

# Arthur Levitt Public Affairs Center

*Programs 2005-2006*

ARTHUR LEVITT PUBLIC AFFAIRS CENTER



# Hamilton

This year, the Levitt Center supported hundreds of Hamilton students who researched and experienced critical aspects of public policy. From an evaluation of the relocation of a Utica housing project, to the opinion poll of high school seniors across the country, to the study of electronic waste in China, the projects sponsored by the Levitt Center engaged policy questions at the local, national, and international level. This year's speaker series, "Responsibilities of a Superpower," also encouraged students to consider the role that the U.S. should and does play in the world arena.

The activities of the past year represented a significant increase in the student research conducted with the support of the Levitt Center. Some students conducted survey research that elicited opinions on critical social issues for the next generation of voters. In



*Karen Richardson '06 presents the results of the Hamilton College Youth Poll at the National Press Club in Washington DC in late winter 2006*

*The mission of the Arthur Levitt Public Affairs Center is to strengthen and support the study of public affairs at Hamilton College. The goals of the Center are:*

*To encourage students to address public affairs in their classes and research.*

*To create opportunities for students to become involved in public affairs.*

*To encourage faculty, particularly in the social sciences, to address public affairs in their own research and in collaborative research with Hamilton students.*

addition, we experienced a large increase in the number of students who performed collaborative research with faculty over the summer. Finally, the Levitt Center developed further its expertise in community-based research, with several students using GIS technology to study local policy issues.

Students engaged in the kind of hands-on analysis of policy supported by the Levitt Center often describe their experience as fundamental to their education. The following pages details many of these activities in our words—and theirs.

Ann Owen  
Director, Arthur Levitt Public Affairs Center

# Levitt Speaker Series 2005-2006: “The Responsibilities of a Superpower”

The Levitt Center Speaker series is committed to enhancing the academic experience of our students by introducing them to a wide array of intellectually challenging speakers from varying political points of view. From environmental policy and native American issues to US-China relations and the war in Iraq, this year’s speakers examined “The Responsibilities of a Superpower” from many perspectives.

This year’s speaker series featured many speakers with substantial policy experience, an invaluable asset in helping students make the connection between the classroom and policies enacted in the real world. Students and other audience members had the opportunity to engage speakers in thoughtful discussion following each lecture.



*Katie Childs '08 interviews Jeswald Salacuse '60 for The Spectator*

## *Current Levitt Council*

**Ann Owen**, Director of the Levitt Center and Associate Professor of Economics  
**Douglas Ambrose**, Sidney Wertimer, Jr. Associate Professor of History  
**Alan Cafruny**, Henry Platt Bristol Professor of International Affairs  
**Dennis Gilbert**, Professor of Sociology  
**George (Tom) Jones**, Professor of Archaeology  
**Greg Pierce**, Professor of Psychology  
**Sharon Rivera**, Assistant Professor of Government  
**Robert Simon**, Professor of Philosophy  
**Stephen Wu**, Assistant Professor of Economics  
**Paul Gary Wyckoff**, Associate Professor of Government and Director of the Public Policy Program

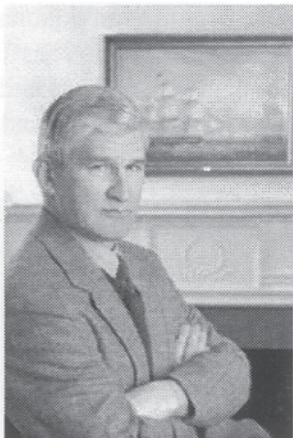
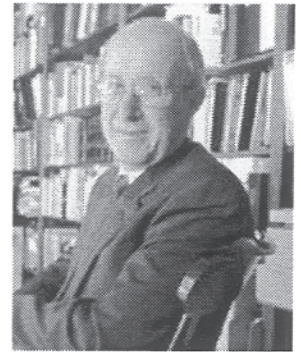
*ex officio*  
**Judith Owens-Manley**, Associate Director for Community Research  
**Sharon Topi**, Levitt Center Administrator

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# Levitt Speaker Series

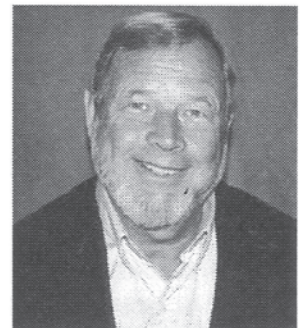
**Jeswald Salacuse '60** returned to the Hill on September 27 for a lecture on "The Responsibilities of a Superpower to Negotiate with Other Nations: When You Carry the Biggest Stick of All, Why Bother?", the first in this year's Levitt Speaker Series. Salacuse discussed what he believes to be the primary responsibility of a superpower: "the responsibility to negotiate in good faith with other nations." He noted that countries accept this responsibility for two reasons: perceived self-interest and the justified expectations of other countries. As Katie Childs '08 noted in her *Spectator* article about the lecture, negotiating in good faith requires that the U.S. engage with other countries and demonstrate a willingness to listen, understand, and seek solutions. This requires a multilateral approach to foreign policy. Salacuse went on to compare the former President George H.W. Bush's and the current President's approaches to conflict in Iraq. Bush, Sr. led a broad coalition and sought approval by the United Nations (U.N.) before entering into the Gulf War in 1991. President George W. Bush invaded Iraq in 2002 without the support of a strong coalition or U.N. approval. "The fact remains that Bush the father was successful, while Bush the son was not," said Salacuse. "Father and son viewed the nature and means of carrying out our superpower responsibilities differently. Bush the son was unwilling to negotiate with other nations the way his father did." According to Salacuse, the current President's unilateral approach and unwillingness to negotiate damaged the national reputation of the US. "International law does not require that a country has a responsibility to negotiate," Salacuse noted. "But this is the least that other nations expect of us."



**Andrew Bacevich**, director of the Center on International Relations and professor of international relations at Boston University, presented "Reflections on American Militarism" on October 20<sup>th</sup>, a lecture based on his most recent book, *The New American Militarism: How Americans are Seduced by War*. In his lecture, Bacevich contended that US aggression in the Middle East has harmed American military prestige both in the US and abroad and has reduced confidence in the American military. He cited the lack of accountability by senior levels of command in the Abu Ghraib prison scandal as one key factor in declining respect and confidence in the American military. He also argued that recent military engagement in Afghanistan and Iraq have "yielded something less than complete victory and have yielded what may be a quasi-permanent military responsibility." Furthermore, he argued, sending additional troops to the Middle East in addition to utilizing them at home to handle natural disasters is becoming increasingly difficult. "We can't afford it. We already have a budget deficit and secondly, even if we had all the money in the world, we can't expand the force because no one wants to join ... We have a mismatch of means and ends." Bacevich concluded his discussion

by outlining three implications of the new American militarism: respect for and awe of American military power has declined; the Bush doctrine, with its call for preemptive war, is inoperative; and the global war on terrorism may have no real strategy.

**John Berry**, Professor of Psychology, emeritus, at Queen's University in Kingston, Canada, presented a lecture on October 24<sup>th</sup>. "Acculturation: Living Successfully in Two Cultures" was based on Berry's recent large-scale study of 13 countries, including Canada, which examined how immigrant youth adapt to their new culture. According to Berry, the purpose of the study was to "find a way of judging when people have been able to create a new life that is satisfactory to them and those around them." Berry began his presentation defining *acculturation* as "how people who have been raised within one cultural matrix come [to make a new life] in a new cultural setting." Although Berry's original research studied immigrant youth, immigrant parents, national youth and national parents, he limited his lecture to a discussion of the strategies immigrant children use to adapt to their new culture, and how well they adapt psychologically, depending on what coping strategy they employ. In conclusion, Berry noted that policies, counseling, and programs for immigrant and refugee children must encourage involvement in and acceptance of both their national and the ethnic identities.





*Hann Yang '06 speaks with Lampton following the discussion*

On October 26<sup>th</sup> the Levitt Center presented a special panel discussion on US-China Relations, titled "Same Bed, Different Dreams: Chinese and American Perceptions of Superpower Responsibilities." The guest speakers were **David Lampton**, Director of Chinese Studies at the Nixon Center and a professor of China Studies at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies; and **Jisi Wang**, Dean of the School of International Studies at Peking University and Director of the Institute of International Strategic Studies at the Central Party School of the Communist Party of China. **Cheng Li**, William R. Kenan Professor of Government at Hamilton College, served as moderator of the discussion, which was co-sponsored by the Edwin Lee Fund in Asian Studies. Lampton began the discussion by arguing that as superpowers, both China and the US must manage their own respective states, as well as their relationship with each other. "When China has not been governed well," he stated, "the rest of the world has suffered." He went on to discuss the difficulties which arise

in China-US relations, due to these countries' potential military power and economic weight. Wang, in turn, spoke about increasingly divergent views on policy issues in China. For example, he discussed the concern of many Chinese that the US is a security threat to China, because of the perception that the US can only tolerate China when it is weak, and will attempt to hinder China's growth. He noted that while on an economic level, both China and the US hold great stakes in maintaining the stability of each other's economies, China's rise did not historically influence the growth of the US. Like Lampton, Wang noted that he believed both China and the US have maintained generally successful foreign policies toward one another. However, Wang argued that the US will continue to be suspicious of long-term Chinese intentions as long as China remains a socialist state. An extensive question and answer session proceeded the panel discussion, and many students remained in the Science Auditorium following the lecture to speak individually with Professors Wang and Lampton.

**Constantine "Dean" Kokkoris**, Attorney at Law, spoke on November 1st about "Seeking Accountability from a Superpower: Agent Orange, Vietnam, and the New York courts." Kokkoris is one of the attorneys for the plaintiffs, Vietnam Victims of Agent Orange/Dioxin (VAVA), in a lawsuit against U.S. chemical companies. While a similar lawsuit against US chemical companies on behalf of Vietnam veterans resulted in a \$180 million out-of-court settlement in 1984, Vietnamese citizens received no compensation for the severe health problems they and their families experienced as a result of exposure to the herbicide Agent Orange. Kokkoris and his clients filed a suit against the chemical companies in 2004 under the Alien Tort Claims Act, claiming that the companies who produced the herbicide were aware of the presence of Dioxin in their products, were in fact able to reduce levels of the toxic chemical, but chose not to because the process was more costly. Mr. Kokkoris argued that "by choosing profit over common sense and by disregarding the safeguards that they could have put in place and they knew about to reduce the Dioxin, they turned herbicide into a chemical weapon." The judge ruled in favor of the chemical companies, and the suit was dismissed. Kokkoris and his clients are currently in the process of appealing the case.



**Jan Mazurek**, director of the Progressive Policy Institute's Environmental Policy Program, spoke about "Public Policy Responses to Global Warming" on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Mazurek's lecture focused on the US government's response to the threat of global warming and possible programs currently under discussion in Congress to address the problem. She spoke critically of the federal government's refusal to implement laws designed to reduce emission of green house gases, and the resistance of the Bush administration to sign the Kyoto Agreement despite the fact that the US is the world's largest energy user. Mazurek made extensive use of charts and other visual aids to present the issue of global warming to her Hamilton audience. In addition, she described two proposals currently in Congress that address emission control. Both proposals are significantly more modest than requirements of the Kyoto protocol.

Senator Bingaman (D-NM) presented one proposal that would require a reduction of green house “intensity,” but not require a cap; the other, proposed by Senator McCain (R-AZ) recommends a cap, but allows 15% of the total cap as “offsets,” which would allow businesses to buy allowances from other entities, such as farmers or foresters, who do not need the total allowance. In conclusion, Mazurek discussed what she believes to be the future of global warming legislation in the US, noting that she expects the McCain proposal to be passed at some point, although she does not think the US will have a mandatory cap and trade plan before 2008.



**William W. Taylor, III**, lead attorney for the Oneida Indian Nation of New York, presented a lecture about “Legal Issues in the Native-American Land Claim Cases” on November 15<sup>th</sup>. Taylor used the example of the Oneida land claim case to discuss the topic of activist judges. He described activist judges as those who do not follow precedent, but are instead result-oriented and “decide the law as they think it ought to be.” In the example of the Oneida Land Claim case presented to the Supreme Court in 2005, dissenter Justice Stevens accused the eight-member majority of being activist judges whose ruling was a law making decision rather than a law enforcing one. Taylor discussed in length the history of the case, which was originally ruled on in 1985 with very different results.

He noted that the most significant factor affecting the results of the 2005 ruling compared to the 1985 decision was the composition of the Court, which calls into doubt the exact nature of what it means to be an “activist judge.” In conclusion, Taylor stressed the importance of this issue in light of current appointments to the Supreme Court, and asked, “Should we look for judges with fundamentalist moral values who believe they are there to do the right thing? Or should we look for those who pledge to uphold Congress’s decisions?”

**Alan Krueger**, Bendheim Professor of Economics and Public Affairs and Director of the Industrial Relations Section at Princeton University, lectured about “The Economics of Terrorism” on February 13<sup>th</sup>. Krueger’s lecture was based on his own and other empirical research into the economic dimensions of terrorism participation, in particular, the link between poverty and terrorism. Krueger argued that although many people assume that stress and poverty lead terrorists to act, and world leaders such as Tony Blair and President Bush speak out publicly on the need to eliminate poverty as the answer to terrorism, the link does not hold up under empirical evidence. Instead, Krueger found that the model for terrorism participation more closely mirrors that for political participation than hate crime. He pointed to several studies in Lebanon, Palestine and Israel which find that terrorists tend to be wealthier and better educated than the population as a whole. He also discussed the definition of terrorism, the idea that “one man’s terrorist is another man’s freedom fighter,” and cited a 2001 study of Palestinians which found that two-thirds of the population polled felt that terrorist tactics were sometimes necessary. Among the theories considered in Krueger’s research is the notion of “Robin Hood terrorism,” in which educated and wealthy activists commit acts of terrorism on behalf of their beleaguered countrymen. The most significant factors in terrorism participation, according to Krueger, are that nations with low levels of civil liberties and occupied nations are larger sources of terrorism; and nations with higher levels of civil liberties and occupying nations are more likely targets of terrorism. Krueger argued that while poverty reduction has many desirable effects, we should not expect to stop terrorism by addressing the issue of poverty. Rather, we must delve deeper into what factors constitute the real grievances and motivations of terrorists.



*Qi Ge '06 discusses economics with Professor Krueger*



**Jagdish Bhagwati**, Senior Fellow in International Economics at the Maurice R. Greenberg Center for Goeconomic Studies and professor of international economics at Columbia University, spoke on March 1<sup>st</sup> “In Defense of Globalization.” Bhagwati is an expert on international trade and immigration, and has advised the World Trade Organization and the United Nations on globalization issues. In his lecture, he argued that critics have exaggerated the negative effects of globalization; and that the debate should focus not on whether globalization has positive effects, but how countries such as the US

should use policy instruments of globalization to further economic and social objectives. Bhagwati, who identified himself as a member of the Democratic party, criticized Democrats for opposing globalization instead of advocating policies that would use globalization to help poor countries boost their own economies. He addressed several criticisms of globalization, including the objection presented by pro-worker forces in the US that international trade has depressed wages and eliminated jobs within this country. Bhagwati maintained that technological advances, not international trade, have reduced the demand for certain types of unskilled labor. Meanwhile, these technological advances have actually increased the demand for skilled labor and created higher paying jobs world-wide, increasing the economic power of nations such as India and China from which the US can benefit through trade and increased efficiency.

**Larry Diamond**, Professor of Political Science and Sociology at Stanford University, spoke to the Hamilton community about “Democracy Development” on April 10<sup>th</sup>. Professor Diamond currently serves as the Co-director of the National Endowment for Democracy’s International Forum for Democratic Studies and the Co-editor of the Journal of Democracy. His lecture addressed the challenges and future of democracy-building in the Middle East, a topic for which he advised the Bush administration in November 2003, and which is the basis for his newest book, *Squandered Victory: The American Occupation and the Bungled Effort to bring Democracy to Iraq*. Diamond’s lecture addressed the common but misguided concern that Arab culture and Islamic religion are hostile to democracy, in light of the fact that although the number of democracies in the world has tripled over the last three decades, the one region which has not followed this trend is the Middle East. In his lecture, Diamond offered suggestions for the implementation of democracy in the Middle East, starting with Iraq. Notably, he mentioned that the US must focus on the development of liberal judicial and political institutions in Iraq, which would constrain the behavior of later elected bodies and protect the civil rights and liberties of the population. Diamond cautioned that the US must proceed “gradually and incrementally” in Iraq, lest the authoritarian state we toppled be replaced by an “equally reprehensible radical Islamist regime.”



*Hamilton students Katie Childs '08, Laura Trubiano '07, Caroline O'Shea '06, Sarah Lozo '06, and Martin Connor '09 contributed material for the speaker articles in this publication. Their complete stories appeared on the Hamilton College website: <http://www.hamilton.edu/news/> or in The Spectator, Hamilton College's weekly student-written newspaper: <http://spec.hamilton.edu/>.*

# National Poll by Hamilton College Surveys High School Seniors

## Youths Conservative on Abortion, Support Same-Sex Relationships

Washington, D.C. — Most high school seniors regard abortion as morally wrong and would severely limit a woman's right to choose. According to a national poll released in Washington by researchers at Hamilton College and Zogby International, 70 percent of females in the class of 2006 say they would not consider abortion if they became pregnant while in high school.

Also, members of the high school class of 2006 are twice as likely as adults to support legal recognition of gay marriages. The poll on "hot button" political issues also found that support for strong handgun control measures is almost universal among high school seniors. Though liberal on gay and gun issues, this year's high school graduates are conservative on issues surrounding abortion.

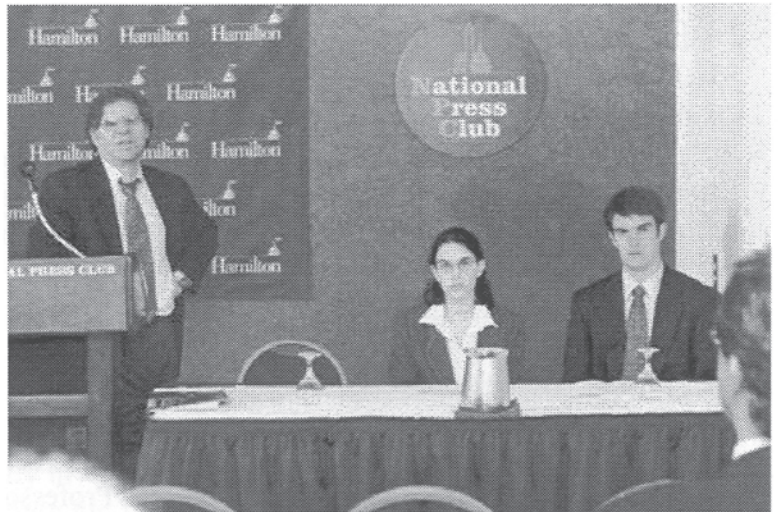
Hamilton College Sociology Professor Dennis Gilbert and his students collaborated with the polling firm Zogby International to conduct the national Youth Hot Button Issues Poll. High school seniors were selected as representatives of a rising generation of Americans and potential voters in November 2006. One thousand high school seniors from across the U.S. were contacted by phone for the study. The poll had a sampling error of plus or minus 3 percent.

Other significant findings from the poll include the following:

- \*Two-thirds of high school seniors would require parental consent before a woman under the age of 18 could legally obtain an abortion.
- \*The majority of high school seniors do not believe that a woman who is poor and unable to afford another child should have a legal right to an abortion.
- \*70 percent of females in the class of 2006 say they would not consider abortion if they became pregnant while in high school.
- \*Yet, more than 60 percent of high school seniors want the Supreme Court to preserve the Roe v. Wade abortion decision.
- \*Three-quarters of this year's high school seniors favor legal recognition of same-sex relationships, either as marriage or civil union.
- \*Three in four seniors oppose a constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage.
- \*63 percent support adoption by gay couples.
- \*35 percent of high school seniors say they know of someone at their school who has been shot or threatened with a gun.
- \*About 90 percent of high school seniors would impose a 5-day waiting period and mandatory registration on purchasers of handguns.

The poll is the eighth in a series of public opinion polls developed by Hamilton College students and faculty. Previous polls can also be found at [www.hamilton.edu/news/polls](http://www.hamilton.edu/news/polls) and include: Patriotism (March, 2003), The Hamilton College Muslim America Poll (May, 2002), Youth and gay issues and rights (August, 2001), Youth and guns (August, 2000), Racial Attitudes of Young Americans (August, 1999).

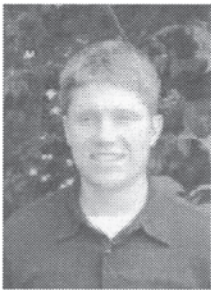
---by Holly Foster



*Professor Dennis Gilbert and students Karen Richardson '06 and Nathan Vandergrift '08.*

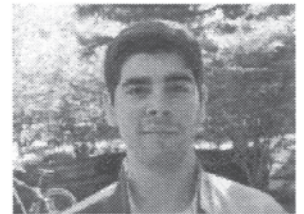
# Levitt Fellowships -Summer 2005

The Levitt Research Fellows Program supports student-faculty collaborative research on issues related to public affairs. Students selected for the program receive a \$3,500 summer stipend and a research budget of up to \$500. At the end of the summer, students write papers and give presentations of their results. Several students continue their work during the following academic year, incorporating it into their senior thesis. Others pursue their research further, developing formal papers for publication in scholarly journals. For example, Christopher Fogelstrom '03 published an article with Associate Professor of Economics Ann Owen in the June 2005 issue of *Applied Economic Letters* titled "Monetary Policy Implications of Electronic Currency: An Empirical Analysis." The paper, which investigated the impact of electronic currency usage on money demand, derived from the research topic Fogelstrom pursued with Owen as a Levitt Fellow in 2002. Last year, fourteen students were awarded Levitt Fellowships and spent the summer of 2005 working closely with their faculty advisors on their chosen research projects.



**John Adams '06** worked with Professors Frank Anechiarico and Gary Wyckoff as well as DeWitt Town Supervisor James DiStefano on a cost-benefit analysis for the Town of DeWitt, NY, titled "Consolidating local Government Services: A Viable Cost-Cutting Measure for Onondaga County?" John used his summer research as the basis for a public contract thesis, which he developed in lieu of his Public Policy senior thesis. In an interview with Emily Lemanczyk, John remarked, "I took this project on because the [town's] 'inter-municipal' cooperation that ensues from consolidation is helping citizens get more efficient and cost effective services, thereby saving tax money."

**Tamim Akiki '08** conducted a study titled "Do Home Country Experiences Influence Economic Outcomes of Immigrants in the United States?" Tamim's research, which he conducted in collaboration with Professor Paul Hagstrom, examined the conditions of the home countries of immigrants to the US and attempted to determine whether a correlation exists between the overall state of their country and how immigrants do economically when they come to the US. "I wanted to find out if the reason why certain people do better than others is related to home country effects or if it is solely dependent on personal characteristics," Tamim explained in an interview with Katherine Trainor.



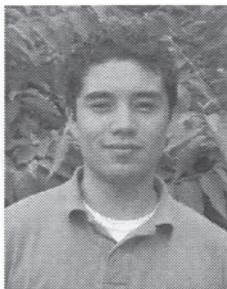
**Elizabeth Debraggio '07** also collaborated with Professor Hagstrom on her summer project, "September 11 and the Effect on Immigrant Composition and Wages." Using data pulled from the current population survey released by the US Census, Liz examined whether or not there was an economic effect on the immigrant population in the US following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

French and History major **Alexandra Field '06** worked with Professor Alan Cafruny on a project titled "Franco-German Relations after the Iraq War." Alex examined the strengths and weaknesses of the Franco-German alliance in order to assess the impact of Franco-German cooperation on US-European relations, and on France's desire to pose a counterweight to the United States.





**Qi Ge '06** worked closely with Professor Derek Jones on his summer research project, "Determinants of Firm Performance: Evidence from Panel Data for Bulgaria, Russia and the Baltic Republics." Ge and Jones sought to determine what factors influence firm performance in transition economies. In particular, they addressed the question of whether a firm's ownership type (state-owned, foreign-owned, or private-holding) affected its performance. Qi, who was awarded a 2006 Senior Prize in Economics at Hamilton, will pursue his Ph.D. in economics at Princeton University this coming year.



In collaboration with Professor Erol Balkan, **Ernesto Medina Gomez '06** spent his summer researching the effects of NGO campaigns on the well-being of poor people touched by World Bank projects, in particular, the China Western Poverty Reduction Project and the Bujagali Hydropower Program in Uganda. Ernesto developed his summer project, "Have NGOs and Anti-Globalization Activists Helped the Poor? A Study of the Impact on the Poor of World Bank Projects and Transnational Protest," into his senior thesis.

**Jason Hecht '06** studied the future of the European Monetary Union (EMU) with Professor Alan Cafruny in his summer research project, "A Tale of Two Countries: The Experiences of Germany and Italy in the European Monetary Union," which he developed into his World Politics Senior Honors thesis. Hecht examined what the future might hold for the EMU by examining the history of the monetary union in its three most influential member states: France, Germany, and Italy.



**Lindsay Martin '07** spent the summer researching the legal and theoretical justifications of speech codes on 30 college and university campuses. In addition, Lindsay examined the published mission statements of the institutions to

determine if specific missions help to justify speech codes of varying degrees of restrictiveness. Combining both political theory and sociology in her study, Lindsay worked with Professors Jenny Irons (sociology) and Rob Martin (government).



**Diana Mastrocola '06** used her summer research project as an opportunity to study in-depth Girls, Inc., a not-for-profit organization for girls age 6-16 with a local chapter in Utica, NY, for which she volunteered during the academic year. Diana's project, "The Provision of Social Services for Girls in Utica's Non-profit Sector, Using Girls, Inc. as a Study Case,"

examined the needs assessment of Girls, Inc. in terms of both the needs of the organization and benefits to the girls involved, and the politics of running a not-for-profit organization. Professor Steve Ellingson served as Diana's faculty advisor.

*Many students find the opportunity to engage in research with faculty to be extremely rewarding.*

Tamim Akiki '08, "The Fellows Research was a chance for me to explore the real world using theories I studied in class. While the research topic may have seemed simple to study at first, it quickly turned into tens of books and dozens of variables. It was especially comforting to have a professor guide me through this process."

Alex Field '06, "Under Professor Cafruny's supervision, I have had the opportunity to research in-depth a topic of strong interest to me, which might not have been possible otherwise during the school year."

Yejun Qian '08, "Working with Professor Li is a privilege. Through our conversations, I have acquired a more comprehensive view of the e-waste issue, but also have learned some important principles on how to conduct independent research, whatever the subject might be."

David Turchin '06, "It's an incredible opportunity."

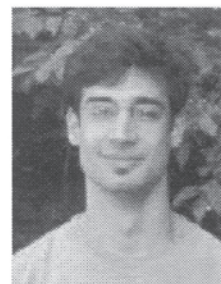


**Peter Mucha '06** combined his interests in Russian politics and the field of intelligence in his summer project, "Putin's Past and Russia's Future: Putin's Career in the KGB and Russian Politics." Working with Professor David Rivera, whose "Politics of Russia and the CIS" course inspired his Levitt Fellowship research topic, Peter examined whether the KGB, particularly in the post-Stalin era, conditioned its employees to think a certain way. As Peter explained in an interview with Katherine Trainor, "I'm going to put this in the perspective of Putin, who worked in the KGB for 15 years before moving up in the political structure, and will determine how much and to what extent Putin's time in the KGB influences his decisions as president."

**Brendan O'Brien '07**, working with Professor Sharon Rivera, researched the ethnic Ukraine for his summer project, "Ethnicity and Democracy in the Ukraine." Brendan's study focused on government and democracy in the Ukraine over the past 15 years, with a special look at the November 2004 Ukrainian presidential election.

**Yejun Qian '08** returned to China to research the global problem of electronic waste in a project titled "Behind the Poisonous Electronic Waste Trade: An Analysis of Policy Incentives of US E-Waste Export to China." Under the advisement of Professor Cheng Li, Yejun examined e-waste in China from many angles, including scientific and economic perspectives, the political dimension and ethical debates. In an interview with Katherine Trainor, Yejun discussed his personal interest in studying in China, "As a native of Shanghai, China, I truly hope that my work not only will better the public understanding on the vast topic of electronic waste, but also will shed meaningful light on the resolution of China's importing toxic wastes and of the global e-waste problem."

**Caitlin Rochford '06** spent the summer in Washington, DC, studying the progress of energy legislation, including an analysis of how actions of Congress reflect current American sentiment on oil, renewable energy and the environment. During the fall semester of 2004, Caitlin had the opportunity to work for the House Science Committee Subcommittee on Energy in Washington, DC. Her summer research, provided an opportunity to take that work one step further, through the study of the Climate Stewardship Act, the Energy Efficiency Act of 2005 and other energy legislation. Professor Alan Cafruny served as Caitlin's faculty advisor.



In collaboration with Professor Steve Orvis, **David Turchin '06** conducted research into first-world subsidies, specifically cotton, and their effect on West African economies in a project titled "The Cotton Harvest: Harvesting Subsidies, Harvesting Poverty." David first became interested in the topic after studying the effects of first world agricultural protectionism and first world subsidies on the developing world for a Government course on "International Political Economy."

## Levitt Community Service Fellowships 2005

**Jeremy Kozak '06** worked with Oneida County Communities That Care and several member agencies on summer projects. Jeremy honed his organizational and marketing skills at The Cornhill Caring Community, JCTOD Outreach and the Weed & Seed program run by the Home Ownership Center in Utica.

**Niels Liesnewski '07** worked with the HOPE VI Project run by Rebuild Mohawk Valley under the auspices of the Utica Municipal Housing Authority to gather data on their HUD-funded community revitalization project in Cornhill. Niels analyzed census data and agency records to provide baseline measurements for improvements in Cornhill and in the status of relocated residents of the Washington Courts housing project.

**Alexis Mann '05** completed a special photographic essay project for the relocated Washington Courts residents. She visited with residents over the summer and took photographs of the people and the homes they had inhabited until recently. Her work is featured in an exhibit being shown at the Emerson Gallery, Hamilton College during the month of June, and a fuller exhibit will be shown in Utica later in 2006.

# Levitt Fellowships –Summer 2006

The following students were selected to receive Levitt Fellowships for Summer 2006. They will be working with their faculty advisors throughout the summer on these research projects:

- **Joshua Agins '07 with Professor Peter Cannavo** “*The Standing Doctrine in Environmental Citizen Suits: Its Current State and Its Future*”
- **Tamim Akiki '08 with Professor Erol Balkan** “*Role of the Central Bank in a Small Economy: The Case Study of Lebanon*”
- **Riada Asimovic '07 with Professor Alan Cafruny** “*The Future Status of Kosovo: Will the International Community Be Able to Find a Consensus between the Albanian Aspirations for Independence and Serbian Determination to Guard Kosovo and Its Sovereignty?*”
- **YiYang Cao '09 with Professor Cheng Li** “*Thirst of a Nation: Investigation into China’s Water Policies*”
- **Jessie Clough '07 with Professor Lisa Trivedi** “*The Village of Delta: Public Policy and Community History*”
- **Timothy Eddy '07 with Professor Sharon Rivera** “*The Andijon Massacre: A Major Setback in U.S. – Uzbek Relations?*”
- **Elena Filekova '08 with Professor Erol Balkan** “*Macroeconomic Effects in Bulgaria upon its Accession to the European Union*”
- **Joseph Jansen '07 with Professor Ted Eismeier** “*An Investigation into historical Understandings and Current Interpretations of the Establishment and Free Exercise Clauses*”
- **Dane Johnson '07 with Professor Chris Georges** “*The Creation of a Computer Program which Simulates the Effect of Technological Progress on Fluctuations in the Business Cycle*”
- **Danna Klein '07 with Professor Rick Werner** “*Efficiencies and Inefficiencies of the Non-profit Sector in New York City*”
- **Niels Lesniewski '07 with Professor Frank Anechiarico** “*The Government’s Response to Hurricanes: Lessons Less Than Learned?*”
- **Mike Mortimer '07 with Professor Peter Cannavo** “*Turning Back the Clock: Reversing Human Induced Saltwater Intrusions in the Upper Floridian Aquifer*”
- **David Sands '07 with Professor Cheng Li** “*Are the Chinese Coming? An Assessment of China’s Attempt to Enter the U.S. Auto Market*”
- **Xin Wang '09 with Professor Cheng Li** “*The Double Life of a Single Child: A Study of the Generation of Single Children from Different Socio-Economic Backgrounds*”

## Levitt Community Service Fellowships –Summer 2006

**Eileen Starett '07** and **Tamar Nobel '08** received Community Service Fellowships for Summer 2006. Eileen will work with Oneida County Communities That Care and member agencies to lay the groundwork for the beginning of a community-based research project with the Waterville and Utica area communities. Tamar will work on evaluation of the HOPE VI Project. This summer’s work will document housing starts in the community, changes in property values, and the demographic makeup of new residents.

# Levitt Scholars Program



*Ann Horwitz '06 spoke about identity politics in Northern Ireland*

Every year since 1993 the Arthur Levitt Public Affairs Center has sent Hamilton students to area high schools to speak on a wide variety of topics. These Levitt Scholars are juniors and seniors selected by faculty members for their outstanding research and communication skills. This year, our 28 scholars represented 15 different majors. Levitt Scholars first complete an Oral Communications course taught by Professor Susan Mason. During this class, they refine their public speaking skills and learn to tailor their presentation to a high school audience.

This year, 28 students participated in the program, including one Scholar from last year. In addition to speaking at several area high schools, many Scholars brought their presentations to their home town schools during Hamilton's Winter and Spring Breaks. In addition to speaking to traditional high school classes, Katie Spencer '06 tailored her presentation to the Canastota High School Teen

AIDS Task Force. Local educators participating in the program consistently commented on the high quality of the students' presentations, and Scholars embraced their task with enthusiasm and enjoyed the experience.



*Adam Gordon '06 discussed liberty and national security*

## Comments from Teachers about Scholars' Presentations

"Excellent command of topic —these students really appreciated [his] discussion and felt it presented excellent issues to discuss."

"[The Scholar's] presentation was a perfect complement to our class ... [her] personal involvement, her passion and concern were the elements that made her presentation so effective."

"Well received —added to my unit of discrimination —Great!"

"The Levitt Scholars program is an excellent way to give students an opportunity to put into practice the skills they learn at Hamilton, and [the Scholar] represented the best qualities of young adults. Confident, prepared, comfortable with the students, [he] did an excellent job!"

"This was so well presented and received by our students!"

"I liked [the Scholar] so much that I invited her to come back any time for some classroom observations. She mentioned that she was considered teaching as a profession. Nothing like a high school audience to test one's skill!"

# Levitt Scholar Topics 2005-2006

William Andersen, "Conflict of Interpretation: The Numerous Ways to Interpret Art"

Matthew Colman, "The Politics of the Supreme Court"

John Cooper, "The Perils of Preemptive War"

Lindsey Crusan, "Beyond *Silence of the Lambs*: Forensic Psychology in the Real World"

Erin Daugherty, "The Complete Student-Athlete: Succeeding in Academics and Athletics"

Jessica Djilani, "Lessons from a World Traveler"

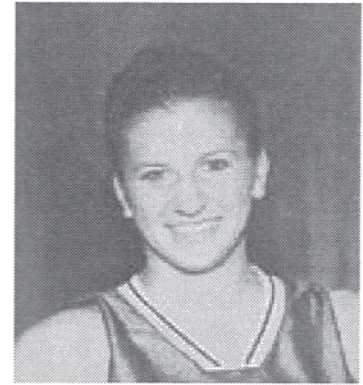
Grace Dobbyn, "Stereotypes: What They are and What They do"

Alexandra Field, "Waging War: Understanding the Franco-American Conflict (2003)"

Will Flanagan, "Taking Comedy Seriously"

Adam Gordon, "Balancing Liberty with National Security"

Ann Horwitz, "Of the Faith: Identity Politics in Northern Ireland"



*Erin Daugherty '06 used her experience to discuss what it takes to succeed both academically and as a student-athlete*

## ***Participating High Schools, 2005-2006***

Bethlehem Central High School (Delmar, NY)

Canastota

Christian Brothers Academy

East Syracuse-Minoa

Frankfort-Schuyler

Hamilton Central

Jamesville DeWitt

Lincoln Academy

Marcellus

Masconomet Regional High School (Topsfield, MA)

Milton Academy (Milton, MA)

Mount Markham

New Hartford

New Providence High School (New Providence, NJ)

Oneida

Riverdale Country School (Riverdale, NY)

Rome Free Academy

Roosevelt High School (Seattle, WA)

Scarsdale High School (Scarsdale, NY)

Snowden International School (Copley, MA)

Thayer Academy (Braintree, MA)

Waterville Central

West Canada Valley

West Genesee

Whitesboro

Ghiane Jones, "Modern Soul Food: Dangerously Delicious"

Laura Oman, "Asian Exclusion (1882-1943): How Much has the U.S. Changed?"

Patrick Randolph, "U.S. vs. China"

Tigisty Reda, "A Comparative Study of the Assimilation Process between African Immigrants and African Refugees"

Olivia Reynolds, "Trapped or Gapped?"

Alex Richman, "Congressional Offices"

Katie Riposta, "Behind the Scenes: Exposing the Complexities of an Advertising Campaign"

Steve Sallan, "What Can Your Senator Do for You?"

Sarah Schol, "What Is performance?"

Kristin Sherry, "Who Needs Philosophers Anyway? The Changing Face of Contemporary Philosophy"

Katie Spencer, "My Experience as an AIDS Activist"

Lorraine Sperling, "Health Care Policy and Rising Health Care Costs"

Wangechi Thuo, "Global AIDS"

David Turchin, "American Farm Support: How Our Domestic Policies Hurt the Developing World"

Nathan Vandergrift, "Economics and Governmental Decisions"

Justin Young, "Hugo Chavez and Asymmetrical Threats to American Security"

Tyler Zink, "Legal and Ethical Issues in the Treatment of a Mentally Ill Population"

# Community-Based Learning

The Levitt Center develops extensive community partnerships to provide students and faculty with an experiential laboratory that connects academic learning to real life experiences. These experiences can be classified into either service learning or community based research opportunities. Service-learning is community service that enhances academic learning in the context of a course and addresses a community-identified need, while community-based research is research that is designed to address a community-identified problem.



*Mike Fung '06 (top left) and Stacy Sadove '07 (bottom right) with elder learners at Matt Apartments*

## Service Learning

Service learning through the Levitt Center is organized around “projects.” In partnership with community agencies, a project is created that is bolstered by service learning courses and the student volunteer efforts that result from the academic requirements. There are currently two formal projects sponsored by the Levitt Center, **Project SHINE** and the **Cornhill Caring Community**. Other opportunities are developed for students on an individual basis through requests made to the Associate Director for Community Research, Judith Owens-Manley.

### Student reflections on service learning

“I understood the trials and difficulties in the Republics of the former Soviet Union. I also was able to understand the political indifference many learners have towards their native countries.”

“It was very interesting when the learners’ reactions were similar to what we read in class in textbooks, while even more interesting to hear their answers when they differed from what was commonly said in our textbooks.”

“It really connected to the course. I had to figure out how to use cinematography to convey my thoughts on globalization and immigration, as well as my personal experience.”

“It gave me real world application for the cultural differences and influences of globalization that we were discussing in class.”

## Service Learning Courses

### Fall 2005

Anthropology 360: U.S. Discourse: Race and Class, Bonnie Urciuoli

Philosophy 111: Contemporary Moral Issues, Rick Werner

Russian Studies 213: Politics in Russia, Sharon Rivera

Sophomore Seminar 200: Ethics of Globalization, Rick Werner

Sophomore Seminar 200: Globalization and Democracy, Chris Willemsen

Sophomore Seminar 200: Globalization and Cinema, Pat O'Neill

Women's Studies 101: Intro to Women's Studies, Danielle DeMuth

Women's Studies 101: Intro to Women's Studies, Margaret Gentry

### Spring 2006

Communications 360: Communications Ethics, John Adams

Computer Science 107: Applications, Implications and Issues, Brian Rosmaita

Econ 235: Policy, Poverty and Practice, Steve Owen

ESOL 102: Fundamentals of Composition, John Bartle

Sophomore Seminar 200: Globalization and Political Identity, Steve Orvis

Women's Studies 101: Intro to Women's Studies, Margaret Gentry

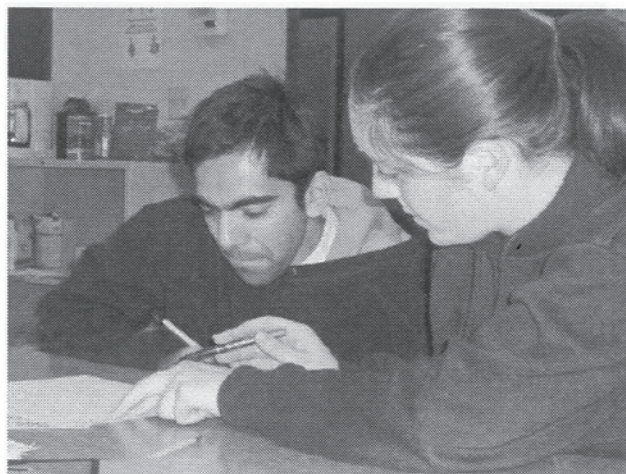
Women's Studies 203: Women and War, Anne Lacsamana

## Project SHINE

Project SHINE (Students Helping in the Naturalization of Elders) addresses the problems encountered by refugees or immigrants settling in culturally different communities through English language tutoring and assistance with citizenship. In its second year, Project SHINE has successfully expanded its reach both at Hamilton College and within the community at large. Ninety students participated in Project SHINE this year, volunteering approximately 20 hours each over the course of a semester in classrooms at the Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees, the BOCES (Board of Cooperative Educational Services) Access site, or at a public housing project.

Opportunities for students to participate in Project SHINE expanded this year as six new faculty incorporated this project into their courses. Faculty from many different departments used Project SHINE to create unique learning opportunities for the students. For example, Professor Sharon Werning Rivera's *Politics in Russia* class hosted a meal and discussion for Russian learners on campus to further augment the course material and to deepen both constituencies' understandings of another culture. Based on her experience teaching this class, Professor Rivera published an article, *Out of the Ivory Tower: Integrating Service Learning into Russian Studies*, which was published in March, 2006 in AAASS NewsNET (American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies.)

Students in Professor Patricia O'Neill's class also had the opportunity to participate in an innovative project in which they created a short film documentary project as part of a Globalization and Cinema sophomore seminar. Professor O'Neill collaborated with Instructional Technologist Janet Simons to enhance the student projects, and they developed a paper presentation, *Pedagogy that SHINEs: Collaboration as a Key Component in Course Design and Service Learning*. O'Neill and Simons presented their work and the students' work, which included short films and reflective papers about the experience at a national conference on technology and service learning.



Amanda Hannoosh '06 works with Syed-Jan Opiani from Afghanistan at BOCES

A new service learning opportunity was created for students in Project SHINE this year in conjunction with the Mohawk Valley Latino Association. An ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) and Citizenship tutoring site focused on the Hispanic population and gave students an opportunity to practice one-on-one tutoring, initially without a formal instructor. The large attendance of the evening sessions was responsible for the school district assigning a teacher after the first month, and the college students continued to supplement the formal classroom instruction.

Altogether more than 100 adult learners were assisted by college students through Project SHINE reflecting cultures of up to twenty different countries. The “Refugee Center” in Utica became home in recent years to refugees from Liberia, the Sudan, Somalia, and Burma, joining those displaced in earlier years from the former Soviet Union, Vietnam and Bosnia, among others. Additionally, with the assistance of Project SHINE tutors, more than 15 learners passed their citizenship exams this year, and the attendance to that class has also swelled in size.



*Karen Richardson '06 with Khadija*

## **Cornhill Caring Community**

This year, the Cornhill Caring Community VISTA project has focused on building and deepening college-community partnerships in the Cornhill neighborhood of Utica, about 10 miles from Hamilton. Going into its third year, the project continues to focus on the dual fronts of community development and student engagement.

Students were involved in the Cornhill project through service learning classes. In an introductory Computer Science class, “Applications, Implications, and Issues,” Professor Brian Rosmaita’s students re-designed the Oneida County Communities That Care website to be functional and accessible to the visually impaired. Several students also participated in the IRS VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) Program, preparing tax returns free of charge for low and moderate-income Uticans at Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School and the Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees. This very successful program brought \$200,777 in Earned Income Tax Credit dollars and \$592,685 in total refunds back into Oneida County

### **Students reflect on their experience as VITA volunteers**

“My experiences as a VITA volunteer have presented the reality of those who really do live within the throes of poverty, just twenty minutes down the road . . . my work over the semester has really opened my eyes to the reality of poverty and inequality beyond just numbers and statistics.”

“Through my involvement with the VITA Program and the course, I gained invaluable insight into the complexities of the tax system, various perspectives of poverty issues, and ultimately came to understand poverty on a more personal level.”

“I am very appreciative of the opportunity to participate in the VITA program, allowing me to better understand the issues of poverty and how the tax system serves the real-world problems that millions of Americans face everyday.”

“Filing taxes at Martin Luther King Elementary School helped me personally hear and see people living and working through their poverty. The class enlightens me on poverty and its power.”



## Community-Based Research

Twelve students in the Seminar in Program Evaluation course were engaged in the real life problem of assessing community need, process, and outcomes for the HOPE VI Project in Utica. The Levitt Center is in its third year of a five year contract to provide a program evaluation of this program. This Spring, the students learned how to use a software program, ARC GIS, in order to bring geographical information systems capability for mapping to the project. Students in the course formed groups and examined characteristics of the HOPE VI target area, located as a sub-group of Cornhill blocks, and mapped variables such as poverty, employment, education, race and ethnicity with recommendations for areas that need to be addressed by the HOPE VI Project.



*John Adams '06 displays his contribution to the HOPE VI GIS mapping project poster session*

Students presented their work in a poster session for the Hamilton Community in late April and made power point presentations of their work to the HOPE VI Project staff a week later. Students reported that the additional learning that GIS mapping required was difficult, but worthwhile, and students found that colleagues outside of the school were impressed that they were learning this technology applied to a real life setting.

Student work is edited into one report annually for the HOPE VI Project by the Associate Director for Community Research, Judy Owens-Manley. Additional work completed by a yearly summer intern is incorporated into the annual report.

The Levitt Center also connects students on an individual basis to community-based research opportunities for independent studies or senior theses. The Women's Fund of Oneida and Herkimer Counties, the YWCA Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault programs, Faxton-St. Luke's Healthcare and the Family Treatment Court for Oneida County are partnerships that have provided student research opportunities over the years. This year, the Women's Fund luncheon featured the results of a project that was completed in Spring 2004 by six students with Professor Carol Drogus. The students' work is presented in an edited report, *The Status of Women: 2005, Working age women with limited economic opportunities*. The full report was the product of a partnership between Hamilton College and SUNY Institute of Technology.



*Sayoko Miller '09 (front left) and Susan Stanton '09 (top left) tutor immigrants at BOCES*

# Student Conferences and Projects

Significant learning experiences can take place off campus. With Levitt Center support, a number of students had the opportunity this year to participate in regional and national conferences and other educational events. Students also received funding from other on-campus agencies, such as the President's Office, Dean of Students and Student Activities. Highlights of this year's events included:

## **Students Participate in AMCIPS Invitational Model UN**

Sixteen Hamilton students traveled to Washington, DC, to participate in The American Center for International Policy Studies' 2005 Invitational Model UN (IMUN), November 17-20, 2005. This college-level Model UN program focuses on training new delegates. The conference opened with a presentation by the US Department of State on the "US and the UN," followed by embassy briefings and expert speakers from the Security Council and other committees. The following students participated in the conference: Stephen Sallan, Nathan Vandergrift, Ryan Murphy, Melissa Kong, Katherine Kenney, Keya Advani, Pat Hodgens, Emily Goughary, Max Berube, Murtaza Al Jafri, Matt D'Amico, Matt Bradley, Rachel Horowitz, Meghan Dunn, Matt Arnold, and Ntokozo Xaba.

## **Students Travel to Prague for Model European Union EuroSim conference**

Ten Hamilton students traveled to Prague, Czech Republic, with faculty sponsor Alan Cafruny, Henry Platt Bristol Professor of International Affairs, to participate in the Model European Union (EU) EuroSim conference, January 5-8, 2006. This is Hamilton's 16<sup>th</sup> year as a member of the Consortium of New York state colleges and universities, which sponsors the Model EU conferences. According to their website (<http://www.fredonia.edu/org/eurosim/>) the primary purpose of EuroSim is to provide a framework for a partial simulation of a major EU issue. Because this year's conference discussed the specifics of asylum policy and illegal immigration, during their stay in Prague, the students simulated the development of a common European refugee policy. Students who participated were Murtaza Jafri, Matt D'Amico, Riada Asimovic, Elena Filekova, Steve Sallan, Melissa Kong, Tamim Akiki, Ntokozo Xaba, Natalie Tarallo and Meghan Stringer.



*Professor Alan Cafruny (center) with Hamilton students in Prague*

## **Students Compete in the College Fed Challenge**

Students in a course on monetary policy competed in the College Fed Challenge, a competition sponsored by the Federal Reserve in which students give a presentation that details a recommendation for the future course of monetary policy. In preparation for this event, the students attended a one day conference at the New York Fed in which Federal Reserve economists discussed current issues in policymaking. The first round of the competition was held at the Buffalo branch of the Federal Reserve and the Hamilton College team took second place. The "travel team" for the Fed Challenge included Tamim Akiki, Sean Navin, Kim Walker, and Adam Weisz. Support team members included Young Han, Philip Odusote, Alex Taddei, Paul Torres, and Lyle Trued.

# Analysis Projects

Each summer, analysis projects are solicited from state and local agencies and government officials. The seniors in the Public Policy Program taught by Professor Paul Gary Wyckoff have the opportunity to select a project that aligns with their interests in lieu of their senior thesis. The research they accomplish provides data of special interest to the agencies, and the students gain some real world experience. This year, two seniors conducted public policy projects:



*Professor Gary Wyckoff with John Adams '06*

**John D. Adams**, “Consolidating Property Tax Assessment Services: A Viable Cost-Cutting Measure for Onondaga County?” Sponsoring Agency: Town of Dewitt

The Town of Dewitt wanted to know whether consolidating property tax assessment would save money for the town and for Onondaga County. John examined the empirical literature on property tax consolidation, especially a recent study in Georgia which analyzed assessment costs for counties of different population sizes. John also examined consolidation efforts in Fulton, Tompkins, and Herkimer counties in New York State. The report ends with recommendations for consolidation of assessment services, in the short term and over the long run.

**Alicia Giglio**, “Sex Offenders: Looking Past Our Fears Toward Effective Policy.”

Sponsoring Agency: New York Division of the Budget

The Division of the Budget requested an analysis of recent moves to restrict convicted sex offenders after they leave prison. Many states now require offender registration, community notification, residency restrictions, or civil commitment for such offenders. Alicia found that there is much stronger empirical evidence for cognitive-behavioral treatment of offenders than for these kinds of restrictions. She also found that treatment was much more cost effective than civil commitment. Finally, Alicia determined that monitoring and treatment for sex offenders needs to be tailored to the circumstances of each offender, according to a risk profile that accounts for actuarial, clinical, static, and dynamic factors.



*Alicia Giglio '06*

## Changing Faces in the Levitt Center



**Charles Francis**, a 2004 Hamilton graduate, is completing his second year of service here as an AmericorpsVISTA member. Charley worked over the past two years to develop a “Cornhill Caring Community” project in Cornhill with a dual focus: building a sustainable community board that addresses protection and risk factors for Cornhill youth and developing ties to the college to increase and enhance service-learning opportunities for Hamilton students and faculty in Cornhill. Charley will be missed, although he and his wife, Christy ('03 Hamilton graduate) plan to stay in the area. This VISTA project will continue for a third year with Haley Reimbold '06.

**Aletha Asay**, a 2005 Hamilton graduate, will be completing her AmericorpsVISTA year in August. Aletha coordinated Project SHINE to engage Hamilton students in the community with refugees and immigrants, helping them to learn the English language and citizenship skills. Courtney Johnson, a '06 Hamilton graduate, will be replacing Aletha as the Project SHINE Coordinator in August.



# Think Tanks combine stimulating topics, conversation and lunch

*“Just bring an open mind and an empty stomach!”*

Drawn by fascinating topics and a free lunch, students and other Hamilton community members flocked to this year’s Think Tank luncheons in record numbers. Topics ranging from Hurricane Katrina to Contemporary American Art spurred thoughtful and lively discussions. Think Tank is a student-directed organization sponsored by the Levitt Center that strives to increase dialogue between professors and students outside the classroom. On Fridays, students and other members of the Hamilton community gather for lunchtime discussions, which are facilitated by a faculty member.

This year, **Emily Colbert ’06** and **Johanna Reed ’06** put together a wide-ranging program with 12 Think Tank lunches, including one special discussion in October facilitated by the late **Dick Couper ’44**, Hamilton College Life Trustee and first President and CEO of the NY Public Library. Couper’s discussion “NY Public Library nonpareil” drew such a large audience that lunch moved from its traditional classroom to the Red Pit. **Ann Owen**, Director of the Levitt Center and Associate Professor of Economics, led the first Think Tank of the academic year with her discussion of “Economic policy and Hurricane Katrina,” followed in October by **Andrew Jillings**, Adventure Program Director, with an engaging discussion about risk taking and accident theory. Other Fall 2005 Think Tanks included **Dennis Gilbert**, Professor of Sociology, with a discussion about “Growing inequality in the US”; **Yvonne Zylan**, Assistant Professor of Sociology, with a thought-provoking discourse titled “Is gay marriage killing the movement for LGB equality? Thoughts from the law/society divide”; and **Mark Oakes**, Visiting Assistant Professor of Psychology, whose topic “Unconscious stereotypes: What are they and how can we measure them?” incorporated audience participation in an informal experiment.

Professor of Mathematics **Dick Bedient** commenced the spring 2006 semester with his visually captivating Think Tank talk on “Mandelbrot and Julia Sets,” followed in February by “Tanks for thinking of me! When people think, and what it means for college” with Professor of Sociology **Dan Chambliss**. In March, scores of students and community members packed a crowded classroom to participate in Professor of Anthropology **Douglas Raybeck’s** discussion “You pod, we pod, they pod and I pod: The social and cultural implications of one of our favorite toys.” **Rebecca Murtaugh**, Visiting Assistant Professor of Art, led an eye-opening talk on “Contemporary American art in a visual pop culture,” which featured a fascinating slide show of unique and unusual contemporary art. April topics included **Jenny Irons**, Assistant Professor of Sociology, with “What’s funny?: A sociological discussion of ‘race-y’, ‘sex-y’, and ‘class-y’ humor” and “The curriculum and its discontents: What you can do to change education at Hamilton” with Professor of Comparative Literature **Peter Rabinowitz**. Our College Chaplain **Jeff McArn** wrapped up the year with a thoughtful conversation about why we volunteer: “The complexities of service: Why is it so hard to help others?”

Emily and Johanna have passed the torch to upcoming seniors **Shannon Mims** and **Meghan Morrissey**, who will co-direct Think Tank in 2006-2007.



*Emily Colbert (left) and Johanna Reed (right) coordinated this year’s Think Tank luncheons*