

**CELEBRATING 25 YEARS**

**Skidmore's Annual  
Academic Festival**



**PROGRAM OF EVENTS**

**Wednesday, May 1st, 2024**

**Sponsored by the  
Periclean Honors Forum**

# **Twenty-fifth Annual Academic Festival**

## **Wednesday, May 1, 2024**

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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-fifth 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 eight concurrent sessions in each time slot, we hope to attract large audiences to all of our sessions. This year we are once again offering a popular lunchtime slot for departments and programs to sponsor their own sessions; some panels will extend into or begin during the lunchtime slot.



# Schedule of Events

## May 1, 2024

### Refreshments

*Available throughout the day:*

*Gannett Lobby a.m. & p.m.*

*Ladd Hall 2nd floor a.m & p.m.*

*Tisch Learning Center 2nd floor a.m. & 1st floor p.m.*

*CIS 1<sup>st</sup> floor a.m. & 2nd floor p.m.*



## **9:00 – 10:20 AM: SESSION 1**

### **1. Contemporary Challenges in International Affairs**

**BO 281 (runs until 11:50 a.m.)**

*Faculty Sponsors: Rachel Cantave & Scott Mulligan, International Affairs*

Presenters: Leah French '24, Katie Mastriano '24, Tian Qiu '24, Pablo Rodriguez '24, Sophia Wittemeyer '24

“Changes and Continuities in International Affairs”

Leah French '24 – “The Power of Policy: Exploring Strategies for Language Preservation”

Katie Mastriano '24 – “Yoonu Yokkuté: Where Senegal Stands Between Franco-Sino Development and Dependency”

Tian Qiu '24 – “Diagnosing the Definition of Nationalism in the Contemporary Sino-Japanese Relationship”

Pablo Rodriguez '24 – “The Real Football: How Fandom and Authenticity Persist in a Changing Game”

Sophia Wittemeyer '24 – “The Coup Trap: Who Niger’s Kinship Networks Empower”

20-25 minutes to be allocated to each student presentation, with Q&A for each individual presentation.

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.

### **2. Chemistry Academic Festival**

**CIS 101A & CIS Glotzbach Atrium (runs until 1:20 p.m.)**

*Faculty Sponsor: Juan G. Navea, Chemistry*

Presenters: Murphy Alcantara'24; Will Barr'24; Adriana Cuibus'24; Yutian Feng'24; Haru Kato'24; Olivia Kazanjian'24; Roman Montenegro'24; Oluebube Onwuzulu'24; Leo Parra'24; Kyra Russman-Araya'24; Michelle Sawunyama'24; Cella Sawyer'24; Elizabeth Scholer'24; Sarah Sinnott'24; Aidan Spengler'24; Chloe Waldt'24

Students work in collaboration with their faculty mentors to learn advanced techniques and protocols specific to their research fields. Each student develops a research project in collaboration with a faculty mentor and gives a formal presentation of their results.



### **3. Environmental Studies & Sciences Program: Senior Research Capstone Presentations**

#### **Gannett Auditorium (runs until 1:20 p.m.)**

*Faculty Sponsor Dr. Tory Chase and Dr. A.J. Schneller, Environmental Studies and Sciences Program*

Presenters: Katherine Almquist '24, Apple Alvarez '24, Isabelle Blais '24, Sean Booth '24, Maggie Carmody '24, Mya Carter '24, Quincy Clew '24, April Cook '24, Isabella Figlioli '24, Scott Flinestone '24, Ben Frank '24, Luca Fredrick '24, Peter Guidotti '24, Sam Haas '24, Ciaran Healey '24, Marina Hebeisen '24, Logan Hunnicutt '24, Kaitlin Katirachi '24, Annie Kiernan '24, Maris Lau '24, Amea Lombardo '24, Milan Lombardo '24, Luke MacKay '24, Kate Manor '24, Madison McCluskey '24, Hayden Merz '24, Micaiah Ocalvey '24, Christy Phillips '24, Isabel Ryen '24, John Sandberg '24, Carolyn Scott '24, Brian Shea '24, Jackson Smith '24, Hana Sparks-Woodford '24, Cate Spaulding '24, Johanna Steensma '24, Braelyn Tebo '24, Max Volk '24, Kara White '24, Julian Wise '24, Claire Wolgast '24, Malin Zucca '24

Enhanced Opportunities for Food Security in Saratoga Springs and the Greater Capital Region: Perspectives and Preferences for Community Gardens in Public Housing Complexes — Quincy Clew, Peter Guidotti, Marina Hebeisen, Logan Hunnicutt, Braelyn Tebo, Max Volk

Cultivating Potential: A Comprehensive Spatial Ecological Assessment of a Farm in Rupert, VT — Isabella Figlioli, Kate Manor, Christy Philips, Brian Shea

“Field” Trips: Cultivating High School Student Environmental Consciousness and Knowledge Through Hands-On Fieldwork in Rupert, VT — Annie Kiernan, John Sandberg, Cate Spaulding

Ecological Invasion: Quantifying, Valuing, and Managing Hemlock Scale in the Lake George Watershed — Sean Booth, Mya Carter, Madison McCluskey, Julian Wise

Count Your Losses: The Effect of Different Fertilization Treatments on Nitrogen Loss Pathways in Agriculture Lands — Apple Alvarez, Scott Flintstone, Sam Haas, Ciaran Healey, Johanna Steensma

Brewing Solutions: Utilizing Brewer’s Yeast for the Mycoremediation of Lead-Contaminated Drinking Water — Katherine Almquist, Isabelle Blais, Luca Fredrick, Carolyn Scott, Kara White

Assessing Green Roof Technology and Enhanced Access to Green Spaces for Environmental Justice Communities — Kaitlin Katirachi, Luke MacKay, Hayden Merz, Isabel Ryen, Micaiah Ocalvey, Jackson Smith, Claire Wolgast

Digging deeper: Unearthing Efficient Soil Health Sampling Strategies for Agricultural Management — Maggie Carmody, April Cook, Ben Frank, Hana Sparks-Woodford

#### **4. The Social Lives of Sacred Things.**

##### **Ladd 206**

*Faculty Sponsor: Gregory Spinner, Religious Studies*

Presenters: Sarah Brauer '24, Nate Hill '24, Eli Leary '24, Cameron Pittl '24, Jane Schreibman '24, Emmie Zaltas '24

Senior majors in Religious Studies present their capstone projects, in which the “things” of our title may describe persons or objects. The projects blur the boundary between those categories through a fascinating array of research topics, including: Ojibwe relations with non-human agents, Japanese Shinto-Buddhist amulets called *omamori*, connections between permaculture and ecospirituality, (non)gendered representations of angels, articulations of queer neo-paganism, and the reknowned illuminated manuscript known as the Book of Kells.

#### **5. Skidmore-Saratoga Consulting Partnership (SSCP) Spring 2024**

##### **PMH 202**

*Faculty Sponsor: Colleen Burke, Management & Business*

*Student Co-Chairs & SSCP Managers: Ethan Harvey '24, Molly Perrine '24, Rowan Bradlee '24*

Presenters: Emma Jennison '24, Isaac Carey '24, Jess Noble '24, Maris Lau '25, Sissi Wu '25, Stephen Perez '25, Zana Dzanan '25, Tita Tuchinda '24, Katlin Reif '24, Ian Bentley '24, Sam Kornet '25

The Skidmore-Saratoga Consulting Partnership (SSCP) is an advanced seminar and practicum that affords a hands, head and heart learning experience to selected juniors and seniors from all majors. SSCP's mission is ‘to make North Broadway shorter’ by offering *pro bono* consulting services to the Saratoga community. At Academic Festival, consultants will present abridged (within the bounds of their DNAs) research and recommendations for this semester’s clients:

Four Seasons Natural Foods

Carpetland

Roohan Realty

#### **6. Speaking in Tongues: World Languages and Literatures Senior Thesis and Independent Studies**

##### **PMH 300**

*Faculty Sponsors: Mao Chen, Mary Kate Donovan and Juliane Wuensch, World Languages & Literatures*

Presenters: Lyo Coleman '24, Violet Lambrou '24, Madeline Tan '24, Emma Stratman '24

In this session, seniors specializing in German and Spanish, along with those undertaking Independent Studies in Chinese, present their groundbreaking research projects.

Lyo Coleman '24: “Texas German-A dialect on the brink of death”

Violet Lambrou '24: "Carmen's Legacy: The End of Ballet's Spanish Archetype?"

Madeline Tan '24: "Justice and Heroism in China's Martial Arts: Jin Yong's "Book of Swords and Enmities"

Emma Stratman '24: "A beautiful and pious maiden": The holiness of suffering in the fairy tale *The Maiden Without Hands*."

## **7. Practical History Matters: The Transformative Power of Internships**

### **Tisch 307**

*Faculty Sponsor: Jennifer Delton, History*

Presenters: Chloe Hanrahan '24, Maddie Pelletier '24, and others

This panel highlights the stories of Skidmore History students who completed summer internships. They will discuss why they pursued an internship, how they applied, what they did, and how the experience gave them an exciting opportunity to apply their classroom work to the real world.

## **10:30 – 11:50 AM: SESSION 2**

### **1. Engaging Anthropology: Senior Coda Projects**

#### **BO 382**

*Faculty Sponsor: Michael C. Ennis-McMillan, Anthropology*

Presenters: Maggie McCurdy '24, Shey Feng '24, Joey Geary '24, Maddie Gunnell '24, Lani Hostetter-Habib '24, Hannah Liscord '24, Tucker Obering '24, and Jack Wooten '25

A panel of senior anthropology majors present projects on cultural and historical issues related to climate change in Tanzania, small businesses and working-class lives in Saratoga Springs, and the Korean demilitarized zone (DMZ). Based on ethnographic and archaeological field research, each presenter demonstrates ways Skidmore anthropology students develop understandings of the human experience and how anthropologists engage with public discussion about contemporary social and cultural issues.

Maggie McCurdy '24: "Engaging Climate Changes: Modified Subsistence Strategies among the Datoga and Hadzabe of Northern Tanzania"

Jack Wooten '25: "Dehn's Flowers: Family History and Community Connections in Saratoga Springs, New York"

Lani Hostetter-Habib '24: "Beyond the Elites: An Archaeological Excavation of a Working-Class Dwelling in Saratoga Springs, New York"

Shey Feng '24: "Documenting 19th-Century Domestic Land Use Patterns in the Denton Homesite, Upstate New York: Metal Detection and Ground Penetrating Radar"

Joey Geary '24, Maddie Gunnell '24, Hannah Liscord '24, and Tucker Obering '24:  
“Transborder Crossings in the DMZ”

## **2. Literary Studies Thesis Projects**

### **Davis Auditorium**

*Faculty Sponsor: Tim Wientzen, English*

*Faculty Co-sponsor: Maggie Greaves, English*

Presenters: Emilka Jansen '24, Abigail Svetlik '24, Owen Kleis '24, Carla Crawford '24

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.

## **3. Senior Thesis Presentations in Economics**

### **Emerson Auditorium (runs until 1:20 p.m.)**

*Faculty Sponsors: Marketa Wolfe, Monica Das and Smriti Tiwari, Economics*

Presenters: Bernie Berner '24, Kaity Chen '24, Mahlubi Ntsetselelo Dlamini '24, Charlie Murphy '24, Elliot Jackson-Ontkush '24, Michael Promisel '24, Daniel Aybar '24, Logan Hunnicutt '24, Devin Herbinger '24, Micah Blomberg '24, Julian Wise '24, Yinwei Li '24

Every year the Economics Department features its best senior theses at Academic Festival. In each session for the event, students will present results of research projects completed while at Skidmore.

Bernie Berner: “Characterizing Deceit: Determinants of Fraudulent PPP Loan Receipt among Firms”

Kaity Chen: “Remittances and Educational Outcomes in Uganda”

Mahlubi Ntsetselelo Dlamini: “External Debt and Economic Growth Nexus: A Comparative Study of Zambia and Rwanda”

Charlie Murphy: “The Impact of Super Stars in Formula 1 Racing: A Study of Competitive Balance”

Elliot Jackson-Ontkush: “The cost of voting-by-mail: An analysis of the different absentee voting policies and the cost of election administration”

Michael Promisel: “Changes in undergraduate enrollment post 2020 recession”

Daniel Aybar: “A comparative risk analysis of sportsbook and options Traders”

Logan Hunnicutt: “Can agriculture grow to green in Latin America? The validity of the agriculture induced environmental Kuznets curve”

Devin Herbinger: "Profit shares and cost-push inflation: examining the distributional nature of U.S. inflation and the effectiveness of monetary policy"

Micah Blomberg: "Navigating Generosity: A Comparative Analysis of Charitable Giving Before and After the Great Recession"

Julian Wise: "The impact of abortion shield laws on abortion access in the US"

Yinwei Li: "Analyzing the impact of COVID-19 driven inflation on customer personal consumption in the US"

#### **4. Art History in Action**

##### **File 115**

*Faculty Sponsor: Katie Hauser, Art History*

Presenters: Mel Douer '24, Eloise Dreesen '25, Sophia Mehta '24, Lila Saunders '24, Alek Gideon '27, Isa Siegel '27, Kerrigan Gaither '27, Kimberly Pienkawa '25

Art History students explore a range of critical issues including the ways in which visual cultures engage with contemporary concerns and can be utilized to advocate for change. Their projects contribute to conversations centered on decolonial praxis, reimagining museum displays and experiences, and the disciplinary marginalization of artworks due to "non-western" and "decorative" designations. Presentations include case studies from ancient Mesoamerica to modern South Asia, and from ceramics to storage boxes to repurposed textiles. Some projects interrogate the biases and social inequities that informed historical artworks by re-imagining the works in relation to students' own values and experiences.

#### **5. The Politics of Change**

##### **Ladd 207**

*Faculty Sponsor: Natalie Taylor, Political Science*

Presenters: Maria Bideiwy '24, Corbey Ellison '24, Lisle Jamieson '24, Pheobe Marwill '24, Kaitlin McQuade '24

Political life is marked by moments of great change. The topics of these presentations range from social political movements in the United States, the justification of Nasser's 1952 *Coup d'Etat*, the politics of immigration as a consequence of federalism, populism and authoritarianism in El Salvador, and conflict with New York City politics during the 1960s and 70s. These students examine the politics of those moments to better understand the change and the future of American and world politics.

#### **6. The Myths of Venice**

##### **PMH 300**

*Faculty Sponsor: Barbara Garbin, World Languages & Literatures*

Presenters: Ellie Eiff '24, Ruhshona Egasheva '27, Bella Farkas '26, Virginia Slaughter '27, Riley Vavolizza '26, Meghan Wax '27, Brooke Bernstein '26

Students present their research on topics of interest inspired by the course Myths of Venice about the history and culture of the Serenissima Republic of Venice in Italy.

## **7. Psychology Senior Projects**

### **Tisch 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Hallway**

*Faculty Sponsor: Mark Rye, Psychology*

Presenters: Rachel Alliker '24, Gillian Zitrin '24, Noa Berger '24, Blythe Bracken '24, Julia Cannistraro '24, Julia Cannistraro '24, Phoebe Degn '24, Julia Forster '24, Michaela Glinsky '24, Talia Shoshani '24, Junya Wu '24

Selected senior psychology and neuroscience majors conducting research projects will present their findings in this lively poster and oral presentation session.

Rachel Alliker '24 & Gillian Zitrin '24: "Gratitude & Kindness: Evaluating The Effectiveness Of Two Positive Psychology Interventions For Children"

Noa Berger '24: "Ed Psychology X On Marketing"

Blythe Bracken '24: "Possibilities Of Interventions For Children Exposed To Child Abuse"

Julia Cannistraro '24: "Individual Differences In Lyric Focus: Validating The Lyric Focus Questionnaire"

Phoebe Degn '24: "Children's Understanding Of The Role Of Personal Protection Equipment In The Prevention Of Disease And Injury"

Julia Forster '24: "Experimental Evidence Of Stigma Targeting Non-Binary Individuals"

Michaela Glinsky '24: "An Anxiety-Buffer Disruption Approach To Depression In Individuals With Student Debt"

Talia Shoshani '24: "Phenomenal Bodies: An Experimental Investigation Of Embodied Cognition In Dance"

Junya Wu '24: "The Ultimate Concerns In Life And Suicide Prevention"

## **8. Sociology Research Presentations**

### **Tisch 203**

*Faculty Sponsor: Xiaoshuo Hou, Sociology*

Presenters: Lola Bessis '24, Della Huntley '26, Mara Little '24, Sam Lubarr '24, Ellie Owen '24

This session will showcase exemplary sociological research conducted by sociology majors and minors, exploring a wide range of social issues from rape prevention,

conservative social movements on the social media, and the sociological study of love, to gender performance among female athletes and social networks and job attainment.

Lola Bessis '24, Della Huntley '26, Mara Little '24, Sam Lubarr '24, Ellie Owen '24

Lola Bessis '24 – “Rape Prevention through Environmental Design: An Analysis of the Effectiveness of Campus Law Enforcement Agency Programs for Reducing Sexual Assault on University Campuses”

Della Huntley '26 – “TikTok’s #Tradwives: Biblically Feminine, Tech-Savvy Reactionaries”

Mara Little '24 – “Love as a Social Phenomenon: A Proposal for Comprehensive Examination of the Concept of ‘Love’ within the Field of Sociology”

Sam Lubarr '24 – “Mascara Against Masculinity: How Female Athletes Perform Their Gender on the Field”

Ellie Owen '24 – “Strong and Weak Ties: How Do Business Majors Find Their First Job?”

## **LUNCH HOUR SESSIONS 12:00 – 1:20 PM**

### **1. Anthropology Projects**

#### **BO 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Hallway**

*Faculty Sponsor: Michael C. Ennis-McMillan, Anthropology*

Anthropology students present posters and oral presentations on cultural and social issues. Based on ethnographic research and archaeological investigations, the projects demonstrate ways anthropology students develop understandings of the human experience.

### **2. Geosciences Awards Presentation and Lunch**

#### **CIS 126**

*Faculty Sponsor: Jennifer Chohnoky, Geosciences*

Presenters: Tzevi Aho '24, Owen Genrich '26, Lila Norton '24, Caroline Rogers '24, and Adam Schnitzer '24.

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. We will also have a poster session highlighting student research from the past year.

### **3. 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 large-scale cosmological structure.

### **4. Beyond the Ivory Tower: Stories from Skidmore's Make Your Voice Heard Public Policy Competition Ladd 206**

*Faculty Sponsors: Eric J. Morser and Michelle Hubbs, Civic Engagement*

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 12, and the winners will be selected by the end of April.

The competitions winners and runners up will share their stories and respond to questions from each other and the audience.

This panel features the winners and runners up of Skidmore's annual Make Your Voice Heard Public Policy Competition. They will share stories about how they became interested in the competition, how they selected their topics and put together their entries, how participating helped them think about public policy in new ways, and how they might apply what they've learned to tackle real world problems.

### **5. Senior Research in Health and Human Physiological Sciences Sports Center 201**

*Faculty Sponsors: T.H. Reynolds, Health & Human Physiological Sciences*

Presenters: Sydney Chase '24, Chloe McGonagle '24, Rebeccah Liddell '24, Elena Shostak '24, Jillian Lang '24, Will Hoerle '24, Anthony Smith '24, Kian Arani '24, Elissa Miller '24, Kaylee Bagdan '24

Human Physiological Sciences majors will present a wide array of exciting research projects. The research projects range from skin pigmentation and Apple Watch accuracy to the effects of symbiotic/probiotic supplementation on cardiometabolic health as well as the impact of exercise on sleep, cognitive function and muscle fiber composition.

Sydney Chase '24, Chloe McGonagle '24, Rebeccah Liddell '24 - Impact of skin pigmentation on accuracy of the Apple Watch Series 9 for measures of heart rate, energy expenditure. (Professor Stephen Ives)

Elena Shostak '24 and Jillian Lang '24 - Investigating the effects of Synbiotic vs. probiotic vs placebo control on cardiometabolic health: A double blind randomized controlled trial. (Professor Stephen Ives)



Will Hoerle '24 and Anthony Smith '24. The Influence of Sleep Quality and Acute Exercise on Cognitive Function in Recreationally Active College Students. (Professor Chris Kotarsky)

Kian Arani '24 - Changes in muscle fiber composition following 2-weeks of aerobic or resistance training. (Professor Justin DeBlauw)

Elissa Miller '24 - Are there muscle fiber and metabolic differences in sprint and distance DIII swimmers? (Professor Justin DeBlauw)

Kaylee Bagdan '24, Josie LoRicco, Lily Kozel, and David Domozych - Microfluidics of *Penium margaritaceum* from an Evolutionary Lens (Professor Domozych)

### **1:30 – 2:50 PM: SESSION 3**

#### **1. Trillions of dollars at the bottom of the ocean? Who wins? BO 280**

*Faculty Sponsor: Kyle Nichols, Geosciences*

Presenters: Tzevi Aho '24, Nicco Miani '24, Johanna Nally '24, Lila Norton '24, Caroline Rogers '24, Adam Schnitzer '24

Claims to natural resources seem straightforward when materials are found within nation-state borders. What happens when there are valuable marine commodities? Who governs the oceans and its resources? In a two-part case study focusing on the resources of the Arctic and Eastern Pacific Oceans, we will investigate the ramifications of mineral and energy resource extraction through an interdisciplinary lens including, but not limited to, environment, global politics, economics, and indigenous rights.

#### **2. Computer Science Research CIS 233**

*Faculty Sponsor: Christine Reilly, Computer Science*

Presenters: Kaelen Baird '24, Tucker Coughlin '24, Eric D'Eon '26, Jacob Goldsmith '26, Asher Gordon '26, Ankit Gupta '26, Emily Hey '24, Kat Nazarov '24

A poster session that showcases student projects from the Computer Science Department.

#### **3. Coda Projects in Literary Studies Davis Auditorium**

*Faculty Sponsor: Tim Wientzen, English*

*Faculty Co-sponsor: Barbara Black, English*

Presenters: Austin Brannan '24, Jessica Byers '24, Tess Gordon '24, Chloe Hanrahan '24, Kari Stein '24, Sylvie Novak '24

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.

#### **4. Senior Portfolio Research Papers**

##### **Ladd 207**

*Faculty Sponsors: Silvia Carli, Philosophy*

Presenters: Finn Frerichs '24, Jianing (Narelle) Zhao '24, May Braaten '24, Jacob Lipeles '24

After briefly presenting their capstone research projects, students will take questions from, and engage in conversation with, the audience.

#### **5. Exploring K-12 Teacher Identities, Perceptions and Decision-Making: Education Studies Senior Thesis Poster Session**

##### **PMH 200 & Hallway**

*Faculty Sponsors: Laurie Rabinowitz, Education Studies*

Presenters: Annabelle Aber '24, Grace Aronson '24, Max Gould '24, Shiloh Hurley '24, Daniella Nacht '24, Cameron Pedemonti '24, Shaw Pedemonti '24, Christy Phillips '24, Cate Spaulding '24, Sophie Tschanz '24, Sadie Vehslage '24

Have you ever wondered about how to conduct education research? In this session Education Studies majors will share research methods in presenting their senior theses. Topics will explore special education teacher burn-out, teacher beliefs about social emotional learning, general education teacher perceptions of exceptional learners, English language teacher identity, animal assisted learning, LGBTQ+ teacher safety and supports, school gardens benefits, recreational reading benefits, secular spiritualism in public schools, and Positive Behavioral Intervention Supports.

#### **6. French Global: French Honors Thesis Presentations**

##### **PMH 300**

*Faculty Sponsors: Cate Talley, World Languages & Literatures*

Presenters: Christopher Arnold '24, Madison Sadler '24, Lorelei von Stackelberg Jones '24

In this session, senior French majors will present their Honors Thesis research, putting French in a global perspective through their interdisciplinary explorations of Algerian modernism, poetic translation, and the politics of secularism. (The session will be held in English.)

#### **7. Neuroscience Senior Projects**

##### **Tisch 1st Floor Hallway & TLC 108**

*Faculty Sponsor: Hassan Lopez, Neuroscience & Psychology*

Presenters: Maggie Besthoff '24, Aaliyah Peralta '24, Ariana Tucker '24, Grace Burnett '24, Ellie Ketterer-Sykes '24, Ada Glynn '24

Select senior neuroscience majors conducting research projects will present their experimental findings in this lively poster session. Additionally, the annual Hartnett Prize winner for outstanding neuroscience research will give a short talk in TLC 108.

Maggie Besthoff ('24)

Analysis of sleep patterns following selective optogenetic activation of sNPF-positive dorsolateral clock neurons

Aaliyah Peralta ('24)

Determining the effects of blue light intensity on sleep in *Drosophila melanogaster*

Ariana Tucker ('24)

The effect of leucokinin and sNPF optogenetic activation on sleep and feeding behavior in *Drosophila melanogaster*

Grace Burnett ('24)

Neurophysiological indices of flow during dance improvisation

Ellie Ketterer-Sykes ('24)

Pharmacological manipulation of distress impacts emotional contagion and altruistic behavior in male and female rats

Ada Glynn ('24)

Expression of mutant ATXN1 in cultured cell models of Spinocerebellar ataxia type 1 (SCA1) display widespread mitochondrial and cellular alterations

## **3:00 – 4:20 PM: SESSION 4**

### **1. Explorations in Mathematics and Statistics**

**CIS 348**

*Faculty Sponsor: Csilla Szabo, Mathematics & Statistics*

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

### **2. Senior Coda in Music: Creative Process and Product**

**ELM Recital Hall, Zankel**

*Faculty Sponsor: Anjni Amin, Music*

Presenters: Anna Cates '24, Penelope Constantino '24, Johnny Mulcahy '24, Elán Stadelmann '24, Chloe Waldt '24, Lydia Watkins '24, Lucrezia Zichichi '24

Senior music majors will present on topics related to their performative and scholarly endeavors in Music, each addressing the artistic process towards a creative product.

### **3. Translation for the Global Stage**

#### **JKB Studio A**

*Faculty Sponsor: Eunice Ferreira, Theater*

Presenters: Ken Caron-Quinn '27, Amanda Denney '26, Sofia Fenner '25, Finn Krol '27, Nina Renkert '25

Answering the call as scholars and artists, students apply translation theory in practice and performance by translating plays into English. Audiences will witness the *English language premiere* of excerpts from their translations in a lively staged reading. The students make an original contribution to the field of translation studies and to theatre practice in the U.S. by introducing new audiences to plays from Argentina, Brazil, Cuba, Guatemala, and Mexico.

### **4. Dance Research Studies**

#### **PMH 300**

*Faculty Sponsor: Sarah DiPasquale, Dance*

Presenters: Elizabeth Bracht '24, Jacque Forman '25, Lily Gould '26, Gigi Gray-Smith '27, Emily Jean-Pierre '26, Madison Meyer '26, Meredith Moybed '26, Nayah Reagans '25, Tiff Smith '24, Olivia Swink '24

Please join us as students in the Dance Department present the results of their research.

*Perceptions of Injury Management and Healthcare Access in Collegiate Dancers – Olivia Swink*

*Investigating the Effects of Dance on Working Memory and Attention in Children Ages 5-12 years old – Jacque Forman (student lab manager), Lily Gould, Gigi Gray-Smith, Emily Jean-Pierre, Madison Meyer, Meredith Moybed, Nayah Reagans, Tiff Smith.*

*The Effects of Dance Training on Hamstring Length and Perceptions of Body Image and Well Being – Elizabeth Bracht*

### **5. The Juniors Show Artists' Talk**

#### **Schick Art Gallery**

*Faculty Sponsor: Sarah Sweeney, Art Department*

Presenters: Kat Baker '25, Kareena Gandhi '25, Sophie Levy '25, Kian Mehren Lodge '25, Dinah Luomanen '25, Elle Oestrich '25, Martina Phelan '25, David Salinas '25, Al Yi '25

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 2023-'24 academic year. Each year there are 8 - 12 participants, and each student exhibits from two – six works. The Artists' Talk compels students to think critically about their work and present it publicly in an effective way. The exhibition and talk are excellent preparation for the Senior Show, and for a life in the arts.

## **6. Self-Determined Major Final Project Presentations Tisch 203**

*Faculty Sponsor: Catherine Berheide, SDM*

Presenters: Izzy Sullivan'24, Simon Hayes'24, Vicky Grijalva'24

Self-determined majors are required to complete a final capstone project. Three seniors will showcase their scholarly research on topics ranging from Linguistics and Multimedia Communications to Broadcast Journalism. Please join us for the Self-Determined Major final project presentations and to celebrate the completion of these SDM capstone projects.

Izzy Sullivan'24 – SDM in Broadcast Journalism: “*Skidmore Women's Basketball Sideline Reporting*”

Simon Hayes'24 – SDM in Linguistics: “*Prescribing Pronunciation*”

Vicky Grijalva'24 – SDM in Multimedia Communications: “*Collar Works Marketing and Branding Audit*”

		ACADEMIC FESTIVAL 2024														
		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																
BO 281		International Affairs														
BO 382					Anthropology											
BO 3rd Floor Hallway								Anthropology								
CIS 126								Geosciences								
CIS 233											Computer Science					
CIS 322								Physics								
CIS 348														Mathematics & Statistics		
CIS 101A & CIS Glotzbach Atrium		Chemistry														
Davis Auditorium					English (Literary Studies Thesis Projects)						English (Coda Projects in Literary Studies)					
ELM (Zankel)														Music		
Emerson Auditorium					Economics											
Filene 115					Art History											
Gannett Auditorium		Environmental Studies & Sciences														
JKB Studio A																
Ladd 206		Religious Studies									Public Policy					
Ladd 207					Political Science									Philosophy		
PMH 200											Education Studies					
PMH 202		SSCP														
PMH 300		World Languages & Literatures									World Languages & Literatures (French)					
SCMCK ART Gallery														Dance		
Sports Center 201								Health & Human Physiological Sciences						Art		
Tisch 1st Floor Hallway & TLC 100 & 108					Psychology						Neuroscience					
Tisch 203					Sociology											
Tisch 307		History												Self-Determined Majors		



## Periclean Honors Forum

Skidmore College is a small, highly selective liberal arts college that fosters academic inquiry and creative thought and expression. Honors Forum promotes these goals. Honors Forum is an academic program that offers rigorous courses and extracurricular events to its members and the larger Skidmore community. Honors Forum regularly hosts field trips, campus dialogues, and lectures to foster the life of the mind and build a community of like-minded scholars and leaders. 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- and second-year students with a 3.65 GPA 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 pursue the life of the mind in the classroom to outside of it. 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.



## **2024 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

Madushi Raththagala, Department of Chemistry

Joseph Cermatori, Department of English

Catherine Talley, Department of World Languages &  
Literatures

Rachel Alliker '24, President, Honors Forum  
Student Executive Committee

# “Excellence Matters”



Sponsored by the  
Periclean Honors Forum

