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Benedict Arnold & Horatio  
Gates Return to  
Saratoga Springs

the story. Saratoga Springs, they told me, is one of the best places to be a public historian. The Battle of Saratoga remains one of *the* most important battles of the modern era, with global consequences worth highlighting. Britain's loss broke the first link in dismantling the chain of British Empire and initiated a long relationship with France. Before renaming French fries "freedom fries," the rangers maintained, Americans should have remembered: 1. there would be no America to protect without French intervention, and 2. France (and its colony, Haiti), shared many ideals when their revolutions began a few decades later.

Joe and Eric are moved to do this sort of work by a love of sharing history stories and an effort to

combat historical inaccuracy. At Saratoga Northshire Bookstore, Eric and Joe confronted the prevailing view that Benedict Arnold is the de facto hero of the Battles of Saratoga. Their larger project, however, is not only to inform the public about Saratoga Springs but to bridge the divide between academic and public history. If anyone can make headway in that daunting task, it's people like Joe and Eric whose passions for history are absolutely infectious. -- Ben Polsky (History), '15

*Stay tuned for upcoming History Where it Happens events:*  
MARCH 25: Barnes & Noble Bookstore, Slate Valley Museum  
APRIL 14: Saratoga Springs History Museum, Mapping Saratoga Springs Exhibit



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Despite the snow, MDOCS' spring has sprung! Our first week of the semester started with a trifecta (if you'll pardon the racing lingo): a History Where it Happens student-led interview that opens new community connections and student opportunities for Skidmore student documentarians (p. 1); class, dinner and a movie with photographers and filmmakers Salim Amin and Chip Duncan (p 3), and the first workshop on archive, multimedia and storytelling by Jocelyn Arem, '94, with energetic participation of faculty, staff and community partners. Nicky Tavares, the Project VIS MDOCS/Visual literacy fellow joined us this week. We look forward to drawing on her talents, ideas and vision in planning the Storytellers' Institute, whose cohort of student, faculty and professional documentarians will be selected later this month.

LI 113, the MDOCS/Vis lab, also starts off with a roar, as talented student documentarians and designers, begin offering weekly workshops. Look for Nicky's Storyboarding workshop later this spring, and Alex Chaucer's 2-part Digital Map Storytelling workshops later this month! Hope to see you here! In the meantime, stay warm with our first spring newsletter and a new team, headed by editor Maggie Clark (History). -- J. Dym

## MDOCS FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS

### February 12

Project Vis/  
MDOCS present :  
Nicky Tavares,  
Mellon Fellow  
Presentation & welcome reception  
5:00-6:30pm, LI 113

### February 18



John Beckman, '94  
Experiential Storytelling &  
Science Exhibitions  
With Mary Odekon (Physics)  
& Ray Giguere (Chemistry)  
5:30pm, Emerson Auditorium



Student led! Student approved!

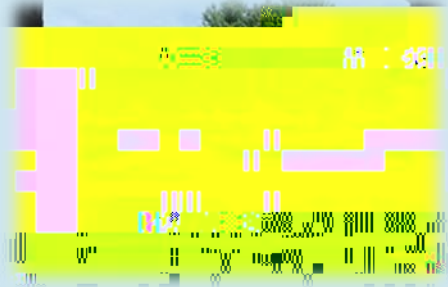
- Feb 8: Intro to Final Cut Pro X
- Feb 15: Using a Go Pro
- Feb 26: Intro to Sound Recording
- March 1: Basics of Poster Design

Sign up:

LI113@skidmore.edu

# Storytellers' Institute

Deadline: to apply for five



lively weeks of thought-provoking conversation, work-shopping, and creation

FEBRUARY 6 (Students)

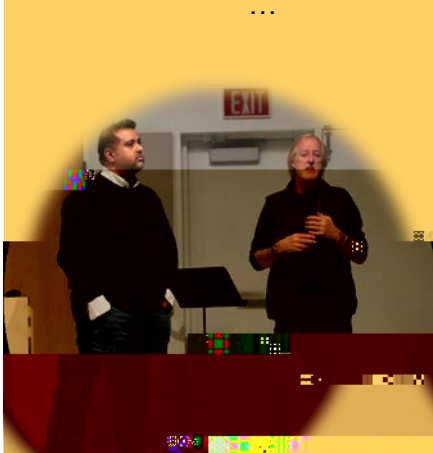
FEBRUARY 13 (Faculty)

June 1<sup>st</sup> - July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015

For more information, please visit the [MDOCS](#) website.

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*On January 26, MDOCS kicked off the semester with filmmakers Salim Amin and Chip Duncan, who offered students in insights into what it takes to get a documentary film from idea to production to distribution. That evening, they joined students, faculty, and community members for dinner and a movie.*

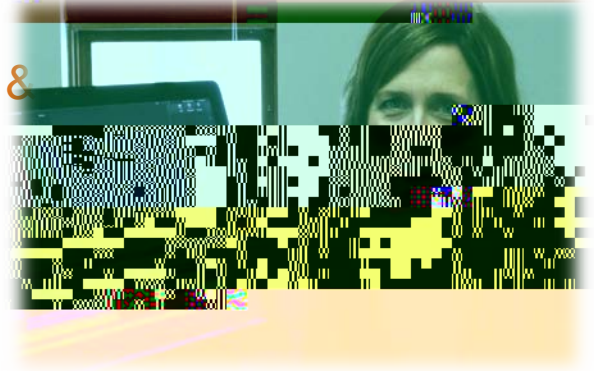


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## Documentarians on Campus:

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*Over the last week, Vickie Riley has led the collaborative effort to produce a memorial video of former Skidmore first lady, Anne Palamountain. Maggie Clark '15 connected with her to hear about the project.*



In the words of Vickie Riley, video is a team sport. The Anne Palamountain memorial she produced recently is a testament to her statement. She credits Wendy Anthony, Bob Kimmerle and Jordana Dym as essential and declares: "[t]his piece could not have happened in such a short period of time without Pat Wright who knew our library of photos and what we had to work with. After I edited the audio, I could ask her, 'we need something for this part', and she knew where it was or who to call."

And the team *did* complete the memorial in record time. Anne Palamountain, beloved former Skidmore first lady, passed away on January 24 and already the memorial is published to Skidmore's website. Luckily, Riley had a previously recorded interview with Ms. Palamountain to work with, courtesy of documentarian Eileen McAdam and the SkidmoreSaratoga Memory Project (an MDOCS program.) For Riley, the emotion Ms. Palamountain displayed as she told her own story was "crucial" in connecting to viewers. That's because the Skidmore videographer has a strategy for making the most of voice recordings. She listens to the audio in full and notices how she feels, then pulls out the segments that make her feel that way. In emphasizing Ms. Palamountain's passions— her independence and love for her husband and Skidmore — Riley accomplished her goal of honoring a legendary woman.

*Vickie Riley is the Director of Videography and Digital Resources at Skidmore, and holds an MFA from Columbia College Chicago. She showcases Skidmore College through video, film, and multimedia for the web.*

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Natalie Cabrera '17— *Writer*

Ben Polsky '15— *Writer*

Maggie Clark '15— *Editor*

*Jordana Dym, Eileen McAdam and Anne Palamountain at Skidmore Celebration Weekend, October 18, 2015*