



THE SPECTATOR



GOING GREEN: KJ "LEEDS" THE WAY



KJ recently received LEED Gold certification from the U.S. Green Building Council, identifying it as an environmentally sustainable building. See the full story on page 12.

Hamilton Trustees Talk Top Priorities in New York City

by Nick Stagliano '11
PRODUCTION EDITOR

Leadership Weekend, the annual celebration for members of Hamilton's 1812 Leadership Circle, was held this past weekend in New York City. Hamilton alumni, parents and friends can join the 1812 Leadership Circle by contribut-

ing \$2,500 or more to the Annual Fund. At the end of last year, 605 people were members of the Circle. Last weekend, 363 people attended Leadership Weekend, including 170 alumni.

Preceding the weekend's revelry, the Hamilton Board of Trustees met on Friday in a plenary session to discuss, among other things, the

current and future priorities of the College, the commitment of Hamilton to student financial aid and the perception of the College by external constituencies.

Additionally, following two years of extensive paragraph-by-paragraph revisions by members

see *Leadership*, page 2

Hamilton Students Reaching Out to Teach Local Children

by Lindsay Getman '10
PRODUCTION EDITOR

Community outreach often becomes more visible as the holidays approach, however many students at Hamilton have been devoting their time the entire fall semester to educational programming in the Clinton School District. From Education classes and senior thesis work to weekend tutoring and mentor programs, Hamilton students are becoming more involved with educational outreach in the surrounding community than ever before.

Some classes taught by the Education department center around classroom observations performed by students in the Clinton Central School District. In *Ethnography of Education*, each student is required to do thirty hours of observation in a chosen grade and area of study. The class then meets twice a week to talk about different issues that arise in their classrooms, and how class readings and learning might

inform or improve the classroom experience.

Though "observation" suggests a passive role, many of the Hamilton students have gotten to know the Clinton school-teachers and students quite well, and regularly help out with class projects or tutoring. In this way, Hamilton students gain a much richer understanding of educational approaches in a real-life school setting, while also having the opportunity to give back to the community by lending a hand to students of the Clinton schools.

As a part of their theses, several seniors have led self-developed enrichment programs in the elementary school, contributing to the curriculum with a special focus on the geosciences. Megan Fung '10 taught three two-week sessions on paleontology to third graders, while Lisa Feuerstein '10 designed and implemented a five-week program for 24 fourth graders.

A Geoscience major and Environmental Studies minor, Feuer-

stein had done traditional field research over the summer, but was looking for a less conventional senior project. After hearing from her academic advisor, Professor Cynthia Domack, that students had done various education enrichment projects in the past, she decided to capitalize on her experience as a camp counselor and love of working with children to implement her own unique project.

Prior to teaching, Feuerstein spent time observing a fourth grade classroom at Clinton Elementary. To accommodate a larger number of students than originally anticipated, she received help from a teaching assistant, Jennifer Thompson, an adult student at Hamilton.

Feuerstein says she "sought to use a holistic approach," incorporating key geological topics with the New York State and national standards for elementary science education and some of her own favorite topics, such as paleontol

see *Students*, page 2

Students Elect New President to Assembly

by Russ Doubleday '11
NEWS EDITOR

Cobus van der Ven '11 and Clare Browne '11 have been elected President and Vice President of Student Assembly (SA) for the 2010 calendar year.

"I am thrilled to have this opportunity to serve the student body, and I am fervently dedicated to making my tenure a successful one," van der Ven said.

Van der Ven does not have a set agenda for when he takes over as President from Amy Goldstein '11. "Clare and I hope to strengthen Student Assembly as a representative body," he said. "We hope to elicit feedback and perspectives from the student body, and act primarily in accordance with student concerns, not our own."

Van der Ven had kind words to say about his opponents Keith Willner '11 and Caitlyn Williams '11, and he encouraged all students to become more active with their class representatives so their opinions could help shape the future policies and actions of Student Assembly.

The Statement of Community also passed with 70 percent support from the voting student body. After SA overwhelmingly voted on Nov. 30 to put it on the ballot with the election for president, a two-thirds majority was needed to approve the statement. As a result, the Statement

will be sent to incoming first-years over the summer with the Honor Code and other College documents. The Statement will also be added to the Student Handbook.

"I am delighted that the Statement of Community passed," van der Ven said. "I think this is a great step in the effort to enhance a tolerant and welcoming atmosphere on our campus."

Goldstein, the current SA President and chair of the ad hoc committee, was very happy with the widespread student support for the final Statement. She felt that the Statement will not a solution to the problem of establishing the ideal campus climate, but it is a good first step in that it creates a precedent for all future behavior. And while she admitted that a lot more work needs to be done, it is a lot better to have something to point to than nothing at all.

Student Assembly had seen a draft of the Statement once before in early November, and the feedback they provided for the ad hoc committee was positive and constructive. After an all campus forum on the following Friday, the group reconvened and created a final statement taking into account the comments they received.

The SA meeting on Monday, Dec. 7 concluded Goldstein and Vice President Edwin Gaston term in office. Van der Ven and Browne will take over on Jan. 18.



PHOTO COURTESY OF LISA FEUERSTEIN '10

Lisa Feuerstein '10 designed and implemented a five-week Geology program for fourth graders at Clinton Elementary.

INSIDE	A & E: Senior Theatre Presentations	4
	FEATURES: President Stewart's iPhone Apps	8
	OPINON: The Hamilton Question: Open Curriculum?	10
	SCI & TECH: Hamilton & Colgate: Math Rivals	12

Leadership Weekend Offers Discussion, Desserts in NYC

from *Trustees*, page 1

of the faculty, the trustees unanimously approved the updated *Faculty Handbook*. According to Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty Joe Urgo, the 83-page-long *Faculty Handbook* is the most important document on campus, providing a resource for the faculty to consult on every issue that they could encounter during their careers on College Hill. Urgo described the two-year-long process of updating the handbook as “the most perfect example of faculty governance and shared governance among the Dean, the faculty and the trustees.”

In her update to the campus community about the board meeting, President Stewart noted the discussions about the College’s current and future priorities. According to Chief of Staff and Secretary to the Board of Trustees Meredith Harper Bonham, these priorities include, among others, a continued and increased commitment to student financial aid with the ultimate goal of becoming need-blind; dedication to the renovation of the arts facilities; continued emphasis on the way the College defines itself and how it is perceived by external constituencies; and ongoing efforts to increase the diversity of the Hamilton community.

Both Stewart and Bonham pointed out that the priorities of the College are, by and large, the same as they have been for some time and as they were prescribed in the Strategic Report.

One of the concerns of the Board of Trustees is the *U.S. News and World Report* ranking of colleges and universities, of which 25 percent of an institution’s total score is peer assessment. President Stewart said that she is “very skepti-



PHOTO BY CLAUDETTE FERRONE '88

Stephen Durfee '85 gives a chocolatey demonstration on Saturday, Dec. 5 for Leadership Weekend in New York.

cal” of the U.S. News ratings, along with every other college president she knows. She added that it is impossible to capture everything about a college in a single number, and emphasized that people should not choose to apply to or attend an institution based on whether it is ranked fifth, 25th, or 45th.

Regarding the peer assessment, Stewart remarked that colleges are asked to rank over 200 peer institutions based on limited or old information. She also said that the same is true for evaluations of Hamilton, about which our peers likely do not have enough information to be able to provide an accurate assessment.

The Leadership Weekend festivities began with dinner on Friday at The Times Center, the brand new headquarters of *The New York Times*, followed by seminars and “alumni colleges” on Saturday and a reception at Saks Fifth Avenue. The dinner on Friday was a celebration of the College’s most generous supporters, as well as a chance for alumni, faculty and current students to share stories of their experiences on College Hill.

The Saturday seminars are

always a highlight of the weekend for attendees. This year’s seminars featured Stephen Durfee '85 discussing “Explorations in Chocolate,” a three-hour lecture and demonstration of chocolate tasting and dessert making; A.G. Lafley '69 and Thomas Tull '92, moderated by Eric Kuhn '09, discussing their respective recession-proof industries, Procter & Gamble and Legendary Pictures; David Solomon '84 talking about the current state of the U.S. economy; and President Joan Hinde Stewart discussing her sabbatical research on women and aging and the literature of the 18th century.

Saturday evening was kicked off with cocktails and hors d’oeuvres at Saks Fifth Avenue, compliments of Saks Chairman and CEO Steve Sadove '73, P'07, '10, '13, a Hamilton trustee. After Saks, many of the weekend’s attendees headed off to see *West Side Story* or the Metropolitan Opera’s production of *Il Trittico*. Earlier in the afternoon, many people saw the musical *Memphis*, which several attendees described as the greatest Broadway show they had ever seen.

Students Volunteering to Teach in Mohawk Valley

from *Hamilton*, page 1

ogy. Covering mineralogy, volcanology, plate tectonics, meteorology, paleontology and planetary geology in self-created activities, demonstrations and laboratories for the children, she strove “to express in my curriculum that geology incorporates a highly diverse array of subjects that elegantly interconnect to form the whole of the Earth.”

Some of Feuerstein’s activities included making fossils from Play-Doh and Plaster of Paris, and tornadoes in a bottle. She says, “It was really amazing to see all the curriculum come to life.” One of the best parts of her work was “seeing the children’s faces light up when they came into the room.” She says that after assigning optional homework assignments, the students who completed them would run eagerly to the front of the class every day, and “to see them really care about it and ask questions and

be so excited to learn was such a refreshing thing for me.”

Feuerstein not only engaged her students in a fun learning environment, but also better prepared them for the spring New York State Regents Exam, which traditionally includes a lot of geological concepts. Because there tends to be less of a focus on science at the elementary level, her students might not have been exposed to geological concepts, nor had the laboratory experience. Her lesson plans included a mineral identification activity, and a unit on meteorology, in which students learned skills necessary to excel on parts of the exam.

Feuerstein credits the “selfless support and genuine passion” of her advisor with helping ensure the success of her project, and that she is “grateful to have such an inspiring mentor.” She says that the entire experience was “awesome; I loved every moment of it.”

For students who are not involved through classes or thesis projects, the Hamilton Community Outreach and Opportunity Project (COOP) offers many chances to partner with local organizations related to educational outreach. Amy James, the director of Outreach and Orientation, works to connect eager and talented students with the local agencies and organizations that need them. She loves talking to new students and learning about their service passions.

Part of her job includes sparking an interest in service in incoming students through programs like Hamilton Serves, which mobilizes the entire first-year class to work with 56 different organizations all day during Orientation Week. Study Buddies, the ABC mentoring program and excursions set up by HAVOC are other programs that she helps oversee, which work on regular basis with over 30 agencies in the Mohawk Valley.

SA Update

Committees to Bring Holiday Cheer

by Eve Denton '12

STUDENT ASSEMBLY CORRESPONDENT

The Student Assembly Food Committee has been working with Bon Appetite Manager Pat Raynard on improving selections in both McEwen and Commons. They will highlight specialties on specific days, with the inclusion of Mac and Cheese Mondays and Wing Wednesdays. This will help let students know when their favorite foods will be available in Commons. The Food Committee is also working to improve the deli selections in both on-campus eateries. There is a possibility brie cheese will be an option for sandwich-makers, cinnamon bread should be more present, and mustard and mayo will be added to the McEwen deli. New fruits, like pomegranates and clementines are available in both locations. Hash browns will also hopefully become a more regular item in Commons.

During Snack Time, the popular “cookie decorating” activity is back, helping to get students into the holiday mood. Finally, late night food options will be available to students this upcoming week. On Monday, there will be cocoa and candy in the Pub. Tuesday and Thursday will feature treats, coffee, and more in the Diner. Hopefully these changes will lead to a better eating experience for Hamilton College students.

Other committees are also making changes and planning events. The Student Interests Committee has worked with local merchants to plan a shopping day this Saturday, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. that will feature special discounts for students in many town stores. Jitney service will be available throughout this time for students to easily make the trip. The Facilities Committee has worked to ensure new fire alarms will be installed in suite bathrooms since occupants could previously not hear them in the shower. The Diversity and Accessibility Committee is looking into the possibility of purchasing tickets for students to the Moscow Ballet’s performance of *Swan Lake*, and are also planning trips to New York City in the spring. Social Traditions is finalizing the Feb Fest Committee and also currently brainstorming various activities for Class and Charter Day to get more people involved in the day’s events.

The ice skating rink is in its creation stages and should be open after Winter Break. While Student Assembly originally authorized purchasing the rink, all costs were covered last year and they are no longer responsible for any costs associated. The Office of Student Activities is setting it up. In light of lessons learned from last year, this year the rink should be set up much more quickly and it should be on a more flat surface due to the recent removal of the North and South Courts.

Students interested in being part of the test wave of Google adapters should email head of the Technology Committee, Keith Willner at kwillner@hamilton.edu. These students, who would be the early adapters, would see their email switch to the Gmail interface in February or March.



PHOTO COURTESY OF LISA FEUERSTEIN '10

Lisa Feuerstein’s class shows off their Geology projects.

James is also running a tutoring program at Clinton Middle School, and mentoring programs with students from the elementary and high schools are also being explored. “Our goals are to create both positive change in the surrounding community as well as educational experiences for our students,” said James. “[Through]

community outreach we can expand our understanding of how we should be living together as a community on this hill. It’s really important for us to engender in our students the desire to be engaged in the lifelong process of learning not only about themselves but about the lives of others in any community in which they live.”

NESCAC NEWS

by Amanda Jordan '10
NEWS WRITER

Bowdoin College

On Nov. 16, Bowdoin College submitted its final carbon neutrality plan to the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment (ACUPCC). This report, "A Blueprint for Carbon Neutrality in 2020", has been in the works since fall 2007. The creators of this report, The President's Climate Commitment Advisory Committee, hope that their plan will aid in the accomplishment of climate neutrality in the near future. Additionally, two Bowdoin students and an alumnus travelled to Copenhagen to participate in the 15th United Nations Climate Change Conference from Dec. 7 to Dec. 18. This conference has attracted around 15,000 participants from 192 countries with the common goal of tackling global climate change.

Connecticut College

On Nov. 19, more than 1,170 Connecticut College students donated their meals by deactivating their meal cards for dinner. The campus dining services donated \$3.15 for each deactivated card to Oxfam and the New London Community Meal Center in New London, CT. Oxfam is a nonprofit organization that strives to end world poverty. Additionally, four local restaurants participated on Nov. 19 by donating 10 percent of their Connecticut College student meal proceeds to the initiative. In total, \$3,694.94 was raised, with half of the proceeds going to Oxfam and the other half to the meal center. Connecticut College also donates unused food three times a week to the meal center in New London.

Middlebury College

Through Dec. 13, the Middlebury College Museum of Art is displaying paintings and sculptures of the Virgin Mary and baby Jesus that are 600 years old. These paintings and sculptures are part of an exhibit called The Art of Devotion. Katy Smith Abbot, an art history professor and curator at Middlebury, hopes that visitors understand how hard it is for art historians to weave together history and how involved the works were to create. The exhibit is free to the public. The Art of Devotion exhibit ends Dec. 13 at Middlebury to move to a museum in Massachusetts.

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SHOWTIMES BELOW ARE GOOD THRU THU 12/17

DISNEY'S **THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG** ●12:00●2:15-4:30-6:45▲9:00
STADIUM SEATING **DTS** G

CLINT EASTWOOD'S **INVICTUS** MORGAN FREEMAN ●1:00-3:50-6:40▲9:25 PG-13

THE BOONDOCK SAINTS II ALL SAINTS DAY ●12:25●2:50-5:15-7:30▲9:55 R

THE BLIND SIDE #1 MOVIE! ●2:00-4:40-7:20▲9:50
SANDRA BULLOCK **DTS** PG-13

the twilight saga **new moon** ●1:40-4:20-7:10▲9:45
DTS PG-13

DISNEY'S A CHRISTMAS CAROL IN DIGITAL 3D ●12:40●2:40-4:50-6:55▲8:55 STADIUM SEATING PG

DISNEY'S OLD DOGS ●12:30●2:30-4:35-7:00▲9:05 PG

EVERYBODY'S FINE ROBERT DENIRO ●12:05●2:10-4:15-6:30▲8:35 PG-13

PLANET 51 ●12:10-4:10 PG

NINJA ASSASSIN 8:00 R

FANTASTIC MR. FOX ●2:05-6:10 PG

AVATAR (in 3D) MIDNIGHT THURSDAY PG-13

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Senior Theatre Majors Present Pieces As Culmination of Theatre Experiences

by Lily Gillespie '12
ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

While many seniors must slave away typing a thesis or rehearsing a presentation, some have the opportunity to pursue a more creative, but no less intensive, way to demonstrate the culmination of their education at Hamilton. Seniors Diana Stern and Stephen Michel will have an opportunity to show the community all they have accomplished when they present the plays they have chosen for their Senior Theatre Presentations this weekend. Stern will show her choice, "Statements After an Arrest Under the Immorality Act" and Michel will showcase his choice, "Hidden in This Picture."

"Statements After an Arrest Under the Immorality Act"

Written in 1972 by the playwright Athol Fugard, "Statements After an Arrest" tells the story of the intense relationship between the play's protagonists, Errol Philander and Frieda Joubert. This is no ordinary love story, however,

as Errol is a mixed-race man and Frieda is a white woman. By today's standards, this is not so unusual, but the play is set amongst the racism and apartheid system of South Africa. Under the Immorality Act of 1950, interracial sexual relationships were forbidden, making Errol and Frieda's love affair extremely dangerous for them. They are fearful every moment of their tryst—burdened not only by the illegality of the act, but also by the fact that he is a married man engaged in an illicit affair. Despite the extraordinary circumstances, Errol and Frieda discuss remarkably ordinary topics, from history to philosophy. Yet the discovery of their affair by the police threatens to rupture the bond they have built in what one newspaper called "a disturbingly prescient reminder of the divide between public and private lives." This play illustrates how circumstances can be simultaneously mundane and incredible.

Diana Stern, director and actor in the play, commented that she chose this piece "because it's a political play that

happens to also be beautifully written." Stern has found the experience of working in theatre to be a unique learning environment: "There's something about having to put something on stage, in front of people, that forces someone to learn." Stern plans to pursue theater in some capacity following her graduation from Hamilton.

"Hidden in This Picture"

"Hidden In This Picture," written by Aaron Sorkin, is a story within a story. Two friends, Robert and Jeff, are theater folk who have ventured into the movie-making business. They are filming the last shot of their first film on a set in upstate New York meant to serve as a Marine base in Guam when they are rudely interrupted by three stray cows—not that we would know anything about that, right? The intrusion, although insignificant in the minds of most, threatens Robert and Jeff's friendship, the completion of their film, and their very faith in filmmaking. The duo must decide if they are willing to jeopardize

the integrity of the film by allowing cows to be in what is intended to be Guam or if they should just give up altogether. *The New York Times* explains, "In Mr. Sorkin's comedy, he maliciously mocks the bluff self-confidence of aspiring auteurs," in a humorous look at the artistic process.

Senior Theatre Presentations by:

Diana Stern and Stephen Michel

Friday, December 11 and Saturday, December 12 at 8 p.m.

Minor Theatre

Blue Vinyl to Host "Snowball" Event

by Anthony Mathieu '12
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Need a break from all the papers and labs due in the upcoming week? Come to the Events Barn tonight at 10 p.m. to see the Downbeat Keys perform for the first time on campus in Blue Vinyl's first annual "Snowball"! If you haven't had the chance to ever see the Downbeat Keys or have never heard of them before, go to their website (<http://www.myspace.com/downbeatkeys>) and give them a listen.

DBK, a rap-funk collective that began just last year at Hamilton College, has now grown to book gigs across the Northeast

including shows at Bucknell University, UPenn, and an upcoming show at the "Bitter End" nightclub in NYC. Comprised of two vocalists (William Preston '11, Kadahj Bennett '12) and four instrumental musicians, the group has been able to blend the hard-hitting elements of hip-hop with the smooth stylings of funk and R&B music. After releasing their debut EP *Invisible Ink* (available on iTunes) last semester, they are now working on a new currently untitled project and are continuing to do shows at various locations.

Also, be sure to check out Blue Vinyl Radio tonight at 6 p.m. before the concert on 88.7 WHCL.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF ANTHONY MATHIEU '12

Diversity Justice Film Series: *Sin Nombre*

by Lily Gillespie '12
ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Illegal immigration is a subject that often plays out across headlines in the media and it is the topic of Cary Joji Fukunaga's new film, *Sin Nombre*. It is a heartbreaking tale of a young Honduran woman named Sayra who embarks on a perilous journey with her father and uncle as they attempt to make their way to America. In their travels,

Sayra meets El Casper, a young man who is also in search of a better life as he flees the violent gang and the tragedies of his past. The Sundance Festival website lavished praise on the film: "Its storytelling is so accomplished, its visual style so crisp, and its heightened naturalism and performances so textured." A thriller, political tale and love story it is a film that is bound to resonate with each of its viewers.

Sunday, December 13, 7 p.m.
Science Center Auditorium



A still from *Sin Nombre*, the next film in the Diversity and Social Justice Film Series, playing this Sunday.

Weekly Charts

MUSIC

(billboard.com)

TOP SONGS

1. Jay-Z and Alicia Keys-- "Empire State of Mind"
2. Lady Gaga-- "Bad Romance"
3. Ke\$ha-- "Tik Tok"
4. Owl City-- "Fireflies"
5. Iyaz-- "Replay"

TOP ALBUMS

1. Susan Boyle-- *I Dreamed A Dream*
2. Andrea Bocelli-- *My Christmas*
3. Adam Lambert-- *For Your Entertainment*
4. Rihanna-- *Rated R*
5. Lady Gaga-- *The Fame Monster*

MOVIES

(imdb.com)

1. *The Blind Side*
2. *The Twilight Saga: New Moon*
3. *Brothers*
4. *A Christmas Carol*
5. *Old Dogs*

BOOKS

(*New York Times* "Best Sellers")

PAPERBACK FICTION

1. *Push*, by Sapphire
2. *The Piano Teacher*, Janice Y. K. Lee
3. *The Shack*, by William P. Young
4. *The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo*, by Stieg Larsson
5. *Bed of Roses*, by Nora Roberts

PAPERBACK NON-FICTION

1. *The Blind Side*, by Michael Lewis
2. *Three Cups of Tea*, by Greg Mortensen and David Oliver Relin
3. *Freakonomics*, by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner
4. *The Glass Castle*, by Jeannette Walls
5. *I Hope They Serve Beer in Hell*, by Tucker Max

Arts Events This Weekend

Thursday, Dec. 10

8:00 p.m. Hamilton College Orchestra (Winter Concert) Wellin Hall
10:00 p.m. Blue Vinyl Presents: The Snowball Fillius Events Barn

* * * * *

Friday, Dec. 11

7:00 p.m. SK Films Friday Early Movie (Nightmare before Christmas) Kirner-Johnson 125
8:00 p.m. Two Senior Projects In Theatre Minor Theatre
10:00 p.m. SK Films Friday Late Movie (Scrooged) Kirner-Johnson 125

* * * * *

Saturday, Dec. 12

7:00p.m. Student Concert (December Concert)

Wellin Hall
8:00 p.m. Two Senior Projects In Theatre Minor Theatre
8:00 p.m. SK Films Saturday Early Movie (Nightmare before Christmas) Kirner-Johnson 125
11:00 p.m. SK Films Saturday Late Movie (Scrooged) Kirner-Johnson 125

* * * * *

Sunday, Dec. 13

04:00 p.m. Yodapez does Dinner Theater (Improv Comedy and Free Food) Fillius Events Barn
7:00 p.m. Diversity and Social Justice (Film Series: *Sin Nombre*) Science Center G027
7:00 p.m. SK Films Sunday Matinee (Film TBA) Kirner-Johnson 125

Top 10 Holiday Songs on iTunes

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1. Mariah Carey--"All I Want for Christmas Is You" | 6. Lady GaGa--"Christmas Tree (feat. Space Cowboy)" | 11. Jose Feliciano--"Feliz Navidad" |
| 2. Glee Cast--"Last Christmas (Glee Cast Version)" | 7. Michael Buble--"Let It Snow, Let It Snow, Let It Snow" | 12. Bruce Springsteen --"Santa Claus Is Comin' To Town" |
| 3. Trans-Siberian Orchestra--"Christmas/Sarajevo/ 12/24 (Instrumental)" | 8. Trans-Siberian Orchestra--"Christmas Canon" | 13. Nat "King" Cole--"The Christmas Song (Merry Christmas to You)" |
| 4. Taylor Swift--"Last Christmas" | 9. Brenda Lee--"Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree" | 14. The Chipmunks--"The Chipmunk Song (Merry Christmas to You)" |
| 5. Bobby Helms--"Jingle Bell Rock" | 10. Andrea Bocelli--"What Child Is This" | 15. Wham!--"Last Christmas" |



Staff Favorite Holiday Movies

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1. <i>White Christmas</i> | 5. <i>Miracle on 34th Street</i> | 9. <i>An Affair to Remember</i> |
| 2. <i>Sleepless in Seattle</i> | 6. <i>How the Grinch Stole Christmas</i> | 10. <i>Love Actually</i> |
| 3. <i>Muppet Christmas Carol</i> | 7. <i>The Santa Clause</i> | 11. <i>A Charlie Brown Christmas</i> |
| 4. <i>Home Alone</i> | 8. <i>The Holiday</i> | 12. <i>It's A Wonderful Life</i> |



Get an *A+* in fashion this semester!

Hamilton Student Shop Day:
Receive 20% Off Saturday, December 12

Faculty Shop Days:
Receive 20% Off Thursday, December 3 & 10

Gentlemen's Night
Thursdays in December-Find the perfect gift

www.ClintonGirlBoutique.com
Facebook/TheClintonGirl

5 West Park Row, Clinton Open Everday 10am-8pm

The Oneida and Rome YMCA are offering the following to students: From December 15th – January 31, 2010 we are offering a membership for \$30 – the students would need to bring in their college ID's to join. This will give them FULL membership privileges at both locations.

In addition we lowered our annual student membership rates to only \$11 per month (This is a \$17 a month savings) Again they receive FULL membership privileges. College ID's are required to join.

Oneida YMCA
701 Seneca Street, Oneida
315-363-7788

Rome YMCA
301 W Bloomfield St. Rome
315-336-3500

FROM WHERE I SIT

HAMILTON'S INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES

by **Trang Nguyen '13**
FEATURES CONTRIBUTOR

You know you are an international student at Hamilton when...

1. You become addicted to *How I Met your Mother*, *30 Rock* and *Sex and the City*. By the way, *Friends* is a little bit old-fashioned.
2. You become a wonderfully talented cook in your dorm whilst at home your mom has to kick you out of the kitchen so that you do not break another glass.
3. It's perfectly fine to wear two socks of two different colors at the same time.
4. You become extraordinarily skillful at using spoons to eat anything, especially noodles.
5. You learn all the different brands of instant noodles by heart so that you will not be too bored with one kind.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TRANG NGUYEN '13

Nguyen is an international student from Vietnam.

6. You say like a gazillion of "like(s)" in your sentences even when you like talk to your professor like.
7. You notice that the typical American joke is: "Oh my god, I was like, WHATTTT?" (raise your voice at the end of the sentence and use high pitch).
8. You make sure you know "the nod" and feel super excited when you do that.
9. You see people walk into the room saying "Hi," and by the time they finish saying "how are you doing?" you see them walk out of the room.
10. You miss the deadline and you are so desperate that you actually try to find a way to break your leg, or go around Dunham basement sniffing, trying to get H1N1 so that you can get an extension to

write your papers in the hospital.

11. You're fed up with campus food or feel uncomfortable with uncooked vegetables, but you still have to eat them, because you have to take care of yourself.
12. You know how it feels to be lonely. You are far, far, far away from your family. How desperately you wish that you were home, or your friends were here. How a good talk with other people brightens up your day.

You know you are no longer a stranger in a strange land when...

1. Feeling lonely is not that bad. Learn to embrace it.
2. You always learn something from your experience. People are talking in a circle, someone stands in front of you and blocks you and you feel you're left out. You learn to look around next time you talk in a circle of friends, to make sure you don't leave anyone out.
3. You have to actually care. You learn to love everyone the way they are. You realize everyone is different and behind all those faces are different stories you have yet to know. Notice how dramatic, how meaningful, how loving your life is: everyone has lives just as interesting.
4. You know there are some people who are simply not interested in you. They look at you, but they don't give you a chance to show them who you are; they just leave. Do not take it personally. As I just said, people are different, and it's totally fine for someone to not be interested in you. Go out and find someone else. Keep an open mind and use two golden words "So what?"
5. You mingle with everyone with an open-mind, no matter their race, their language, their dorm, their major or their sock color(s).
6. You can be who you are. You bring a part of your culture with you to the Hamilton community, to let everyone know how different you are, and to let this community learn something from you. Don't let Hamilton down.

"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 bbrithy.

Worth Getting off the Hill for: The Zone Café

by **Emily Anderson '13**
FEATURES WRITER

The Zone Café, right down the Hill in Clinton, offers delicious pizza, pasta and sandwiches at very reasonable prices for students. At The Zone, you can choose to eat out, pick up take out or have the food delivered

cheese. The Zone features Buffalo Chicken, Chicken BBQ, Mexican and Philly Steak pizzas, just to name a few. In addition to burgers, they offer a number of sandwiches (I highly recommend the BLT). Emma Taylor '13 said, "I really liked the thick wheat bread they used on the sandwiches." The Lemon Pep-

added to any dinner for only \$1.30.

EmeYordan '13 was very impressed with the wing selection. Not only are one dozen wings only \$7.25, but they are fried first, making them extra delicious.

However, the best part of The Zone experience is the side dishes. Sweet potato fries were a group favorite, with a basket for only \$2.25. Also, The Zone offers loaded fries with chili, mozzarella sticks and cinnamon knots. If you need to reward yourself with calories after studying for finals, this is the place to go.

Finally, The Zone is open for breakfast on the weekends. Looking for a break from Commons' scrambled eggs? Try the tomato, basil and cheese omelet. If you are feeling really hungry, you may consider the "Warrior Combo" which includes three pancakes or slices of French toast, three eggs, your choice of three pieces of meat, and home fries.

Either get off campus and check out The Zone for yourself, or call and order delivery (315-853-7090).



PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.PINIS-PIZZA.COM

The Zone serves up a variety of delicious pizza flavors (above) and other classic Italian dishes (below right).

to you. The Zone will also cater events. If you are looking for a relaxing evening with friends and don't need the fuss of a fancy restaurant, definitely check out The Zone, located at 32 Chenango Ave, right across from the Dollar General in Clinton.

Annie Philips '13 described the atmosphere as, "like a wings place." Others ventured, "I think it's supposed to be a sports theme." No matter what exact "zone" it is, the food is worth getting off campus for.

The pizzas offered include much more than just basic

per Chicken Breast Sandwich she ordered (for only \$7.50) was "really good!"

Classic Italian entrées such as lasagna and baked ziti all come with garlic bread. Alex Garvery '13 especially liked the chicken riggies. She reports, "It was spectacular. I highly recommend it." Even better, it was only \$7.25. A side salad can also be



PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.ITALIADELI.COM

L₁ O₁ G₂ I₁ C₃ P₃ U₁ Z₁₀ Z₁₀ L₁ E₁

by **Russell Marcus**
PROFESSOR OF PHILOSOPHY

In our last puzzle, you were asked to find a nine-digit number which uses all the numbers from one to nine, such that the whole number is divisible by nine, the leftmost eight digits are divisible by eight, the leftmost seven digits are divisible by seven, etc. Extra credit was to be awarded for determining how many such numbers there are.

The solution appeals to several well-known divisibility rules. Any number divisible by two is even. The sum of the digits of any number divisible by three will also be divisible by three. If the last two digits of a number are divisible by four, the whole number will be divisible by four. Numbers divisible by five have either 0 or 5 as their last digit. Numbers divisible by six will be divisible by both two and three. If the last two digits of a number are divisible by eight, the whole number will be divisible by eight. The sum of the digits of any number divisible by nine will also be divisible by nine.

At this point, the only reasonable option is to divide each number by 7. Only 381654729 survives, and is the only solution.



Forget Barack's BlackBerry

by Nick Stagliano '11
PRODUCTION EDITOR

"Is that the app store?" President Joan Hinde Stewart asked her friend as they passed an electronics store on 2nd Avenue in New York City in July. Earlier that day, Stewart had held an iPhone for the first time while her friend showed her the applications that she had downloaded. Intrigued by the various tools and

games, Stewart asked where they were purchased. "At the app store," her friend answered.

"I just thought it was this store that she popped into every week and bought her apps," Stewart explained. "She looked at me like I had just arrived from outer space." Now, months later, Stewart has her own phone and describes herself as "a sophisticated iPhone user."

So what are the president's apps? She says that she has "a lot that are useful but that I may never use," including an app that tells a user whether or not the table she's sitting at is level. Stewart has found use for the flashlight app and will soon be downloading a magnifying glass-like app and the Find My Car app that guides a person to her car when it's in a packed parking lot.

To satisfy her voracious appetite for reading, Stewart has two apps that allow her to download classic works of literature for free – including *Sense and Sensibility*, a personal favorite. She also enjoys the Voice Google app, which she recently

asked, "Where is Hamilton College?" (She was satisfied with the answer.)

The presidential favorite, however, seems to be Word Warp, which gives the user two minutes to find an anagram for a random assortment of six letters. The app reminds Stewart of the "Jumble" that she used to play in the *New York Daily News* as a child growing up in Brooklyn. "She's very competitive about it," said Dean of Admission and Financial Aid Monica Inzer.

Inzer, on behalf of Hamilton, recently partnered with Geo Treo, a brand new company that uses iPhone GPS software to create walking tours. Once the app has been downloaded to Inzer's phone and the walking route has been determined, Hamilton tour guides will record the audio component.

When the Admissions Office is closed, a poster advertising the downloadable walking tour will be affixed to the door so that visiting prospective students can still have the experience of a campus tour when no tour guides are on staff – provided they have iPhones. The Hamilton walking tour should be available, in a beta stage, when students return to the Hill next semester.

Stewart and Inzer bought their iPhones together, supposedly so that Stewart could rely on Inzer for "tech support." In reality, though, "She's a lot more high-tech," said Inzer. Neither one would reveal their Word Warp high scores, but Stewart assured me that her score is "higher than anyone else's score that you know." Inzer added, "And don't you forget it."



GRAPHIC BY NORA GRENFELL '12

Holiday Drinks

Dreary winter weather got you down? Our favorite festive cocktails are guaranteed to bring holiday cheer.

Candy Cane Martini

*4 oz. vanilla vodka
*2 oz. peppermint Schnapps
*1/2 oz. crème de menthe
Shake with ice and garnish with a candy cane.



WWW.RONISBOTIQUE.COM

Gingerbread Man

*3 oz. ginger beer
*2 oz. cinnamon Schnapps
*2 oz. vanilla vodka
Top with whipped cream and cinnamon candy.

Dreidel Spinner

*5 oz. pineapple juice
*2 oz. raspberry vodka
*2 tbsp. lime juice
Stir well and enjoy.

Hot Mint Cocoa

*5-6 oz. hot chocolate
*1 oz. peppermint Schnapps
Mix well and serve in a festive holiday mug.

Spiced Cider

*1 cup hot apple cider
*2 oz. rum
*orange spritz, cinnamon & nutmeg to taste
Garnish with Cinnamon stick straws.

Christmas Blizzard

*5 oz. cranberry juice
*2 oz. whiskey
*2 tsp. grenadine
*spritz of lemon
With a cherry on top.

Note: Those under 21 should omit alcohol from all holiday drinks or they will only get coal from Santa Claus.

Hamilton Hosts Math Tournament for Utica Youth

by Meghan Woolley '13
FEATURES CONTRIBUTOR

This Saturday, the College saw some unconventional guests: middle school students. About 25 middle schoolers from Utica participated in a math tournament held at Hamilton. Students at Hamilton who are part of the Young Peoples Project (YPP) are working to bring math literacy to the students at Donovan Middle School. Four times a week these

students, called College Math Literacy Workers (CMLWs), volunteer their time to work with sixth to eighth grade students. About 50 middle school students participate through the Advantage Afterschool Program.

Hamilton is the first college to institute its own chapter of YPP and breaks slightly from the national YPP model. Instead of having national administrators train college students to work with the younger students, Hamilton

students, after completion of an intensive summer training program in Cambridge, MA, train the CMLWs.

"YPP is all about youth teaching back to youth and developing these students to become future leaders and facilitators," Site Director Leide Cabral '10 explains.

In addition to working at Donovan, the CMLWs attend weekly training sessions to learn about the curriculum and teaching methods. The organization is currently headed by Cabral and Coordinators Denise Ghartey '12 and Hannah Roth '11, but next year the current CMLWs will be heading the training.

Their strategy is to use games in order to make math more fun and approachable. "Math is scary and a tough subject, especially in public schools," Cabral said, explaining that the games make it easier for the students to engage in math without being intimidated. The CMLWs love watching as their students' barriers break down and they become more comfortable with learning. Ghartey described some of her students who began the year acting like "macho men" but were



A student solving a problem.

enthusiastic about learning and hugging each other before long.

Another technique the CMLWs use is to always follow up on students' answers, asking them to explain how they arrived at their answer. According to Cabral, "It's not about answers, it's about the process and self-discovery." She remarked that many teachers don't have the time to let students find out answers for themselves, and this can make math very discouraging. By allowing students to think about and solve problems for themselves, the CMLWs are helping them to develop confidence. Ghartey emphasized that

"the kids need to know that they can do something, that they can aspire to great things.

The YPP program also involves a lot of self-reflection. The coordinators are always looking for ways that the program can be improved. Next year they are hoping to work with an advisory board that would include professors and administrators who could help support YPP with guidance and funding. They are also looking to create a "street team" that would help with administrative tasks such as fundraising and outreach efforts.

At the math tournament on Saturday, the students did not seem to be at all hindered by a lack of confidence. They competed in teams to earn points and win prizes, demonstrating their knowledge while clearly having fun. The enthusiasm of the kids was matched only by the enthusiasm of the CMLWs. They raced to place numbers in giant venn diagrams, while their teammates shouted encouragement and hip-hop music played in the background. The enthusiasm they demonstrated proved that the YPP program has succeeded and, more importantly, that the students can succeed.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF LEIDE CABRAL '10

The current CMLWs on the day of the tournament.

Humanities Department Hosts Forum

by Kari Arneson '10
FEATURES WRITER

Last week, the Office of the Dean of Faculty and the Jordan Lecture Fund sponsored a Humanities Forum Panel called "Encountering the Cult of Progress: Abrahamic Traditions in the Secular Academy." Both faculty and students came to the Science Center to listen to Professor Stephen Goldberg, College Chaplain Jeff McArn and Visiting Professor Andrew Spevack discuss secularism from the Jewish, Christian and Muslim perspectives. The aim of the panel was to give voice to three different traditions from the point of view of a particular author.

Goldberg, who is the associate professor of Asian art history at Hamilton, began the forum with a lecture entitled "Being-For-Another: The Ethical Subjectivity of Emmanuel Levinas." Goldberg received his Ph. D. in Art History from the University of Michigan and specializes in the history and aesthetics of Chinese calligraphy. However, Goldberg departed from his expertise in Asian history and art to talk about the Jewish perspective on secularism. Goldberg discussed Emmanuel Levinas, a French philosopher and Talmudic commentator, and his critique of secular universalizing history and universalizing reason. According to Goldberg, Levinas believed that the identity of reason and history is the hallmark of secular modernism.

McArn's lecture, entitled "Reinhold Niebuhr and the Problem of Collective Progress," examined the ways the American Protestant tradition has contributed to the birth of the secular age. McArn has been College Chaplain at Hamilton for 14 years. He was ordained as a Presbyterian minister with a Master of Divinity degree from Harvard Divinity School and a B.A. in Literature from Davidson College. In his

lecture, McArn talked about the Protestant tradition of looking at religion in individualistic terms. This tradition has pushed religion into the private sphere and paved the way for a public life completely devoid of all religious content. McArn also discussed the work of Reinhold Niebuhr, a 20th century Protestant theologian and public intellectual. Although Niebuhr believed progress may be possible in personal terms, he cautioned against the secular doctrine that we are on a path toward "enlightenment," since any significant progress must be a result of the collective group, not of personal and individual transformations.

Spevack ended the forum with his lecture "Spiritual Enlightenment and the Limits of Rationality," which used Indian philosopher Ali Thanvi's work to illustrate the Muslim perspective on secularism. Spevack recently joined Hamilton College as a Mellon post-doctoral fellow and visiting assistant professor of Islamic Studies in the Department of Religious Studies. He received his Ph.D. in Arabic and Islamic Intellectual History from Boston University and was a visiting research fellow at Harvard Law School's Islamic Legal Studies Program. In his lecture, Spevack asserted that the study of logic and rational theology has always been a mainstay of Islamic education. He discussed the traditional Islamic responses to progress and how they affect Muslims working in a secular academy like Hamilton and referenced Ali Thanvi's philosophy on progress, enlightenment and modernity.

The Humanities Forum Panel is part of a series organized by the Hamilton Classics Department. Stay tuned for the next forum panel, which will feature an all-new panel who will lecture on a different topic of interest.

Trustee Corner: Drew Days '63

by Nick Stagliano '11
PRODUCTION EDITOR

When Drew S. Days, Jr., the father of our title trustee, was growing up in Atlanta, Georgia in the 1930s, his high school teacher, a Hamilton alumnus, suggested he apply to Hamilton College. Days's family, along with the rest of the United States, was, at the time, in the throes of the Depression, and therefore they suggested that he apply to and attend Morehouse College in Atlanta. But he kept that Central New York school at the back of his mind and suggested it to his own son, Drew S. Days III '63, when he was applying for college. He applied and was accepted.

Having grown up in Tampa, Florida, Days (the 3rd) was not used to the climate – or the environment – of Hamilton College when he arrived in 1960. Since the age of twelve, however, Days had been living in New Rochelle, New York, in a fairly integrated neighborhood, attending a high school with a significant African American population. When he arrived at Hamilton, Days was among only five African Americans in his class, "and there were probably not many more than that on the entire campus." But Days felt very comfortable on the Hill.

While at Hamilton, Days sang in the College Choir under the direction of John Baldwin, who was a great supporter and friend. An English Literature major, Days was also involved in a number of literature discussion groups, and was a member of the Tao Kappa Epsilon (TKE) fraternity. Days thought he would go on to graduate school to earn a Master's or Ph.D. in English Literature.

After an interview at Yale, Days was on a street corner waiting for a light to change when he encountered, by chance, a fellow Hamiltonian who was pursuing a Ph.D. program in English Literature. He told Days that he was miserable and was working concurrently on a dozen papers. Days changed his mind after that encounter and decided to attend Yale Law School.

Days spent the summer before his final year of law school working on civil rights issues in Albany, Georgia, learning about what civil rights lawyers were doing – including being physically assaulted – and seeing first-hand "how effective the law could be in challenging what was a pretty long regime of racial discrimination and segregation." Days returned to Yale with the intention of doing civil rights work after graduation. What he wanted most was to work with Thurgood Marshall at the NAACP's Legal Defense Fund, but he described the situ-

ation as "take a number," because so many lawyers with more experience than Days wanted to be there.

During the summer of 1966, Days went to a friend's wedding in Chicago and, at the recommendation of his law school advisor, met with partners at a Chicago law firm. He was hired by the firm and decided, after passing the Bar, that he would just spend a few years in Chicago. His plans quickly changed. His girlfriend at the time proposed two things to Days: that he marry her and join the Peace Corps with her. "I accepted both offers."

Days and his wife of now 42 years, Ann Langdon, picked up and moved to Honduras. Days was assigned to organize an agriculture cooperative and Langdon was assigned to start a credit union in the town where they were living. While in Honduras, Days would take a commuter bus from town to town and then get on a mule to ride around and talk to the farms in the cooperative. At the same time, terrible things were happening in the United States – including the assassinations of Bobby Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr.

After his stint in the Peace Corps, Days was offered a job continuing to build cooperatives in Brazil, but decided to return to the United States. There was an opening at the Legal Defense Fund, and Days took it in 1969 – staying until 1977, with a few years off to teach at Temple University. A source of great satisfaction to Days was the opportunity to try a case that resulted in the desegregation of his former school district in Tampa, Florida. Days also worked on many cases of police misconduct and brutality at a time when all felonies were punishable by death. Days ended up fighting this before the Supreme Court, which eventually ruled the law unconstitutional.

In 1977, Days received a call from an assistant to Griffin Bell, who had just been nominated by President Jimmy Carter for Attorney General. Days thought the call was a joke, a prank call, but decided to go to Atlanta and see how it played out. After a very real 45-minute-long meeting with Bell, which Days described as "the most relaxed interview I have ever had," he was asked to produce no more than three pages about what the Justice Department should do if Bell were confirmed – a document that would be given to President Carter.

In February, another call

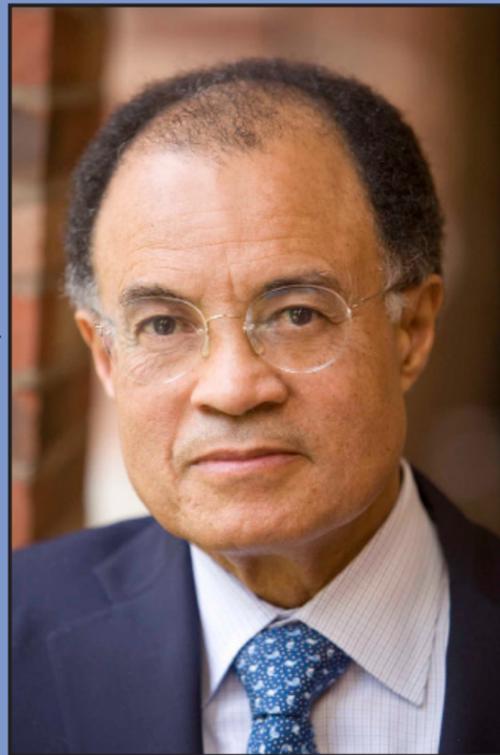


PHOTO COURTESY OF DREW DAYS '63

came from Griffin Bell saying that he would most likely be confirmed shortly as Attorney General and asking if Days would show up for a job at the Justice Department at the end of March. "He didn't ask if I was interested," Days said. "He just gave me an order and I said 'Yes, your honor.'" For four years, Days ran the civil rights division of the Justice Department and then accepted a position at Yale University to teach law.

In 1993, Days returned to Washington as the United States Solicitor General, the government's official lawyer before the Supreme Court. Days had argued five cases before the Supreme Court as Assistant Attorney General and another 17 cases as Solicitor General.

After two years, Days was told that he would have to return to Yale or he would lose his tenure. He had been told by the Dean of Yale Law School that he would have to "have the President call the President" – as in, have the President of the United States call the President of Yale. The Attorney General Janet Reno told Days near the end of his second year as Solicitor General that she would make sure that he could stay for another year. Soon after that conversation, he received a document from Yale that said that "for continued service to the nation," the Yale Corporation had granted him a one-year extension on his leave.

Days returned to Yale in 1996 and has been there ever since, teaching courses on the Supreme Court and the Constitution. And he has been a member of the Hamilton Board of Trustees for, in his own words, "more years than I can count." He describes it as "a wonderful, wonderful experience" and particularly enjoyed his service as co-chair of the committee that recommended Joan Hinde Stewart for the Hamilton presidency.

Overheard at Hamilton

by Katie Dilyard '10 and Emily Devaney-Graham '10
FEATURES CONTRIBUTORS

"I chase vodka with vodka."

"I thought that Kyle was Jesus when he came to wake me up."

"It's dark in the womb."

"I was walking around Bundy naked for like an hour until the construction workers found me."

"I like to read but there are just not enough children's books in the library."

"I don't know what kind of ice cream to get."

"Well you know what I always say...the whiter the better."

"Wait. Are we talking about ice cream or semen?"

"I'm not very good with words. It took me an hour last night to come up with the word 'conflict.'"



The Hamilton Question: Debating the Merits, Failings of the Open Curriculum

by Grace Liew '12
OPINION CONTRIBUTOR

Why do some colleges and universities make a leap to greatness, while others slide toward mediocrity? On Monday Professor of History Theodore Eismeier facilitated “The Rise and Fall of Great Colleges” at the Alexander Hamilton Institute, a discussion pondering the future of Hamilton.

Eismeier kicked off the discussion by asking: what is the one quality that Hamilton can hone and be the best in the world at? How can we make the leap from “good to great?”

Kye Lippold '10 instinctively described Hamilton’s isolated location to be an environment conducive to academic

achievement. “We can be just here for improving our intellectual thought...there are no distractions.”

Emily Anderer '10 echoed, “[the] focus on non-professional academics is good because we don’t have to worry about what we have to do, and focus instead on what we love to do.”

Anthony Garcia '10 lauded Hamilton’s emphasis on upholding an “abstract concept of tradition.” He said “As society gets more fast-paced [and] cutting edge, Hamilton can step back [and ponder] to avoid becoming over-specialized in something.”

These answers reflect an overwhelming appreciation for a complete intellectual immersion – but does that translate into a *liberal arts* education? As if on cue, the discussion marched into contentious ter-

ritory – Hamilton’s open curriculum.

The students present were almost unanimously in favor of the open curriculum, crediting it for opportunities to study what they loved, not “wasting time” on what they knew they disliked, and in a nutshell fulfilling the liberal arts education ideal. The faculty and myself, however, were divided on the subject.

I later combed through our previous course catalogues to track the development of Hamilton’s curriculum. Up until the class of 2004, students had to fulfill eight core requirement credits across the arts, social sciences, humanities and sciences. Students after the class of 2005 were not required, but *expected* to fulfill these multidisciplinary standards, to “explore areas unfamiliar to them,” with the help of their advisors. The core “requirement” became

an “expectation.” Their only requirement was one credit from the sophomore program, a seminar that “emphasizes inter- or multidisciplinary learning”. Starting from the class of 2010, even the mandatory sophomore seminar became ancient history.

Professor of History Robert Paquette declared that the open curriculum today was “a decision possibly made in haste after the collapse of the sophomore seminar,” suggesting that the final decision to completely strip Hamilton of distribution requirements was only made in the absence of a better alternative. I was quite taken aback by the thought that the system we so laud could have resulted from a mere arbitrary decision. Could that have ac-

see *Liberal*, page 11



College Undervalues Oral Communication Center

by Patrick Landers '12
OPINION WRITER

Like most schools, Hamilton attempts to create a positive reputation to help distinguish it from other small, homogenous liberal arts colleges in the Northeast. Through departments like Admissions and Communications & Development, Hamilton highlights certain features as unique and important, with varying degrees of veracity. In particular, these departments harp on Hamilton’s dedication to communication, whether written or oral.

While the quality, success and breadth of Hamilton’s writing program is debatable, it is clear that the Oral Communication Center (OCC) leaves something to be desired. The program needs greater emphasis and rigor to be considered a strong, defining feature of the Hamilton education, and any current touting of the program’s distinction is a fairy tale inhaled straight from the Caterpillar’s hookah.

Almost every Hamilton student is familiar with the Nesbitt-Johnson Writing Center. However, most are not well acquainted with the Oral Communication Center, also located in KJ. For those who don’t already know, the OCC serves a similar purpose. Student tutors

are available Sunday through Friday to assist individuals with oral presentations, debates, leading class discussions or taking oral exams. In addition, quarter-credit courses are offered through the center. Students who take advantage of the program consider it a strong asset for improving their skills.

Unfortunately, too few courses on this campus include an oral communication component. This is regrettable, since Hamilton used to instill in its students skills like “rhetoric and elocution.” As with writing, spoken communication skills are essential to success, and Hamilton College is right to value these programs.

However, this emphasis needs to be more than empty platitudes. Increased emphasis on oral communication through curricula changes across the board would help students increase their mastery of the subject. Professors should be encouraged to promote the OCC to the same degree that they push students to schedule writing conferences. This increased awareness of the importance of oral communication would also call for an expansion of available resources. Only then could Hamilton College possess an oral communication program worthy of distinction, as opposed to the gilded fantasy it promotes as part of its image.



WWW.COLLEGEFINANCIALGUIDE.COM

Reed College is an example of a school that lost prestige after doing away with rankings.

The Rise and Fall of Great Colleges Liberal Arts at Hamilton

from *Hamilton*, page 10

counted for Hamilton's ill-preparedness to fully support this open curriculum?

This led me to wonder, is there an intrinsic definition of a "liberal arts education"? The fancy language of the "academic goals" section in our course catalogue could market any academic strategy as "fitting the liberal arts ideal," influencing students' views that the current education they receive is indeed the best. Today it is the open curriculum.

Kelly Du '12 spoke of a friend, a science major, who fervently wished to take a reading and speaking class but never did so for fear of failing. A core requirement might have been her passport to that terrifying territory. Another student argued that there are also many other students who knew what they liked and what they disliked, and are mature enough to benefit from

an open curriculum. Discussing the merits and failings of an open curriculum already sounds like a broken record.

Maybe the debate then is not about the merits of the open curriculum, but instead, of openness and vigilant evaluation. To what extent are we practicing what we preach? Hamilton has a variety of disciplines, but students and faculty would risk being trapped as experts of their own fields if the current trend persists. Would a philosophy major and a biochem major know how to have a fulfilling academic conversation? Further still, would they even be interested in having a conversation?

An open curriculum places the onus on the student to live up to the expectation of a "talented and motivated student [to] draw thoughtfully on their abilities, interests, and aspirations in shaping a course of study." The power is in the students' hands. But the very

fact that these students decided to enroll in a college -- in Hamilton -- is also evidence of an expectation and trust in the administration. And by virtue of that fact, Hamilton should reciprocate by rigorously and constantly reexamining their academic approach.

If Hamilton's current champion is the open curriculum, it should fortify the concept before it contributes to its own demise. Strengthen the advising system, or perhaps even appoint a brand new impartial non-faculty academic counseling department. Encourage more interdisciplinary dialogues and symposiums. Drill into our college's core the practice of a truly liberal and open academia. Promote openness, provide support, challenge options. My wish is to see a real academic environment that the school supports and students desire, instead of a frustrating and senseless one-way street into dogmatic idealism.

Letters to the Editor

To the editor:

The Kirkland Endowment Advisory Committee [KEAC] would like to correct some statements in the letter from several Kirkland College alumnae in the most recent issue of *The Spectator*.

They say that "In 2007, as the CKC [Committee for Kirkland College] began to rally newly engaged alumnae to give, questions arose about the Endowment's operation; its informal and opaque processes were discouraging." We wish to point out that the Committee members never approached the KEAC directly, but instead went directly to the Chairman of the Board of Trustees; indeed one of the members of the Committee is on the board. While the processes may have been opaque to alumnae, the KEAC has been very open to the on-campus community, soliciting proposals every semester.

The CKC says that the "KE supported a narrow range of interests." That is not true: we have always followed the mission of the endowment, "to support the needs and interests of women." We funded requests from a wide range of departments and programs (e.g., Africana Studies, Art, French, Government and Women's Studies), as well as numerous individuals and student groups (including sororities, The Womyn's Community Center and Rainbow Alliance). We provided seed money for HAVOC and for diversity institutes for faculty.

The CKC says that the "KEAC did not meet on a regular basis or include all members in all decisions, did not follow clear criteria for awards, and did not always distribute accrued funds." In my tenure, we decided on proposals via e-mail or phone; though we did not meet in person, every member of the committee voted. Our criteria were those stated above.

It is true that the KEAC did "not always distribute accrued funds." We were spending down the accrued funds in a responsible manner; we had plans for larger initiatives, which are on hold at the moment.

The KEAC members met with the concerned alumnae, but the CKC went to the board over the summer when our student members were unavailable. Thus the concern voiced for inclusion of student members on the committee seems somewhat limited. Furthermore, at the Board meeting in October, decisions were made about the future without discussion with the KEAC.

Nonetheless, the KEAC has adjusted some of our procedures where we thought that we could improve things: we instituted deadlines and held phone meetings to decide on grants; we have also made our guidelines for proposals clearer and have publicized the membership of the Committee. We will soon be replacing some of our members (Katheryn Doran will replace Nancy Rabinowitz; two alumnae will step down and be replaced; one student will be selected to replace students who will be away over the next eighteen months).

Finally, the CKC was concerned about whether programming, as we have supported it, was sufficiently "impactful." While the KEAC politely disagreed about what would be most "impactful," we did agree to support student scholarships in an effort to compromise with the alumnae concerns. We must correct their statement, however: the scholarships cannot for legal reasons be designated for women.

The issue of principle remains that the document establishing the Kirkland Endowment Advisory Committee says clearly that the KEAC makes any and all proposals for expenditures from the Endowment. The board (which may delegate to the administration, as it has done) can turn down proposals that they do not believe to be in the needs and interests of women. That principle, now under attack, must be adhered to if the KEAC is to have the independence that the Kirkland board fought to give it.

Nancy S. Rabinowitz
Katheryn Doran
Donna Kerner K'72
Allison (Woody) Root K'72
Kawana Bullock '02
Kate Harloe '12

Correction:

The Opinion Editors would like to apologize for omitting Amy Tannenbaum's name from her Letter to the Editor regarding the "Consent is Sexy" event, which appeared in the 12/3 issue of *The Spectator*.

Thumbs Up

Tom Coppola: an explosively good decision.

Transition to gmail: Yes, I can finally chat with Shannon Shannon in real time!

Knit Happens Winterwear Sale: Support charity and watch your family members struggle to be convincing while thanking you. It's a win/win!

Diner hashbrowns at Commons breakfast: finally legitimizing my weekday morning drinking habit.

Thumbs Down

Selling back textbooks: Since when is a complete, barely touched Norton Anthology of Poetry not worth a dime bag?

Reading Period: And so begins a week of silence, broken only by the sounds of tears splashing onto keyboards and wallets plopping softly off the backs of chatting heads.

Snow: It's so cold and depressing that I just want a freshman girlfriend who will hold me in my post-coital shame while I cry and tell them about how I hate that Hamilton has changed since my freshman year and that I want to leave even though my four years have left me entirely unprepared to face the real world.

Who Cares?

The decline of my social life: something I was recently reminded of Little John's "Get Low," which currently pertains only to my GPA and prospects for the future.

Student Assembly elections: I didn't vote because a) I won't be here next year and b) you'll probably end up paying for printing and skating on sh*tty ice rinks no matter who you vote for.

People Who Like to Do Fun Things: Watch out before People Who Like to Put Things on the Head of the Alexander Hamilton Statue takes over as the new, hip club on campus.

Naive freshmen exicted about the snow: let's see how "stoked" you are come April.

by *Anthony DelConte '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.

Kirner-Johnson Building Awarded Gold LEED Certification for Environmental Efficiency

by Ben Trachtman '12
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY EDITOR

This past week, Hamilton received word that the Kirner-Johnson Building received LEED Gold certification, a designation denoting a high level of environmental friendliness, energy conservation and use of renewable resources. It is the second building on campus to receive LEED certification, the other being Skenandoa House, but is the first to receive the gold designation.

LEED, or Leadership in Environmental Energy and Design,

certification, is a status granted by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) for buildings that meet certain criteria for energy conservation and ecological friendliness. Buildings are awarded points for meeting particular criteria in six categories to be eligible for LEED certification. The six categories are the use of a sustainable site, water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, materials and resources, indoor environmental quality and innovation and design process. Most of the points that can be awarded focus on the reduction in and efficient use of the use of fossil fuels in an

Skenandoa House, which received Silver certification, would have had to score 50 to 59 points.

Catie Ferrara '11, another member of HEAG, felt that while designing new buildings is a step in the right direction, we should also look at the energy use and environmental friendliness of other buildings. "Ideally, our next steps will not only include building new structures to LEED levels, but also reexamining some of our older buildings to see if we can make them more efficient."

President of the Hamilton Environmental Action Group Nat Duncan '12 had mixed feelings about the certification, but clarified that they were his own and not reflective of HEAG as a whole. "LEED is expensive—engineering fees included, the last estimate I heard was around \$75,000. Perhaps in the scheme of things that is not a lot of money, but it is money that could be spent on additional building improvements, a composting program, tree planting or any number of other 'green' projects," he said. He cited the Science Center, which was designed with LEED specifications in mind but saved money by not applying for actual LEED certification.

LEED certified buildings often cost more to construct due to certification fees, the use of particular materials and increased labor, but energy efficiency and savings usually recoup these losses. According to Steve Bellona, associate vice president for facilities and planning, KJ will provide a 20 percent savings in energy due to its layout and architecture. In

addition to innovative designs to conserve energy, over 2.5 percent of the building's electricity is generated by safe and renewable wind and solar sources.

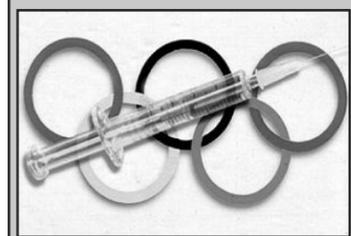
The USGBC explains the many advantages of LEED certified buildings. In addition to reduced energy use and environmental friendliness, LEED buildings also increase the basic quality of life for anyone living

or working in them. Air quality is usually markedly better in these buildings, which is effective in reducing allergies and boosting overall health. Incentives for constructing LEED buildings are becoming more and more common across the country and could one day be mandated by law, especially with the current

see *KJ*, page 14



Aids Vaccines, Testing for Doping Discussed in Lectures



Julia Litzky '12
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY EDITOR

Doping in Sports: How Chemists Catch the "Cheaters" (Sometimes)

The use of steroids and other doping methods have become a central issue across all forms of athletics. With the Olympics approaching, Union College Professor of Chemistry Thomas Werner's Monday lecture on the methods for detection and difficulties facing testers was particularly appropriate. He began by explaining that such methods have been around since the ancient Greeks and Romans. However, "what has changed over the last decade is that this issue has a higher profile."

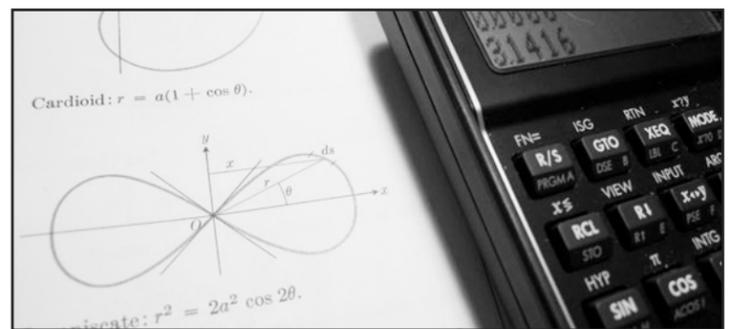
With the increasing profile, the difficulties facing testing for steroids have become more relevant. To test for the presence of chemicals, a Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometer (GCMS) is generally used. GCMS can detect and definitively identify molecules based on their polar-

ity and the smaller molecules they fragment into. Each molecule fragments differently, creating a unique "fingerprint" for each molecule. However, just like when investigators are trying to identify a criminal with their fingerprints, an identification cannot be made without the fingerprint in the system. Therefore, preventing doping becomes a race between scientists and those using and supplying steroids. Those selling steroids are working to find new chemicals for which the testing agencies do not yet have a "fingerprint," often by slightly altering the molecular structure of known steroids. The testers are racing to discover the identity of all of the drugs used so that they can prevent their use.

Even if the scientists trying to test the athletes do not have a test for a specific drug, they have begun to develop methods to keep up with the wide range of steroids available. Many testing agencies have been saving urine and blood samples from important athletic competitions such as the Olympics and the Tour de France. As new tests develop, these samples can be tested, and the awards and medals can then be revoked. Additionally, a new bio-monitoring

method is being employed. Although this method is expensive and requires between 35 and 50 blood tests a year, it allows for better monitoring, especially of levels of natural hormones such as testosterone, which helps build muscle mass and erythropoietin, which increases red blood cell count and therefore the body's ability to transport oxygen. This method involves establishing normal baseline markers for certain biomarkers in the blood which are produced in the body as a result of the presence of other chemicals. If there were a significant change in the biomarkers, this would imply that the athlete had been introducing a different

see *New*, page 14



Hamilton & Colgate Also Rivals in Math

by Yinghan Ding '12
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY WRITER

The 70th annual William Lowell Putnam Mathematical Competition, which took place on December 5, 2009, marked the third year of the Hamilton-Colgate rivalry over the Snow Bowl, a prestigious award rotating annually among the mathematics department of the college whose five students have the highest total score on the Putnam Competition. The results will be announced in April.

Last year, Hamilton's team won the competition. In addition to Colgate, Hamilton is also competing with Skidmore College, Middlebury College and St. Lawrence University, as well as about 550 other colleges and universities. The award is intended to promote interest and participation in mathematical problem solving during the annual William Lowell Putnam Mathematical Competition.

The Hamilton Team this year includes a faculty advisor,

Associate Professor of Mathematics Michelle LeMasurier, and competitors Shichen Xu '12, Yinghan Ding '12, Luke Maher '11 and Ari Abrams-Kudan '10.

Although Colgate garnered the Snow Bowl for the first year, Hamilton upset Colgate last year by regaining the Snow Bowl, with a total score of 28. With two of the team members returned from last year's winning lineup, Hamilton is looking forward to keeping the Snow Bowl at Hamilton this year.

The competition began in 1938, and it was named after Mr. William Lowell Putnam, a member of the Harvard class of 1882. Mr. William Lowell Putnam had a profound conviction in the value of organized team competition in regular college studies.

To establish such a competition, in 1927, his widow, Elizabeth Lowell Putnam, created a trust fund known as the William Lowell Putnam Intercollegiate

see *Hamilton*, page 13

Hamilton Math Team Enters Annual William Lowell Putnam Mathematical Competition

from *Hamilton*, page 12

Memorial Fund. The first competition supported by this fund was in the field of English, and after a few years, a second experimental in mathematics was held. It was not until after Mrs. Putnam's death in 1935 that the examination assumed its present form and was placed under the administration of the Mathematical Association of America. Now, the main goal of the William Lowell Putnam

Mathematical Competition is to stimulate a healthy rivalry in mathematical studies in the colleges and universities of the United States and Canada.

The Putnam competition takes place on the first Saturday in December. Each competitor attempts to solve twelve problems that can typically be solved with only basic knowledge of college

mathematics but which require extensive creative thinking. Each of the twelve questions is worth ten points, and the most frequent scores are ten points, for a complete solution; nine points, for a nearly complete solution; one point, for the beginnings of a solution; and zero points, for an incorrect approach or no solution.

The examination is considered to be very difficult: it is typically attempted by students specializing in mathematics, but the median score is usually one or two points out of the 120 possible points, and there have been only three perfect scores. In 2008, of the 3,627 students taking the exam, 1,711 (47 percent) scored a zero. A score of ten will make the top third of all competitors, and a score of 54 will make the top 100. Last year, Hamilton's team scored a combined 28—one student scored ten and another 18—to win the competition.

"I participate in the Putnam Competition because I enjoy the

intellectual challenge it provides. It is also a time for you to feel the charm of mathematics, that it can have so many variations, all possessing an extreme sense of beauty," said Steven Xu '12, who has competed for the past two years. "I'm also delighted that I helped Hamilton win the Snow Bowl last year and I cannot deny that this boosts my confidence to participate again this year."

There is no limit to the number of students who can take part in the exam. However, a school's official team consists of three individuals that are designated in advance. The team score is the sum of the rank of its three members—the lower the better.

The top five teams win \$25,000, \$20,000, \$15,000, \$10,000, and \$5,000, in that order. The team members each receive \$1,000, \$800, \$600, \$400, and \$200, respectively.

The top five individual scorers are named Putnam Fel-

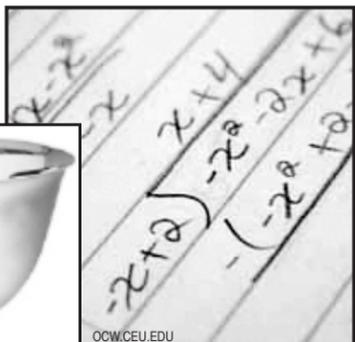
lows and awarded \$2,500. One of them is also awarded the William Lowell Putnam Prize Scholarship of \$12,000, plus tuition for graduate study at Harvard University. Sixth through 15th place individuals receive \$1,000 and the next ten receive \$250. The names of the students with the 100 to scores are published in the American Mathematical Monthly.

"I encourage anyone interested in mathematics to participate in the Putnam Competition," said Professor LeMasurier, the Hamilton team's faculty advisor. "Yes, the problems are ridiculously hard, but you have nothing to lose in taking the exam, and you stand to gain the admiration of the math department if you do well."

The next Putnam Competition will be held on Saturday, December 4, 2010. Students of all majors are encouraged to participate in this fun math competition, and help the Hamilton team beat Colgate.



PHOTO COURTESY OF YINZHAN DING '12



OCW.CEJ.EDU

The Snow Bowl resides in the winning team's math department for the year after the team won.

Off-Campus News This Week:

Largest Particle Collider Performs First Experiments

The Large Hadron Collider, the biggest particle accelerator in the world, recently concluded its first round of tests. These experiments consisted of slamming subatomic particles into each other in an effort to better understand concepts such as dark matter and the Big Bang.

Breast Cancer Drug Shows Potential

A new drug produced by Immunigen, Inc. has been shown to be effective at treating midstage breast cancer. The drug consists of one chemical that has been shown to be partially effective in treating the cancer bonded to a chemotherapy payload. The company will present its complete findings at an upcoming symposium on breast cancer.

First Public Passenger Spacecraft Unveiled

Virgin Galactic recently revealed the VSS Enterprise, which could be the first craft to carry paying passengers into space. Prototypes for the design have already undergone flight-testing, and testing for the Enterprise is expected to start early next year. About 300 people have already signed up for the first flights at about \$200,000 each.

HEAG Green Tip of the Week:

As the weather gets colder, and you're drinking more warm drinks like hot chocolate and tea, try to use a travel mug instead of the paper cups at Commons. They may be compostable, but that is only beneficial if they are composted, and Hamilton has no composting system. Instead, bring a reusable mug with you to save the paper and the resources used to make the cups. Not only is this more environmentally friendly, but they keep your drinks warmer and they're a lot less flimsy than paper cups. Just keep it in your bag and it'll be there when you need it.

Posters Present Research on BPA, Adirondack Park

by Ben Trachtman '12
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY EDITOR

On Monday, two classes held a poster session in the Wellin Atrium of the Science Center. Students in Chemistry 125 presented posters covering experiments involving the presence of Bisphenol A in items on campus, and students in Environmental Studies 220 presented posters on various aspects of the Adirondack Park.

Bisphenol A, better known as BPA, is a chemical found in many everyday plastics that is suspected to cause cancer or developmental defects, particularly in infants. The experiments conducted by the students ranged from the BPA content in baby bottles to soda cans, including how much BPA can leak into the contents of the container and under what circumstances.

Two of the studies focused on the BPA content in cups in the Soper Commons and McEwen din-

ing halls. The study conducted by Kailee Williams '13, Ally Martella '13 and Briana Wagner '13, titled "Analysis of BPA Content in Commons Cups," found that the cups do contain a small amount of BPA that can leech into the contents, depending on what the contents are and what temperature they are.

Alex Thompson '13 and Michael Froehlich '13 presented a poster on their experiment, "Assessing Possible Student Exposure to BPA from Polycarbonate Bon Appétit Cups." They had similar results to the previous study: BPA is present in the cups, but it does not leak into the contents of the cup in

significant amounts unless left to sit for about a week.

In regard to his study, Thompson remarked, "We are subjected to way more BPA exposure from the liners of soda cans than from the cups in Commons," referring to another poster entitled "Plastic Lining in Aluminum Cans Leeches BPA," by Alex Potoczak '13. Potoczak's study concluded that there is a significant amount of BPA leeching from plastic soda can liners because the contents sit in the can for a long period of time.

Posters from the Environmental Studies class included such topics as "Protecting Brook Trout of the Adirondacks," by Haley Peterson '11, Annie Scott '11 and Jane Hannon '11, as well as "Legislation and Acid Rain in the Adirondacks: The Past and Present Problems of Poisonous Precipitation," by Peter Lauro '12 and Nick Richards '12. Other topics included the evolution of the Adirondack guide-boat and snowmobiles in the park.

"Our project was about the effects of acid rain on aquatic systems and what effect, if any, legislation had on this problem," Richards explained. "We found that legislation such as the Clean Air Act had reduced emissions that caused acid rain, but at the current rate of emission reduction, it will take decades for the Adirondacks to recover. However, newly proposed legislation, if passed, could reduce this recovery time substantially." Other topics presented at the poster session for the Environmental Studies class included the evolution of the Adirondack guide-boat and snowmobiles in the park.



PHOTOS BY JULIA LITZKY '12

Students presented posters on their laboratory research on environmental contaminants, particularly BPA (left), and on their research projects on different conservation methods in the Adirondacks (above).



New Methods for Creation of AIDS Vaccine, Difficulties in Detection of Steroids Discussed

from *Aids*, page 12

substance into his or her system. The testers could then use these changes to do more specific tests.

However, these methods do not solve all problems related to testing for doping. Several naturally occurring chemicals are still difficult to detect because they travel through the system quickly and normal levels of such chemicals vary substantially between different people. Additionally, although all Olympic athletes undergo blood tests, none of the pro-sports unions in America currently allow blood tests. Many of these chemicals can not be detected through urine.

For example, two thirds of Asians and ten percent of Caucasian men lack a gene that causes testosterone to be converted to the form excreted in urine. Therefore, the testosterone levels of these men can not be established without blood tests.

Additionally, Human Growth Hormone (HGH), which increases the effectiveness of many other drugs, especially steroids, can not be detected at all in urine tests, and is difficult to identify with blood tests. Werner explained that "there has never been a positive test reported for HGH... The holy grail

in sports testing would be to come up with a urine test for HGH."

The Challenge of Making a Preventive Vaccine for HIV Disease

Although many are searching for a cure to AIDS, Carl Hansen, Ph.D. feels that a vaccine is a more likely solution to the AIDS epidemic. On Monday, in a packed lecture arranged by Students for International Public Health Awareness, he presented his and colleagues' work on creating such a vaccine, and the challenges researchers face in attempting to do so.

He described two of the most promising approaches, targeting the receptors on the cells HIV infects and catalytic antibodies. Both of these have had success at preventing HIV infection in animal models.

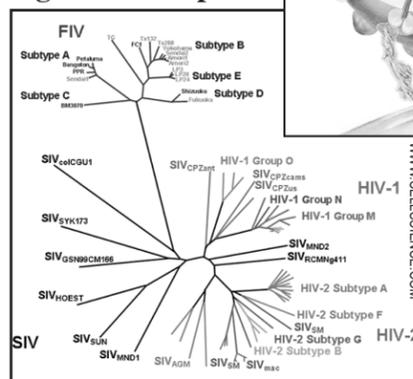
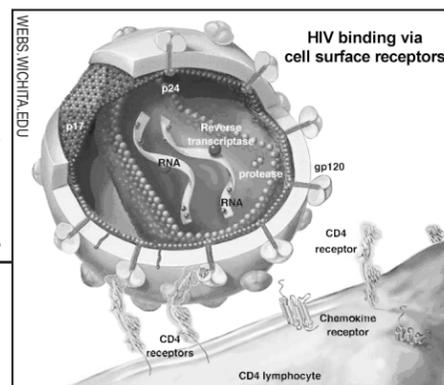
A vaccine for HIV is difficult for many reasons. Primarily, there is no animal model that can be infected with the virus. Chimpanzees can be infected, but their body naturally suppresses the virus. They are infected by a similar but different form of virus, SIV. Additionally, virus function by inserting their genome (their genetic material) into the host's cells.

Therefore, HIV can remain dormant in human cells for years, and the viral DNA can not be extracted from these latent cells without destroying them. Hansen argues that the biggest problem, though, is genetic variation among the virus: "I think the most important problem is the incredible genetic variation of HIV on a worldwide basis. In a single infected patient, up to ten billion new viruses can be created in a single day."

Despite the variation among the virus, all attack human cells in the same way, by binding to a certain receptor (CD4) on the cell membrane. These receptors identify hormonal or other chemical messages in the body, and are designed so that the molecules that make up these messages fit into the receptors like puzzle pieces.

One successful method for preventing infection involves injecting an animal with B4 antibody. This antibody will bind to the CD4 receptor, preventing the HIV virus from binding there as well. Hansen explained that this method has had great success in chimpanzees: If you give a chimp B4 one hour before or after exposure to the virus, it will be protected from infection. Additionally, this method does not damage the CD4 receptors. This method is

HIV attaches to human cells by binding the CD4 receptor. One method of preventing infection involves blocking these receptors.



One of the challenges to a successful HIV vaccine is the diversity of strains of the virus. In the tree on the left, each branch represents a different strain.

currently undergoing further trials and appears promising.

The second method that shows promise for a vaccine attacks the virus's binding mechanism. By destroying the proteins on the outer membrane of the HIV cell, the virus can be prevented from binding to the human cells and inserting its DNA into the cell, thereby preventing infection. To accomplish this, Hansen and his colleagues are employing catalytic antibodies.

Usually, vaccines expose the immune system to weakened or

killed viruses so that the immune cells can identify the viruses and "learn" which antibodies to make in response in case of a real infection. Those with Lupus produce a type of antibody that is particularly effective against the virus. Currently, researchers are working on methods to trigger the creation of these antibodies in humans without infecting the humans with HIV. Methods to do so in animal models have been discovered, and these methods are now being tested further to ensure they are a viable option for a human vaccine.



KJ Receives Gold LEED Certification

from *Kirner-Johnson*, page 12

presence of a bill calling for drastic reductions in energy use over the next 20 years.

One group, Architecture 2030, has issued the "2030 Challenge" with the goal of mandating that buildings be completely carbon-neutral by 2030 with a gradual decline in greenhouse gas emissions until then. The USGBC has stated support for this movement, making LEED certification one tool through which to lower energy usage and carbon emissions to meet the 2030 Challenge.

Currently, buildings account for almost 40 percent of energy use in the United States and roughly the same percentage of U.S. carbon dioxide emissions. The 2030 Challenge would serve to dramatically reduce the carbon footprint of the entire nation. Because the U.S. is one of

the leading energy consumers and greenhouse gas emitters in the world, it would also make a large impact on the global carbon footprint.

Earlier in the year, the College Sustainability Report Card gave Hamilton a "C" in the green building category. After one of the largest buildings on campus becomes LEED gold certified, the grade should go up. With the College's demonstrated commitment to eco-friendly buildings, there is no doubt that this grade will improve in future years.

As new buildings are constructed on campus, it seems logical that they too will be built to LEED standards, thereby reducing the entire campus' carbon footprint. Hamilton is following a national and global trend in green buildings, one that should make a considerable impact on the world and the changing climate.

The Science of the Holidays

by William McIvor '12
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY WRITER

Snowflakes:

A single snowflake is made up of around 100,000,000,000,000,000 water molecules. Contrary to popular depiction, only about one percent of snowflakes are symmetrical.

The hallucinogenic origin of Santa:

Although Coca-Cola takes credit for the modern American depiction of Santa, the man and his appearance have roots in many ancient traditions. Patrick Harding of Sheffield University in England has come up with an unusual ancestry for Santa, claiming he could be a representation of Northern European shamans.

Shamans would have been the most significant person to drop in through the chimney, which doubled as the only door in ancient yurts, and would come bringing supplies to care for the sick. Among these supplies was the very hallucinogenic fly agaric (*Amanita muscaria*) mushroom, which he would use to communicate with spirits and ask for medicinal and other knowledge.

The sense of flying is a common effect of many potent hallucinogens which

can explain Santa's preferred method of travel, and his traditional garb can easily be seen as homage to the red and white patterning on the mushroom.

Rudolph's red, red nose:

Traditional explanations for Rudolph's red nose range from genetic disorder to him having a penchant for strong drink, but it turns out that reindeer noses can turn red in nature. Maybe the reason why

the other reindeer never included him was because he had a parasitic infection. *Linguatula arctica*, a type of tongue worm, can infect reindeer sinuses and *Cephenemyia trompe* fly larvae can inhabit their nasal cavity, both of which can cause reddening of the nose.

What's in that chocolate:

The physical properties of chocolate depend on the fat it contains, as cocoa butter can solidify in six different forms (number five is most preferred, for that glossy, melt-away-in-your-mouth texture). Every 100 grams of chocolate contains five milligrams of methylxanthine and 160 milligrams of theobromine, which are similar to caffeine. Also in 100 grams of chocolate is 660 milligrams of phenylethylamine, which is similar to amphetamines and creates feelings of well-being and alertness. Also found in chocolate are three chemicals from the N-acyl ethanolamine group, which mimic the euphoric effects of cannabis.

How evergreens survive when other trees don't:

For one, evergreens have a waxy coating on their needles, preventing water loss. They also have slightly different cell machinery than do deciduous trees, allowing them to withstand the cold. This allows them to continue photosynthesis through the winter.



Alex Rimmer Makes All-Star Team as First-Year

by Cooper Creagan '13
SPORTS WRITER

Last week, the ECAC announced its picks for the Division III Upstate Women's Soccer All-Star Teams – in other words, the 22 strongest DIII soccer players in Upstate New York. Alex Rimmer '13 made the list.

Rimmer, who played forward for the Continentals this season, was one of only three first-years picked as All-Stars, an honor generally given to seasoned college athletes in their junior or senior

year. Getting a spot on the ECAC second all-star team was not the first accolade the promising athlete has earned this season. With 12 goals and 25 points this season, she was also this year's Liberty League Rookie of the Year.

From Rye, New York, Rimmer chose Hamilton (as so many scholar-athletes do) in order to take advantage of the exceptional academics while still being able to nurture her athletic talent.

Rimmer claims, "The soccer team and the great academics brought me here." In fact, these

factors made Hamilton so appealing to her that "the other schools that I visited didn't compare." She also mentioned the friendliness of the soccer athletes (that would become her teammates) as reason for her coming to the Hill.

In fact, this strong bond between Rimmer and her teammates translated to a very successful season this year, "We all seem to get along well, and the teamwork is great," says Rimmer, "The positive attitude that we have on and off the field really helps to keep our team stable and together."

This year, the women earned an overall record of 9-6-1 and advanced to the Liberty League finals, losing only to William Smith. Making it to the finals is no easy task, Hamilton having done so only three times this decade.

Despite the multiple awards Rimmer has earned already, she does not allow herself to take all the credit for her team's strong season: "I consider the team as all-stars instead of just myself." Indeed, the freshman is very impressed with the other women on the team, both for their hard work and for their friendliness. "The girls on the team were so open and inviting, each [class year] didn't hesitate to introduce themselves to the freshman class.... They are positive role models in every aspect."

Certainly, the addition of Rimmer to the team has helped to



PHOTOS BY JOHN HUBBARD

Alex Rimmer '13 pursues the ball against William Smith.

foster this sense of unity, but she benefits from it as well, "They let you know of mistakes made and inform you of the best way to fix them." This is an especially welcome approach to Rimmer, who has had experience with coaches and teammates who use pointless shouting to try to foster progress. Compared to this, Hamilton's attitude towards athletics as a learning process is a great improvement. "The coaches are always open and available for

help with techniques and know what they are talking about."

The up and coming soccer star cannot seem to thank her coaches and teammates enough for all the success she has enjoyed, as well as that of the team. She looks forward to a great career with her fellow athletes, "Besides the hard work, and the positivity, everyone does a really good job of pumping each other up, because they want to be there, which is really beneficial."



Alex Rimmer '13 slide tackles the ball away at midfield.

Squash Teams Starts En Fuego

from *Squash*, page 16

won their individual matches against their respective opponents from the University of Toronto to stay perfect since the sweep in the season opener. With three wins in a row and the knowledge that they can be a dominant force on the court, the Continentals will enter winter break before taking on Williams College on Jan. 16.

Asked about the team's goals for the rest of the season, German stated that, "As a team, we all look forward to moving up in rank among the NESCAC league and among the College Squash Association. To be able to do so, the entire team will need to work twice as hard during every match. The team has lost strong top players due to graduation so we all know that will need to take this season seriously and improve as a team."

The same is true for the women's team, which played even better than the men's team. The team lost only four individual matches all season and holds a perfect 5-0 record.

"This is definitely the best the Hamilton Women's squash team has ever done so far in any season," says captain Kelly Whipple who started all games as Hamilton's number

one. "The fact that we are going into winter break undefeated is really incredible and is pumping up the team even more."

The Continentals opened the season with two clean sweeps against Bowdoin College and Northeastern University, winning both games 9-0. The team took a little step back when they "only" won 7-2 against the visiting University of Toronto. Anne Edelstein '11 and Alexis Lee '13 lost their matches but both returned to old strength later the same day when they both won their individual matches against the University of Rochester. In fact, Hamilton did not lose a single set in this particular game, winning the game 7-0.

When asked about the team's strength, Whipple said that "it obviously helps that we have four great new freshmen on our team who help create a lot of depth in the ladder, but I think our success is more due to how close the team is. It helps in tough matches when players know that their entire team is behind them and rooting for them."

In the second game against the University of Toronto, Hamilton finished its perfect first half of the season with a 7-2 win. Both Hamilton squash teams will be on a five day training trip in January before



PHOTO BY ANDY RICHARDSON '10

Senior Mario Magana cruises to an easy victory.

playing against Williams College. There seems to be little the Continentals still have to work on but Whipple knows that "We still [...] need to, work on our fitness in order to be prepared for the long, tough matches that lie ahead."

Whipple says her personal goal for the season is to keep encouraging the players on the team and remind them to be respectful players towards the other team.

She says that "I'm so proud of all my teammates so far and know that everyone is going to continue their good sportsmanship and hard play into next semester."

Hockey Hits the Ice

from *Ice Hockey*, page 16

.017 off the Hamilton single season record. Captain Amy Allen '10 has come back as well, and she will provide both strong leadership and excellent skill. She had the most goals on the team coming into the season with 28 career goals, and she was second last season behind Miguel with 15 goals.

While the stability created by having so many skilled players return helps their pursuit, the real difference maker this year might lie in coaching changes.

Shine explains that, "Brendon Knight is still our fearless head coach, but our former goalie coach Todd Manley has also taken over our defense, and we have a new coach in Alison Domenico who is taking charge of the forwards. The changes in our coaching staff have all been for the better. Our defense is looking better every day under Todd's guidance. And Coach Knight and Coach Domenico have been making strides with our offense. We're reverting to a more simplistic style of play in the offensive zone and it's showing a lot of potential!"

As for the first-years, Shine states, "We have six freshmen this year, all of which are very strong players. There are four forwards, a defenseman, and a goaltender. These girls are

making an impact on the ice and building depth for our roster."

While the team is off to a slow 1-4-2 start, the team has shown signs of significant improvement. In the Continental's game against Trinity they tied it up with four minutes left after trailing 1-0. They wound up tying Trinity, a team that had beat the Continentals for two straight years. They also played valiantly against Colby, a team they haven't beaten since the 2006-2007 season, and wound up forcing another tie with a 5-5 score. This potential was also on display in their last game versus Bowdoin, when they diligently fought back after falling behind 5-1 early in the third period to close the gap to 5-4. Unfortunately they could not pull off the comeback and lost, but the demonstration of their perseverance shows that this is a team on the rise. It will take time to adjust to the new system set up by the coaches, but the team's future looks promising.

As Shine puts it, "This season, with a deeper bench (we were plagued by injuries last year) and an overall more skilled group of girls we should be able to attain success as long as we're willing to work for it! We're not the most graceful looking team, but our goal is to be the hardest working out there!"

H SPECTATOR SPORTS

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Hoops Tips-Off Season 6-1

by Riley Smith '12
SPORTS WRITER

The Hamilton women's basketball team set their sights high this year and despite a difficult non-conference schedule, the Continentals look to secure a top four spot in the Liberty League Tournament. Despite losing seven seniors last season, the team feels confident in the seven new talented first-years who have already begun to contribute to the squad on and off the court. While the team is young, the returning players offer both experience and raw talent that the Continentals believe can lead them to a Liberty League Championship title.

Head Coach Sean Mackin is in his third season at the helm of the women's basketball team. This year, Mackin is joined by a new assistant coach, Caitlin Gillard, (a three-time captain at her alma mater, Colgate), who has already proven to be a fantastic addition to the coaching staff. The Continentals are led by Captains Alex Sowinski '10, Reisa Asimovic '11 and Cate Shafer '10.

Mackin is confident in his captains commenting, "Reisa will be expected to push tempo, score, get her teammates open and provide great decision making. Alex can be one of the better players in the league and we expect great things from her. Cate is extremely intelligent on the court and understands our offense and defense better than anyone."

Apart from the captains, Mackin looks to other returning players to make an impact, such as forward Lisa Olszewski '11 who is a force to be reckoned with down low and as Mackin says, "runs the floor really well and has very good low post movements." Seniors August Keating '10 and Hannah Adams '10 bring a degree of experience and knowledge to the team and are expected to deliver on the court along with helping to guide the younger players.

According to Sowinski, "the team has gained some great shooters and has become very guard-oriented, making us both extremely fast and great along the perimeter."

This shift is a change from last year's offensive system that centered around getting the ball into the post. However, the Continentals are sticking with some things that have worked in the past such as the reputation they have gained across the Liberty League as a strong defensive team.

Shafer commented, "currently we're working on our full course defense, We want to put



PHOTO BY JOHN HUBBARD

Reisa Asimovic '11 demonstrates her shooting touch.

a lot of pressure on teams and score off their turnovers."

There is definitely still a concentration on offense. Sowinski added, "we also want to be a great passing team and have a high number of assists throughout the season. I think that our speed, cohesion and shooting abilities will make us very strong offensively."

The team has suffered some early injuries, including Blue Sanders '13, a starting first-year guard who broke her wrist and is expected to be out for the next five to six weeks. Sanders won the first rookie of the week award in the Liberty League after her 25-point performance against Suffolk. Also, Adams and Goidell suffered a broken hand and an ankle sprain respectively.

Despite injuries, the team is off to an excellent start with a 6-1 record. After a heartbreaking two-point loss in the final seconds against Emerson College, the team has come back to win decisively against Suffolk and Morrisville and clinch a 62-58 win in their home opener against Utica College on Nov. 30. The following weekend, the Continentals competed in the Salisbury Classic Tournament where the team swept through the competition, beating Salisbury University in a close match by the score of 56-54 and Lehman College with a score of 75-49 in a more decisive victory.

Madie Harlem '13 led Hamilton with a career-high 29 points in the game against Lehman. After going 11 for 16 from the field and tying a team record

with seven three-point baskets, was named to the Classic's all-tournament team. Harlem also was named women's basketball rookie of the week for the second straight week and as a first-year ranks seventh in the league with an average of 12.7 points per game.

The team's positive attitude and determination helped them bounce back from their first loss.

As Asimovic says, "every single player contributed to our wins and while playing hard, we managed to have a lot of fun. That is the attitude we are trying to maintain this season; we are taking it game by game aware that every player and every play matters. As a team we make sure each player leaves everything they have on the court each game."

The team seems to be improving every game and while the season has only begun, the Liberty League Championship title is becoming more and more of a reality. As Coach Mackin loves to say, "Every time, better and better, higher and higher." That mentality continues to drive the team forward.

Asimovic believes "the combination of experience, knowledge of the game and the first year's endless enthusiasm is what makes our team environment absolutely fantastic."

This year it looks like the team's energy and returning experience will drive the Hamilton Continentals throughout the long winter season. The team plays travels Dec. 12 to Williamstown, Mass. to compete against Williams College.

Squash Starts Strong

by Daniel Hagemeyer '11
SPORTS EDITOR

If one would ask the Hamilton College community about which sport they follow most closely, most would name football, soccer, field hockey, lacrosse or basketball. Cross country and ice hockey might also be in the mix. However, only a considerably smaller number of people would name squash as the sport they follow most closely. It is time to rethink this mindset because men and women's squash this season are two of the most successful sports teams Hamilton has to offer. The men's team currently holds a 3-1 record, whereas the women's team stands perfect at 5-0.

This strong outing is especially impressive considering that the men's team lost their first match of the season 0-9 against Bowdoin College. On Nov. 21, when most students had already left for Thanksgiving break, the team travelled to Harvard University to play Bowdoin. Hamilton lost every single match, and recorded only

two won sets, compared to 27 lost sets. But only one day later, the Continentals turned their fortune around and beat Northeastern University 7-2. James Hogan '11, Henry Lee '11, Alexander Wood '12, Timothy Gray '12, Ronald German '13, Lyman Munschauer '13 and Perrin van Allen '10 all won their matches. German, one of three first-years on the team, says his personal first impression of the team that "Despite the fact that I am still getting to know the guys, I enjoy practicing with them every day. They have eased my transition from Junior squash to College squash by being welcoming."

With a 1-1 record the team took a two week long break before continuing their season this past weekend at home with two matches against the University of Toronto. Head Coach Jamie King and his team won both games and showed that the early season loss against Bowdoin might have been nothing more than a slow start. Hogan, Lee, Wood, Gray and German all

see *Squash*, page 15



PHOTO BY ANDY RICHARDSON '10

Lesley Ryder '11 blocks a wrist shot off the left post.

Veterans Lead Way

by Daniel Greenberg '12
SPORTS EDITOR

The women's ice hockey team has made eight consecutive trips to the New England Small College Athletic Conference (NESCAC) championship tournament, but for this team, making it nine straight is not enough. The Continentals hope to advance to the finals this year and take the trophy, a feat they have yet to accomplish in their eight-year playoff run. Still, the team has to like their chances this year since they only lost three seniors last year.

Included in the strong base of returning players is assistant captain and Division III All-

American forward Stephanie Miguel '11. She was the first player in Hamilton College history to receive the honor of being named to an All-America team after being selected for the East Regions All-American second team. Also returning are assistant captains Rachel Rapoza '10 and Meg Shine '10. Shine is third all-time in saves for Hamilton College (1,575 saves over three seasons) and, barring any unforeseen mishaps, will move into second all-time once she surpasses Caitlin Connelly '07 who had 1,682 career saves. Shine also posted a .901 save percentage, which was only

see *Ice Hockey*, page 15