General Electric CEO Jeffrey Immelt to Give Commencement Address

Jeffrey Immelt P’10, chairman and chief executive officer of General Electric Company (GE), will deliver the Commencement address to the Class of 2010 on Sunday, May 23.

Immelt has had a tumultuous, but successful stint at GE thus far. His first years were difficult—he took command four days before the 9/11 terrorist attack in 2001, and he led GE through the recession at the turn of the century and the Enron collapse (when the public became increasingly skeptical of CEOs of large corporations). Immelt has now been CEO at GE for over eight years, and financial magazine Barron’s has named him one of the “World’s Best CEOs” three times. He also serves on the board of the New York Federal Reserve Bank.

Four individuals, including Immelt, will receive honorary degrees at the Commencement ceremony. Peter Geis, general manager of the Metropolitan Opera, who is in charge of its current revitalization through high-definition television and satellite radio, Dr. Martin Hirsch ’60, professor of medicine at the Harvard Medical School and a top national physician in the HIV/AIDS fight and Christie Vilsack K’72, executive director of the Iowa Initiative, a program which aims to lower unintended pregnancies in the state and eventually nationwide. Vilsack’s husband, current U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack ’72, also received an honorary degree in 2001.

The Committee on Honorary Degrees searches and ultimately chooses the honorary degree recipients and Commencement speaker every year.

“The process to identify the speaker is a fairly fluid one and begins approximately two years in advance of every Commencement,” said Meredith Harper Bonham, chief of staff and secretary to the board of trustees. “The committee considers approximately fifty honorary degree candidates before winnowing the list down to a small group of individuals that take into consideration their qualifications, connections to Hamilton, potential availability, and breadth of backgrounds.”

Claimed by Susan Skenzit K’77, the 18-person committee comprised of students, faculty and trustees. Ma-tique Talaia-Murray ’12, Keith Wilner ’11 and Caitlyn Williams ’11 are the student representatives. Geoscience professor David Bailey, Art professor Katharine Kaharic and English professor Margaret Thickstun are the pro-fessors on the Committee.

The Commencement ceremony on Sunday, May 23, will begin at 10:30 a.m. in the Margaret Bundy Scott Field House.

Jeffrey Immelt P’10 throws first career shutdown in home opener

see Need-Blind, page 3

Spring Breakdown

Alternative spring breakers help build communities across the country while choir takes Northeastern cities by storm. See pages 8-9 for firsthand accounts.

Hamilton Adopts Need-Blind Admission Policy

The College will continue to meet 100 percent of demonstrated financial need.

by Emily Gerston ’11

News Writer

For the first time in Hamilton’s history, applicants to the College will be selected on an entirely need-blind basis. The Board of Trustees voted to enact the new policy at a meeting on March 6.

“Hamilton has always been a school of opportunity,” said Monica Inzer, dean of admission and financial aid. “This policy is an extension of that. The goal was access. It’s about stu-dents who work hard and deserve to be here.”

Need-blind admission means that an applicant’s financial situation will not factor into an admission decision, and thus decisions will be based solely on merit. Fewer than 50 schools in the country are need-blind while still covering 100 percent of students’ demonstrated financial need.

“This is a good thing,” said Megan Young ’13. “The best students get to go to Hamilton regardless of what their financial status is.”

The Board of Trustees listed need-blind admission as a priority in the Strategic Plan published in January 2009, but it was described as a “long-term goal.”

“We were presenting this idea as a fundraising campaign, not for this year,” said Inzer. Instead, the immedi-ate goal listed was a reaffirmation of Hamilton’s commitment to meeting 100 percent of demonstrated financial need.

According to Inzer, it was unclear until recently just how close Hamilton was to being need-blind. “In 2007, we didn’t know how much it would cost,” she said. The Admission Office began an experiment to track how financial need entered their admissions deci-sions by disregarding financial need until the very last step in the admis-sion process.

“We’d say, ‘Here’s the class’, and say it’s the best class we can admit, and then pull the curtain back and look at financial need,” said Inzer.

“When we ran out of financial aid, we ran out of admissions for those needing financial aid. We said, ‘This is crazy, we’re not admitting kids we want!’”

For the Class of 2012, 7 percent of the domestic student applicant pool was admitted with consideration of financial need. For the Class of 2013, this percentage dropped to 3 percent.

Inzer attributed the ability to cover more financial need in large part due to Hamilton’s elimination of merit scholarships in 2007. She said that as students who received merit scholar-ships graduate with each class, more money becomes available in financial aid each year to students with finan-cial need.

Two years into Hamilton’s admis-sion experiment, the Financial Aid Office determined that it would cost about $500,000 dollars per year to ad-mit a class on a need-blind basis. “It wasn’t until we did the experiment… that I realized we actually are...
**SA Update**

New Bicycle Program on Campus?

Chadd Hippensteel ’10 is working in cooperation with the Gilded Bike Program to create a bicycle program on campus modeled after ones that exist at UC Irvine and in various American and European cities. He discussed how the Gilded Bike Program on campus is both costly and disorganized, with accountability being a large issue. Students who ride the bikes down the hill never seem to bring them back up, and bikes are often missed or stolen. The program similar to Zipcar, where bikes are checked out through the swipe of a Hill Card. Bikes would be given GPS trackers so that they would never remain lost for long. Students could use the bikes while racking to class or to tour the surrounding farmland or Root Glen. There is the possibility of eventually adding electric bikes to help students who must come up College Hill Road. Each year, many cars and bikes are brought to campus that add clutter; Hippensteel believes his plan would cut down on this clutter and make the bikes more accessible to all.

Pre-Law Guidance Concerns

The Student Affairs Committee focused largely on the Career Center’s issues and progress throughout the past year. Trustees expressed concern that the pre-professional programs, in particular pre-law, are not as helpful as they could be, especially in preparing students for the LSAT. It was agreed that targeting sophomores would be helpful so that students would begin to think about future careers early, rather than second semester of senior year.

Budget Notes on Construction, Financial Aid

The Buildings and Grounds Committee ran through the various costs of construction that will occur over the summer, including $1.4 million to remove the asbestos in Bundy Residence Hall and $1.3 million for replacing the Field House floor. The Budget and Finance Committee also discussed costs, including the financial impact of going need-blind and plans to increase the endowment so that Hamilton’s operating budget can get increase. They also mentioned an error that has occurred in the budget – an increase that occurred two years ago in the student activity fee was accidentally not passed on to Student Assembly’s student activity budget.

Seniors Rowe and Wall Win Watson Fellowships

by Dan Steinman ‘12

On March 15, two Hamilton students were awarded the Thomas J. Watson Fellowship, a grant for college graduates to spend a year of independent study outside of the United States. Kevin Rowe ’10 and Max Wall ’10 are among only 40 students selected nationwide to receive the stipend this year.

Rowe's study project, entitled “Farm to Table: New World Cities and the Changing Landscapes of Cuisine,” will involve traveling across the globe; he plans to research in Cyprus, India, China, Nicaragua, and Chile. He will focus on all of the steps in creating a cuisine for distinctive cultures.

Wall described the mission in his own words, “I will follow this food chain for one traditional dish in each of five cities, learning how new technology and systems are altering the ways we eat and ways we live together in and around cities.”

Wall, president and founder of Hamilton’s LAFBAF fermentation club, will be pursuing his passion for fermentation into Ghana, India, and France. He plans to study traditional techniques of fermentation in each of the countries and how it relates to the cultural identity in each community he visits.

Wall described how he first learned of the fellowship two years ago when a past winner told him about her experiences in the LAFBAF program. He is working on a “mystical objective” for him. “I still can’t believe it’s actually going to happen,” he said.

**News:**

**Author Margaret Atwood Talks Characters and Canadian Pride**

Margaret Atwood speaks in the Chapel on March 4.

by Kerry Q. Coughlin ’11

She may have been the Win- ton Tolles Lecturer, but some considered Margaret Atwood the “Great Names” substitute. Professor of English Naomi Guttman introduced the Canadian novelist and poet as “one of the greatest living writers,” and on Thursday, March 4, the Ham-ilton community was introduced to her sense of humor, thoughts on writing, political views and more.

“Why are there so many cans of sardines in your books?” the audience asked. Atwood answered that some “downtime from the plot to think things through.”

In terms of her genre, Atwood explained to the audience, “I never consider myself a science fiction author, even though I've published speculative fiction and non-fiction, short story collec- tions and more. Atwood has also written thirteen novels, the most recent of which is Year of the Flood, in addition to anthologies, children’s books, and a high international profile. She has written thirteen novels, the most recent of which is Year of the Flood, in addition to anthologies, children’s books, and more... just enough to keep me writing as speculative fiction.”

Atwood indicated she feels a connection to the characters in her work. Addressing the question, “Why are there so many cans of sardines in your books?” Atwood answered that some authors may go through a book never feeding their characters, but there is not one of those people. She said, “Nothing fancy or anything... just enough to keep them alive.”

Atwood also said that she makes sure to give her charac- ters a bath once in a while – it gives them some “down time from the plot to think things through.”

In terms of her genre, Atwood explained to the audience why her writing was speculative fiction and not science fiction, saying that speculative fiction is based on things that people are really able to do with the tech-nology we have or are working on.

Though the self-deprecation of Canadians was a theme of the talk, Atwood also showed a sense of pride in her country and its literature.

When asked what it is like to try to fashion a national liter- ature when American and Brit- ish literature are so dominant in Canada, she answered that Ca-nadian literature has, in recent years, gained a high readership and a high international profile.

She published a book about Cana-dian literature in 1972, which she compared to a book on ve-netral disease, for it presented “what kinds there are, where you might get some...”

Despite her dry sense of humor and frequent jokes, At-wood’s talk had a very serious tone to it as well. What especially came through were her environ-mental views of the future, also a theme in many of her books. She emphasized hopeful action, cit-ing the race between green tech-nology and a disastrous collapse. In regards to hope, Atwood said, “Hope is built in, like the moom-moom-moot”. Atwood also said that she feels “Hope is built in, like the moom-moom-moot”.

Atwood also said that she feels “Hope is built in, like the moom-moom-moot”.

A native of Ottawa, Ontario, Cana-dia, Margaret Atwood is an internationally acclaimed author. She has written thirteen novels, the most recent of which is The Year of the Flood, in addition to a number of poetry collections, anthologies, children’s books, non-fiction, short story collec-tions and more. Atwood has also won more than 55 awards both in Canada and internationally.

**Congratulations to the following faculty members who were granted tenure at the March Trustee meeting:**

Donald Carter
Tina Hall
Anne Lacsamana
Chaise LaDousa
Rebecca Murtaugh
Angel Nieves
Edna Rodriguez-Plate
Chad Williams
Yvonne Zylan

**English**

**Women’s Studies**

**Anthropology**

**Art**

**African Studies**

**Hispanic Studies**

**History**

**Sociology**

**Africana Studies**

**News Writer**

April 1, 2010
Admission Policy Now Need-Blind, Comprehensive Fee Up to $51,760

from Need-Blind, page 1

pretty close and we can do this," Inzer said. "It’s not ridiculous, it’s responsible."

The findings of the admission and financial aid experiment were presented to the Board of Trustees at their December 2009 meeting. "He [Chairman of the Board of Trustees A.G. Lafley] said, ‘You only need $500,000 to go need-blind for the next class? And then he gave $500,000, and then the five other members of the Board of Trustees gave $500,000.” Although the idea was first discussed in December, it was not given the official go-ahead until the Board of Trustees gave $2 million over the course of the past few years. Inzer gave the Board of Trustees credit for bringing the policy about so quickly. “They believe in this place, they put the money where their mouth is,” she said. "They sparked a spark. It was $5 million, $2 million, $1 million, $290 million, referring to the endowment the school is forming to ensure that the need-blind policy can be sustained. Each class will cost an estimated $2 million over the course of four years at Hamilton to receive need-blind admission ($500,000 per year). These costs can quickly stack up, but an endowment dedicated to need-blind admission will help ensure that Hamilton is able to remain need-blind in the long run. Hamilton will continue to meet 100 percent of demonstrated financial need for students through scholarships, loans, and need-testing, as it has in the past years. ‘We’re still going to park people the same way we always did,’ said Inzer. ‘Our financial aid policies will remain the same. What’s different is the students we admit. We’re going to admit the most deserving candidates regardless of ability to pay.”

Matthew Farrington ’12 called the new policy “long overdue.” He said, “When I was looking at colleges, one thing I didn’t like about Hamilton is that it wasn’t need-blind, and I did notice.” Betsy Bilharz ’12 agreed, and said, “I think it’s something that should always have been in place.”

Admission of international and transfer students will not be entirely need-blind. However, roughly ten percent of Hamilton’s financial aid budget goes to international students. Inzer indicated that she will attempt to consider transfer students on a need-blind basis, but “I just can’t guarantee it.”

The economic crisis of the past few years may have actually helped Hamilton’s move to need-blind admission rather than hurt it. “Trimming our resources didn’t hurt it. ‘Trimming our resources helped us focus on what’s most important. Freely helped us focus on what our priorities were.’”

Inzer said. “Where are you going to spend your next dollar? Well, mine goes to financial aid.”

Public Speaking Competition Features Speeches on Gay Marriage, Facebook

by Dan Steinman ’12

News Wixter

Competition was strong at Hamilton’s annual Public Speaking competition this year. On March 6, five students won prizes for their prepared speeches. Amanda Bowman ’10 was awarded the Warren E. Wright Prize for her informative speech on a current public issue, the legalization of gay marriage. Her speech was titled “Iowa: The Gay Messca?” Bowman, an Iowan, described her motivation to give such a speech. “Many people I talked to were surprised to find that Iowa had legalized same-sex marriage back in April 2009.”

“My speech told the story of how the case went through the court systems and was unanimously approved by the Iowa Supreme Court,” Bowman explained. “I also talked about the reaction from the people of my state and what the legislature of Iowa is doing about it today.”

Bowman commented that she was “extremely impressed by the other finalists in the Wright competition. The Warren E. Wright Prize comes with a $5,500 award.”

Trang Nguyen ’13, Xiaohan Du ’12, Ian Doran ’11, and Yan Kit Pang ’10 were all winners of the McKinney Prize, awarded to the student from each class year that presented the most persuasive argument on a topic of social relevance to the Hamilton community. Pang was awarded $900, and all the other class winners were awarded $450.

Du was very enthusiastic when reflecting on her experience. She expressed appreciation for the opportunity to present her own ideas to faculty members and trustees. Her speech was titled, “A Call for the Revival of Humanism in Liberal Arts Education: When the Diversity of Ideas Meets the Idea of Diversity.” The speech focused on the idea that the emphasis in creating a diverse student body is misplaced.

“It seems like the diversity [currently emphasized by educational institutions like Hamilton] is only skin deep,” Du explained. She believes that, in an educational setting, “Intellectual diversity in the classroom is more important than diversity of race, gender, or sexual orientation.” She presented that a revival of Humanist studies was the best way to return to universality in education.

Pang also won the Clark Prize for his speech on the pervasiveness and excessive use of Facebook. The Clark Prize, which has been $1,200 and is the only prize with a specific topic. This year’s topic was “Facebook: How much information is too much?”

Connecticut College

On March 20, Olympic medalist and alumna of Connecticut College, Anita DeFrantz ’74, was inducted into the National Rowing Hall of Fame. DeFrantz began her rowing career as a member of Connecticut College’s rowing squad. Since then, she has gone on to receive a bronze medal at the 1976 Montreal Olympic Games and was a four-time finalist and winner of a silver medal at the World Rowing Championships in 1978. Additionally, she has won six National Championships. In 1984, DeFrantz was awarded the Connecticut College Medal, the College’s most prestigious honor. In 1986, she was the first African American woman appointed to serve on the International Olympic Committee.

Tufts University

On March 31 at the Northeast Energy Efficiency Summit in Boston, Massachusetts, Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships (NEEP) will recognize Tufts University as a “Commercial Business Leader in Energy Efficiency.” Tufts was nominated by National Grid for its persistence in advancing energy efficiency, which has saved the university more than $600,000 over the past several years. In 2003, Tufts President Lawrence Bacow confirmed Tufts’ commitment to reducing carbon emissions by setting a new goal for the University to reduce emissions to 10 percent of 1990 levels by 2020. Since that time, many innovative developments have provided an excellent example of how energy efficient measures can improve a company’s bottom line, contribute to economic growth and reduce environmental impact.” During the 2010 summit, Tufts’ efforts to further energy efficiency will be acknowledged along with 12 other Northeast Energy Efficiency Business Leaders.
Need Blind, Self Aware

Hamilton’s new need-blind admission policy has thrown the College into the national spotlight. With this decision, Hamilton joins the very small rank of schools able to distinguish themselves as need-blind while still maintaining their commitment to provide financial aid for 100% of demonstrated need. Although the College has pledged to disregard financial need when admitting future students, Hamilton’s admissions and financial aid policies will not be undergoing a major overhaul. Hamilton has demonstrated its commitment to making a high-quality education accessible for many years, as exemplified in 2007 when the College ceased offering merit scholarships in order to redirect the funds to need-based aid. We are proud to attend an institution that has committed itself so strongly to these ideals for so many years.

The College’s latest move to need-blind admissions was made possible by the guidance and leadership of our dedicated trustees. Although the College has made a number of budget cuts due to the current economic downturn, Hamilton has fared relatively well through the recession. The responsible management of the endowment helped position Hamilton to achieve the need-blind goal and the recent donations of generous trustees have made the new policy possible without sacrificing a commitment to Hamilton’s current students.

All this being said, community members still seem unclear about the effects of a need-blind policy. Although we are proud to attend a school committed to providing access to the most qualified students, we cannot help but question the long-term impact of this decision, which requires a $40 million endowment to support it. A financial commitment of this size in this economy naturally brings risks and with those risks, fears of an uncertain future.

This uncertainty looms larger considering that in recent years, several colleges embarked on similar missions, only to rescind their commitments when they could no longer support the financial burden. We admire the College’s new commitment to prospective students and recognize it as an important statement of our values as a community. However, we must ensure that this statement does not compromise other commitments to Hamilton’s future. We can only hope for generous giving and responsible management in the coming years to ensure the success of this and other endowment campaigns.

The Spectator's 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. The editors reserve the right to cut off letters at 500 words.
4. Letters submitted anonymously will not be printed.
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.

Advertisement Policy

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Hamilton Overshadowed by Schools of Equivalent Beauty, Academic Caliber

by Grace Minkung Lee '13

Around this time just last year, I remember having received the last of various letters that read “Congratulations! You’re awesome!” or “Sorry, but you weren’t good enough,” from the colleges to which I had applied. Not long after came the flood of questions from curious neighbors, relatives, friends, and teachers and that random person who you never met but somehow knows your name. So, where are you going next year? and how I had a “I’ll never understand” So where is Hamilton anyway? I’ve never heard of it.  And where is it located? Hamilton is only a highly select prestigious institution nestled on the beautiful hilltop of Clinton, New York! Surely, I am not the only one on campus who has had to explain the whereabouts of Hamilton College and maybe even prove its existence.

Hamilton College is simply one of the most overlooked campuses, especially regarding its beauty. In fact, Scott Carlson just recently wrote an article, citing Hamilton in his list of the “Most (Overlooked) Beautiful Campuses,” on Chronicle.com, the website of “The Chronicle of Higher Education.” He wrote his article in response to a list of “The World’s Most Beautiful College Campuses” published by Forbes magazine. Perhaps it would be fair to say that Hamilton has difficulty competing in the worldwide beauty pageant of college campuses. However, it should arguably have a much better chance statewide.

The colleges that often make the top of the various lists are the most well known, such as Princeton, Stanford, Wellesley and many colleges in California. Sure, the Ivy League schools have their charm. They have majestic historical buildings, but Hamilton, too, has its own kind of classic beauty. Maybe the schools in California have a one-up in the eyes of some judges, which is understandable. The majority of people don’t exactly enjoy being pelted alternately by all sorts of precipitation and would prefer, warm weather. However, that is not to say that Hamilton is not gorgeous when the snow blankets the campus and transforms it into a stunningly calming haven. The Princeton Review even lists Colgate University as one of its most beautiful. Yes, they did rob us of Tony Blair, and Blair may be glamourous, but I am not at all convinced in terms of appearance, what does Colgate have that we don’t? A swan lake? Beauty appears in all forms, so who is to judge which campuses are more beautiful than others?

Furthermore, why is Hamilton so overlooked as a college? Some of my peers have complained about the relative nothingness that surrounds the campus. Hamilton’s proximity to Utica might actually grant us negative points in the judging books, if they have in fact heard of us. The closest new urban area would be Syracuse, but even that is nothing compared to a city like Philadelphia. A larger urban area naturally has more traffic and allows for more social contact, which would explain why more people have heard of Swarthmore College, right outside of Philadelphia, than have heard of Hamilton. The fact that Hamilton is such a small campus adds to the issue.

One might say that we haven’t had enough famous people to graduate from Hamilton. If only Obama or Lady Gaga had graduated from Hamilton. But one could theorize that a smaller campus decreases the number of graduates to indirectly or directly spread the word about Hamilton. It also decreases the chances of competing against larger schools. For example, only sometimes do some of Hamilton’s extracurricular clubs compete in bridge tournaments or Model UN with larger schools that get more press, such as University of Pennsylvania. Perhaps the day will come when Hamilton’s name will finally grace the top of the list of most beautiful schools. However, for the moment, Hamilton will be the most beautiful, unintentionally best-kept secret.

The Hamilton campus is hardly devoid of beauty. The natural landscape, architecture and interior designs are aesthetically pleasing.

Professor Praises January Term

by Jay G. Williams ’54

I have always had a very positive reflection of those two weeks when Hamilton had January term. Imagine this: setting off for a so-so student, anxious just to get away from it all. It has transformed many of my peers have complained about the relative nothingness that surrounds the campus. Hamilton’s proximity to Utica might in fact actually grant us negative points in the judging books, if they have in fact heard of us. Perhaps not everyone can of course either on campus or away in some more obscure place.

There were some pedestrian courses that failed to the many points in between. There were some people such that I could never forget. After being there, one can never read the Bible or listen to the music the same way again. I know that some faculty members were less enthusiastic about the month. There were some pedestrian courses that failed to the many points in between. There were some people such that I could never forget. After being there, one can never read the Bible or listen to the music the same way again. I know that some faculty members were less enthusiastic about the month. There were some pedestrian courses that failed to the many points in between. I think, however, that we ought to consider the possibility of offering credit for month-long concentrated courses either on campus or away in some more exotic place. It means both closer faculty-student collaboration and considerable independence. It does take imagination and a great deal of work to put together a good J-term course, but in the end it is really worth it. A good J-term course, in fact, can mean the difference between a good and a great academic experience for both students and faculty. It has transformed many of my peers have complained about the relative nothingness that surrounds the campus. Hamilton’s proximity to Utica might in fact actually grant us negative points in the judging books, if they have in fact heard of us. Perhaps not everyone can of course either on campus or away in some more obscure place.

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Democrats May Suffer Backlash by Passing Recent Health Care Bill

by William Rusche ’13

When Republican Scott Brown was elected in January by the state of Massachusetts to the United States Senate, pundits hailed the upset as the beginning of the end of the Democratic mandate in Washington. Their claims had some weight. After sweeping victories for Democrats in the 2008 elections, a Republican coming from traditionally blue Massachusetts to fill the seat held for over 46 years by the late Senator Ted Kennedy suggested that the political preference of the nation might indeed be shifting; a pendulum swinging back in favor of more Republican-driven agendas.

Political discussions around the country shifted in the following weeks to fixate on the notion that Democrats would soon find themselves out of power as the 2010 midterm elections would no longer be a question of if, but rather to what extent Democrats would lose seats in Congress. Coupled with President Obama’s declining approval rating it began to seem as though the only direction for the Republican Party was up.

Fast-forward two months: seemingly uninhibited by any signs of a turning political tide, President Obama and the majorities in both houses of Congress used their political power to pass and sign into law major Healthcare Reform legislation without a single Republican vote. The significance of this act should not be overlooked. It appears to be a simple exercise of a majority vote, but this bill, which has deeply polarized the two parties in Washington, is a bold statement of Democrat policy-making, not just in the scope to which it will affect nearly everyone in the country but in its context. The Democrats pushed their legislation through...
Obama Must Keep Interests of Young Americans Who Supported Him in Mind

by Patrick Landers '12

Omission Waits

Millions of young adults lent their support to Barack Obama’s historic presidential campaign. While old Americans’ strong preference for Obama over John McCain was important in the general election, it was their early support that produced Obama’s win in the Iowa caucuses and kick-started his meteoric campaign. An interesting question to pose now is whether Obama’s history of youth support has resulted in a pro-youth track record of presidential actions.

On the plus side, the recently-passed health care bill ensures that young adults can get insurance through their parent’s policies until they turn 26. It is important to note that since many of the jobs young people can get are those least likely to offer employer-provided health insurance coverage, something which is crucial to the many young Americans who fall seriously ill each year or already suffer from a pre-existing condition that makes them uninsurable.

Besides this modification, many college students also benefit from the health care bill because it includes legislation changing the federal student-loan program. The measure cuts what many critics argue is a wasteful program, the Federal Family Education Loan program, which involves government guarantees of loans provided by private lenders. This excision should save the government about $61 billion, of which $36 billion is going to increase funding for the Federal Pell Grant program, means-tested assistance for mostly undergraduate students that does not have to be repaid like a loan.

And while I grudgingly support it, the recent health care bill in itself is unlikely to reduce the deficit. The bill hopes to save money through spending cuts and tax increases that seem politically unlikely to ever actually be implemented, while the cost-saving changes actually implemented are mostly operating on a wish and a prayer since they have so little hard evidence to support their efficacy. It is one of those rare legislative monstrosities that has emerged from the political morass in Washington. I imagine the tax bills and pillaging of important government programs that lie in our generation’s future.

Alan I fear I am too hard on Obama. It’s not his fault that our system is structured to slow and prevent necessary change, or that Congress for the last few decades has been filled by many packs of spineless creeps. But Obama needs to keep the interests of the young Americans in mind, since we look to and actually are the future of the United States. Plus, we can prove to be fickle voters and supporters.

Want to write for Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down?

Prospective writers should submit a Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down column by Tuesday, April 6 at 6 p.m.

Send all submissions to spec@hamilton.edu

Submissions will be printed in The Spectator and voted by the students.

We’re looking forward to your entries!

Democrats May Have Overplayed Hand

from Democrats, page 5

Congress without any support from the opposition party and in addition, without the support of the majority of the American People. A Rasmussen Report conducted two days after Obama signed the bill into law cites a 55% majority of the nation’s population against the efforts of the Democrats. The question is whether or not Democrats have overplayed their hand. With so many people in opposition, Democrat representatives have already been subjected to torical epithets, death threats, and bricks thrown through windows. Republican leadership has repeatedly condemned these actions but there are also other prominent party members who have perpetuated the notion that forcible, even violent retribution is acceptable. Sarah Palin, for example, recently posted a message on her Facebook page accusing Democrats of having “disregarded the will of the people” accompanied by a map of Democrats considered vulnerable, with instructions on which the selected districts were literally targeted with the images of crosshairs. Her specific actions may be deemed insignificant in the long run; however, they serve to highlight the nature of one of the monsters that has emerged from the healthcare debate. Eager to channel the public opposition to healthcare, many on the right have been making efforts to turn anti-healthcare sentiments into anti-democrat sentiments. Figures like Palin and house minority leader John Boehner have done little to discuss how Republicans did every- thing within their powers to stop healthcare reform from hap- pening, but made very little effort to find middle ground or make compromises on the bills. How can you claim that your voice has been disregarded when you don’t make an effort to add your voice to the conversation?

Furthermore, looking to his history, it is interesting to note a somewhat similar legislative battle to healthcare that took place in the 1950s and 60s when Civil Rights was the major issue. Then, Demo- cratic president Lyndon Johnson spearheaded a unified majority of congress (along regional lines rather than party lines) to pass and sign a bill, overcoming widespread opposition from a huge part of the country’s population. Then, as may happen now, the Democrats suffered politically. The attempts to legally end discrimination and segregation cost the Democrats widespread support in southern states, something that still contin- ues today. However, despite the self inflicted wound, Democrats helped the nation take an indisput- ably positive step forward, adding credibility to the notions that public opinion can be wrong at times and political retribution does not nec- essarily constitute wrongdoing.

The Democrats of the 111th Congress will be subject to the same judgments by pursuing health- care reform without public sup- port. They have taken a large leap of faith on their policies and along the way have deserved a decent amount of criticism. If you can condemn the party now, then cast your votes accordingly. However, I would urge a temporary evalua- tion period. The Democrats may have overplayed their hand, but they might have also just pulled off the largest step forward for our country since civil rights.

Opinion Editor: Anthony DeCoute ‘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’s editorial board.
Student Media Representatives Travel to NYC

by Bianca Dragun ’10

Senior Editor

During Spring Break, ten Hamilton students attended the annual College Media Advisers Spring National Convention, which is the largest spring assembly of student journalists, faculty advisors and media industry professionals in the world. The convention was held at the Marriott Marquis Hotel in Times Square. For three days, the participants attended many of the 200 workshops and listened to insightful comments made by the convention keynote speakers such as Martha Halperin, whose book “Game Change” is number one on The New York Times Best Seller List.

The workshops, led by a professional in the field, covered anything from college media and freedom of expression, ghost writing, interviewing, webcasting legalities, literary journalism, marketing, innovative ways to cover sports and photojournalism, to resume and portfolio basics, investigatory reporting and online media. In one of the sessions, “Sourcing: how to get people to talk when they shouldn’t,” Dennis Berman, Wall Street Journal columnist and 2003 Pulitzer Award winner, explained how the WSJ reporters often work on stories when the parties involved refused to talk. He remarked to the eager audience that as a reporter, “you need to present yourself as an individual, to project trust. Always be upfront with people in terms of what the story is about.” Berman also noted writing a story is like cutting your hair. You can stay still or keep moving.” The reporters need to convey that the story is inevitable. However, Berman emphasized that it is important to make the interviewee feel that it is in their best interest to cooperate with the reporter. With the major points of view covered, the story will be more insightful and accurate.

Hannah Fazio ’10 (Green Apple) particularly enjoyed the workshops on design, saying, “it seems to be a growing field with a growing importance, something people should definitely be getting into.”

Andrew Richards ’10, The Spectator’s Photography Editor, added, “The conference was a valuable experience for everyone in attendance. The sessions gave valuable advice to help improve the story and composition of news photography.”

Kate Tummulare ’11, The Spectator’s Editor-in-Chief, also acknowledged how “this year the conference was especially helpful. We are currently in the middle of a redesign for our website, and a lot of the sessions were aimed at making websites and other new media tools more effective. In addition, we got a lot of new ideas in terms of layout and content. We’re experimenting with everything we learned.”

The Spectator staff also benefited from the newspaper’s onsite cold-read critique. Richardson confessed, “The administrators at the conference raved over the issues of The Spectator that were submitted for scrutiny, mach to the surprise of the staff in attendance.”

I think we all came away from the conference with increased confidence knowing that all of our hard work is evident to outside observers.”

Tummulare agreed with other group member’s sentiments, saying, “We are lucky enough to send Spectator staff members to the conference every year, and it’s always a great experience. In addition to staying in a gorgeous hotel in the middle of Times Square, we’re always looking for new ideas, and meeting other journalists is a good way to get them. It’s beneficial to interact with other editors, since they’re really the only other ones who understand the process of running a student newspaper.”

If you are a Twitterer you might have noticed the convention hashtag, #cmanyc10, where people tweeted insightful comments on the workshops they attended.

Trustee Corner: Susan Skerritt K’77

by Nick Stagliano ’11

Features Contributor

“I learned about Kirkland because of Hamilton,” says Susan Skerritt ’77. Growing up in Rochester, N.Y., several of Skerritt’s parents’ friends were Hamilton alumni who told her about Hamilton. “I have always been a fan of Hamilton,” she added. “It was clear just starting from the Hamilton Marquis Hotel in Times Square.”

Growing up in Rochester, N.Y., several of Skerritt’s parents’ friends were Hamilton alumni who told her about Hamilton. “I have always been a fan of Hamilton,” she added. “It was clear just starting from the Hamilton Marquis Hotel in Times Square.”

During her college career at Kirkland, Skerritt took half of her classes at Hamilton and she majored in economics, which was a Hamilton program. “One of the things I loved about being here was the diversity of experiences that you could have,” Skerritt said of her time on the Hill when both institutions were very much alike.

Skerritt was involved in many, among other things, extracurricular theater while at Kirkland. “When she had the lead role in Anything Goes, opening weekend was performed in the hockey rink because the group put on the show only had access to Minor Theater for the second weekend of their run. To put on a musical in the hockey rink… I just say that the acoustics were not great.”

When she graduated with a degree in economics, Skerritt considered jobs in several possible areas of business and settled on banking, partially because of her strong liberal arts education. “I think that’s how I ended up in banking, partially because it was in New York and of my experience on the Hill. Kirkland and Hamilton taught me how to learn and instilled the liberal arts combination that was created.”

In the year between Skerritt’s graduation and the merger of Kirkland and Hamilton, the combination that was created seemed to be a stronger institution as it is now. During the past 10 years, the Kirkland and Hamilton has evolved into an institution that is still dedicated to the liberal arts, but now combines the revolutionary spirit of Kirkland with the traditional history of Hamilton.

Finally, Skerritt said that she loves having her son, Jeremy Gleason ’11, on the Hill, and that it’s a pleasure to see him when she comes to campus, adding: “I am pleased that he can take advantage of what Hamilton offers now—that is, the distinctive combination that was created by the merger of Kirkland and Hamilton.”

For three days, the participants attended many of the 200 workshops and listened to insightful comments made by the convention keynote speakers such as Martha Halperin, whose book “Game Change” is number one on The New York Times Best Seller List.
**Spring Break 2010: Hamilton College A.S.B.**

**Emily Anderson ’13, WV**

Pendleton County, West Virginia has one red light intersection, one flashing light and one three-way stop. We knew that we would be headed to somewhere rural, but had not quite appreciated just how rural. The Almost Heaven Habitat for Humanity Center is located in Cen-terville, 30 minutes from the work site in more populous Franklin (where there is a grocery store).

At the week we worked on two houses that will be twostory, three-family units. The central unit is designed for a family, and the two side units for older people. We had the opportunity to meet some of the Habitat families at a community dinner, which made the work a lot more meaningful.

We were surprised to find that at the work site we were trusted to use many construction tools, including saws and drills—and even operate the lift. We spent most of the week putting up siding, which looked very professional by the end of the week.

**Kevin Graepel ’11, NC**

No one ever went to Old Cherry Street at Winston-Salem, NC if they could help it—not until Habitat for Humanity moved in. The twenty-five year-old affiliate purchased and demolished two-dozen flop (AKA crack) housing in the neighborhood, and they needed help rebuilding them. We, eleven light-hearted college students, packed ourselves into a jitney with less personal space than a Dunham quad and drove twelve hour playing “Hey Cow!” along the way. Expecting to sleep in a dingy church basement, we were pleasantly surprised to find the enormous former office above the IT office. It had been in use by college students for a decade, and each group had left its mark in paint upon the walls (our signature, of course, prominently featured Al Ham!).

It was a trip full of firsts for many of us: hot and fresh Krispy Kreme donuts at the original location, celebrity status at Chick-fil-A, roofing and vinyl siding, a lecture by Spike Lee at Wake Forest and southern hospitality. The residents of Winston-Salem fed us like royalty and spoke to us with honesty, no small thing for a group who is trusted to use many construction tools, including saws and drills—and even operate the lift. We spent most of the week putting up siding, which looked very professional by the end of the week.

**Julie Meurer ’11, TN**

Our group went to Soddy-Daisy, Tennessee to work with the Cumberland Trails Conference. The Cumberland Trail (CT) is primarily a hiking trail, designed and built to minimize the potential environmental impact on sensitive wildlife habitat, aquatic and terrestrial habitats and endangered or threatened species. The CT will eventually become part of the Great Eastern Trail, an alternative to the crowed Appalachian. The CT has been and continues to be constructed by volunteer groups. Housed in the summer camp cabins of the First Baptist Church of Chattanooga, our group got the chance to work with and get to know students from many other colleges. Together we worked to connect sections of trails built by student groups during previous weeks. Equipped with the necessary tools, we hiked between a half mile and two miles into our sites daily. Our responsibilities ranged from digging side-hill-cuts and removing the layers of “duff” to building steps and cribbing walls with mini boulders. On our last day we worked at downtown Chattanooga where we visited the zoo, helped search for a lost puppy, and raced go-carts.

**Clare Brown ’11, NC**

Each member of our all-girl entourage was assigned to a different entity of the 550 student rural elementary in Burgaw, Pender County, North Carolina. Every morning our blue van rolled into the gravel parking lot and after a quick stop at the main office for our bright green vision checkers, which shone on our t-shirts as a way of saying for cheery smiles, whiny complaints of waist-high hugs, we greeted our peaceable classmates. The most impromptu lunch we helped to instill in the youngsters was the importance of a college education. We all had a weeklong taste of life as an elementary school teacher and wanted our students to be continually challenged. We spent time with students working on individual struggles and preparing for testing.

Despite the challenges we faced, we all grew from the experience. This was a weeklong taste of life as an elementary school teacher and wanted our students to be continually challenged. We spent time with students working on individual struggles and preparing for testing.

**Lindsay Getman ’10, GA**

Our ASB trip of 11 volunteers traveled to Atlanta, Georgia to work with an organization called Community Collaborations. After two days of driving in the jitney, we arrived at HQ—a converted church with a trailer in the back for showers—where we ate breakfast and dinner and slept in the male and female “quarters” with about 100 other volunteers. We worked on a variety of different projects throughout the city. One day we helped clear brush and leaves for a woman who had recently moved into a new home after being displaced by the floods in September. Another day, part of the group worked at an organic community garden while the others worked at an organization where people transitioning from rehab, homelessness or escaping domestic violence could receive free furniture for their new apartments.

Overall, we had a really positive experience working in Atlanta. We worked with some great Americans members and got the chance to experience the city quite a bit, including a joint to Martin Luther King Jr.’s childhood home, the Olympic Centennial Park and a delicious dinner at The Flying Biscuit, a restaurant owned by the Indigo Girls.

**Features**

April 1, 2010
Diary of a Choir Kid

by Russ Doubleday ’11

Saturday, March 13 – Albany

The Hamilton College Choir begins its 2010 Northeast tour as our two large tour buses pull out of the Kirner-Johnson Circle in the mid-afternoon. We will perform seven concerts in seven cities in seven days, a very hectic schedule. Our first stop is in Albany, a short two-hour bus ride from campus. We arrive at the church for our concert greeted by several drunks all dressed in green from the St. Patrick’s parade earlier in the day, but thankfully none of them attend our concert that evening in the beautiful St. Peter’s Episcopal Church. It’s painfully obvious that we have not quite learned all of our music (I have 18 songs in my music folder), but we have six more concerts to go where we can improve.

Sunday, March 14 - Burlington

We have all lost an hour of sleep from setting the clocks forward, and everyone looks sleep-deprived from their homestay as a consequence. The ensuing bus ride to Burlington is a quiet one. After a quick lunch at the local mall and a short rehearsal at the church in Burlington, we are let loose to explore this quaint town. Over half the choir it seems ended up at American Flatbread Company for dinner (the pizzas were fabulous) and at Ben and Jerry’s for dessert.

Monday, March 15 - Boston

Our next concert is at Old South Church in downtown Boston. When we’re dropped off at Quincy Market early that afternoon, however, we are subjected to a full-blown monsoon. Streets are littered with broken umbrellas sitting in large puddles. Some students do not leave Quincy Market for those few hours and the ones who do come back soaked. Our concert that night was one to remember. The audience was filled with alumni, and on a double choir piece, Director Rob Kolb decided to split the choirs and place them in the opposite balconies above the audience. The result was a majestic sound, and we stuck with this new formation for the rest of the tour.

Tuesday, March 16 – Ridgefield, CT

Waking up to clear blue skies and warm temperatures this morning after the miserable weather for the last three days is an amazing sight. We have free time in Boston this morning before leaving for Ridgefield, and everyone takes advantage of the sunshine to explore. Newbury Avenue, the Charles River and Faneuil Hall are some of the sights we see. Once we arrive at the church, everyone lies out in the grass to soak up the sun while others throw footballs and frisbees. The forecast for the rest of the week is good.

Wednesday, March 17 – New York City

It is St. Patrick’s Day, and the choir is in New York City under blue skies and temperatures in the seventies. After a brief rehearsal in the morning, we have all afternoon to explore this amazing city. I choose visit the Metropolitan Museum of Art (crossing the St. Patrick’s Day parade on Fifth Avenue) and then take a ferry ride out to Statue of Liberty in the beautiful weather. The concert that night, at the Church of the Good Shepherd on E 31st Street has been our best so far. The acoustics were marvelous and the pews were packed with family, friends and alumni.

Thursday, March 18 – Washington, D.C.

We have free time in New York this morning before leaving for Washington, but most everyone chooses to sleep instead. A different bed (or air mattress or yoga mat) each night does not allow anyone to catch up on sleep from the first night where we lost an hour of sleep from setting the clocks forward. After a long, traffic-filled drive, we arrive at the church in Arlington, Virginia for a quick meal and another concert. Sleeping in this morning did little since we are all still wiped out by this point in the tour.

Friday, March 19 - Philadelphia

We spent the morning on the National Mall. In the seventy-degree weather, a large group of us walks to all the monuments – Lincoln Memorial, Vietnam Veteran Memorial, the White House and the Jefferson Memorial. But it takes us six hours to drive from Washington to Philadelphia that afternoon. For a 7:30 p.m. concert, we arrive at the church at 7:05! We hastily eat dinner, set up the risers, and get dressed for our final concert (we manage to start at 7:38, a noble feat). During the breaks between songs, everyone has to cough. It’s overwhelming and downright comical to witness. This has been a really fun tour, but considering everyone’s health and lack of sleep, it is for the best that we all head home tomorrow.

PHOTO COURTESY OF RUSS DOUBLEDAY ’11

PHOTO BY JESSICA COX ’10
**Weekly Charts**

**MUSIC**

**Top Songs**
1. Rihanna—“Rude Boy”
2. B.o.B. feat. Bruno Mars—“Nothin’ On You”
3. Lady Gaga feat. Beyoncé—“Telephone”
4. Lady Antebellum—“Need You Now”
5. Taio Cruz feat. Ludacris—“Break Your Heart”

**Top Albums**
1. Lady Antebellum—Need You Now
2. Marvin Sapp—Here I Am
3. Ludacris—Battle of the Sexes
4. Various Artists—The Edge
5. Lady Gaga—The Fame

**MOVIES**

1. How to Train Your Dragon
2. Alice in Wonderland
3. Hot Tub Time Machine
4. The Bounty Hunter
5. Diary of a Wimpy Kid

**BOOKS**

**Paperback Fiction**
1. The Last Song, by Nicholas Sparks
2. Little Bee, by Chris Cleave
3. The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo, by Stieg Larsson
4. A Reliable Wife, by Robert Goolrick
5. The 8th Confession, by James Patterson and Maxine Paetro

**Non-Fiction**
1. The Blind Side, by Michael Lewis
2. A Patriot’s History of the United States, by Larry Schweikart and Michael Allen
3. Are You There Vodka? It’s Me, Chelsea, by Chelsea Handler
4. Eat, Pray, Love, by Elizabeth Gilbert
5. My Horizontal Life, by Chelsea Handler

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**Cirque du Mort: Journey into the Strange**

by Lily Gillespie ’12

*Cirque du Mort,* performed by Untitled @ Large before break, is a different kind of show. This was apparent even before the lights when down as audience members were greeted by masked performers from Untitled @ Large, eager to have their picture with students who descended the stairs to the Barn. Those who were not wrangling were draped over the banister of the balcony in various contortions. The scenery was not elaborate, but the red lighting helped set the tone for what would prove to be a unique performance. Before debuting their production, the cast rehearsed for six weeks under the direction of D.A. Brockmann ’13, whose theatrical company, House of Brockmann, developed this original show. *Cirque du Mort* is the story of Sofia, a young girl played by Rebecca Behrens ’11, whose curiosity gets the best of her when she gets drawn into the strange world of the circus. Led by the manic ringleader, played by Michael Breslin ’13, she encounters a crazy cast of characters, portraying the seven deadly sins, often through use of contemporary stories in the media. Aside from their masks and an occasional top-hat, the cast did not use props to illustrate the action and opted instead to use their bodies as props, at one point creating a very believable elephant with flapping ears and blinking eyes. The play explored three different sets of issues, including shadows and superficiality, morality and monsters and fame and the freakshow.

The show could be described in terms ranging from exotic to bizarre. Contributing to the exoticism of the performance were the French songs interspersed throughout and the bedazzled masks the performers wore throughout the production. Among the more bizarre elements were the cackling laughter that erupted at odd moments and the screams that came from the innocent Sofia. I think one of the best ways to explain *Cirque du Mort* would be as a nighttime look at human faults, and nightmareish it was. Although one of the more bizarre productions I have witnessed, *Cirque du Mort* was certainly intriguing.

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**Musical Magnum**

*The Opus Playlist*

Ever wondered what that great song is as you drink your coffee or what your favorite Opus staffers listen to all day? Wonder no more...

1. Cripple Creek, by The Band
2. Friends, by Pizza
3. Ascending Melody, by Dirty Projectors
4. Jumping Fences, by The Olivia Tremor Control
5. Virtual Reality, by Jamiroquai
6. All the Flowers, by Bibio
7. Now I can See, by The Thermals
8. Midd Kid, by The Allen Jokers
9. Surviving the Times, by NAS
11. Good Intentions Paving Co., by Joanna Newsom
12. Real Life, by Tanlines
13. Walk in the Park, by Beach House
14. Fitz and the Dizzy Spells, by Noble Beast
15. Dreams Come True Girl, by Cass McCobs
16. Osaka Loop Line, by LP

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Born and raised in Shanghai China, Shen Wei is a fine art photographer currently based in New York City. Shen’s work has been exhibited nationally and internationally, with venues including the Griffin Museum of Photography, Lincoln Center Avery Fisher Hall and the Australian Center for Photography.

He is a recipient of the Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Center Creative Artist Residency, and was named one of the fifteen “new generation of photo pioneers” by American Photo in 2007.

This event is sponsored by the Photography Society and supported by the Asian Cultural Society.
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**Science & Technology**

April 1, 2010

Harvard Professor Daniel Schacter Visits Hamilton, Discusses Memory and Cognition

*by Ben Trachtman '12 Science and Technology Editor*

Before spring break, Hamilton hosted Dr. Daniel Schacter, professor of psychology at Harvard University and one of the leading researchers in the field of memory and cognitive psychology. Dr. Schacter presented some of his most recent findings on how memories are formed in the brain and how thinking about the past relates to imagining the future. Even though he has been a mainstay of memory research for decades, he is still on the leading edge in the field, using new technologies and ingenious techniques to help solve the mystery of memory.

For years, memory research had been focused on how we store and later retrieve memories—what makes certain events more or less memorable or how memories are forgotten, for example. Still, there was no way to investigate the underlying neural mechanisms of these processes or to observe how patients with damage to certain areas of the brain respond to memory tasks. This research showed that the structure primarily responsible for the formation of long-term memories is the hippocampus, which is located in the center of the brain.

However, recent advances in neuroimaging techniques have allowed researchers to effectively look inside an active brain. These types of scans can show what parts of a brain are active and when. Dr. Schacter has applied this new technology to an older field and has begun looking at the activity of the hippocampus in depth. These studies, which he presented in his talk, show that the hippocampus is involved in long-term memory formation as predicted. However, they also show that it plays another crucial role: giving us the ability to imagine the future.

Dr. Schacter’s neuroimaging studies have shown that the area of the hippocampus towards the back of the head is the region responsible for long-term memories. This region can be seen to be more active when a person observes something that later testing shows he remembers. This information alone would be impossible to obtain in earlier studies relying on patients with brain damage.

However, an even more fascinating finding was that part of the hippocampus towards the front of the head was the most active when the participant was imagining future events. In this way, the hippocampus is less like our window into the past, as was previously thought, but more like our mental time travel station. It gives us the ability to relive experiences from our past, as well as picture what might happen in our future.

Psychology professor Mark Oakes, who introduced Dr. Schacter, was impressed with Dr. Schacter’s contributions to the field. Oakes, who also researches memory, was interested in the implications of Dr. Schacter’s research. “Does the process and structure of [memory] resemble any of the patterns commonly observed for autobiographical events?” he asks. “Does the inclusion of emotional events moderate where this recombination takes place? How different is the creation of a false memory from the recombination of elements to create a future event?” These are still all pressing questions in the field that could be answered as research such as Dr. Schacter’s advances. Technology is still the limiting factor in memory research and most psychological and neurological research. Although we have tools that psychologists from the 1950’s could never have imagined, they still have their limitations. MRI, the primary technique that Dr. Schacter uses, is very effective at showing where changes occur in the brain, but cannot provide detailed information about how activity changes over a short timespan. Future advancements in the technology that would allow for both spatial and temporal accuracy could be key to the understanding of complicated neurological processes such as memory. For now, though, it takes an extraordinary researcher like Dr. Schacter to make the most of the available tools and unravel more and more about how the human mind works!

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**Neuro. Department Hires New Professor**

*by Ben Trachtman '12 Science and Technology Editor*

The neuroscience department will have a new faculty member next semester. Dr. Jeremy Skipper, previously at the Weill Medical College of Cornell University, was selected for the position after a search by the department narrowed the field to three candidates. Each of these three gave a presentation on their research earlier in the year; Dr. Skipper’s talk focused on his studies of language localization in the brain. His research used neuroimaging techniques including electroencephalography (EEG) and functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) to show that language is spread out over a much larger area of the brain than was originally thought. He also showed that language incorporates much more than the spoken word and identified brain regions that help to integrate context and body language into our understanding of language. Dr. Skipper will take a laboratory course in neuroscience next spring and intends to start calling "Language, Action and Brain" (LAB) courses at Hamilton. The lab’s long-term goal is similar to Dr. Skipper’s previous research: to further study how the brain integrates information relevant to language and forms a complete idea of the spoken word.
This Week... MIT Study Finds that Students Who Copy Answers Receive Lower Grades

by Yingleh Ding ’12

Science & Technology Writer

Do you think you are too smart to do your homework? Do you think that you can get a good grade on the test even if you regularly copy someone else’s homework? If so, you need to think again before your next midterm, because a detailed study at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) confirms: homework really is important for learning academic material. In fact, students who regularly copied problem sets from others earned lower grades and were three times more likely to fail the class than their more diligent classmates.

The study was led by a group of professors in the physics department at MIT. The research team tracked homework for four consecutive terms of introductory physics. The students at MIT complete their physics homework by using an online assignment system, and since all of the students’ entries to problems are time-stamped, the research team was able to determine how quickly the students completed the problems once the question appeared on the screen.

After looking at the data, the team separated the students into three groups based on how long it took them to do the problems: about 10 minutes, a day or two, or about one minute. Students could not work out problems in advance because they were only presented one at a time. The researchers initially credited the students who were solving the problems in less than a minute to intelligent MIT students, but suspicions soon arose.

The team soon realized that most students would not have even had time to read the questions by the time those in the quick-solving group had answered the problem. The team suspected that these students had a cheat sheet, making it possible for these students to get a correct answer without a need to read and work out the problem.

By assuming that the faster solving group had answered the question, the team was able to assume, for these students to get a correct answer without a need to read and work out the problem. It was found that about half the students copied less than 10 percent of their homework, about 40 percent copied 10 to 50 percent of their homework, and about 10 percent of the students copied more than half of their homework.

The team decided to focus on these homework-copying suspects and track their performances in the course. As expected, copying had its price. The team found that, by the end of the semester, students who copied 50 percent or more homework earned on average almost two letter grades below students who didn’t copy very much. Frequent copiers were also three times more likely to fail the course.

"Homework copying is severely impeding students’ learning, and teachers don’t take it seriously enough," said David Pritchard, a member of the research team. "It’s a killer for the grades and a killer for the students.”

The study also brings to light a number of other interesting facts about students’ study habits and demographics. Students who decided to copy the most frequent copiers were expected to have put off most of the assignment until the last minute, and copying rates increased dramatically after the first midterm. The majority of the most frequent copiers were from others earned lower grades and were three times more likely to fail the class than their more diligent classmates.

The study compared how students performed on tests with how frequently they copied others’ answers on homework. The class was mostly populated by freshmen who had not yet declared a major, but perhaps most interestingly, later analyses showed a trend of copiers opting to be business majors.

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Homework copying and grades

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M. Hockey Season Ends With Tough Semifinal Loss

by David Meisel '13

Sports Writer

The Hamilton men’s hockey team ended their season on March 6 in a disappointing 6-2 defeat at the hands of the seventh-ranked team in the nation, Bowdoin College. The Continentals, playing in the semifinal of the NESCAC Tournament at Bowdoin’s Sidney J. Watson Arena, stayed with the Division III powerhouse for most of the contest but faltered late in the game. Bowdoin led 1-0 after a goal midway through the first period, but Tom Chiappetta ’11 responded with a goal in the second period on the assist of Joe Hoak ’13 to make it 1-1. Bowdoin, however, exploded in the third period, taking a 5-1 lead with four unanswered scores. Jerome Wallace ’10 brought the score to 5-2 with an assist from Chiappetta. It was a barrage the Continentals could not overcome, partially due to their inadequacy on the power play (0-for-5), and eventually Bowdoin sealed the deal via an empty net goal with just over a minute left. Despite allowing five of the six goals, first-year goaltender Calvin Bartel ’13 performed valiantly, stopping 32 of the 37 shots he faced.

Hamilton finishes the 2009-2010 season with a 15-9-2 record, matching the 15-wins of their 2003-2004 campaign. One of this year’s highlights was an impressive and unexpected playoff run in which the Continentals beat third-seeded Williams by a score of 2-1 in the NESCAC quarterfinal. Hamilton had two players, forward Anthony Scarpino ’12 and defenseman BJ Lalonde ’11, voted to the all-NESCAC second team. Additionally, head coach Norm Bazin was selected NESCAC Coach of the Year, an award which reflects the late surge that saw the Continentals finish the season on a 10-3-1 run.

The season finale at Bowdoin, however, should be considered more of a beginning than an end. While they will lose several top scorers in seniors Chris Lorenc and Vaclav Tomicek, as well as veteran leaders like Jerome Wallace, Marc Tростle, Harry Biggs and backup goalie Ian Stearns, the Continentals coaching staff has brought in a great deal of young talent in the last two years. Next season’s prospects look especially promising, as the Continentals will return a host of experienced players including captain Joe Buicko ’11, Chiappetta, Scarpino, Lalonde and Bartel, a goalie who will certainly get better after an outstanding first year.

Overall, the men’s hockey team will return eight of their top nine scorers, and that group is already looking to prove that this year’s NESCAC semifinal appearance was no fluke and that they will again be a contender during the 2010-2011 season.

Three Lacrosse Players Scoop Up Weekly Awards

Rachel Friedman ’13
Liberty League Co-Rookie of the Week

FRIEDMAN was awarded Liberty League Co-Rookie of the Week after racking up six goals in three games, all of which were on the road. She also had one assist. It wasn’t just the quantity of the goals though; one of them was the game-winner against SUNY Cortland, a team that like Hamilton is a top ten school in DIII women’s lacrosse.

Jon Leanos ’12
Liberty League Co-Offensive Performer of the Week

LEANOS scored three goals and assisted on five others in two games last week to help the Hamilton men’s lacrosse team remain undefeated. He also secured Hamilton’s victory over Drew University by nailing the tie-breaking goal with 2:51 left. This effort earned him Co-Offensive Performer of the Week in the Liberty League.

Lauren Sokol ’12
Liberty League Co-Defensive Performer of the Week

SOKOL was named Co-Defensive Performer of the week after she gathered up seven ground balls, forced three turnovers and won five draw controls. She helped Hamilton maintain their third-place ranking and their undefeated record (6-0-0). Hamilton is now only 50 points away in the rankings from number one Salisbury (12-0-0).
Women’s Lacrosse Earns No. 3 Ranking in DIII

by Lindsay Getman ’10

Though this year’s team still has a shot to break last year’s mark of 14 wins, and they will have a chance to prove they are a squad to be reckoned with in their upcoming games against Amherst, Wesleyan, Williams and Middlebury.

The Continentals’ next contest is scheduled for Friday, Apr. 2, at 4 p.m. when they will play at Amherst College in the first game of a doubleheader that will conclude on Saturday, Apr. 3 at 12 p.m.

Liz Rave ‘10 leaps off the ground to shoot over the sticks of two opposing defenders.

Baseball Team Gets Burned on Trip to Florida

Wes Mayberry ’11 catches the relay throw and tags the runner out at second base.

from Baseball page 16

the sluggers with his speed on the basepaths (he stole 15 bases and was caught just three times in 2009).

Though this year’s team features eight seniors, the Continentals’ coaching staff also saw fit to bring in a great deal of first-years to supplement their program’s bright future. So far, first-year students Kevin Prindle, Lukas Bridenbeck, John Hagemier, Scott Anderson, and Steve Rotella have already made solid contributions.

Despite their sub-.500 record, this year’s team still has a shot to break last year’s mark of 14 wins, and they will have a chance to prove they are a five-saves, and Ellie added one more during her minutes in goal to seal the win.

The Continentals will play two more on the road before finally getting the chance to host a game on Steuben Field. They travel to Rensselaer and Vassar this weekend to play in their first two Liberty League matches of the season. Following this weekend, Hamilton will play six of the remaining eight regular season contests on their home turf, so be sure to come cheer them on and enjoy the sunshine!

Madie Harlem ’13

Rookie of the Year

Madie Harlem ’13 has earned the 2010 DIII East Region Rookie of the Year. She performed so strongly, that no other player in the League except Harlem received votes for the 2010 Liberty League Rookie of the Year. Harlem is a 5-foot-7-inch shooter guard who averaged over 11 points. She took down an average of almost six rebounds and two and a half assists, and had 2.2 steals a game. Congratulations to Harlem for earning these distinctions.
**Men’s Lacrosse Wins Six Straight**

Leading scorer Henry Burchenal ‘12 maneuvers past a defenseman towards the net.

by Kendall Weir ‘12

Sports Writer

Afer a three-win season last year, the Hamilton men’s lacrosse team hoped to turn it around this season. That goal has already been accomplished: as March comes to an end, the team’s record is already 6-0.

Despite the loss of eight seniors, the Continentals are off to an electric start in 2010. Carried by points leaders Henry Burchenal ‘12 and 2009 Liberty League Rookie of the Year Jon Leanos ’12, Hamilton has very high hopes for the rest of the season. The Continentals hope to earn their second-ever bid to the NCAA Championships; they received their first bid at the end of the 2003 season. Hamilton hosts a league game this Saturday against Rensselaer and another on Wednesday, Apr. 7 against Union College. St. Lawrence University’s nationally-ranked squad will play the Continentals in their regular season finale on May 1.

**Baseball Wins Home Opener**

Alex Augustyn ’10 throws shutout

by David Meisel ’13

Sports Writer

Believe it or not, the Hamilton men’s baseball season is already halfway done following the team’s trip to Florida over spring break. After a disappointing 3-9 stretch to start the 2010 season, the Continentals returned home to Royce Field. It seems the return to cold weather helped, as the team went on to sweep a doubleheader against SUNY Cobleskill on March 28. Their three wins down south came against Sewanee, Colby (with whom the Continentals split a doubleheader), and Wisconsin-Stout (another split doubleheader); The team has now won three of their last four games. Their nine losses were to McDaniel, Bowdoin (twice), UMass-Boston, UMass-Dartmouth, Worcester State, Colby and Wisconsin-Stout. Hamilton set a school record with 14 wins in 2009, and with the core of last year’s team returning, the expectations are even higher for 2010. Pitcher Max Foster ’10, a captain who was selected first-team All-NESCAC last year with a 5-2 record and 3.61 ERA, headlines a deep rotation backed up by co-captain Alex Augustyn ’10 (who recently threw his first career shutout against SUNY Cobleskill and had a 4.61 ERA in ’09), Andrew Perkowski ’11, Dan Kroenig ’11, Stephen Wright ’12 and Michael Caruso ’12.

The key starters for the 2010 lineup are captains Wes Mayberry ’11 (who had a .386/.442/.535 average/on-base percentage/slugging line in ’09), Justin Atwood ’11 (who batted .359/.432/.555 in ’09 and led the team with 5 home runs) and Augustyn (.393/.430/.570) who also patrols the hot corner (third base). Additionally, Sam Choate ’12 will complement the team’s offense.

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