The Hamilton administration is getting “tough on drugs” following a series of drug violations to the college’s code of student conduct last semester. Dean of Students Jeff Landry summed up the school’s newly revised policy, “From this point forward, if caught with drugs other than marijuana, a student can expect to be suspended or expelled.”

There were 21 drug-related cases among the 65 infractions disciplined by the Hamilton Judicial Board in the fall of 2009, as summarized in a recent community notice. Many of the other infractions involved alcohol either on campus or in Clinton. Dean Landry commented that the number of alcohol-related transgressions was not abnormal, and that the Judicial Board typically sees more incidents during the fall semester than the spring. The extent of drug-related transgressions was actually lower than in the previous two semesters, the Spring 2009 community notice reported 24 drug violations while the Fall 2008 reported 36 incidents involving drugs. However, Landry expressed that the types of drugs students were discovering using on campus alarmed the administration, and that the problem appears to be worse than we thought it was,” Landry said. “It became clear that we have to address the situation and stop it.”

Obviously, students know the administration prohibits them from using illegal drugs while at school, but the number of breaches of that policy last semester indicates that the point system did not deter all students. One student was assigned eight points for possession of hallucinogenic mushrooms. Another student was expelled for selling drugs on campus. Three students were discovered to have used cocaine and were each assigned nine points. Landry could not recall any case of a student being caught with hallucinogenic mushrooms in his time at Hamilton and said it had been more than nine semesters since any students had been discovered with cocaine.

Since the recent community notice was released, administrators in the dean of students’ office have had discussions about incorporating drug-awareness into the first-year orientation alcohol education program. Director of Student Activities Lisa Magnarelli would be in charge of such a change.

Administrators are hoping that clearer school policies towards drugs and the resulting sanctions will lead to better compliance with the code of student conduct. Said Landry, “It’s something that we can’t tolerate as a college.”

The Hamilton Association for Volunteering, Outreach and Charity (HAVOC) contributed more than 400 hours of community service during its 12th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Service Day. On Saturday, Jan. 23, members of the Hamilton College community came together for a day of service at ten non-profit organizations throughout Clinton, Utica and the greater Oneida county region. According to Emily Anderson '13, who helped organize the event, it is important “for Hamilton students to participate in events such as this one so that we remember life outside the ‘bubble’ here.”

Although many other colleges have a day off from class to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr’s legacy, Hamilton students had other opportunities to remember Dr. King. Brandon Leibsohn ’10, a member of HAVOC, says that it was fitting to have a service day in honor of Dr. King because it “reflects upon the need for us as individuals of a community to come together and help those around us in need.” Anderson added that students can help “honor his legacy by continuing to improve our surrounding community, as he believed was necessary.”

From 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., around 100 students had the opportunity to volunteer at a variety of different sites in the surrounding area. Some participants headed off to assisted living centers for the elderly to visit with senior citizens. Others helped to feed animals at the Spring Farm or the Rome Humane Society. Still more of the 130 volunteers helped out at the libraries, the Children’s Museum or the Rome Art and Community Center. Anderson said that people participate in service days not just “to do service, but also as a way to meet new people.”

HAVOC sponsors one Service Day per semester. The other Service Day this academic year was Make a Difference Day in the fall. According to Leibsohn, these days are “designed to allow for Hamilton students to get off the Hill and to share their unique talents and abilities with people in need.” These one-day events give students the opportunity to visit different sites and perhaps find an organization that they are passionate about and willing to visit on a more regular basis. Ramya Ramnath ’13, who participated in MLK Service Day, expressed her excitement by saying that “after this Service Day, I definitely want to be more involved in HAVOC activities!”

Career Center Keeps Door Open for Recent Graduates

by Olivia Waxman ’11

FEATURING

It’s not easy being a college graduate in this economy. According to the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE), only 19.7 percent of the Class of 2009 secured a job last year, compared to 51 percent of the Class of 2007. And as the unemployment rate for college graduates (ages 20 to 24) hovers around 10.6%, the highest since 1983, Hamilton graduates are tapping the Hill’s career services now more than ever as they face an uphill battle in the job market.

The Maurice Horowitz Career Center does not keep regular track of the numbers, but in the past year and a half, Director Kino Ruth and his staff have definitely noticed an increase in the number of calls and email requests for employment assistance from young graduates up to five years out, mid-career professionals and alumni about ten years out who want to get back into the workforce.

“We’re getting some of the ‘80s and ‘90s calling,” Ruth says. “They got out of Hamilton, they got their first job, but they got laid off and they call for help. We’ve also seen a slight increase [in calls] from older graduates about career services, page 8
Kirkland Endowment Now Funding Ten Scholarships

by Emily Delbridge ’13

This year, ten of Hamilton’s current students are being recognized for their efforts in supporting the needs and interests of women by receiving the first scholarship to be funded by the Kirkland Endowment. These ten scholars include Somiya Garcia ’11, Robyn Gibson ’10, Lily Gillespie ’12, Sofia Gueron ’10, Kate Harloe ’12, Cait Lavin ’10, Shu Yi (Grace) Liew ’12, Wai Yee Poon ’11, Haley Riemer-Peltz ’12 and Gaia Slayen ’13.

The Admissions office chose these ten recipients due to their involvement in various aspects of women’s interests. For example, Riemer-Peltz has been researching the history of Kirkland College and is concerned with the limited representation it receives in college tours. “I think we owe a large part of our Hamilton experience to the Kirkland influence,” she said. “Before 1978, Hamilton was really staunch, and the influence the free-thinking women’s school has really created the Hamilton a la mode.”

Up until now, the Kirkland Endowment has been used mainly to fund speakers and activists and to fund the travel necessary for students to research issues appropriate to the mission of the Kirkland Endowment Advisory Committee (KEAC). These projects addressed issues viewed as significant to the interests of women. The Kirkland Endowment has also funded summer projects for research and creative work, as well as service internships. This new program of financial aid, however, marks a new direction for the endowment.

Kirkland College was a women’s college coordinate with Hamilton from 1968 to 1978, at which point the two colleges joined. Kirkland gave its endowment to Hamilton and appointed the KEAC to distribute the income generated to ensure that the needs and interests of women would be protected and encouraged in this new educational college.

Some of the KEAC’s goals have suggested that the role of the endowment should be changed to serve other purposes. Dean of Faculty Joseph Urgo was advised that the endowment might better be spent in scholarships than in programs with unquantifiable progress. In the end, the Board of Trustees and KEAC reached a compromise that resulted in the Kirkland Scholarship.

Professor of Comparative Literature Nancy Rabinowitz, chair of KEAC and previously a professor at Kirkland College, expressed guarded optimism about the program: optimism because this new scholarship is expected to help students interested in pursuing the issues central to the endowment’s mission to achieve their individual initiatives, but concern for the preservation of women’s interests on campus if funding from Kirkland should be taken out of the KEAC’s hands.
Former Federal Prosecutor Speaks on National Security

by Kerry Q. Coughlin ’11

McCarthy addressed the question that has been crossing the minds of millions of Americans since the terrorist attacks of 1993, and more so since September 11: Does the criminal justice system work for terrorism cases? In other words, should the civilian or military justice system be used to prosecute terrorists?

“We’ve wasted a lot of energy having the argument instead of realizing that we have a conflict that is different from any conventional war we’ve ever been in,” said McCarthy. “What we have to do is come up with a hybrid system using a legal mechanism that is a good fit for the challenge that we’re up against.”

Currently, if you are apprehended in the United States, regardless of where you are from or what crime you may have attempted to commit, you enter into the criminal justice system, McCarthy explained. During wartime, once a suspect is apprehended there is a six-hour window of time before he or she has to be delivered to a court magistrate. Six hours, said McCarthy, is far from enough time to get information about potential ongoing plots. In his experience, it takes months for a competent interrogation to take place; in one case, it took nine years. “You can’t set up a system where you have only six hours to gain information about matters of life and death,” said McCarthy.

Other problems with the current system involve the Brady Rules, which require the government to turn over any information to the defense that may be helpful to the defense. However, this leads to issues with protected classified information on national security. “When we’re dealing with national security, particularly in wartime, we can’t be in the position where the government may lose,” commented McCarthy.

We must put national security issues into the hands of the executive branch, not the judicial branch, explained McCarthy. “You can’t take national security issues and move them from accountable actors [the executive branch] to unaccountable actors [the judiciary],” he said. “We need a new legal framework for national security, particularly in warfare, that meets the peculiar aspects of the threat that we are dealing with.”

McCarthy explained that leaving the investigation in the hands of unaccountable actors enables us to fire those who may do wrong. In essence, it gives us control.

McCarthy suggested that we need a new legal framework for national security, particularly in warfare. McCarthy’s National Security Court would combine both the civilian and military justice systems. It would involve military proceedings with specific protection for classified information, but would also have an independent judicial check in the form of a regular federal court presiding over proceedings. “This would be a system that meets the peculiar aspects of the threat that we are dealing with,” said McCarthy.

Mr. McCarthy is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Justice Department’s highest honors: the Attorney General’s Exceptional Service Award (1996) and Distinguished Service Award (1988).
Easing the Book Buying Burden

With the start of the new semester comes the ever-tiresome, wallet-thinning practice we have all come to know and despise: buying books. From Bristol to Beinecke, we can hear the constant complaints of stingy college students. And it makes sense: when we’re paying almost $50,000 to attend Hamilton, it seems excessive to have to spend an extra $200 to $600 for textbooks, especially when it appears that the school is doing everything possible to alleviate these additional costs. For most students, the college bookstore is seen as a corrupt money-guzzling corporation, ruthlessly conniving to extract every penny from exasperated students.

As an affiliate of Barnes & Noble Bookstores, Hamilton’s bookstore is to some extent controlled by a larger national corporation. This association contributes to the many surprising and frustrating aspects of the book buying process that thwart students in their quest to find affordable textbooks. It seems ludicrous that Barnes and Noble would offer in-store and online promotions in the “real world” that greatly lower the cost of books, but do not carry these promotions over to the campus store or the campus store’s website. It also appears somewhat cruel that the bookstore’s website neglects to include information crucial to the book buying process, like ISBN numbers or images of the book covers. Finally, it is infuriating that the used books that we buy in January are worth almost nothing when we sell them back in May, only to be sold again at full price in September. As much as it may make the first week of each semester more frustrating, however, it is important to remember that the bookstore is a corporate entity, and therefore has certain responsibilities and guidelines designed to regulate profit.

Students committed to spending as little as possible have the best luck shopping online at sites such as Amazon.com, but with the bookstore providing minimal information on its website, this can be a difficult process. Without the additional information of ISBN numbers or images of book covers, it is impossible for students to ensure that books purchased elsewhere will be the correct edition or even the correct translation. In order to ensure that they buy the correct books, bargain-hunting students often have to wait until the semester has begun, and thus risk falling behind in classes while they wait for their books to ship. This certainly puts those students who cannot afford the campus bookstore’s prices at a distinct disadvantage.

As unfair and annoying as this process may be, it is doomed to repeat itself at the beginning of every semester. If the bookstore website can’t provide information such as ISBN numbers, cover pictures or accurate edition numbers or release dates, perhaps faculty members could be required to send more detailed textbook lists directly to students well before the semester begins, allowing them the time to shop for bargains if they choose to do so. We appreciate the efforts of professors who have already taken that initiative by providing book covers and editions, specifying which textbooks are mandatory and which students can do without. Other professors avoid the issue of books altogether by supplying readings exclusively online, whether that means locating readings on academic databases, or uploading scanned articles via Blackboard or e-reserve. At least until a print quota is officially established, putting readings online saves students significant amounts of money.

Despite the huge signs in Bristol encouraging students to “buy used and save,” buying books is only half of the battle; many students want to sell their books back at the end of the semester. For those interested in selling back their books, there are independent book collection agencies that can make the first week of each semester more frustrating, however, it is important to remember that the bookstore is a corporate entity, and therefore has certain responsibilities and guidelines designed to regulate profit.

Letters to the Editor Policy

The Spectator Letter to the Editor section is designed to be a forum for the entire Hamilton community to discuss and debate campus, local, national and global issues. Pieces published in the section express the opinion of the individual writers and are not necessarily the opinions of The Spectator, its editors or the Media Board.

Letters to the Editor are welcome from all students, alumni/ae, faculty, friends of the college and Hamilton community members. Nevertheless, The Spectator has the following policies for submission:

1. Submissions are due by 10:00 p.m. on the Monday before publication. The editors reserve the right to refuse any late submissions.
2. Letters should be no longer than 500 words. The editors reserve the right to cut off letters at 500 words.
3. Letters submitted anonymously will not be printed.
4. The Spectator reserves the right not to publish any letter it deems inappropriate for publication.
5. If a piece is determined to be libelous, an unwarranted invasion of privacy, or an unnecessary and/or unwarranted invasion of privacy, or an unnecessary and/or unwarranted ad hominem or personal attack, it will not be published.

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Is a Great Names Speaker Worth the Wait?

YES

by Lauren Magaziner ’12

Although it is disappointing to receive news that a Great Names Speaker will not come to Hamilton this semester, it is also somewhat of a relief. Yes, the lack of a Great Names Speaker breaks Hamilton tradition, but the wait for a better Great Names Speaker is worth the current setback.

With the economic downturn we cannot seriously blame the administration for not having the budget to pay for names as well known as we have had in the past. In fact, I might even blame some of the Great Names for having such expensive prices. Anyone famous enough to be invited to Hamilton does not truly need the money and therefore could lower their price to adapt to Hamilton’s financial constraints.

A current Facebook group urges Hamilton students to encourage the administration to invite an astrophysicist to Hamilton College. I don’t think that Hamilton should “settle” on a lesser Great Name in order to accommodate the current budget. It isn’t worth bringing someone to campus unless he or she is actually a Great Name.

A Great Names Speaker should be a household name, requiring no introduction. Names like Jon Stewart, Al Gore, Bill Clinton, Aretha Franklin and Margaret Thatcher, for example, are all people who have made an impact on humanity, whose names are recognized by almost everyone. Although I encourage Hamilton to seek out more scientists and writers, they need to have made an impact on the world, not just in their field. It is not worth wasting the budget on a relatively unknown astrophysicist (or anyone unknown for that matter) just for the sake of bringing someone in, even though I do not doubt that he would be a great speaker.

I would be remiss to neglect the feelings of the seniors, who receive a raw deal. However, instead of dwelling on the disappointment, they should remember the past. They have seen Jon Stewart, Aretha Franklin and Al Gore—not many other people in the world have had the opportunity to see such amazing speakers.

“I understand the economic situation,” said Stephanie Anglin ’10, “but I’m still disappointed. However I understand why all the underclassmen would want to combine the money with next year to get someone really great. Just give me a good speaker at graduation, and I am all good.”

Like the seniors, every current student has to suffer the disappointing blow of only having three Great Name Speakers. This is a disappointment for everyone; however, it is a temporary disappointment that can be rectified with a truly amazing speaker in the fall.

— Language Table Monopolize Seats

by Julia Litzky ’12

Practicing language skills in a conversational context is certainly integral to the process of mastering a language. Language tables provide a unique opportunity to do this, as they bring together speakers of all levels and remove the pressure of the classroom setting. However, while I fully recognize the importance of such tables, I urge the language departments to reconsider the timing and location of such tables.

Often, language tables are held at the busiest hours of lunch and dinner. Additionally, even though there are often no empty seats in the dining halls for non-language-table participants to use, empty seats at the language tables are still reserved. When I have tried to sit there, due to lack of seating elsewhere, professors have informed me, often rudely, that I still cannot sit there. In McEwen, where the tables are much smaller and there is much less seating than in Commons, far more tables are often this semester, just for the sake of bringing someone in, even though I do not doubt that he would be a great speaker.

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Thumbs Up

The Hamilton Sitcom: Life in a bubble as bizarre as the Jemima Shore, though with less Snookie and more gaiety. Success is certain.

Student Organization Training tribes: It’s manly to go to training, and yet each organization that can attend receives $50 for attending! I’m guessing the yaoi/slash club just got a boner … then bought lots of pictures of animated boners.

Dave Eng: Assistant Director of Student Paintball Activities

Awkwardly bright section of Commons: regretting that second food trip yet?

Thumbs Down

Sketchy Jans: Standing in a corner nursing beer doesn’t count as partying.

Approving Atrium Parking: Well, there goes the parking space I’ve been saving for the past 3 years. God damn you Fran, god damn you.

Complaining about the cost of LEED certification: The Continental gets twice as much money to write about caricatures, but environmentalism really is gratuitous.

Opus charging for cheese: If I have to pay 30 cents extra for cheese, can’t I just get 30 cents less of chili?

Who Cares?

Administration discovers coke problem on campus: In other news, Eli Whitney has just invented the cotton gin.

Brett Favre: Déjà vu is inevitable when you’re 86 years old.

AUDITIONS

AUDITIONS: Try as you might, we all know the same twelve people will be the only ones coming out of the woodwork.

The Mr. Hamilton Pageant: This presents a new dilemma for the Womyn’s Center — Do they insist that it’s sexist or the lack of a Miss Hamilton?

by Anthony DeConte ’10, Nathan Fedrizzi ’10 and Lesley Ryder ’11

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this column are purely of a satirical nature, and are not representative of the views of The Spectator editorial board.

January 28, 2010
Letters to the Editor

Is Hamilton Violating the Federal Work-Study Laws?

To the Editor:

One of the main purposes of the Federal Work-Study Program as stated in the Higher Education Act of 1965 is “[t]o encourage students receiving fed- eral student financial aid to participate in community service activities that will benefit the community. These activities benefit the students a sense of social responsibility and commitment to the community.” This could be opened up to other students funds in 1992, when Congress directed that 5 percent (later raised to 7 percent in 2001) of the money given to the colleges be devoted to students performing service in the communities around the recipient institutions. However, many top colleges like Hamilton are making a minimal effort to do so.

Joshua Green’s 2002 Washington Monthly investigation “The Other College Rankings” found that many top colleges and universities fail to comply with this minimal condition, often making dubious claims about certain jobs being service-based. While the Department of Education possesses significant theoretical punitive measures at its disposal, it is significantly under-funded and understaffed, thus lacking the practical ability to enforce the law. As a result, many colleges only truly live up to their legal responsibility if they choose to.

Peterson’s College Money Guide 2009 reported that Hamilton received $67,771 in federal work-study program in 2008, and an additional $49,453 in work-study funds from the stimulus bill passed last year. Education Department data from 2000 shows Hamilton reported that 13.8 percent of its work-study funds are devoted to service, which means that about $100,375 of its current funding should go to service jobs if the college currently claims around the same percentage, or $50,880 if Hamilton had taken the extra $49,453. However, looking at the college’s current service programs, it’s difficult to discern how the college could claim 13.8 percent, or even 7 percent, of federal work-study funds go to service jobs.

According to my calculations* based on information from the Ham-ilton website and Spectator articles, the COOP’s CSI and ABC programs would at most account for $14,880 of the federal work-study funds, assuming all those student employees are eligible. According to the Levitt Center, service programs like Project Shine are eligible. According to the Levitt Center, if all those student employees are eligible, this could at most account for $36,000 to $100,375, or even $50,880 of the Federal work-study funds go to service jobs. So the Administration can’t live up to the standards they set for the student body, we deserve an explanation why.

Sincerely,
Will Leubsdorf ’10

*There are eight CSI students and eight ABC Tutors. CSI students work eight hours a week for ten weeks a semester, and ABC tutors work four hours. The average student wage for a campus job is $7.75 per hour, so over a year CSI employees combined get an estimate of $9,920, while ABC tutors get $4,960.

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Assigning Visiting Professors to Introductory Courses Does Not Serve Students’ Best Interests

by Patrick Landers ’12

Opinion Writer

Why do students sometimes re- gret taking classes taught by visiting professors? A simple answer is that such professors are usually new and inexperienced. Another is that they haven’t had the time to build up an in- stitutional reputation. Such a reputation would help prevent false expectations and guide students in right direction when it comes to selecting courses.

While these explanations avoid negatively characterizing visiting in- structors, they are almost certainly de- ficient. A structural perspective might argue that perhaps it’s because there are external pressures like the rigorous de- mands to acquire tenure. Often, visiting professors want glowing feedback from students, so they act based on incen- tive and teach easy courses with little work. At the same time, colleges and universities are looking for professors who will enhance a college’s reputation by pumping out superior scholarship. Thus, visiting professors may be more preoccupied with research than teach- ing. Or maybe they are actually inferior to the average tenured professor.

Regardless, it seems that it is riskier to take a class with a visiting professor than it is to take one with a long-term professor, especially if they were to consider the depth and breadth of ma- terial. Student usually avoid visiting professors unless there are extenuating circumstances or no alternatives.

Although they are aware of this situation, academic departments still frequently assign visiting professors to teach the introductory classes in addition to more specialized courses. Why? Maybe they are certain the profes- sors know the material, or to minimize the chances that concentrators have a bad experience in a more-specialized course.

A less generous explanation is that senior faculty don’t want to teach intro- ductory courses which often cover a breadth of material; some of which the tenured professors haven’t studied in decades, aren’t interested in, or maybe even vehemently dislike.

However, I think these arguments are weak, foolish and based on an un- willingness to oppose tradition and enact positive change that reflects stu- dents’ interests. I would argue that reg- ularizing visiting professors to more nar- row courses is a better approach. First, it’s essential that introductory courses be taught by experienced, long-term faculty to ensure that future concentra- tors develop the fundamentals of their chosen discipline. In addition, students who are considering majoring in that field would encounter senior faculty earlier on in their time here and obtain a more accurate understanding of the concentration.

In many disciplines, students wish- ing to concentrate have little choice as to who teaches their required introd- uctory courses. However, within a depart- ment, students have varying special interests; concentrators should be able to carefully select their highest priority courses taught by tenured faculty. On the side, they would while take electives for the major with visiting professors. By adopting this approach, academic departments would minimize the effects of poorly-taught introductory classes, while still allowing undergraduates to be assured competently taught upper-level courses.

In attempting to favor concentra- tors and their specialized coursework, academic departments have created a structure that can lead to harmful results for many students. Department chairs and senior faculty should seriously evaluate whether their disciplines might benefit from their years of experience being placed in the introductory cours- es, while putting visiting professors in some of the more advanced courses where the havoc they often bring can be mitigated.

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Change the location of language tables from Language Tables, page 5

would create the least inconvenience for non-language-table students. Professors could also consider having meals catered elsewhere, as Bon Appetit will do that when there isn’t a need such as for the numbers.

Additionally, any extra seats or tables should be opened up to other students after a certain length of time. It is rude to save seats for people who may or may not be showing up when there are oth- ers waiting for somewhere to sit down. This could allow for alternative arrangements for the people who are in fact devout in the numbers.

Commons—Fixing the lighting problem and installing a fanning Salon at the same time!

Cartoon by James Grebey ’12

Page 6

January 28, 2010
Life is calling. How far will you go?

Peace Corps will be on campus February 1. Come learn more and meet a recruiter and former Peace Corps Volunteer.

Peace Corps Info Session
Monday, February 1st from 6pm-7pm
Bristol Hub

Peace Corps volunteers work in 76 countries. To date, 214 Hamilton College graduates have served in the Peace Corps.

Apply Online Now! The application process takes 8-12 months.
800.424.8580
www.peacecorps.gov
Facing a Tough Job Market, Alumni Turn Back to Hamilton

from Career Center, page 1

“Even when economic times are good, you’re always looking to move up or move on,” Co-chair of the Committee on GOLD Group Engagement Lynne Salkin Morris ’00 points out.

While the Career Center mainly helps current students land their first job, Ruth says he and his counselors work around their jam-packed schedules during the school year to advise recent alumni on their next career move or graduate school application—free of charge. Other small colleges like Bucknell and Lehigh have hired special counselors to work specifically with alumni. At Hamilton, all of the career counselors work with graduates because many of them share close relationships with students who are now alumni.

“Quite frequently, a student will remember having worked with one of us, and that makes a difference,” Ruth adds. “The College pays an awful lot of attention to the alumni, and we do our best to provide services for them.”

On campus, for instance, the Career Center and the Alumni Association are putting together the second annual GOLD summit for Graduates Of the Last Decade and current students, which will take place April 16-18. In addition to information sessions about various career fields—such as law, education and finance—there will be professional development seminars discussing how to negotiate a pay raise, how to change careers and how to plan an effective job search.

The resources of the Career Center are typically geared towards undergrads. In light of the economic crisis, more and more alumni are returning to the Hill for advice.

“The GOLD Summit stems from the difficulties we’re facing in the economy and the general need to make the Hamilton network come a little more alive,” director of young alumni giving and event organizer Dave Steadmam ’03 said.

Off-campus, the Career Center and the Alumni Association have tried to bring counseling services to graduates in the major metropolitan cities with the most active alumni chapters. Last year, Ruth hit Hamilton alumni in Boston and Washington, D.C. to discuss how to find employment in the recession and share tips about industries that might be hiring. Hamilton and peer schools Colgate, Middlebury, Tufts and Wesleyan also plan annual recruiting consortia events for current seniors in Boston, New York City and Washington, D.C. In fact, at this year’s Capital Consortium Interview Day in D.C. on February 5, Hamilton and Colgate are organizing a special networking lunch and inviting their alumni in the D.C. area to meet with students and talk about their professions. “Not only are the students down there interviewing, but they also now have a chance to maybe meet five or six alumni who are already down there,” Ruth explains, “and maybe one of those alumni works in the area they are interested in, and now they have another friend they can reach out to if they come back down there and do get that job.”

Facing a Tough Job Market, Alumni Turn Back to Hamilton

Ten Reasons Why Students Cannot Live Without Pronunciation Workshops
(At Least I Cannot)

by Agnė Jakubauskaitė ‘13

1. If you are not a native English speaker, any opportunity to improve your pronunciation (and vocabulary) is a good deal.
2. After a hectic Monday and Tuesday schedule and before an even busier Wednesday (things at Hamilton never get easier), we need some fun.
3. It is better to schedule fun while learning so you will have a clear conscience and not have to think that you are wasting your precious time.
4. You can learn about the American culture (Billy Holiday or Mark Twain) while eating popcorn (American culture squared!).
5. When you realize that there is no logic in the English language (why, on earth, do you park a car in a driveway but drive along the parkway?!), you don’t feel hopeless anymore that you have not mastered “Crazy English.”
6. After being an observer rather than participant in almost all of your classes (yeah, first year is a big challenge for international kids), you can spend two hours among other “observers” who when all together form an awesome conversation table (frankly, you need to share your observations with someone).
7. This is the place where you can ask, “What does it mean?” as much as you wish and after the hundredth time still be sure that you won’t get the response, “Do I look like a dictionary?”
8. A real bargain: no grades, no homework, no stress, just free (but very valuable) knowledge and time to try to speak “American” with good people.
9. No international kids—no pronunciation workshops! Pronunciation workshops need us! (Ah, how sweet! We cannot live without each other.)
10. “Tell me, and I’ll learn. Show me, and I’ll understand. Involve me, and I’ll learn.” —Teto Lakota

From Where I Sit is the ESOL column that represents the non-native English speaker’s point of view on his or her experience at Hamilton. If you have a From Where I Sit story that you would like to share, please email bbritthy.

American English Workshops

Tuesday Nights @ the OCC

with Barbara Britt-Hysell
bbritthy@hamilton.edu

ESOL Coordinator

ESOL Coordinator

FROM WHERE I SIT:
HAMiLTON’S INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTiVES

by Agnė Jakubauskaitė ‘13

Features Contributor

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5. When you realize that there is no logic in the English language (why, on earth, do you park a car in a driveway but drive along the parkway?!), you don’t feel hopeless anymore that you have not mastered “Crazy English.”
6. After being an observer rather than participant in almost all of your classes (yeah, first year is a big challenge for international kids), you can spend two hours among other “observers” who when all together form an awesome conversation table (frankly, you need to share your observations with someone).
7. This is the place where you can ask, “What does it mean?” as much as you wish and after the hundredth time still be sure that you won’t get the response, “Do I look like a dictionary?”
8. A real bargain: no grades, no homework, no stress, just free (but very valuable) knowledge and time to try to speak “American” with good people.
9. No international kids—no pronunciation workshops! Pronunciation workshops need us! (Ah, how sweet! We cannot live without each other.)
10. “Tell me, and I’ll learn. Show me, and I’ll understand. Involve me, and I’ll learn.” —Teto Lakota

From Where I Sit is the ESOL column that represents the non-native English speaker’s point of view on his or her experience at Hamilton. If you have a From Where I Sit story that you would like to share, please email bbritthy.

American English Workshops

Tuesday Nights @ the OCC

with Barbara Britt-Hysell
bbritthy@hamilton.edu

ESOL Coordinator

ESOL Coordinator
Alumni Seek Job Advice

from Alumni, page 8

"We're hiring a new head of finance, a new director of admissions, and a new director of alumni relations. We're also looking for new faculty members. So there's a lot of opportunity right now. We're looking for people who are interested in higher education and who have experience in those areas.

The ideal candidate would have at least five years of relevant experience in a similar setting. They should also possess strong communication and leadership skills, as well as a commitment to fostering diversity and inclusion.

We offer a competitive salary and benefits package, as well as opportunities for professional growth and development. If you're interested in this position, please apply online by [insert date].

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to hearing from you!"

Start off the New Year right...

Write for Features!

Email ngrnfeld or hkel

Writers’ meetings Tues @ 6:30

Bristol 3rd floor. See you there!
**Bachelor & Bachelorette of the Week**

### Greg Hyman ’13
- **Hometown:** Maplewood, New Jersey
- **Major:** Undecided
- **Turn On?** Pretty eyes and a prettier laugh.
- **Turn Off?** Weak sense of humor.
- **What is your worst habit?** Chewing my fingernails.
- **If you were God, what would be the first thing you’d do to the world?** Make Clinton, NY tropical paradise.
- **What advertising slogan best describes your life?** GMC: “I’m not more than you need, just more than you’re used to.”
- **What movie genre best describes you?** Romantic-comedy, because I’m very charming with a remarkable wit.
- **What’s the best pick-up line you’ve ever used/had used on you?** Is that a mirror in your pocket, because I can see myself in your pants.
- **If you were a major which would you be and why?** Mathematics, because I get numbers like it’s my job.
- **If you had to create a new points system what would be the #1 offense?** Having a Napoleon complex.
- **What would you say is your most attractive quality?** I can fit my fist in my mouth.
- **If you could trade jobs with anyone at Hamilton for a day what would it be?** Zamboni driver.
- **What would you give a thumbs down?** Parking in Root Extension Lot.

### Roxanne Makoff ’12
- **Hometown:** San Francisco, California
- **Major:** Public Policy
- **Turn On?** A pulse.
- **Turn Off?** Bedwetters.
- **What is your worst habit?** Creepin’.
- **If you were a dorm which would you be and why?** Root, because I’m down to earth.
- **If you had to describe yourself as the love child of any two musicians which would you pick and why?** Jay-Z and Taylor Swift, because I’ve got that swag and a pure, loving soul.
- **If you were God, what would be the first thing you’d do to the world?** Make everyone recycle.
- **What advertising slogan best describes your life?** GMC: “I’m not more than you need, just more than you’re used to.”
- **What movie genre best describes you?** Sci-fi.
- **What’s the best pick-up line you’ve ever used/had used on you?** Me: What about your girlfriend? Him: I have a goldfish too. Me: What? Him: Oh I thought we were talking about things that don't matter.
- **If you were a major which would you be and why?** Oral communication, because I suck at everything else.
- **If you could get rid of one group on campus what would it be and why?** What is Korfball?.
- **What would you give a thumbs down?** Parking in Root Extension Lot.
- **Who would you say is your campus crush?** Steve Bury.

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*PHOTO COURTESY OF GREG HYMAN ’13*  
*Roxanne Makoff ’12*
First Acoustic Coffeehouse of Semester Catapults Onto Campus in New Year

by Sophie Breene ’12

Elizabeth and the Catapult is a pop-rock group consisting of singer Elizabeth Ziman, drummer Dan Mosland, and guitarist Pete Lalish. The trio met while students at Berklee College of Music in Boston and moved together after graduation to Brooklyn, where they began recording. Their first EP, Elizabeth & The Catapult, came out in 2006. They are most famous for their subsequent album, Taller Children, which was released by Verve Records in spring 2007. Ziman is the main songwriter of the group; her lyrics combine “pop playfulness and grown-up introspection.” (www.elizabethandthecatapult.com) Elizabeth & The Catapult describe their style as “energetic,” “effortless,” “open-hearted,” and “winsome.” Their songs on Taller Children vary in style from track to track; some are spartan, with only basic background instrumentation “Rainiest Day of Summer,” while others are guitar-heavy and jazz-influenced “Momma’s Boy.” Ziman’s magnetic voice is one of the band’s strengths. The combination of powerful female vocals and lively beats are reminiscent of groups like Feist or Rilo Kiley.

Visit the Emerson Gallery to View Four New Exhibits:
From 60,000 Miles Away: The Glass Galaxies of Josh Simpson
Music from Space: Samuel Pellman and Miranda Raimondi’s Selected Nebulae
Teaching the Stars: Prints and Photographs from the Christian H.F. Peters Papers
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Hole in Ozone Layer Mending

by Yinhang Ding '12

Science & Technology Writer

For the last decade, environmental activists have been focusing on mending the hole in Earth's ozone layer. Found above Antarctica in the mid-1980s, the hole in the ozone layer caught worldwide attention due to the fact that ozone plays a crucial role in protecting life on Earth from harmful ultraviolet radiation. With the successful international effort to ban chlorofluorocarbon compounds (CFCs), the chemicals largely responsible for man-made thinning of the ozone layer, environmental policy makers are celebrating that the hole in Earth's ozone layer is slowly mending.

However, in the most recent issue of Geophysical Research Letters, a group of scientists from Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) suggests that mending the ozone hole may actually increase global warming and speed up sea level rise. This discovery posed a difficult problem to environmental policy makers: when the two most important environmental missions act against each other, the 20th century's biggest environmental success may exacerbate the 21st century's biggest environmental crisis.

In the 20th century, the Antarctic ozone hole was regarded as one of the biggest environmental threats. In the 1980s, a substantial part of stratospheric ozone in Antarctica thins (spiral) let them orient them to their home base while they are hunting.

Professor Research Profile: Myriam Cotten, Chemistry

All rights reserved for Professor Cotten by Myriam L. Cotten
Associate Professor of Chemistry

This is part of a series on what research our professors pursue outside of the classroom. It is intended to further the Hamilton Community's understanding of the scientific and academic community we have on campus.

What is your specialty in your field?

I'm particularly interested in using biochemical and biophysical concepts and methods to better understand life processes on a molecular level. More specifically, I am interested in peptides and proteins that are active at lipid membranes.

What research questions are you currently interested in?

I'm currently researching relationships that exist between the structure and function of piscidins, a family of antimicrobial peptides found in hybrid striped sea bass. Antimicrobial peptides perform the function of recognizing and killing harmful bacteria in living organisms. It is fascinating that several members of the piscidin family have significantly different biological effects even though their overall makeup is very similar. In my lab, my students and I are currently investigating how subtle differences on a chemical level may translate into major variations on a biological level. This research is supported by a five-year grant from the National Science Foundation.

Why are you interested in these?

Antimicrobial peptides play critical roles in protecting all living organisms from infection and disease. They are now commonly referred to by scientists as "host defense" peptides, because they see Profile, page 13

The properties of proteins (spiral) let them orient themselves on cell membranes.
diation can cause serious human health problems, including skin cancer and cataracts. According to the American Cancer Society, each one percent drop in ozone is projected to result in a four to six percent increase in the risk of skin cancer. The Environmental Protection Agency also estimates that the depletion of the ozone layer would be responsible for 555,000 to 2.8 million additional cases of cataracts among Americans born before 2075. After a series of nego- tiations, the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete Ozone Layer, an international agreement to ban ozone-deplet- ing chemicals, was finally agreed upon on September 16, 1987, at the Headquarters of the Interna- tional Civil Aviation Organiza- tion in Montreal. Since then, the ozone levels over Antarctica are slowly rising, while the ozone hole is slowly shrinking. However, according to sci- entists from the SCAR, the ozone hole actually shielded the region from the warming induced by greenhouse gases over the last decade. The ozone layer, generated high- speed winds that caused sea salt to be swept up into the atmo- sphere to form moist, brighter-than-usual clouds, that contain millions of tiny salt particles. The salt particles made the clouds brighter and more reflec- tive of the sun’s powerful rays. These clouds have acted like a mirror to the sun’s rays, reflect- ing the sun’s heat away from the surface to the extent that warm- ing from rising carbon emissions has effectively been cancelled out in this region during the sum- mertime,” said Professor Ken Carslaw of the University of Leeds, one of the scientists on the research team. The wind also cooled the eastern, more densely ice-covered section of the conti- nent, which protected the Antarctic ice from the ravages of global warming. Now, as the ozone hole heals, the existing wind pat- terns will shift, which will fully subject the Antarctic ice to the effects of climate change. When these winds die down, ris- ing CO₂ emissions could then cause the warming of the southern hemisphere to accelerate. Some scientists have predicted that there will be a rise in sea levels up to 4.6 feet greater than earlier predic- tions, an effect that would prove disastrous. However, the conclusion that mending the ozone hole accelerates global warming is controversial. Some scientists question whether the wind is re- ally going to slow down as the ozone rebuilds itself; others think that the rise in temperature will increase wind speeds to create the same cloud-forming effect there is now. As nations around the world are trying to negoti- ate a legally binding agreement to control carbon emissions, it is likely that we will see revelations like this that suggest today’s solu- tions might become tomorrow’s concerns.

CFC Ban Results in Mending of Hole In Ozone Layer

However, Mending May Actually Worsen Global Warming, Increase Rate of Sea Level Rise from Ozone, page 12

arctica was disappearing every year. Scientists had determined that CFCs used in refrigera- tors, air conditioners and spray cans, were the main cause of the ozone hole. Once emitted to the atmosphere, these compounds could significantly deplete the stratospheric ozone layer that shields the planet from damaging UV-B radiation. Therefore, less stratospheric ozone results in more shortwave ultraviolet (UV) radiation reaching the Earth’s surface, and the ra-

Other Science News This Week...

Apple Announces Development of iPad Tablet Computer

On January 21, 2010, Steve Jobs, the CEO of Apple, publicly announced the long-awaited tablet computer from Apple. The device, called the iPad, is due to be released in April. The iPad is Apple’s “forky” into the world of e-readers, such as Ama- zon’s Kindle and Barnes and Nobles’ Nook, but does much more than just display books. It is also intended to be a combina- tion of laptop and smartphone, with the end result looking and working somewhat like a large iPhone. The iPad has a 9.7-inch display and is as thick as an iPhone. It comes in several differ- ent models, starting at $499.

Flame Retardants Found to Cause Infertility in Women

Following up on our article last week on carcinogenic flame retardants in campus furniture, recent studies have found that similar chemicals can also cause infertility in women. These chemicals, called PBDEs, seem to interfere with hormones in the body, especially those produced in the thyroid gland. Even slight changes in the levels of these hormones can interfere with pregnancy and fertility. This is just one health issue associated with these chemicals, which have also been correlated with can- cer and damage to various tissues.

Mars Rover Stuck on Planet’s Surface

One of NASA’s rovers on Mars has gotten stuck on the red planet’s surface, and scientists have given up on more attempts to free it. The Spirit rover, which was originally intended to carry out a 90-day mission, has been active for over six years. It accomplished amazing feats during its mobile life, including sending back pictures of the Martian landscape, performing tests on rocks and soil and uncovering potential evidence of past mi- croscopic life on the planet. While it is no longer able to move, its equipment is still perfectly functional. Scientists are now able to use the rover as a stationary outpost on the planet. By following its exact motion, scientists can test how Mars wobbles on its axis as it rotates—information that could reveal whether the planet has a liquid or a solid core.

Professor Profile: Chemistry

from Profile, page 12

play multiple, inter-related roles in protecting The “holy” organ- ism from infection. Host defense peptides have evolved over millions of years in dynamic relationships with host organs to enhance host fitness. I am fascinated by this validation of the principles of evolution and the strength of the web of life. I believe it is very important to understand how these microscopic and seeming-ly unimportant molecules have played fundamental roles in sus- taining life as we know it on Earth.

My research team and I are using Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) spectroscopy to investigate, analyze and determine the motions and molecular structures of piscidin, and investigate their interactions with lipids that mimic bacterial membranes. NMR is a very ef- fective technique that uses a strong magnetic field and radiofrequency pulses to get information about the motions and atomic structures of matter, both organic and inorganic. We use a variety of labo- ratory techniques to prepare sam- ples for NMR analysis.

What methods are you using to an- swer these questions in your lab? My research team and I are using NMR spectroscopy to investigate, analyze and determine the motions and molecular structures of piscidin, and investigate their interactions with lipids that mimic bacterial membranes. NMR is a very effective technique that uses a strong magnetic field and radiofrequency pulses to get information about the motions and atomic structures of matter, both organic and inorganic. We use a variety of laboratory techniques to prepare samples for NMR analysis.

What impact do your hope your work will have? Ultimately, I hope to show how unifying structural and functional principles we learn from naturally occurring, highly-evolved host-defense peptides can be applied to the development of more effective pharmaceuticals that do not induce bacterial resistance and produce fewer harmful side-effects.

What have you found so far to- ward answering your questions?

Professor Cotten and her team study how proteins interact with the cell membranes of their hosts (middle image).

The ozone layer hole (left) affects the atmosphere’s ability to filter out ultra-violet rays from the sun. However, ozone rebuffs itself; others think that the rise in temperature will increase wind speeds to create the same cloud-forming effect there is now. As nations around the world are trying to negoti- ate a legally binding agreement to control carbon emissions, it is likely that we will see revelations like this that suggest today’s solu- tions might become tomorrow’s concerns.
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Individuakil Efforts Put Continentals Back on Track

by Brandon Leibsohn '10

Season Editor

Coaches often struggle to see immediate results in the development of their athletes over the course of a semester. But this has not been much of a problem for the men or women’s indoor track and field teams. With newcomers playing pivotal roles in the success of the teams this semester, it was going to be quite a challenge for Hamilton to integrate the athletes who missed time nursing injuries, and the introduction of fresh talent who did not participate during the cross country season to the close-knit team atmosphere.

Already this semester, the team has asserted themselves with athletic accomplishments that captured the attention of teams across the Liberty League. Given Peter Kosgei’s ‘11 impressive career for the Continentals, he was quite often the only person other teams would fear. This is no longer the case as Hamilton no longer has to worry about being taken down in the coming weeks and possibly might be broken as soon as the teams compete this Saturday in their next race at Colgate University’s Class of ’32 Invitational.

Liz Wahl ‘10 sets herself on the block prior to her event. She has her best hockey ahead of her season. Like the men’s team, the women’s team traveled to St. Lawrence University. With 13 teams in the St. Lawrence University Invitational, Hamilton garnered enough points to pull through some of these matches, including three on Saturday. After a 9-0 loss to 11th ranked Mount Holyoke, the team traveled to Mount Holyoke. Captains Krissy Ru bin ‘10 and Kelly Whipple ‘10, Alyssa Bawden ‘12 and Whip ple, whose seasons ended with injuries last year, are healthy again and winning matches.

In the most recent CSA national rankings, the Hamilton women are 14th. In February, the women’s squash team will travel to Trinity College and Wesleyan University to play in the NESCAC championships for the fourth straight year.

Squash Responds With Wins

from Squash page 16

the College Squash Association (CSA), respectively. After an early loss to Amherst on Sunday, the Hamilton men bounced back and ended the road trip on a high note with consecutive 5-4 wins against Colby and Wesleyan. In the men’s national CSA rankings, Hamilton is twentieth-

Second, the Adirondack hosting weekend, the team will strive to combine their young stars’ play and their seniors’ ample experience, backed by Coach King’s leadership, to produce more wins. Squads from Middlebury College and Northwestern University look to topple the Continentals in the coming weeks.

The Hamilton women’s squad is ready to go off to a hot start this season, which is nothing new to the program. The 2006-07 women won seven of eight to start the season, and one year later the team won their first six. This year, the team started off 1-1 with a lone 7-2 loss to Williams College; Williams is nationally ranked eighth in the CSA.

Prior to the Williams match, Hamilton won seven consecutive matches, including three wins at their home invitational. In December, the men’s team, the women’s team consists of an effective mix of youth and age. Claire Corroon ‘13, one of five first-year players, won her first nine matches before falling to her opponent against Mt. Holyoke. Captains Krissy Rubin ‘10 and Kelly Whipple ‘10, along with Courtney Kolliner ‘10, Nina Platt ‘10 and Leila Clifford-Ong ‘11 boast years of success and experience on and off the court.

Like the men, the women’s team traveled to Mount Holyoke and Amherst to play five match this past weekend. Corroon continued her strong play at the fourth spot, winning two out of three on Saturday. After a 9-0 beating on Conn College, the women fell 9-0 to 11th ranked Mount Holyoke and fell 8-1 to 15th ranked Amherst.

Despite a rough day after such a strong start to the season, the girls bounced back on Sunday and won matches against Wesleyan University and Colby College.

The team has successfully bounced back from an injury-ridden 2008-09 season. Last season the lineup was constantly reworked due to injuries throughout the year. Alyssa Bawden ‘12 and Whipple, whose seasons ended with injuries last year, are healthy again and winning matches.

In the most recent CSA national rankings, the Hamilton women are 14th. In February, the women’s squash team will travel to Trinity College and Wesleyan University to play in the NESCAC championships for the fourth straight year.
Sullivan '12 Growing Into Team Leader

by Cooper Creagan ’13
Sports Writer

Patrick Sullivan ’12, 2008-2009 Liberty League Rookie of the Year, has been playing basketball his whole life. The 6’7” athlete returns to the court this season for his second year with the Continentals and continues to show promise and growth. Although he did not begin to play in the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) until he moved to Madison, New Jersey in the sixth grade, Sullivan claims he was in love with the sport “as soon as I was old enough to hold a ball.”

After a few years of playing in AAU tournaments across the country in places such as Florida, Las Vegas and Texas, Sullivan earned a spot on the varsity team at Delbarton High School. He enjoyed his third year of varsity competition working with talented teammates and a supportive coach that prepared him for the college level.

That’s where Hamilton came in. Before making the four year commitment to the Hill, Sullivan spoke often with Head Coach Tobin Anderson and was impressed by the chemistry the team shared. He knew coming to Hamilton would make him a better player, but he was sold on Hamilton’s strong academic program. The Continentals had their second best season of the year.

The team’s chemistry is something which Sullivan has become particularly familiar with in these past weeks. While the vast majority of students were sleeping in and catching a break, the basketball team was back on their feet, working hard and making sure the gym was ready for the next game. The Continentals and freshman forward Daniel Greenberg ’12 have been particularly impressive over the past couple of weeks. The Continentals have been building momentum, taking three games in a row as well, stand at 10-3.

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