



Twenty-fourth Annual Academic Festival

Wednesday, May 3, 2023

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Message from Academic Festival Coordinators

Excellence matters at Skidmore College. Students write perceptive papers, conduct insightful scientific and mathematical research, choreograph breathtaking dances, and create stimulating theatrical productions. In labs, at field sites, in libraries, and in studios, our students take ownership of their curriculum and demonstrate the mix of creativity and excellence that characterizes Academic Festival.

The twenty-fourth annual Academic Festival brings the Skidmore community together to celebrate our students' achievements. Departments and programs across the College have selected their very best students to present during four designated time slots. With up to nine concurrent sessions in each time slot, we hope to attract large audiences to all of our

Schedule of Events

May 3, 2023

Refreshments

Available throughout the day:

Gannett Lobby

Ladd Hall 2nd floor

Tisch Learning Center 2nd floor

CIS 1st floor a.m. & 3rd floor p.m.

9:00 – 10:20 AM: SESSION 1

1. Contemporary Challenges in International Affairs (DOUBLE SESSION)

9:30-10:20 BO 281

10:30-11:50 BO 281

Faculty Sponsors: Rachel Cantave & Scott Mulligan, International Affairs

Presenters:

“Covid Responses, Fallout and Legacies”

This session will interrogate some of the contemporary challenges in and enduring questions of International Affairs. It will provide a sample of exemplary capstone theses written by students enrolled in the International Affairs Senior Seminar. The panel will present a diverse array of student research exploring issues of international politics, economics, culture and global environmental/physical-world issues.

Sumitra Dhakal '23 – “Minorities in Democracies: Covid-19 and the Rise in State-Supported Islamophobia in Modi’s India”

Asia Raacke '23 – “The Consequences of Political Polarization in the US: A Comparative Analysis of the Responses to SARS and Covid-19”

Kimberly Nee '23 – “Cultural Preservation? How Post-COVID-19 Transnational Investments are Changing Chinatown’s Landscape”

9:00 Order Up! An Analysis of Green Practices in Saratoga County Restaurants

Come celebrate the theses and capstones of graduating seniors in

Lindsay Dry '23 - SDM in Public Health Policy: "Medicaid, Social Citizenship, and Democracy in Rural Upstate New York"

Elizah Jacobs '23 - SDM in Public Health: "Health Literacy in Older Adults"

Gaming

Jasper Lynn '23 - SDM in Media Studies: "Game Studies Analysis: Fortnite and Elden Ring"

9. Civil Wars: Research in History

9:00-10:20 Tisch 307

Faculty Sponsor: Jennifer Delton, History

Presenters: Sam Hotz '23, Erin Arnold '23, Greg McInnes '23, Kenzo Takeda '25, Martita Baenziger '25

Students will discuss their research on the U.S. Civil War and reconstruction and the Vietnam War.

10:30 – 11:50 AM: SESSION 2

1. Contested Borders in International Politics

10:30-11:50 BO 280

Faculty Sponsor: Natalie Taylor, Political Science

Presenters: Michael DeCarlen-Bumiller '23, Rory Millar '23, Hunter Wasser '23

This panel includes presentations on the violence over borders from various perspectives. Michael DeCarlen-Bumiller examines the types of masculinities that Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Vladimir Putin utilize as strategies in ongoing war between Russian and the Ukraine. Twenty-five years after it was signed, Rory Millar assess the Good Friday Agreement, which demilitarized the Irish border. Hunter Wasser seeks to offer a new theory of interstate borders that accounts for philosophies of mind and consciousness.

2. Capstone Projects in Literary Studies

10:30-11:50 Davis Auditorium

Faculty Sponsor: Tim Wientzen, English

Co-moderator: Paul Benzou

Presenters: Brian Borchard '23, Kate Whatley '23, Justin Rizzi '23, Tory Abbott '23, Alice Barrett '23, Garrett Marino '23, Han Xu '23, Fatou Diop '23, James Eason '23, Becca Johnson '23, Claire Dunn '23

In this session, senior English Majors will present their coda work. Roundtable-style, discussants will talk about their projects and reflect upon the culminating experience of their major at Skidmore. Presentations will be followed by a Q&A session.

11. Rohan Vakil *The Relationship between Macroeconomic Factors and Sectoral Stock Indices in India*
12. Mohamed Almheiri *Examining Interest Rates: Does the Federal Reserve Affect Returns of Bitcoin?*
13. Ruilin Guo *Is Gold a Hedge, Safe-Haven or Diversifier Asset during the COVID-19? An Analysis of Stock and Gold Markets in the US, the UK and China*
14. Finnian O'Malia *Estimating the Impact of Net Zero Announcements on Publicly Traded Firms*

4. Language Across the Curriculum and The Sciences: Research Papers on Language and Sciences.

10:30-11:50 PMH 300

Faculty Sponsors: Mao Chen & Oscar Perez, World Languages & Literatures

Presenters: Sarah Gold '23, Kimberly Rivera '24, Caroline Wetter '25, Yainy DeJesus Guzman '23, Valeria Visser Galvan '23

Sarah Gold '23: "The Alzheimer's Disease"

Kimberly Rivera '24 and Caroline Wetter '25: "Spanish in the Health Sciences"

Yainy DeJesus Guzman '23 and Valeria Visser Galvan '23: "Spanish in the Social Sciences"

5. Psychology & Neuroscience Senior Projects

10:30-11:50 Tisch 1st Floor Hallway & TLC 108

Faculty Sponsor: Corinne Moss-Racusin, Psychology

Presenters: Abby Spear '23, Kaitlynn Fravel '23, Sarita Padukone '23, Sebastian Xu '23, Amelia Murphy '23, Aliza Nazir '23, Asia Bardin '23, Carrie Hughes '23, AJ Lee '23, Luna McWright '23, Danny Overton '23, Lindsey Raimondi '23, Jamie Rothenberg '23

Selected psychology and neuroscience seniors conducting research projects will present their findings in this lively poster session. Refreshments will be served!

LUNCH HOUR SESSIONS 12:00 – 1:20 PM

1. Geosciences Awards Presentation and Lunch

CIS 126

Faculty Sponsor: Jennifer Chohnoky, Geosciences

Presenters: Avery Blake '23

Celebrate the year's academic accomplishments with the Geosciences Department's annual lunch. Festivities include presentations of student/faculty research and reflections on the past year, announcement of this year's Roy T. Abbott III Memorial Prize in Geosciences recipient, and presentation of hammers to graduating seniors and students attending field camp over the summer.

2. From Quarks to Quasars: Quirky Physics

CIS 322

Faculty Sponsor: Mary Crone Odekon, Physics

Students will present their research in different areas of Physics, ranging from microscopic particles to cosmological large-scale structures.

3. Engaging the World: The Power of Public Policy Making at Skidmore

Ladd 206

Faculty Sponsors: Eric Morser & Michelle Hubbs, Civic Engagement/SRC

Presenters: The participants will be the winners and runners up of Skidmore's Make Your Voice Heard Public Policy Competition. Entries are due on Friday, April 14, and the winners will be selected by the end of April.

This panel will feature the winners and runners up of Skidmore's annual Make Your Voice Heard Public Policy Competition. It gives them a chance to share their stories about how they became interested in public policy, how they selected their topics and put together their entries, and how the competition gave them an exciting chance to think in new and innovative ways about engaging difficult social issues in trying political times.

4. HHPS Senior Thesis Project Presentations

12:00-2:30 Sports Center 201

Faculty Sponsors: Stephen Ives, Health & Human Physiological Sciences

Presenters: Lilah DuBoff '23, Lauren Greaves '23, Owen Kumasaka '23, Meghan Robertson '23, Anna Churchill '23, Riley Correll '23, Olivia Furlong '23, Fran Griffin '23, Jasmine Karaul '23, Alex Frost '23, Chanhtel Thongphock '23, Kelley Healy '23, Maggie McQueston '23, Abena Gyampo '23, Melissa Mathias '23, Lexi Levins '23, Abby Post '23

HHPS students will present their senior thesis projects to the students and faculty of the HHPS department and their guests. Additional poster presentations from work completed in the department may also be on display during the Presentation time. Come hear about

the novel work done by our seniors that spans the research spectrum from basic to applied and from animal to human!

Investigating the effects of visual feedback on muscle activity, heart rate, RPE, and qualitative performance in classically trained ballet dancers - Lilah DuBoff '23

Performance Adaptations in response to a 2-Week Exercise Microcycle – Lauren Greaves '23, Owen Kumasaka '23, Meghan Robertson '23

Adaptations in Cardiovascular Health in response to a 2-Week Exercise Microcycle – Anna Churchill '23, Riley Correll '23, Olivia Furlong '23

Tracking Periodized Dance Exposure with Accelerometry Among Advanced Liberal Arts College Modern Dancers – Fran Griffin '23, Jasmine Karaul '23

Changes in Firefighter Cardiorespiratory Fitness Following COVID-19 – Alex Frost '23 and Chantel Thongphock '23

Dietary-Induced Obesity and Gluconeogenic Gene Expression – Kelley Healy '23

The relationship between metabolic syndrome risk factors, dietary intake, and body composition in Division III female college athletes – Maggie McQueston '23

The Impact of Sex and Race on the Blood Pr

Senior English Majors and Creative Writing Minors read from their Coda work and Projects in Creative Writing. The readings are followed by a Q & A panel discussion with the writers.

5. Art History in Action

1:30-2:50 Filene 115

Faculty Sponsor: Saleema Waraich, Art History

Presenters: Theo Carol '23, Sasha Fishstein '23, Emilka Jansen '24, Eve Kreshtool '23, Thomas Myhill '24, Sebastian Stafford '25

AH students explore a wide range of critical issues surrounding visual culture, including medieval imagery of transgender saints, Orientalism across space and time, U.S. settler perceptions of Native Americans and Indigenous acts of reclamation, and relationships between urban development, architectural design and built space with local and personal histories.

6. Neuroscience Research Presentations

1:30-2:50 Tisch 1st Floor Hallway & TLC 100 & TLC 108

Faculty Sponsor: Dominique Vuvan, Neuroscience

Presenters:

Samuel Bond '23: "Differential regulation of *Drosophila* sleep by blue, green, and red light"

Libby Danielson '23, Sophie Gilbert '24, Grace Picarillo '23, & John Tagariello '22: "Development of Cannabis Extract Protocol for use in Studies on Zebrafish Nervous System Development"

Matthew Grega '23: "Astrocytes alter the wake-promoting effects of TDC2 neurons by increasing sleep drive in *Drosophila melanogaster*"

Casey Koochagian '23: "The effects of optogenetic co-activation of sleep- and wake-promoting neurons in *Drosophila melanogaster*"

Sarita Padukone '23: "Distribution of tones in everyday music in infancy"

Neuroscience explores the mechanisms that underlie nervous system function. Combining molecular, cellular, physiological, behavioral, and cognitive levels of analysis, our students will present data that address fundamental questions in neuroscience today, including but not limited to: disease mechanisms and treatment, neural regulators of sleep, developmental ramifications of drugs of abuse, neurocognitive processing of music, and hormonal control of behavior.

3:00 – 4:20 PM: SESSION 4

1. Explorations in Mathematics and Statistics

3:00-4:20, CIS 348

Faculty Sponsor: Csilla Szabo, Mathematics & Statistics

Presenters: Chase Demick '26, Bella Finkel '23, Travis McVoy '24, Quinn Stoddard-O'Neill '23, and Molly Wang '26

This session will showcase work from a senior thesis project, independent research projects, and mathematics competitions.

Bella Finkel '23, "Nilpotent Borel Orbits in $SO(7)$ "

Travis McVoy '24, "Secure Image Transmission Using RSA Encryption"

Quinn Stoddard-O'Neill '23, "Finalizing the Application List: Building Master's Program Recommendation Engines"

Chase Demick '26 and Molly Wang '26, "Turning Off the Lights: 99 Hours of Mathematical Modeling"

2. Senior Coda in Music: Research and Creative Work

3:00-4:20 ELM Recital Hall, Zankel

Faculty Sponsor: Sarah Day-O'Connell, Music

Presenters: Sabrina Alper '23, Warren King '23, Nate Lucas '23, Jacob Martin '23, Declan Morris '23, Olivia Ripley '23, Melissa Swiers '24, Miguel Towns '23

Senior music majors will offer multi-media

The Juniors' Show is an exhibition of artwork by junior art students nominated for inclusion by their Studio Art professors, based on work they've created in the 2022 – '23 year. The Artists' Talk compels students to think critically about their work and discuss it in an effective way. The exhibition and talk are excellent preparation for the Senior Show, and for a life in the arts.

4. Self-Determined Major Creative Project Presentations

3:00-4:20 Tisch 203

Faculty Sponsor: Catherine Berheide, SDM

Presenters: James Eason '23, Aidan Fuller '23, Lea Leventhal '23, Samuel Nelson '23, Grace Holmes '23

Please join us for our second session in which five senior self-determined majors will share their creative work, in writing, textiles, film, music, and movement.

James Eason '23 - SDM in Cultural Stories: "Woven Together: Women Creating Stories Through Textiles"

Samuel Nelson '23 - SDM in Film Production & Screenwriting: "The Long Dirty Road: Film Deck-Creating a Screenplay & Pre-production Materials for a Short Film"

Aidan Fuller '23 - SDM in Film Scoring: "Short Film Soundtrack"

Three Exhibits in History

The Body in the Middle East

Over twenty years ago, historian Caroline Bynum pushed back against the efflorescence of scholarship on the body in different fields of history and across disciplines. This corpus of literature, according to Bynum, offers “a welter of confusing and contradictory usages,” which have made discussions among historians incomprehensible. Our course, “the Body in the Middle East,” explores the efficacy of this claim, investigating a diverse range of scholarship on the body in the modern Middle East. During the first part of the course, we concentrated on new theoretical and methodological approaches historians have used to study a wide range of topics related to the body, such as abortion, the military, embodiment, facial hair, death, etc. In the second part of the course, we turned to a specific topic, physical culture and sports, and a historical archive for answers. Working with Rachel Seligman, Assistant Director for Curatorial Affairs and Malloy Curator at the Tang Teaching Museum, the students created an exhibit. The exhibit consists of early-twentieth-century newspaper articles, advertisements, magazine covers, vernacular photographs, and booklets written in Ottoman-Turkish, Turkish, Arabic, Armenian, and Greek.

Location: Tisch Learning Center, Third Floor

Lost in Transcription, Found in Translation: Histories of Inheritance in Seventeenth-Century Legal Documents

What started as a class to learn about archival material evolved into a two-semester long project to understand the stories of people and places we learned about from seventeenth-century legal documents in Skidmore's Special Collections. Even the driest texts, it turns out, can unlock stories of place, class, family and more. This exhibit dives into the stories of two documents, an English will and a Scottish sasine (indenture) and the process of transcription and translation that helped us unlock their origins and secrets.

Location 1: Scribner Library, Special Collections Exhibit Case

Location 2: Tisch Learni

ACADEMIC FESTIVAL 2023
ROOM SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

	9:00 - 10:20		10:30 - 11:50		LUNCH HOUR 12:00 - 1:20		1:30 - 2:50		3:00 - 4:20	
BO 280			Political Science				Geosciences			
BO 281	International Affairs						Asian Studies			
CIS 126				Geosciences						
CIS 233							Computer Science			
CIS 322				Physics						
CIS 348									Mathematics & Statistics	
CIS 107A & CIS Glotzbach Atrium			Chemistry							
Davis Auditorium			English (Literary Studies)				English (Creative Writing)			
ELM (Zankel)									Music	
Emerson Auditorium				Economics						
Filelne 115							Art History			
Filelne Recital Hall			Environmental Studies & Sciences							
Ladd 206		Religious Studies				Civic Engagement/SRC				
Ladd 207										
PMH 200	American Studies									
PMH 202	SSCP									
PMH 300		World Languages & Literatures	World Languages & Literatures							
Schick Art Gallery									Art	
Sports Center 201						Health & Human Physiological Sciences				
Test Kitchen						Classics				
Tisch 1st Floor Hallway & TLC 100 & 108			Psychology & Neuroscience				Neuroscience			
Tisch 203	Self-Determined Majors									Self-Determined Majors
Tisch 307		History								

Periclean Honors Forum

Skidmore College is a small, high

2023 Academic Festival Planning Committee and Members of the Honors Council:

Flagg Taylor, Department of Political Science & Director,
Periclean Honors Forum

Lisa Bradshaw, Honors Forum Administrative Assistant

Aarathi Prasad, Department of Computer Science

Madushi Raththagala, Department of Chemistry

Dennis Schebetta, Department of Theater

Brian Borchard '23, President, Honors Forum
Student Executive Committee

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