American feminist thoughts within historical, social, political, and cultural contexts. Interdisciplinary in focus, it surveys feminist politics and theories through films, popular culture, manifestoes, literary texts, theoretical, and historical essays. In addition, the course will address how concepts of black feminism and black womanhood overlap and diverge in accordance with the modes of representation used to articulate them.

AM 360A, The 1920s

M. Lynn, TuTh, 11; 10-12:30

An intensive examination of the "roaring twenties," with special attention to the impact of class, race, and gender on the development of American culture in the period. The course focuses on a series of controversies illuminating some of the conflicting

