

GOVERNMENT  
DEPARTMENT  
NEWSLETTER

SKIDMORE COLLEGE  
Government Department

Fall 2010

# AC—WE KEEP IT COOL

**BEN VAIL '11**

Student Government Association (SGA) is more than just Senate. SGA is made up of students, clubs, and committees. Academic Council is one of those committees and it something you should know about!

Academic Council's purpose is to represent student ideas and concerns in all issues pertaining to academics. The SGA Vice President for Academic Affairs, Logan Brenner '12, chairs the committee and its members come from student representatives from all departments and programs at Skidmore. Currently, I am the only Government Department representative and have sat on the committee since my sophomore year.

Meetings are held weekly and topics of discussion change frequently. The great thing about Academic Council is that faculty, administrators, and students can address the committee about any pertinent issues. These can include concerns within departments, information about appealing a final failing grade, or how to create a self-determined major. After presentations or discussions, the committee breaks up into subcommittees. Two of these subcommittees plan Major Fair and facilitate Out-of-Classroom Discussion Fund.

\*\*Major Fair is held each semester in the atrium of the dining hall and allows students to learn more about all the majors Skidmore has to offer.

\*\*The Out-of-Classroom Discussion Fund allows students to get to know professors better and continue the conversation with a professor outside of the classroom. In the past students and professors have gotten coffee or lunch, attended performances, or gone to sporting events. Each person gets 10 dollars to subsidize the outing reimbursed by SGA. Sounds like a deal to me!

<http://www.skidmore.edu/studentorgs/sga/outofclassroom.html>

Academic Council is a great way to get more involved on campus, learn about Academics, and represent the Government Department. Each department is allocated two representatives and there is still a seat open! If joining AC sounds *cool* to you then think about joining. Email Logan Brenner (lbrenner) or Professor Katherine Graney (kgraney) if you are interested!

Roy H. Ginsberg, Joseph C. Palamountain Jr. Professor of Government, has received a rare international honor: he is one of four scholars in the United States—and 34 throughout the world—recently named a Jean Monnet Professor of European Integration Studies.

Jean Monnet professors are senior scholars/teachers specializing in European integration studies at colleges and universities around the globe. Under the auspices of the European Commission, the executive arm of the European Union (E.U.), the program provides support for the development of new projects that enhance European studies, and resources to strengthen existing curricular initiatives in this area. Jean Monnet professors are part of a broader program designed to increase knowledge and awareness of European integration through teaching, research, public outreach, and debate.



**From Henry Adams to Mad Men:  
Professor Natalie Taylor's Scholarship Interests**

CAITLIN MAHONY '11

*A Political Companion to Henry Adams* edited by  
Professor Natalie Taylor examines the political thought of

One of the more unusual programs offered to Skidmore students by the Office of Off-Campus Study and Exchanges is the Skidmore Fall 2 J4( Fai25 w 20Fai25 w ai25 r)-2fice in t17.76 4.02 reW nq1.0088959 0 0 -0.9911499 0 0 06s. T w .52 1 T54 51.17.543 2.24 reB\* QQq483.3 Off-Ca Tw 10.02 0 0 10.02 76.2 734.1 Tm( 6 )TjET0 0 0 0 k3070 0e I aeB\*.543 ff-luc.54k Gov-56154m5611] 7w 1 5895 5154m564



in France's cemeteries?" One suspects Johnson knew how hard the force of such words would be felt by a man of DeGaulle's sensibilities. Finally, we visited the stunning, spectacular medieval town and monastery of Mont St. Michel.

In addition to our official planned excursions, students have also kindly invited me out for coffee, dinner, or drinks, which has allowed all of us to talk, share our adventures and misadventures, tease, joke, laugh like so many Falstaffs, and argue for hours, so that they have all become quite dear to me. (I've also been happy to get to know some of the JYA students here.) They then return to their respective home-stays. As fortune would have it, we are here at a time when their host families have had occasion to admire Americans and what they stand for: just as we were studying Tocqueville's account of Americans as practice-minded rather than theoretical, some contemporary Americans, with their technology and know-how, were assisting the Chileans' rescue of their trapped miners; as David Gergen reported, American driller Jeff Hart, reaching the miners after drilling for 33 straight days, said simply and modestly, "we got the job done." The home-stays have afforded our students an opportunity not only to improve their French but also to learn what daily life is like for a Parisian family, and to participate in it for a season. And as they return to their home-stays, I

return happily to my apartment and my scholarship.

\* \* \* \* \*

Ubiquitous internet access and electronic data storage means that faculty can easily continue with their own scholarly work while here, even as they benefit from opportunities that France has to offer. So in addition to reading page proofs for a few other projects, I've begun work on a paper that was accepted for a January 2011 conference in Nice, on democracy and rhetoric. As it happens, Daniel's proposal was also accepted, so France will be the location for our first father and son tag team. The French journal *Klesis* will also be publishing a



On September 17<sup>th</sup>FF



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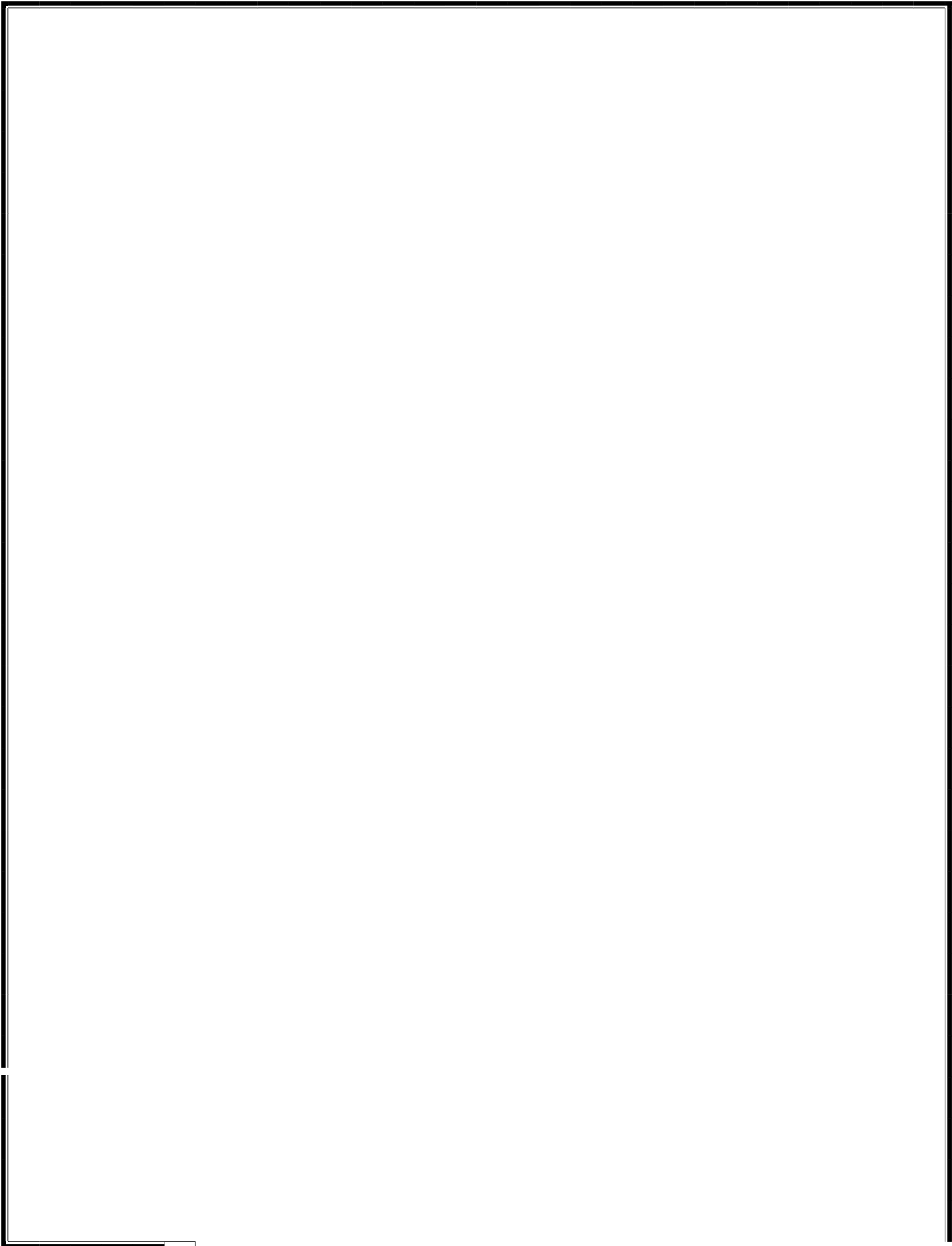
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family / Taylor

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**Burns, Tim - x5247, Ladd 316**