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# FACULTY NEWS

He then scoured special exhibits of art and artifacts related to Charlemagne's life in Aachen, Germany on the occasion of the 1200th anniversary of his death. Next, he will depart for Portugal, Spain, and France -- to Portugal to examine the country's efforts to dig out of debt and rekindle economic growth; to Spain to study the independence movement in Catalonia; and to France to observe the commemorations with regard to the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of World War I. In addition, Palgrave Macmillan published the second edition of *THE EUROPEAN UNION IN GLOBAL SECURITY: THE POLITICS OF IMPACT* in September (coauthored with Susan Penksa).

**Professor Graney** is finishing up the manuscript of her book on European-Soviet relations. This semester, she coordinated a wonderful field trip to the Clark Art Gallery in Massachusetts to view one of the four surviving copies of the Magna Carta alongside copies of the Declaration of Independence, the US Constitution, and other famous documents. Professor Graney currently serves as the faculty advisor to Skidmore's Model EU group as well.

**Professor Knowles** is co-editing a book that will explore the First Amendment free speech jurisprudence of nine selected Supreme Court justices from the early twentieth century through today.

will thus look at the development of judicial philosophies over time, providing analyses of different justices' opinions across time through a qualitative, historical approach geared toward undergraduate students. Her own chapter focuses on Justice Anthony Kennedy's libertarian outlook on freedom of speech. The manuscript will be finished by the end of December. In addition, Professor Knowles recently attended the New England Historical Association's spring conference, where she presented a chapter from her book concerning abolition-

ist interpretations of the Constitution. She is hoping to present that same work in Manchester in the near future. In November, Professor Knowles will go on to present another paper at the Northeastern Political Science Association's annual meeting in Boston.

**Professor Ocakli** spent time doing fieldwork in Turkey over the summer on the recent transformations in the Islamic movement in order to update his book manuscript. He recently wrote a paper on colonialism and legal institution building in the Middle East as well, and presented it at a conference last spring. Currently, he is working on an article with a former student on the link between oil and insurgency movements.

**Professor Seyb** has an article coming out in the July 2015 issue of \_\_\_\_\_ under the title "What Walter Saw:"



*The idea for this article was conceived after Hulwa visited Professor Vacs for office hours and saw that Curious, his canine friend, was with him. During that visit Hulwa mentioned the ban of dogs in her country and Prof Vacs thought it would be interesting for Hulwa to share her experiences.*

# CONSTITUTION DAY LECTURE

On Saturday September 27, several intrepid students joined Prof. Vacs, the Professors Taylor, and Professor Graney (plus assorted adorable professor offspring) for a truly memorable field trip to the Clark Art Gallery in Williamstown, Massachusetts which included a rare ORIGINAL 13th century copy of the Magna Carta itself, along with a 1776 printing of the Declaration of Independence, and a copy of the Seneca Falls Declaration of Rights and Sentiments that was presented by Susan B. Anthony to the US Congress in 1848 on the 100th anniversary of the American Declaration of Independence. The documents were quite interesting, and everyone enjoyed the rest of the (extensive!) Clark collections, and especially the stunning new landscaping and glorious views of the Taconic foliage. Adventure also ensued – thanks to Prof. Vacs and his heretofore hidden MacGyver skills, a broken bus bumper was fixed in no time at all and we were whisked back to Skidmore full of history, art,

**Jonathan Awad '16** I'm a Government and Management and Business double major actively pursuing a career in the banking industry. I'm on the e-board of Skidmarket, Skidmore's finance club and the President of the Pre-Law Society. I try to keep up with working out and reading the WSJ every day, as well as relentlessly being the change I would love to see in the world.

**Matt Barnes '15** I spent the summer interning at a Pacifica Radio affiliate in New York City, WBAI, where I bore witness to the trials and tribulations of noncommercial media. This semester I'm hosting a show on WSPN and am struggling through the thesis process, while looking to intern for WAMC next semester.

**Addison Bennett '15** I spent the summer interning in Washington for Congressman Paul Tonko, who represents New York's 20th District (which includes Skidmore). I really enjoyed the first-hand experience of seeing how Congress works. This year, I am the SGA President, which is essentially a full-time job, but I've already found it to be a very rewarding position.

**Will Clark '16** I spent the summer working for Philips Healthcare in Shanghai and am currently interning for a Margaret McDougall, a Labour Party Member of the Scottish Parliament while abroad. The Parliamentary internship program is a five week condensed courseload at the University of Edinburgh, followed by ten weeks interning at the Parliament. A very exciting time to be in the UK and a program that I recommend to all Skidmore government majors.

**Jesse Evensky '16**



Preservation Foundation. In this capacity I surveyed buildings within Saratoga's East Side Historic District regarding their conditions and any changes that had been made to the properties. During the last week of the internship I also led an historical and architectural tour of Madison and Fifth Avenues within the historical district. Currently I am studying History and Politics at the University of Edinburgh, and am looking forward to Spring semester at Skidmore!

**Maddy Morency '15** After spending ten ~magical~ days in Prague with Professor Graney and Professor Taylor, I travelled in Europe for the next two months. I was able to go to Cesky Krumlov in Southern Bohemia, Berlin, Brussels, Amsterdam, and Barcelona before concluding my time in Europe by spending three weeks working on a converted monastery in northern Belgium. It was an incredibly rewarding experience and I learned a lot about Belgium in particular, but was also exposed to many worldviews that I was otherwise unaware of.

**Ben Polsky '15**

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the University of Edinburgh in Edinburgh, Scotland. The program is  
comprised of five weeks of intensive academic study, followed by ten  
weeks of an internship in the Scottish Parliament. All seventeen of the  
students in the Parliamentary Internship program are from the United  
States and most of them are political science majors.

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in an apartment of six, and the remaining eleven students are in apart-  
ments within the same building complex. Many of our neighbors are  
freshman students from London, Manchester, or Glasgow and we have  
become friends with a few native Scots. Living in Europe is relatively  
Yi dYbg]j Y'Vta dUfYX'hc' h'Y'I b]h'X' G]U]Yg' UbX' =Z]bX' h'U]h' f]a' gdYbX]b[ ' U  
lot more money on groceries here than at home! Early into the semester some of my peers and I participated in a weekend homestay  
experience. IFSA-Butler, the study abroad provider organized the transportation to the host family and established some guidelines, so  
k Y'k YfYb]h[ c]b[ ' ]b' Vta d'Yf' m]V' ]bX" A m]Z]YbX' < Yb'f]m]UbX' =k YfY'Vi g]j]X'hc' 6Yfk ]W'i dcb'Hk YXZ'Uga U' h'ck b' f' g]icj Yf' h'Y'Vcfder  
]b'c' 9b[ ' UbX'k \YfY'k Y' g]U]YX'k ]h' A ]W]U' 'UbX' 9' ]n]U]Yh' " C i f' \c]g]idUfYb]h]g]ck YX' i g]hc' U]W]h'Yz' U' c]W] ' Z]fa Yf]g]a Uf\_Yh'z' UbX' most  
remarkably the church service that they directed on Sunday morning. Michael and Elizabeth are very religious Salvation Army officers  
UbX'dfcj ]XYX'Udck YfZ ' g]fa cb'h'U]h'=\j Yb]h'Zcf[ ch]Yb"

IFSA-Butler has provided additional weekend opportunities as well. In early October we travelled to the highlands along  
with IFSA-Butler students from St. Andrews, the Glasgow School of Art, and Stirling. We visited Dunrobin castle, watched a sheep  
\YfX]b[ ' X]Ya cb]g]f]U]cb' i g]b[ ' h'f]U]X] e'X f[ f] \cp Y' Y'a f]U]b UbXA U]Z' ca g' U' U]X]I

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*Ben studied at the University of Edinburgh in the spring semester of 2014 and Matt is currently studying there. This article appears as a follow up to the article Ben wrote for the newsletter last semester, "An Inquiry into Scottish Independence. Matt and Ben decided to write this article together because of their shared study abroad experience and their common interest in British politics.*



On the Fourth of July this year, the mayor of Philadelphia told his fellow Philadelphians that the city owned Independence. Fourth of July belongs to Philly, he proclaimed to a cheering

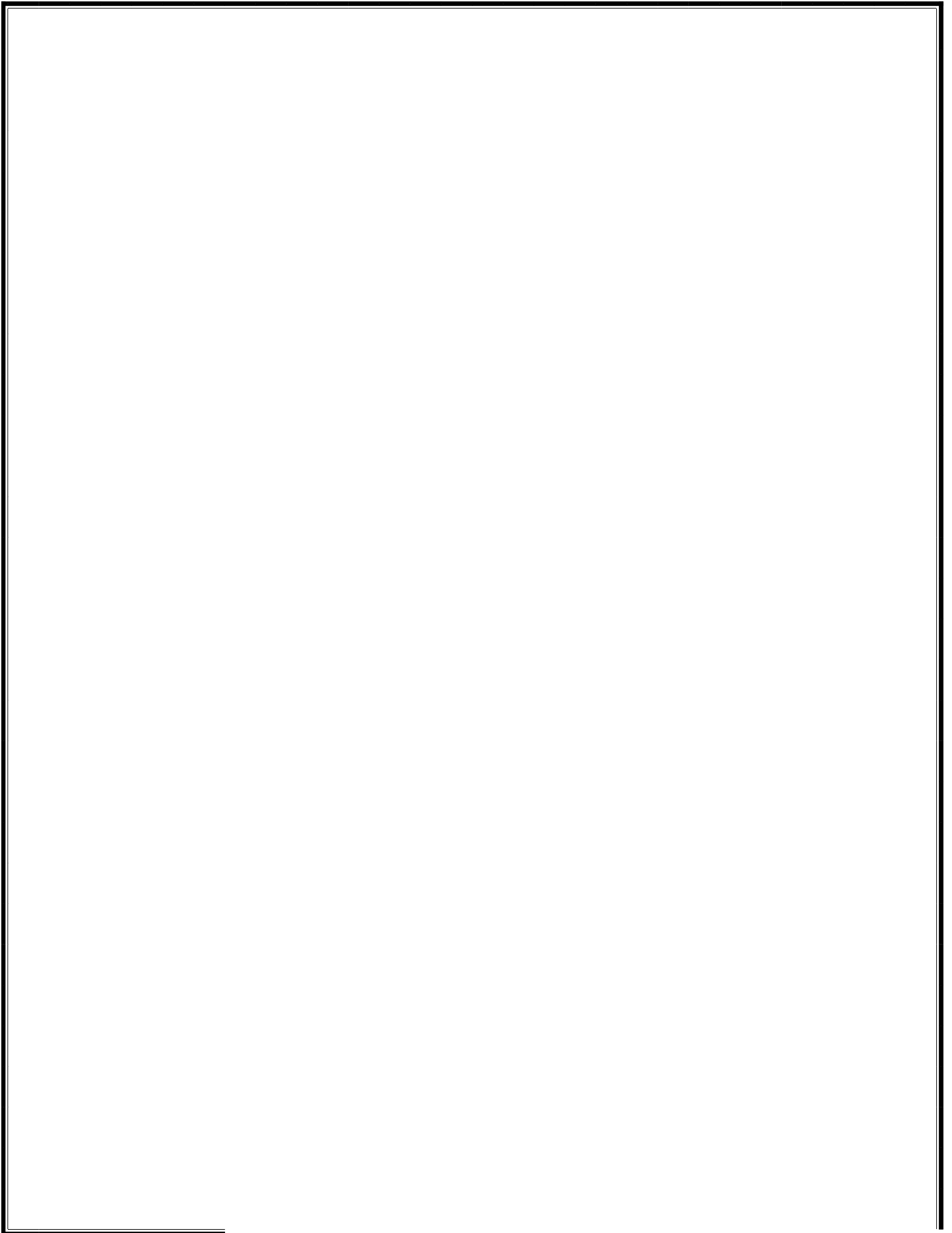
Over the summer I had the privilege of working for Professor Graney helping her edit her upcoming book

. (This is one of the two options for the working title. I took the liberty of choosing the one I like more.) If I am going to be honest, editing is not always the most glamorous work. Spending a couple of days checking for comma splices and making sure that hyphenated terms were always hyphenated could be mind numbing work. And after two more days of working on punctuation, cross checking bibliographies, creating charts, and looking out the microscopic window in the conference room at the beautiful day outside, I was often wondering why I decided to take this job, instead of returning to my summer camp and spending another summer camping, canoeing, and generally causing shenanigans.

But, despite the few cons that go along with a summer in the conference room, it was amazing to see the process of writing books at work. I always knew it took a ton of work to write a book, but I had never truly processed the amount of sources, pages written, and times edited that each chapter, in of itself, encompassed before being sent to the publishers. Even more notable, I never knew how much work a book was for people who were not even writing it. (That would be me, if you were wondering.) But on a more serious note, looking at a sixty-page bibliography I was given at the start of the summer (which has been steadily expanding) and seeing how many books were on it, and how many books were on it that I eventually took off because they were never cited in the book, really showed me how many years of research goes into each book. When really thought about, the academic work of our professors who write these books is absolutely amazing.

Moreover, while editing this book, I got to read about innovative conceptions of the relationship between Russia and Europe. Along with systematically examining every single former soviet republic and their standing within the European-Orientalist gradient that she uses to discuss this complicated relationship, I also got to read about the significance of more cultural aspects of Europeanization as they related to soccer and Eurovision. All in all, it was a great experience working for Professor Graney this summer, and I hope everyone is looking forward to her book being published as much as I am.

## Senator Gillibrand: Congressional Internship Musings



RCIA GRANT FUNDS WOMEN'S INSTITUTE OF FREEDOM OF PRESS INTERNSHIP

***Cheyane Reisner '15***

WIFP, enabled me to dive into the depths of the feminist movement. Upon arrival, I realized this internship provided

# RELIEF FOR FLOOD VICTIMS IN KASHMIR





Academic Council is tackling a range of issues this fall that students of government and prospective majors may want to know about. One new resource that we are promoting is the Academic Pursuit Fund, which can be used to offset the cost of research materials, supplies, and travel to academic conferences. The grants will be available through the Office of Academic Advising, and will typically be about \$500. Students must submit a proposal to Academic Council in order to receive a grant.

Another initiative Academic Council is working on is a new series of student talks that we would co-run with the any students who would like to share anything from their most recent musical performance to their senior thesis. However,

We will encourage students to participate even if it



***Connor Grant-Knight '15***

The Government Department continues to support The Franklin Forum, a student-led reading group now on its third year. This semester, with Professor Flagg Taylor still as its faculty advisor, the



When seniors contemplate their post-Skidmore futures, they often talk about wanting a career that fulfills their desire for public service, meaningful work, and creative thought. Yet they rarely talk about joining the military.



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critical while making tough decisions even after college, be-  
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a ][ \hibchVY'f][ \hZcf'nci "i'@H> '6]gMcZZYI d'UjbyX'hUž'  
since men and women in the military move often, usually eve-  
ry 2-3 years, one must be flexible and easily adaptable.

They expressed that their experiences, while over-  
whelming and filled with constant challenges, have been noth-

ing short of positive and fulfilling. Each displayed an unparal-  
leled level of pride in their work, something that is not guaran-  
teed by most in other professions. They found a niche that  
combines service, creative thought, and the chance to escape  
their comfort zone to test their limits. Col. Resnick left a final  
thought for Skidmore students as they approach inevitable de-  
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what you want to do, what kind of life you want to lead, and  
what will make you happy and satisfied. From there is where  
nci 'H\_Y'U'YUd'cZZJh"i

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# Spring 2015 Topics Course Descriptions

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American	Comparative	International Relations	Political Theory
GO 231: Environmental Politics and Policy (BT)	GO 209: The Latin American Puzzle (AV)	GO 228: U.S. Foreign Policy (AV)	GO251D: How to Rule the World (AD)
GO 251C: Freedom of Speech (HK)	GO 233: Political Islam (FO)	GO251A: They Might be Giants: The Global Rise of BRICS(YB-O)	GO 308: Contemporary Political Thought (AD)
GO 312: Contemporary Constitutional Problems (HK)	GO 365: Politics of Modern Warfare (YB-O)		GO 351: Capitalism and Its Critics (FT)
GO 362: Politics of Congress (RS)			

GO 101-001: Intro to American Government  
Helen Knowles M W F 10:10 | 11:05am  
slam

GO 233: Political Islam  
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GO 102-001: Introduction to Political Philosophy  
Alexander Duff T TH 9:40 | 11:00am

GO 102-002: Introduction to Political Philosophy  
Flagg Taylor W F 12:20 | 1:40pm

GO 103-001: Introduction to Comparative and International Politics  
Kate Graney M W F 9:05 | 10:00am

GO 103-002 Introduction to Comparative and International Politics  
Yelena Biberman-Ocakli T TH 12:40 | 2:00pm

GO 209: The Latin American Puzzle  
Aldo Vacs M W F 11:15 | 12:10pm

GO 228: U. S. Foreign Policy  
Aldo Vacs M W 4 | 5:20pm

GO 231 Environmental Politics and Policy  
Bob Turner T TH 9:40 | 11:00am