

HF Newsletter

Skidmore College Periclean Honors Forum

New York City Trip



The Honors Forum trip to New York City was so much fun! We had a full bus of students and faculty that spent the day in New York City. We had pizza together for lunch (as

one does in New York City) and then headed over to Broadway. We saw The Color Purple, which was an amazing production with truly phenomenal and moving performances from all involved. I am so thankful to have had the opportunity to spend the day in the city and see such a fantastic show with my fellow Honors Forum members.



Canned Food Drive

As a part of the Honors Forum's initiative to increase the volume and visibility of community service opportunities, the Executive Council set in motion its first project. Prior to Thanksgiving break, the Honors Forum and the Student Government Organization teamed up to host a series of canned food drives. All proceeds went to Code Blue, a local organization that feeds, clothes, and shelters the homeless in Saratoga County. The food drives proved to be very successful, and we hope to improve upon this method of community service next semester.



Save the Date!

Holiday Party & Study Break

Thursday, December 15th, 12-2 p.m.

Featured Citizen's Project: By, Spencer Adams-Rand



The idea for Course Juggler was born during my freshman year when I needed to register for classes. After struggling to sift through potentially interesting classes from the Course Catalog, figure out which of those might work together by using the Master Schedule, and wasting piles of paper trying to come up with different viable schedules, I knew technology could provide a better way. In my sophomore year I was able to take advantage of a cool opportunity offered by the Periclean Honors Forum and take an independent study to develop the software I envisioned with the assistance of one of the wonderful computer science professors, Michael Eckmann. Through

a collaborative and iterative process involving myself, Mr. Eckmann, and head registrar David DeConno, Course Juggler began to take form.

Fast forward to today, and Course Juggler is already becoming a success with my fellow Skidmore students! Since I released the software on November 1, we have had over 1000 downloads, representing more than 40% of the student body, without any official endorsement from Skidmore or extensive promotional work. By consolidating class descriptions and schedule information on a single screen, Course Juggler lets students browse lists of classes available by department, display course descriptions of interest to them, and then add courses to a visual grid display of days and times. The program instantly alerts them to schedule conflicts, shows total credits, and lets them add or delete courses until they've "juggled" their way to a schedule they like. They can then save and print the schedules they've created, and continue making as many potential schedules as they choose prior to registration.

With this validation both of the concept and the need it fulfills, I want to take the software to the next level and migrate my current Java-based program into a fully web-based application, allowing users to readily access it from phones, tablets, or computers, and develop schedules even more easily and quickly.

The screenshot displays the Course Juggler application. On the left, there is a list of courses with columns for 'Course ID', 'Course Name', 'Instructor', and 'Credits'. Below this list is a 'Total Credits' section showing a total of 15.00. A 'Description' area for the selected course is visible, detailing the course's focus on critical reading and writing. On the right, a grid shows a weekly schedule from Monday to Friday. The grid has time slots on the y-axis (from 8:00 AM to 10:00 PM) and days on the x-axis. Colored blocks represent scheduled classes: CC-295-001 (green) on Monday 8:00-9:00 AM; AN-103-002 (blue) on Tuesday 8:00-9:00 AM; AN-103-300 (blue) on Thursday 8:00-9:00 AM; CS-236-001 (red) on Monday 9:00-10:00 AM; CS-230-001 (red) on Wednesday 9:00-10:00 AM; EN-105-007 (purple) on Tuesday 10:00-11:00 AM; BA-125-000 (orange) on Wednesday 10:00-11:00 AM; EN-105-307 (purple) on Thursday 10:00-11:00 AM; and CS-230-001 (red) on Friday 9:00-10:00 AM.