

# The Members Guide to the Honors Forum



**Spring 2012**

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Congratulations on your acceptance and continued membership in Skidmore's Periclean Honors Forum. This booklet presents the academic, leadership, and community service opportunities the Forum makes available to you. Our hope is that you will find this Members Guide helpful in answering questions you have about your continuing membership in the Forum: people and offices to contact, membership responsibilities and requirements, annual events, and information that we hope you will find useful in making the most of your years in the Honors Forum.

# What is the Honors Forum?

## Honors Forum's Mission

Skidmore College is a small, highly selective liberal arts college that fosters academic inquiry and creative thought and expression. Honors Forum promotes these goals. Skidmore founded the Honors Forum in 1997 as an inclusive community of highly motivated students who have promise to become student leaders and globally informed citizens. Our goal is to encourage students to take ownership of their academic and co-curricular education and to reflect meaningfully on their personal and professional goals. The Honors Forum invites all first-year students with a 3.5 or higher Fall Term GPA and second-year students with a 3.5 Fall Term and Cum GPA or higher to apply to the Forum.

Honors Forum introduces extraordinary rigor into academic programs as students consider complex questions and examine sophisticated materials. Honors Forum students develop what we refer to as “the life of the mind” by working alongside their faculty on research projects in labs, at field sites, in libraries, and in studios, often helping to shape the curriculum with which they engage. The Forum promotes and supports student-organized co-curricular activities (e.g. lectures and panel discussions) and leadership and civic engagement opportunities where students guide fellow peers, faculty, and staff within the Skidmore community and beyond. We also encourage all students at Skidmore College to take an Honors course, add-on, or independent study to become invested in a community of scholars and leaders.

Honors Forum membership is not something you can just frame and hang on your wall. It is a community in which you must be an active member. Moreover, many of the students accepted as members of the Honors Forum serve as the intellectual and leadership core for the larger student community. The Honors Forum is designed to provide extra support for the academic interests and goals of its members. Its purpose is to help you obtain support for academic projects, for example, designing your own independent studies,

### What's New in the Forum?

Meet H.f. Skidmore! The Honors Forum is now on Facebook. If you friend H.f. Skidmore, you can keep in the loop about campus events and find opportunities to get involved with HF.

organizing and participating in events and activities, accessing school resources, and taking full ownership of your education.

## Important People to Know and Their Contact Info

The Honors Forum Administrative Assistant is **Lisa Bradshaw**. See Lisa in the Honors Forum Office, Dana Science Center room 182, if you have any questions, problems, or requests (x5102, [lbradsha@skidmore.edu](mailto:lbradsha@skidmore.edu)).

The Honors Forum Director is **Dr. Catherine J. Golden, Professor of English**. Prof. Golden's office is 321 PMH, and she can help you with co-curricular and academic issues related to Honors Forum, such as Honors courses, Honors add-ons, independent studies, and field trips (x5164, [cgolden@skidmore.edu](mailto:cgolden@skidmore.edu)).

The Honors Forum President is **Vinay Trivedi-Parmar '12**. Vinay can answer your questions concerning the Forum and hear any suggestions you may have ([vtrivedi@skidmore.edu](mailto:vtrivedi@skidmore.edu)). He may also direct you to the Vice Presidents.

The Honors Forum Vice Presidents are **Lauren O'Donnell ('14** rising Biology major) as VP of Social Affairs, and **Timothy Nichols ('12** double major in Math and Economics) as VP of Academic Affairs. Contact them if you have any questions ([lodonnell@skidmore.edu](mailto:lodonnell@skidmore.edu), [tnichols@skidmore.edu](mailto:tnichols@skidmore.edu)).

The Citizenship Coordinator is **Sarah Hunter '12**. Contact her with any questions regarding the Citizenship Requirement ([shunter@skidmore.edu](mailto:shunter@skidmore.edu)). You may also contact Jenn Brown ([jbrown2@skidmore.edu](mailto:jbrown2@skidmore.edu)).

# History of the Honors Forum

In 1997, Skidmore created the Honors Forum, but the idea for an honors program at Skidmore College was not new. The College considered an Honors program in the 1920s, 1970s, and the 1980s, but the decision to finally institute an honors program grew out of two principal needs of Skidmore's best students:

- 1) Further academic challenge for Skidmore's highest achieving students, especially early in their freshman and sophomore years,
- 2) Opportunities for social networking among students who are especially academically motivated.

The idea of an Honors Forum came from former Dean of Studies Jon Ramsey, who worked with a faculty/student/administration task force. Together, they created a proposal for an organization designed to support Skidmore's top students in their academic and co-curricular endeavors. The College endorsed the proposal. The annual Jon A. Ramsey lecture honors Dean Ramsey's vision.

The Forum's designers developed the program to enrich the academic lives of *all* Skidmore students. Honors classes are open to any student prepared for the academic challenge; likewise, Honors Forum events are almost always open to the entire student body.

The Honors Forum inducted its first twenty-eight members in the spring of 1997 and offered its first courses in September 1998. The Skidmore Class of 2001 included the first graduating class of fourteen Honors Forum members.

There have always been close connections between the Honors Forum and the *Periclean Society*, which was a separate college honorary society from 1956-2008 mainly for juniors and seniors. For example, the student officers of the Periclean Society always sat on the Honors Forum Council, and the Society helped the Honors Forum sponsor major events such as Academic Festival. In 2008, the Periclean Society was de-chartered as an SGA club, so negotiations began for the Honors Forum to take over the management of the Periclean Society. The result is that beginning with the

class of 2012, the Periclean Society is fully merged with Honors Forum, which is now called the Periclean Honors Forum.

# The People in Charge

## Honors Council

The Honors Council is the faculty/administration/student governing body of the Honors Forum. Honors Council members are the people to see if you want to create an independent study, suggest an idea for a new Honors course, or have any questions/suggestions regarding Honors Forum policy or procedure.

Other responsibilities include overseeing and approving Honors courses and curricular opportunities, planning Academic Festival, selecting the annual Jon A. Ramsey faculty lecturer, overseeing the Periclean Scholar awards, reviewing applications for new members, and planning and hosting the yearly induction ceremony for new members.

### 2011-2012 Honors Council

**Catherine J. Golden (Chair)**, Honors Forum Director, Professor of English  
[cgolden@skidmore.edu](mailto:cgolden@skidmore.edu) x5164

**Lisa Bradshaw**, Administrative Assistant for Honors Forum  
[lbradsha@skidmore.edu](mailto:lbradsha@skidmore.edu) x5102

**David Karp**, Interim Associate Dean of Student Affairs  
[dkarp@skidmore.edu](mailto:dkarp@skidmore.edu)

**Hassan López**, Psychology  
[hlopez@skidmore.edu](mailto:hlopez@skidmore.edu)

**Tillman Nechtman**, History  
[tnechtma@skidmore.edu](mailto:tnechtma@skidmore.edu)

**Jennifer Bonner**, Biology  
[jbonner@skidmore.edu](mailto:jbonner@skidmore.edu)

**Vinay Trivedi-Parmar '12**, President of Honors Forum, Student Executive Committee  
[vtrivedi@skidmore.edu](mailto:vtrivedi@skidmore.edu)

**Timothy Nichols '12**, Vice President of Honors Forum, Student Executive Committee  
[tnichols@skidmore.edu](mailto:tnichols@skidmore.edu)

**Lauren O'Donnell '14**, Vice President of Honors Forum, Student Executive Committee  
[lodonnell@skidmore.edu](mailto:lodonnell@skidmore.edu)

## Student Executive Committee

### 2011-2012 Student Executive Committee Officers and Duties:

**Vinay Trivedi-Parmar '12**  
President  
[vtrivedi@skidmore.edu](mailto:vtrivedi@skidmore.edu)

**Sarah Hunter '12**  
Citizenship Coordinator; manages citizenship projects. Contact her if you have a citizenship project idea.  
[shunter@skidmore.edu](mailto:shunter@skidmore.edu)

**Vinay Trivedi-Parmar '12 & Sarah Hunter '12**  
Class of '12 Representatives  
[vtrivedi@skidmore.edu](mailto:vtrivedi@skidmore.edu)  
[shunter@skidmore.edu](mailto:shunter@skidmore.edu)

**Lauren O'Donnell '14**  
VP of Social Affairs  
[lodonnell@skidmore.edu](mailto:lodonnell@skidmore.edu)

**Timothy Nichols '14**  
VP of Academic Affairs  
[tnichols@skidmore.edu](mailto:tnichols@skidmore.edu)

**Emma Wilberg '14**  
Class of '14 Representative  
[ewilberg@skidmore.edu](mailto:ewilberg@skidmore.edu)

Class of '13 representative is open. Would you like to serve?

The Student Executive Committee (or Exec Co, as we commonly call it) is the student governing body of the Honors Forum.

**Vision Statement:** The Executive Committee provides leadership and direction to Honors Forum members. It offers interest meetings to attract incoming members and opportunities for intellectual discourse, community service, and cultural experiences for HF members and the community at large. Exec Co also serves as a resource to Honors Forum members to realize their aspirations.

Exec Co's members are responsible for creating, planning, and implementing. They make suggestions regarding policy and programming but must report to the Honors Council for approval. Exec Co consists of the HF President, Vice Presidents, Citizenship Coordinator, Community Liaison, and Class Representatives.

**Concerns, Questions, and Suggestions** Is there an issue that you'd like the Honors Council or Student Executive Committee to address? Contact any of the Executive Committee members, and they will bring your concern to the attention of the Council, or invite you to attend a meeting.

### Want to serve?

To volunteer to sit on Exec Co or on the subcommittees, see or email the HF President. We need at least two volunteers from each class to serve on Student Exec Co

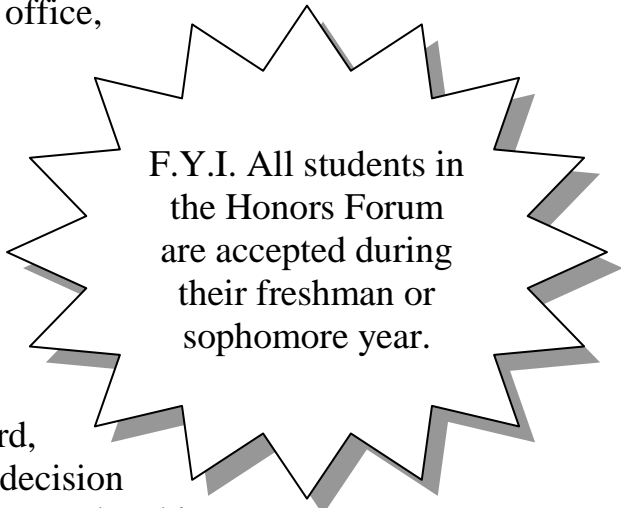
# How did I get here?

## The Selection Process

Skidmore students (including London freshmen) have two opportunities to join the Forum. After the first semester of your freshman year, if you have attained a 3.50 GPA or above, you will be eligible to apply to the Forum. The application form is available on the Honors Forum website and in hardcopy in the Honors Forum office, Dana 182.

Didn't hit the mark your first semester? Don't worry. The same process applies after the first semester of your sophomore year.

To determine acceptance, a team of at least one faculty member and one Honors Forum student reviews a student's application. Together, the team considers the applicant's personal statement, academic record, and faculty recommendations in making their decision on a student's acceptance into the Forum. New membership is limited to approximately 10% of the freshman and sophomore classes.



F.Y.I. All students in the Honors Forum are accepted during their freshman or sophomore year.

## Continuation Requirements

Membership in the Honors Forum signifies a special commitment to Skidmore's intellectual community. To demonstrate that commitment, members must complete the following requirements:

- a. Maintain a 3.50 GPA or higher each semester and a minimum 3.50 cum GPA at the end of senior year.

Note:  
Though Honors Forum is not officially a college minor, you'll find Honors Forum requirements are tracked and designated on degree status forms as a minor for administrative purposes.

- b. Take at least 3 Honors classes, add-ons, or independent studies **or** 7 Honors credits. You will have until the end of your senior year to complete your course requirements.
- c. Complete the Citizenship Project Requirement by the end of your junior year.
- d. Complete an Honors Capstone project and present it during your senior year. The Honors Forum Capstone is usually completed in the course or courses your major requires/offers as a **departmental capstone** (thesis, senior project, senior research seminar, senior art show, performance, independent study, etc.) and usually coincides with the requirement for departmental honors in your major. If your department does not have a format for presentation, consider presenting your capstone at Academic Festival or at an HF student meeting.
- e. Maintain social and academic integrity as outlined by the Student Handbook.
- f. Participate actively in planning, coordinating, presenting Honors Forum events.

## Ways to Get Honors Credit

Prof. Golden's Victorian Illustrated Books class raised \$130 for the public library in New Orleans in the wake of Hurricane Katrina

### Classes

Honors classes are open to the entire Skidmore Community; however, HF members are required to take either seven Honors Forum credits or three Honors Forum classes designed to be intellectually rigorous and engaging. Honors classes can be found in many disciplines; however, we are always hoping to offer more courses in various departments.

For a list of Honors Forum classes, check out the course list on the Honors Forum website.

*Have you taken or do you know of a class that you think deserves honors credit?* If you think a course would be a good addition to our honors offerings, suggest that the professor may wish to propose it to Honors Council. The Honors Council assists faculty in

designing new honors courses or revamping existing courses to achieve honors designation.

### **Course Add-ons (1 credit)**

Can't find an HF class that interests you? One credit hour add-ons are a great way to add intellectual challenge to a pre-existing course. Some courses have HF add-ons listed on the Registrar's Master Schedule under "Honors Forum," which students can choose to take in addition to the regular course.

If there is no scheduled add-on for a course you would like to take for Honors Forum credit, you can work with the professor to propose an attached independent or group independent study. These are usually extended studies of material covered in the course that the student/s and professor would like to study in more detail. Proposing an add-on is the same as proposing an independent study. You and your professor will need to submit the independent study proposal form, available on the Honors Forum website.

### **EN303H: Peer Tutoring (4 credits) & the Writing Center**

Ever had a paper that you knew needed lots of help but couldn't figure out what do to with it? The Writing Center is a wonderful resource on campus. Located in Room 440 in Lucy Scribner Library, The Writing Center is staffed by students and faculty who are prepared to provide help with writing assignments in any stage of their completion – or lack thereof. You can bring the writing tutors a page of notes, an outline, or an entire rough draft, and they are there to help you "kick it up a notch."

Want to become a writing tutor? You must be a sophomore, junior, or senior and complete EN303H: Peer Tutoring, a course designed to train you in the fine art of tutoring writing. Enrollment in the course requires a writing sample and recommendation from a professor. Peer tutoring at the Writing Center is an excellent form of community service.

#### **Helpful Hints:**

A good time to develop an independent study add-on is after you have registered and have an idea of what material the parent course will cover. Some students and faculty also propose add-ons during the drop-add period (the first week of classes each term).

## Independent Studies

(1-4 credits) When it comes to honors independent studies, you have two options:

HF271/272 (Fall/Spring) for freshmen and sophomores or HF371/372 (Fall/Spring) for juniors and seniors. These classes are designed to allow flexibility in the education of

Honors Forum members who choose to pursue projects, research, or advanced studies in areas of particular interest.

The Process:

- 1) Find a faculty sponsor who will oversee your study.
- 2) Write a proposal with your sponsor, detailing what you will be doing during the semester in your independent study and when you will do it, explaining why the independent study deserves HF credit and how it will add to your intellectual development. Take time writing a clear, specific, and well-written proposal.
- 3) Submit this proposal to the Honors Council via HF Director, Catherine Golden, for approval. The Director may request revisions before approving your course; not all proposals are deemed Honors-worthy.

Visit the Honors Forum website under “Curriculum” for further detailed information and suggestions.

Beginning 2012, we are **no longer** granting Honors Forum credit for study abroad portfolios, except on a **case-by-case basis**. Since admission to Honors Forum is based on Skidmore College course work, the requirements will now also be met with Skidmore College courses. However, Honors Forum members may approach the Director about the possibility of earning Honors credit while

### What have other students done?

#### Marissa Rosenbloom '10

completed an independent study for TX301 in which she traveled to Monteverde, Costa Rica and researched the impact of deforestation and human interference on vampire bats and fringe-lipped bats in that region.

F.Y.I. Honors independent studies may be repeated with a different topic for credit; however, currently **only a total of 3 credits** will be counted toward the HF 3 course/ 7 credits

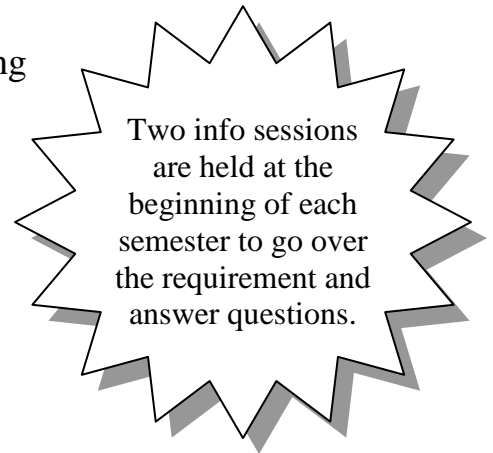
studying abroad. One abroad Honors experience counts for three Honors credits. The experience is associated with a specific course (not an independent study). Students seeking Honors credit for study abroad must request it from the Honors Forum Director **before they go abroad** and discuss how to develop their portfolio, which must be submitted to the Director upon their return. Credit will be granted only if the portfolio is judged to reflect a sufficiently rigorous and

Citizenship projects can also be done over the summer or abroad, but you must fill out a proposal and go to a gathering during the spring semester before you start your project.

sophisticated academic challenge. Portfolio contents will vary as appropriate to the discipline and the expectations of the Director and study abroad instructor.

## Citizenship Requirement

Since its inception, Honors Forum has emphasized the importance of its members being actively involved in community service and leadership activities both on campus and in the greater community. You are expected to complete a Citizenship Project by the end of your Junior Year.



Your project must:

- Be completed within the time you specify on your proposal, between fall of freshman year and the end of junior year
- Be proposed by the 4<sup>th</sup> week of the semester in which you plan on completing it or before you leave for the summer if you are planning on completing it over the summer
- Involve a minimum of 15 hours of service including preparation
- Benefit a group or community within or beyond Skidmore
- Have a coherent theme
- Be intellectually rigorous

**Choosing a project** There are many suggested Citizenship projects (see below), but following your passion and creating your own is encouraged. There are plenty of options to consider for this project. If you are stuck, **Michelle Hubbs** (mhubbs@skidmore.edu, x5784),

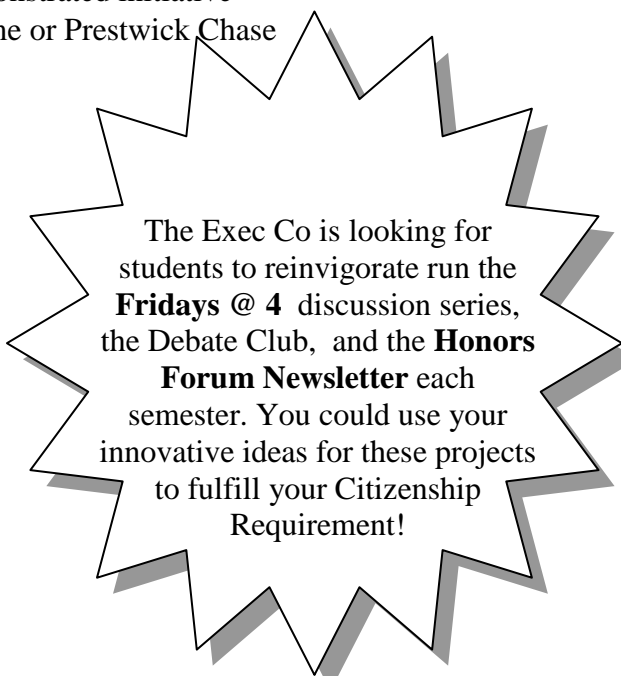
Director of Community Service Programs, is a good person to see to get ideas. You may work alone, but the Citizenship Committee advises working in a group, working in association with a course or club (but not for credit and your project must exceed the normal membership/leadership duties), and with a focus on the Skidmore community or beyond. Once you have your topic, your next step is to propose it to the Citizenship Committee by filling out the online “Citizenship Project Proposal” form by the deadline.

**Completing the project** Once your proposal has been accepted (Note: projects are accepted on a case-by-case basis by the Citizenship Committee), you will be advised to complete a minimum of 15 hours of work on your project, and to keep a journal in which you record your hours and reflect on your work.

At the conclusion of your project, you will need to complete a **reflection piece** in which you comment on the process of your project and what you accomplished. The journal is not a requirement, BUT those who have kept a journal in the past have produced more thoughtful and coherent reflection pieces.

### Project suggestions

- Starting and facilitating a reading group on campus or at the public library
- Organizing a special events week in the context of a club with demonstrated initiative
- Special and significant initiatives in SGA; leading a committee in a special project
- Organizing a free performance of music or drama with demonstrated initiative
- Organizing and putting up a free art exhibit with demonstrated initiative
- Organizing a special program at Wesley Nursing Home or Prestwick Chase Retirement Community
- Volunteering at the Saratoga YMCA



The Exec Co is looking for students to reinvigorate run the **Fridays @ 4** discussion series, the Debate Club, and the **Honors Forum Newsletter** each semester. You could use your innovative ideas for these projects to fulfill your Citizenship Requirement!

## What have other students done?

**Genna Durante '09** ran a creative writing program for elementary schoolers in her hometown during the summer. She encouraged the young writers to keep a journal so they could develop their own stories and share them.

**Linnea Kniaz '10** created the Film Appreciation Troupe, a club that meets weekly to view and talk about films, film trends and the film industry. The members of F.A.T. also occasionally attend the Saratoga Film Forum.

**Meghan Garvey '11** created the Skidmore Dining Services Nutrition Database to inform her fellow students about what they are eating in order to promote healthy lifestyles on campus.

## Senior Capstone

Each graduating Honors Forum member must complete a culminating Capstone project in his/her senior year. Most of the time, the Honors Capstone coincides with a culminating departmental experience *or* Honors requirement such as a thesis, research report, performance, 300-level class, exhibit, etc. Sometimes, a student's capstone is completed by an independent study. Honors Forum members are required to present their Senior Capstone projects publicly. This may be done as part of the department's senior presentation, an exhibit, a performance, a concert, or, most typically, at Academic Festival.

In order for a project to count toward the Honors Forum Capstone requirement, the Director of the Forum must approve it. There is a form online, "Proposal for Senior Capstone Requirement," **with the forms on** the website. Please give thought and care to your proposal. Define your project clearly, explain your culminating project fully (both the research and the outcomes), and explain how this project offers a culmination to your academic career. Make sure to write your proposal well.

## What have other students done?

**Frederick Braunstein '08**  
A Gender Studies and Government double major, Fred did a study on the identities people create in metaverses, three-dimensional interactive online socialization spots. Specifically, he consulted scholarly research about race, class and gender in relation to online avatars. He presented his findings at Academic Festival.

# Housing

Beginning Fall 2012, Honors Forum housing will now be available in Wiecking Hall for sophomores, juniors, and seniors. Housing is ideal for those looking for a quieter and more work-focused environment and a greater sense of an HF community. Students accepted into Honors housing will complete their Citizenship Projects during the Fall or Spring semesters; those who have already completed their Citizenship Projects will act as mentors to those currently completing their projects.

## Honors Lounge (Ladd 321)

The Honors Lounge is a space available to Honors Forum members. Currently the space is used for Honors Council and Executive Committee meetings, the HF Newsletter staff, and the Debate Society (which we are hoping to reinvigorate). Students can reserve the Honors Lounge for formal meetings and events by contacting Lisa in the HF Office ([lbradsha@skidmore.edu](mailto:lbradsha@skidmore.edu)). Otherwise, it is open to Honors Forum members for informal study groups or personal use. We have a new table and chairs and new couches as well as a library; come and check it out. Students also can use the room to display artwork or posters from scientific research.

Conditions for use of the Honors Forum Lounge:

- 1) The lounge is available for academic and co-curricular activities only. Any evidence of inappropriate usage of the lounge may result in it being available by reservation only.
- 2) People and groups with reservations made through Lisa in the Honors Forum office (Dana 182, ext 5102, [lbradsha@skidmore.edu](mailto:lbradsha@skidmore.edu)) are ensured use of the lounge at their reserved time. If the lounge is not currently reserved, Honors Forum members are entitled to use the space. Others interested in using the lounge must first check with Lisa for availability.
- 3) Please leave the lounge in the condition in which you find it. This means:

- i) No furniture or office supplies may be removed from the lounge for any reason.
- ii) If you and/or your group have food in the lounge, please remember to throw away your trash and wipe off tables and chairs.
- iii) If you use the white board, please erase it before you leave.

## Perks and Fun Activities

### Annual Honors Forum Events

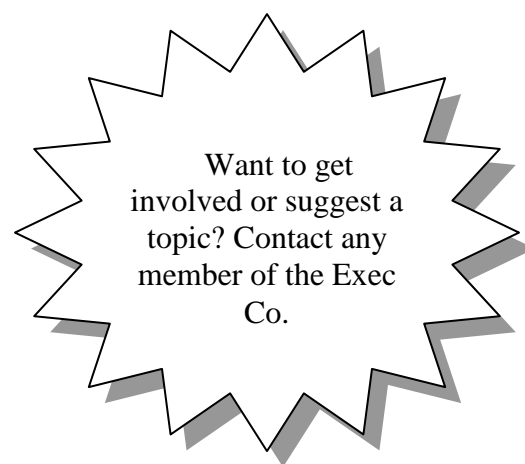
**Jon Ramsey Honors Forum Lecture** named for the professor of English who served as Dean of Studies for twenty-three years and who was one of the founders of the Honors Forum. Past lecturers, chosen by Honors Council and the Dean of Faculty, have included Professor Linda Hall, English; Professor Sheldon Solomon, Psychology; Professor Flip Phillips, Psychology/Director of Neuroscience; Professor Michael Arnush, Classics; Professor Steven Frey, Chemistry; Professor Pushkala Prasad, Management & Business; and Professor Timothy Burns, Government. Students nominate their favorite professor. This event will take place in late November or early December.

**Shades of Gray** This annual interactive panel discussion provides a venue for the Skidmore community to explore a topic occupying the “gray” areas of our lives. This event features controversial topics, diverse groups of panelists, provocative discussion questions, and sometimes mixed media presentations.

Past Shades of Gray Topics:

**2011 – Diversity on Campus**

A panel of students, professors, and administrators on campus explored issues of race and ethnicity, social class, and religious diversity, aiming to raise awareness and make Skidmore a more



inclusive community. This event responded to the current discussion of improving Inter-Group Relations on campus.

**2010 - Religious Freedom in America and on Skidmore's Campus**

A panel of students, professors, and religious leaders on campus discussed religious tolerance on campus and in America in the wake of recent controversial media stories about the burning of the Koran by a church in Florida.

**2009 -Honors: Why does it Matter**

A panel of students, professors, administrators and honor societies discussed the roles these and other Honors programs play on campus.

**2008 - Who Owns Your Vote, and What is it Worth?**

A panel of politically active students and audience members discussed the role of young voters and the significance of voting from international perspectives in the 2008 election.

**2007- Global Warming/Local Warming**

A panel consisting of students, faculty, and a guest from industry talk about the reality of global warming, and what can be done to reduce Skidmore's carbon footprint.

**2006 - Exporting Liberal Democracy**

A panel of professors, international and students, and a member of the US Army led a discussion and fielded questions from the audience about international topics.

**2005 - Making the Grade** An analytical and evaluative look at the grading policies and practices across Skidmore's campus including a discussion of the pros and cons of alternative grading practices.

**2004 - Race and Racism on Skidmore's Campus** Skidmore students discussed race-related issues that surface in the classroom and in our co-curricular lives.

**Academic Festival** Every school year on the day after spring semester classes end, over 300 Skidmore students in all four academic years of their college careers present their past year's academic achievements to the greater Skidmore Community. Student presentations have included research papers, student-created films, dances, music performances, poster presentations, panel discussions, art exhibits, slide shows, and more. This event is a great opportunity to explore disciplines you aren't familiar with and to learn about your fellow students' work from the past year. Community members also regularly look forward to this event.



All students, not just Honors Forum members, are invited to apply to showcase their work. Applications for Academic Festival can be found on the Honors Forum website.

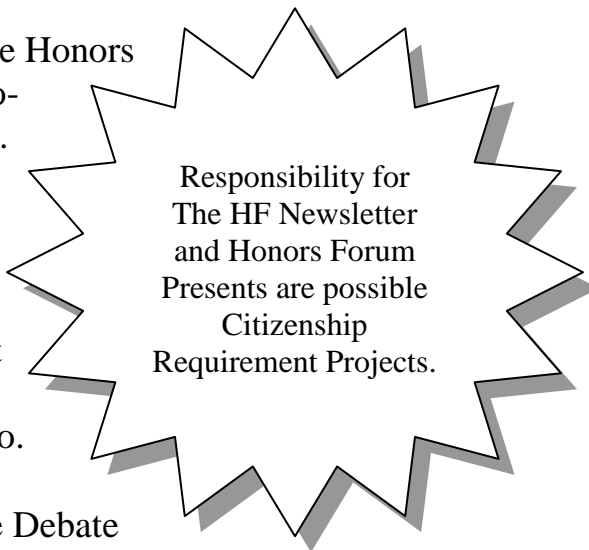
### **Citizenship Events and End of Year Dinner**

Throughout the year, your fellow Honors Forum members will be organizing events of all kinds to fulfill their Citizenship Requirement. These events come in many forms including informative presentations on topics like Lyme disease to movie viewings followed by panel discussions featuring the movie's cast and crew, and benefit walks in Saratoga for worthy causes among many other projects. Some students create projects that benefit the Saratoga community and the larger global community. We urge you to take advantage of your fellow students' hard work and come out to support their endeavors. Keep an eye out for e-mail notifications of Citizenship Project events, which are sent to all Honors Forum members. Those students living in Honors Housing will complete their Citizenship Projects or serve as mentors if they have already completed their Citizenship Projects. In addition, students will speak briefly about their projects, and some will be selected to give presentations of these projects at the annual End of Year Dinner.

**Honors Forum Presents** First introduced in 2005-2006 as Fridays @ 4, these events provide a place for informal discussion where Honors Forum members gather for a themed discussion with faculty members or fellow students to discuss a timely issue in the news or on campus. Honors Forum Presents are great places to meet other Forum members and talk about topics that engage our interest. Past topics have included immigration politics, nutrition, issues of free speech, and public art on campus. Please email any member of the Exec Co (page 8) if you have an idea for an Honors Forum Presents topic or suggestions for guest speakers.

**Trips** The Honors Forum traditionally sponsors one trip per semester. The Student Executive Committee in conjunction with the Honors Council organizes these excursions, but anyone is invited to suggest potential destinations. Past excursions have included trips to New York City to see *Avenue Q* on Broadway, the New York Metropolitan Opera, the Bodies Exhibit, Massachusetts Museum of Modern Art, Hyde Museum, Norman Rockwell Museum, New England Aquarium in Boston, and Saratoga Battlefield.

**Honors Forum Newsletter** The Honors Forum Newsletter keeps members up-to-date with the latest HF events and news. Periodically, a subcommittee of the Executive Committee designs, publishes, and distributes the newsletter. Look for it in your mailboxes or, better yet, volunteer for it yourself by contacting the HF Secretary or any member of the Exec Co.



Responsibility for  
The HF Newsletter  
and Honors Forum  
Presents are possible  
Citizenship  
Requirement Projects.

**Debate Society** The Skidmore Debate Society began in fall 2004 when Honors Forum student Matthew Cronin '06 took the initiative to propose the idea to Honors Council. Currently, the Debate Society participates in parliamentary style debate tournaments against teams from such colleges as Bates, BU, Colby, Harvard, Mt. Holyoke, and Vassar. Debates range from serious national, international, and ethical topics to comedic topics, such as "Should Batman kill the Joker?"

Debate Society members have traveled to a number of intercollegiate debates, and our debaters have won several awards. With enough student interest, a one-credit independent study on rhetoric and debate preparation could be offered. To join the Debate Society, request information, or ask questions, contact Lisa in the Honors Forum office ([lbradsha@skidmore.edu](mailto:lbradsha@skidmore.edu)) or Phil Boshoff ([pboshoff@skidmore.edu](mailto:pboshoff@skidmore.edu)). We are eager for students to reinvigorate the Debate Society.

**Co-sponsored Events** Honors Forum provides co-sponsorship funding for numerous college events each semester—departmental events as well as those sponsored by clubs and organizations. Our funding has helped bring noteworthy speakers and performers to campus and has helped support such events as Academic Fair and excursions into the Northwoods. This year, we helped SGA with the Halloween Haunted House for children of the Skidmore community. If you have a suggestion for the co-sponsorship of an event, email the Community Liaison, or another member of the Exec Co.

## Have Your Own Idea?

**Events/Activities** So you have your own idea for an event or activity—fabulous! The Honors Forum thrives on its members' creativity and leadership, but now what? Actually, proposing and leading programs in conjunction with the Honors Forum is easy.

**Step 1-** Do you have an idea for a fun and educational event or activity that would

benefit the Skidmore/ Honors Forum community? Make it happen by submitting your idea on the Honors Forum website. It's as easy as filling out the "Activities and Co-Sponsorship Request" form under **Students>Student Forms**.

### What has HF co-sponsored?

In 2009, Honors Forum co-sponsored a Ping-Pong tournament in Wiecking Hall with various clubs including the Asian Cultural Awareness club.

### What have other students done?

**Jessie Edelman '08** initiated Skidmore's very first Art Review Publication, *Line*. The full color magazine covers on and off campus visual art. Interested in writing/designing? Contact Jessie at [j\\_edelma@skidmore.edu](mailto:j_edelma@skidmore.edu).

**Step 2-** Your form will be sent to Honors Forum secretary Lisa Bradshaw. She will be your liaison with Honors Council and Executive Committee and the appropriate person will email you a response respond to discuss and help you develop your idea.

**Co-Sponsorships** The Honors Forum welcomes pre-existing clubs and departments to apply for the co-sponsorship of their events and activities. This is an excellent way to increase your club or department's capacity for hosting large scale events and programs.

The Honors Forum can provide modest financial support (typically in the range of \$50-\$200) and publicity for events that we co-sponsor. In exchange we require any publications related to the event to have printed on them "co-sponsored by Honors Forum."

To apply, simply fill out the "Activities and Co-Sponsorship Request" form under **Students** on the Honors Forum website which details the type of event and the proposed budget. The form will be sent to Honors Forum secretary Lisa Bradshaw, who will be your liaison with Honors Council and Executive Committee and who will respond to you via email.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What do I receive with my Honors Forum membership?**

*Foremost, you will receive an intellectually enhanced college education and opportunities for academic and leadership growth. In terms of tangibles, members receive a coffee mug, recognition of Forum membership on the college transcript (which is listed as a minor in Honors Forum), and an Honors Forum medallion to be worn at graduation.*

### **What happens if my GPA drops below a 3.50?**

*You will receive a warning from the Honors Forum Director if your GPA slips below 3.50 for one semester. After two consecutive semesters below 3.50, you will lose your Forum membership.*

### **What counts as an HF capstone?**

*Any experience (300-level class, independent study, thesis, performance, exhibit, student teaching, senior art show, concert, internship, etc.) that your academic advisor or the department chair for your major will consider a culmination for your major.*

### **Once the Periclean Society becomes part of the Honors Forum, what happens to the annual Periclean Scholar Awards?**

*Nothing. The Periclean Scholar awards will continue as they have for years. You do not have to be a member of the Honors Forum to submit a project for consideration for this award. All graduating seniors are eligible.*

### **Once the Periclean Society becomes part of the Honors Forum, are there still opportunities available for non-Honors Forum members to earn academic honors?**

*Of course! This community has no shortage of opportunities for academic honors and accolades. You may still graduate with the Latin Honors (cum laude, summa cum laude, magna cum laude.) You may still earn Departmental Honors in your major program. Also, many disciplines have national Honors Societies with chapters represented at Skidmore (for example Phi Alpha Theta in History, Alpha Kappa Delta in Sociology, and Pi Mu Epsilon in Mathematics.) Also, Skidmore has a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, the interdisciplinary national honor society. Election into membership of any of these societies is a notable achievement. Finally, there are many academic prizes available which are awarded each year at the Honors and Prizes banquet. And, all seniors are eligible to apply for the Periclean Scholar Awards, as noted above. The Periclean Honors Forum represents just one of many possible avenues to academic distinction.*

# Honors Forum Events to Watch For\*

## Annual Events

- Honors Forum Induction and Reception
- Shades of Gray
- Jon Ramsey Annual Lecture
- Annual Academic Festival
- Senior Reception for Honors Forum Graduates
- End of Year Honors Forum Dinner

## Other Events

- All-Forum Meeting
- Class Gatherings
- Citizenship Events
- Honors Forum Presents
- Trips!

## Informational Meetings

- Citizenship Requirement Info Sessions- **for Freshman, Sophomores and Juniors!**
- Upperclassman Info Meetings- **for Juniors and Seniors!**

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\* All dates, times, places and corrections about events are announced via e-mail.

