

# Arthur Levitt Public Affairs Center

*Programs 2008-2009*

ARTHUR LEVITT PUBLIC AFFAIRS CENTER



# Hamilton



*Blake Hulnick (center) describes his summer research with fellow students on Oct. 31st. (photo: Greg Huffaker '09)*

This year, Levitt Center programs introduced hundreds of Hamilton students to important public affairs issues by sponsoring lectures, student-faculty collaborative research, and service learning and community-based research projects. Through these activities, students were exposed to a variety of local, national, and international public policy questions, which often served as a valuable complement to their class work.

This year's speaker series was organized around the theme, "Sustainability: Environment, Health, and Poverty." In response to the economic crisis that emerged in September, the Levitt Center organized a panel of faculty from the Economics and Government Departments as well as a panel of Hamilton Trustees.

Additional projects on sustainability were organized by the Levitt Center's Sustainability Program, directed by Associate Professor of Economics Ann Owen. The program sponsored research by both faculty and students as well as visits by students to local high schools.

The support of the Levitt Center for service learning and community based research projects permitted students to connect their course work with the local community. Projects included tutoring refugees for citizenship tests, preparing income tax returns for low income families, and evaluating the effectiveness of the Oneida Family Treatment Court. The Levitt Center's service learning and community-based research projects were partly responsible for Hamilton College being named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll this year.

The Levitt Center is pleased to have moved into an expanded space in the newly renovated Kirner Johnson building.

Hamilton students have a rich variety of opportunities to examine public affairs issues outside the classroom, thereby enriching their academic experiences. In the following pages, details are provided on those opportunities sponsored by the Levitt Center.

*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.*

# Levitt Summer Research Fellows

The Levitt Research Fellows Program supports student-collaborative research on issues related to public affairs. Students selected for the program currently receive a \$4,000 summer stipend and a research budget of up to \$500.

At the end of their projects, students write papers, create large-format posters outlining their research, and participate in a poster session. Several students continue their work during the academic year, incorporating it into their senior thesis. Some Fellows pursue their research further, developing formal papers for publication in scholarly journals.

During Family Weekend in October, the eighteen Summer 2008 Levitt Fellows had the opportunity to present their research at the Summer Research Poster Session in the newly renovated Kirner-Johnson building for a hugely successful event, widely attended by family members, faculty, and other students.

## *Levitt Council 2008-2009*

**Jeff Pliskin**, Director of the Levitt Center and Associate Professor of Economics  
**Douglas Ambrose**, Professor of History  
**Betsy Jensen**, Professor of Economics  
**Alan Cafruny**, Henry Platt Bristol Professor of International Affairs  
**David Gapp**, Professor of Biology  
**Dennis Gilbert**, Professor of Sociology  
**Ann Owen**, Associate Professor of Economics and Director of the Sustainability Program at the Levitt Center  
**Rick Werner**, John Stewart Kennedy Professor of Philosophy  
**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

## *Table of Contents*

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Levitt Summer Research Fellows and Civic Engagement Fellowships..... | 2  |
| Levitt Speakers.....   | 8  |
| Sustainability Initiatives.....                                      | 11 |
| Civic Engagement.....  | 12 |
| Community-Based Research.....  | 12 |
| Service Learning.....  | 15 |
| Levitt Scholars.....   | 20 |
| Student Conferences and Projects.....                                | 21 |
| Think Tank.....  | 24 |

# Levitt Summer Research Fellows 2008



**Matthew Arnold '09** (left) spent the summer researching how globalization has affected Indian education and social freedoms. After spending fall 2007 in India and writing a research paper at the end of the semester, Arnold wanted to continue the research he conducted there “in any way possible.” He collaborated with Assistant Professor of Anthropology Chaise LaDousa, and has since incorporated parts of his project into his senior thesis in history, with the hopes of attending graduate school to continue studying the topic.

For **Kaitlin Britt '09** (right), summer research, following a junior year with the Associated Colleges in China program, has been one more step in pursuing a long-held interest. Britt came to Hamilton because of its Chinese language program, she says, and spending a year in Beijing pursuing intensive language study, learning 150-200 characters a day, was exactly the opportunity she wanted. After finishing her program in China and returning to Hamilton, Britt discussed the project with her collaborating professor, Lecturer in Government David Rivera, and refined her topic to study one aspect of Chinese political trends – looking at the relationship between the educational backgrounds of China’s leaders and their policies for the country.



**William Cowles '09**, working with Associate Professor of History Kevin Grant, examined how the Indian community in South Africa, including Mohandas Gandhi, developed the distinctive, non-violent principles and tactics of satyagraha between Gandhi’s arrival in South Africa in 1893 and his departure in 1914. Gandhi is most famous for his work in India, but he spent an influential part of his early life in South Africa, where he gained experience that informed his later political actions. William studied Gandhi’s political development in South Africa in its own context; illuminating Gandhi’s life

within a broader community of social reformers, political allies, and friends. One goal of his study was to illuminate the many sources of the distinctive, non-violent politics and strategies of resistance known as satyagraha in South Africa. His larger aim was to demonstrate how the famous leader of a minority community was also a member and product of that community.



A critical concern for U.S. policymakers is how to secure a reliable source of energy in the coming years. Even as fears about a decline in global petroleum reserves lead the country to use the range of its diplomatic options to achieve “energy security,” competition for resources is intensifying with the economic growth of countries like Russia, China and India. As a Levitt Fellow working in collaboration with Assistant Professor of Government Ted Lehmann, **Cameron Gaylord '09** (shown presenting his research as a Levitt Scholar) explored these issues, studying the global political arena to assess the challenges that finite energy resources present for international policy. With this project, in addition to evaluating the current situation in global energy policy, Gaylord examined the dangers of a rising “mercantilist-like mentality” and its possible significance for state power and individual freedoms.

**Sam Dudley '09** used his Levitt summer fellowship to support his research of the 1947 Partition of India. The Partition of India began on 14 August 1947, and the term “Partition” refers to the creation of two sovereign states, India and Pakistan, within the territory formerly known as British India. His goal was to demonstrate that non-ethnic and secular factors combined with religion and ethnicity to affect the nationalist, political, and administrative tendencies of various Indian cultural groups before the Partition. He discovered that the Partition of India was inevitable, and that religion and ethnicity were not actually the driving forces behind it. Working with Associate Professor of History Lisa Trivedi, Sam concluded that religion and ethnicity did become increasingly important in the twenty years before the Partition. He incorporated his summer research within his senior thesis in history.

# Levitt Summer Research Fellows

After the contested presidential election of 2000, public attention suddenly focused on the issue of voting policy and reform. In response to the confusion of that election, Congress passed the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) in 2002, which was intended to allow the federal government to organize election administration over all 50 states, modernizing voting equipment and procedures. This past summer, **Blake Hulnick '09** (right) studied how New York State handles election and voting policy by examining HAVA and the subsequent controversy over it. His project was conducted in collaboration with Maynard-Knox Professor of Government Frank Anechiarico.



**Silin Li '11** (left) spent the summer researching the growing presence of McDonald's and other Western fast-food restaurants in Beijing and in his hometown of Shengyang, China. Professor of Government Stephen Orvis served as his advisor. Li's project focused on fast-food chains like McDonald's to study Chinese cultural identity in a globalizing world. During the 2007-2008 winter break, he conducted a survey of around 600 people, asking them about their opinions on fast-food restaurants such as McDonald's, KFC, and Pizza Hut. His work this past summer continued that research, using secondary literature on the subject and conducting interviews and surveys in Beijing, where the effects of globalization are more apparent than in Shenyang.

**Andrew B. Miller '10** worked with Professor Christophre Georges on a computer model of a simplified economy that accurately simulates both microeconomic and macroeconomic phenomena. According to Miller, the model "shows that realistic macroeconomic fluctuations can be generated from idiosyncratic, microeconomic interactions between firms and workers." In other words, the simulation has produced movements in variables such as the interest rate by starting with the production and trade of individual companies as a building block. Miller spent the summer working to improve the microeconomic side of the simulation so that it better reflects reality. He and Georges hope that their research will challenge existing economic thought: "In contrast to much of mainstream economic theory, it shows how aggregate behavior cannot necessarily be chalked up to the behavior of a representative individual," Miller says.

**Jennifer Karl '09** (right) focused her summer research on identifying and analyzing the historiography pertaining to the women textile workers' health and to the labor and welfare organizations that responded to their concerns, focusing on Lancashire and Lowell from approximately 1860 to 1930. In addition to collecting information on women workers' health needs and concerns, Jennifer examined the emergence of public health services and legislation for lower-income individuals. She incorporated her research, which she conducted in collaboration with Associate Professor of History Lisa Trivedi, into her senior thesis this past year.



In January 2008, as everyone in China started to plan celebrations for the New Year of the Rat, the worst winter storms in half a century paralyzed southern China. This unusual weather revealed some deep-seated problems and challenges for Chinese policy makers. **Lu Qi '11** studied the weaknesses and strengths of the Chinese economy highlighted by the severe event; in particular, the relationship between migration patterns and the concentration of industries within China. Associate Professor of Economics Julio Videras served as Lu Qi's faculty advisor.

*Hamilton students J. Kevin O'Connor '09, David Foster '10, Patrick Dunn '12, Alex Pure '12, Daniel Steinman '12, Mariam Ballout '10, Danielle Raulli '10, and media relations intern Laura Bramley contributed material for the Fellows and 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>*

# Levitt Summer Research Fellows

When it came to the black vote after the Civil War, **Wenxi Li '10** says, "The Republicans had everything on their side." In the 1860s it was Republican President Abraham Lincoln who had signed the Emancipation Proclamation to free the slaves, while the southern Democrats were pursuing a policy of restricting black rights. However, by 1936, that had changed, Li says, and the Democrat Franklin Delano Roosevelt won the majority of black votes. The question of why this shift occurred formed the basis of Wenxi's summer research, which she conducted in collaboration with Professor of History Douglas Ambrose. Her investigation focuses specifically on the actions and rhetoric of the Republican Party, to investigate what the party's role was in the shift.



*Wenxi Li with her poster on Oct. 31st.  
(Photo credit: Greg Huffaker '09)*



**Kevin O'Connor '09** (left) spent the summer studying the persistence of race and class issues in the Washington, D.C. Shaw and Anacostia neighborhood renewal efforts, in collaboration with Assistant Professor of Government Peter Cannavo. This research, O'Connor says, was the perfect way to combine the Hamilton tradition of interdisciplinary research with a critical public policy question. His project involved questions of history, government, business, and geography, areas he has been interested in for a long time. It also allowed him to get to know a side of Washington that many people never see. "There are some really dedicated people in these communities, who really give you cause for optimism," he says. If the right structures and forums are set up to guide revitalization, he is hopeful that the optimism will be justified.

In making investment decisions, international diversification is one of the many ways to boost a portfolio's performance by reducing the correlation between asset returns on the stocks in the portfolio. As such, a well diversified international portfolio will benefit from a higher risk-adjusted performance than a portfolio consisting purely of domestic stocks. To understand the economic theory behind this strategy, **Li Qiu '09** spent his summer studying the correlation among 20 different world markets. Qiu's inspiration to pursue this project was an article he read that suggested that Asian economies were decoupling from the United States markets. Although the subprime crisis and the continuing war in Iraq have put a damper on the U.S. economy, many Asian economies such as China are growing at an amazing pace. Associate Professor of Economics Ann Owen served as his faculty advisor.

**Dan Rudel '10** (right) studied the large refugee community in Utica, investigating the processes refugees use to integrate into the community and gain citizenship. He collaborated with Dan Chambliss, the Eugene M. Tobin Distinguished Professor of Sociology. To get in touch with refugees in the area, Rudel volunteered in two local classes, one teaching English as a second language and one for immigrants hoping to achieve citizenship. He talked with the students about their experiences, learning about the "nonobvious" reasons that the refugees try for citizenship, such as career ambitions and social factors, as well the obstacles they face as they settle into the area. Rudel found that financial realities are a major reason why refugees in Utica pursue citizenship. Many held skilled jobs in their country of origin, while the work available to them in the U.S. is limited and mostly unskilled. Gaining citizenship helps them to advance their careers.



# Levitt Summer Research Fellows



*Stephen Rowe '09 with a young friend in Calcutta*

**Steve Rowe's** summer research follows an independent study on capitalism and justice that he did at the end of his spring '08 semester in Nepal. Rowe's research, which he conducted in collaboration with Associate Professor of Government Robert Martin, investigated deliberative democracy as a solution to social injustice. Where the traditional theory of democracy stresses electing representatives to debate and decide on policy, in a deliberative model, citizens gather publicly to make decisions for themselves. To study how deliberative democracy might work to address issues of conflict and injustice in South Asia, Rowe spent a month living in West Bengal researching the daily realities of democracy and injustice through interviews and personal observations. Rowe's research focuses on the possible benefits and problems of deliberative democracy, as well as the ways in which current tension between Gorkhas (ethnic Nepalis) and Bengalis in West Bengal might be resolved using the deliberative model.

**Razeena Shrestha** spent the summer in Nepal researching social philanthropy and sustainable community development, in collaboration with Associate Professor of Sociology Stephen Ellingson. Her research used a case study of the non-governmental organization (NGO) Tewa to study how Nepali social entrepreneurship has changed sustainable development. To conduct her case study, Shrestha studied Tewa's publications and annual reports and used open-ended questionnaires to interview the organization's founding members, board of directors, staff, and volunteers, as well as involved community members. She visited groups who received grants from Tewa, and learned about the context of sustainable development in Nepal by reading publications from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Nepal's National Planning Commission, the Ministry of Population and Environment, and the Nepali World Bank.

A native of Shanghai, China, **Xiaolu Xu '10** took the opportunity this past summer to learn more about her hometown. Her research, a collaborative project with Assistant Professor of Government Peter Cannavo, concerned how architectural preservation has evolved in Shanghai, whose architectural heritage has been challenged by various developments in recent decades. The Cultural Revolution opposed both Western influence and traditional heritage, and the huge construction boom of the past 20 years has caused continuing neglect of historic architecture. Even since the mid-90s, rapid real-estate development has torn down much of the community housing in the center of the city. "As the paragon of China's modernity, Shanghai's original built environment has suffered seriously from the momentous urban transformation," says Xu. She explored how architectural preservation has developed since the city's transformation, as well as how current city planners, scholars and architects propose to move forward with the issue.

Under the supervision of Economics Professor Stephen Wu, **Cindy (Yuanxin) Zhu '11** spent the summer in China collecting real estate transaction data and talking to Chinese citizens in order to examine the Chinese housing market's explosion. Although new construction and rising prices sound refreshingly different from the American housing market's falling prices and subprime crisis, the picture is not necessarily rosier for many impoverished citizens. Skyrocketing home values have made adequate shelter unaffordable for China's poorest citizens, who must therefore live in dangerous inner-city shacks. According to Zhu, "The new housing market for foreigners and the country's nouveau riche are saturated with luxurious apartments, while the urban masses at the bottom of the work hierarchy and those within a less favorable set of hierarchical relationships are still cramped in living spaces." She notes that in response, the Chinese government is providing more low-income housing while imposing new taxes and restrictions to "cool" the hot housing market.



*Family and students at the October 31st poster session. (photo credit: Greg Huffaker '09)*

# Levitt Summer Research Fellows - Summer 2009

*The Following students were selected to receive Levitt Fellowships for Summer 2009. They will be working with their faculty advisors throughout the summer on these research projects:*

- Daniel Bunger with Prof. Derek Jones:** “Co-operative Banks in the Financial Crisis: An International Comparison”
- Jiong Chen with Prof. Betsy Jensen:** “China to Protect Intellectual Rights on Digital Media Products”
- J. Max Currier with Prof. Ned Walker:** “Obama’s War: Provincial Reconstruction Teams in Afghanistan”
- John Dunn with Prof. Kevin Grant:** “Reconciliation and Rugby in Post-Apartheid South Africa”
- Robert Eisenhart with Prof. Alan Cafruny:** “Examining Human Rights Abuses in the War on Drugs: U.S. Foreign Policy and Plan Colombia”
- Alex Gross with Prof. Doug Ambrose:** “Olde Nourse Farm”
- Jae Yong Kim with Prof. Dingding Chen:** “North Korean Human Rights Crisis and the Roles of NGOs and South Korean Government”
- Erica Kowsz with Prof. Nathan Goodale:** “Cultural Landscapes of the Irish Coast Heritage Project 2009”
- Injun Lyo with Prof. Dennis Gilbert:** “A Comparative Study of the Childrearing Practices of White American and Immigrant Korean Parents”
- Mario Magana with Prof. Dennis Gilbert and Shelley McConnell:** “Democratization in El Salvador”
- Lauren Perillo with Prof. Lisa Trivedi:** “Women’s Mutual Aid Societies in the Era of the Rise of the British Welfare State”
- William Preston with Prof. Doug Ambrose:** “John Howland: the Separatist and His Posterity”
- Samantha Rabin with Prof. Jenny Irons:** “Open Season on Tourists? Identity and Community on Martha’s Vineyard”
- Kevin Rowe with Prof. Peter Cannavo:** “Community-based Urban Planning and Environmental Justice in Two NYC Neighborhoods”
- Ekaterina Staykova with Prof. Alan Cafruny:** “Bulgaria’s Integration in the European Union”
- Elizabeth Weber with Prof. Lisa Trivedi:** “The Homes and Possessions of the Women in Manchester, England”

## Levitt Civic Engagement Fellowships - Summer 2009

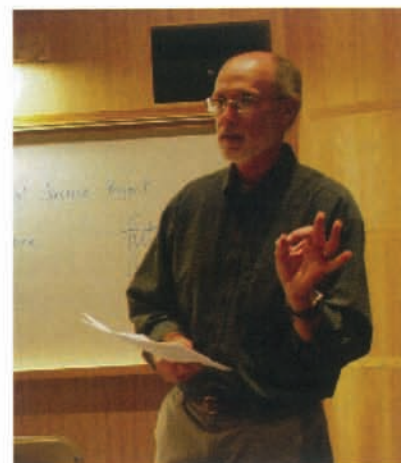
*In addition to the Levitt Fellowships awarded for summer research, several students are working on community-based projects this summer:*

**Travis Mockler '11** is working at the Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees each day on a weaving project with Burmese/Karen women that was begun in a Womens Studies course on Global Feminism last Fall. Travis will work with a male refugee who will build the looms and then with the women on how to form a collective and begin weaving products to sell. **Isabelle Van Hook '11** was hired in the Levitt Center through a Community Research Fellowship and a Policy Options grant from the Bonner Foundation. Isabelle will be continuing work that was begun in Govt 202: Immigrants and Refugees in the U.S. this spring. Isabelle is volunteering at the Refugee Center one morning a week in an English language class and spends the rest of her time researching policy and model practices that impact refugee resettlement. She may spend the latter part of the summer researching policy and practices for sustainability and environmental concerns. **Brian Mizoguchi '11** and **Walter Cronkite '11** have both been hired in the Levitt Center to work on Social Media for the Levitt Center programs. A small grant from the Bonner Foundation allows us to connect many of the things that we are doing around global issues and make them more visible and accessible to on-campus and off-campus audiences. **Brendon Carroll '10** is working as a Summer Fellow for Grant Evaluation, evaluating grants that the Community Foundation of Herkimer & Oneida Counties has awarded in the past year.

# Levitt Speaker Series 2008-2009: Sustainability: Environment, Health and Poverty

## Environmental Justice and Sustainability Panel

On September 9th, the Levitt Center and the Diversity and Social Justice Project co-sponsored a panel discussion on “Environmental Justice and Sustainability” in the Kirner-Johnson auditorium. A reception followed in the auditorium. On the panel, which was moderated by Associate Professor of Economics Ann Owen, were Professor of Biology Ernest Williams (right), Professor of Economics Erol Balkan, Visiting Assistant Professor of Women’s Studies Joyce Barry, and Assistant Professor of Government Peter Cannavo. Although the panelists’ contributions shared a common theme, they approached the topic from distinct vantage points. Professor Williams began by discussing ways in which it is possible for humans to live “lightly,” that is, in a sustainable matter. Subsequently, Professor Barry spoke of the challenges previous generations of environmental justice advocates had faced. Her emphasis on environmental justice activism was matched by that of Professor Cannavo, who delineated the concepts of sustainability and environmental justice and declared “environmental justice” to be the paramount value. Professor Erol Balkan addressed the challenge of making sustainable progress in the international community.



## Sustainability: Market Solutions Panel

On October 2nd, the Levitt Center sponsored a panel discussion on “Sustainability: Market Solutions” in the newly refurbished Kirner-Johnson Auditorium. The panel consisted of a mix of alumni and faculty, a mix designed to provide insights into both the micro- and macro- implications of sustainable policymaking. The alumni panelists included Charter Trustee Rich Bernstein ‘80 (former Chief Strategist for Merrill Lynch) and Bob Fryklund ‘80 (Vice President of Industry Relations, for IHS, a leading provider of information services to engineering and energy industries and a former ConocoPhillips executive). The Hamilton faculty members included Associate Professor of Economics Julio Videras and the panel’s moderator, Associate Professor of Economics and Director of the Levitt Center’s Sustainability Program Ann Owen. The breadth of expertise was almost matched by the breadth of the discussion; topics ranged from Iraq War policy to global warming.



*(l-r) Cafruny, Owen, Balkan, Bradfield*

## The Financial Crisis: A Faculty Panel

“The Financial Crisis: A Faculty Panel” took place on October 23rd at 7:30 pm in the Science Center Auditorium. Panelists included Professors Ann Owen, Alan Cafruny, James Bradfield, and Erol Balkan. Levitt Center Director and Professor Jeffrey Pliskin served as moderator. These faculty gathered to discuss the implications of the current financial crisis and potential policy responses before a very full room and an online audience who streamed live video of the conference via the Hamilton website. Topics of the discussion and the lengthy question and answer session ranged from the role of credit rating agencies to employment statistics to monetary policy, reflecting

the broad range of panelists’ and audience members’ opinions and areas of expertise.

## Why Latin America is Turning Left

On Tuesday Oct. 28th, the Levitt Center, along with the Dean of the Faculty and the Latin American Studies Committee, welcomed Kenneth M. Roberts, Cornell University professor of comparative and Latin American politics, to College Hill where he discussed “Why Latin America is Turning Left,” in Kirner-Johnson Auditorium.



# Levitt Speaker Series

## **The Credit & Climate Crisis: What the new American President Should Do; or How to Kick-start the Third Industrial Revolution**

Michael Mathres '96 (shown right, with Hamilton student), the Director of Climate Capital Network, discussed the future of carbon trading on November 11th. Mathres developed Climate Change Now, the first renewable energy switching tool which ultimately found support from major players including UNEP, European Environment Agency, Ben & Jerry's and Aveda. In 2004, he founded Susten8, a major conference on climate change in London. Citing recent progress in Germany as an example, Mathres proposed that the Obama administration enact a "New low-carbon Deal," designed to spur development of green technologies in America's private sector. Just days after his presentation at Hamilton College, Mathres made a similar presentation in Washington for the officials of the incoming Obama Administration.



(l-r) Jeff Pliskin, John Rice, George Baker, Gregory Hoogkamp. Photo credit: Claudette Ferrone

## **Trustees Calm Student Woes About Financial Crisis**

On Friday, Feb. 27, a panel of Hamilton's trustees provided answers to students' questions on the economic crisis. The experienced group of professionals gave their views on the major problems and possible solutions surrounding what has become a personal issue for many students on campus. Gregory Hoogkamp '82, managing director at Goldman Sachs, John Rice '78, vice chairman of General Electric and George Baker '74, partner at William and Jensen made up the panel. Jaime Yordan '71, vice chairman at Citigroup, also dropped by and was asked to speak to the audience. In its discussion, the panel covered a wide range of topics related to the economy, including banking issues, irresponsibility in the private sector, international trade relations, lax government regulation and the mentality of businesses. A spirited Q&A session followed the presentations. Rice emphasized what

he sees as the business lessons to be learned from the current recession: "think long term" and "never live beyond your means."

## **Naomi Klein: The Rise of Disaster Capitalism**

On Monday, April 13, award-winning journalist Naomi Klein presented a lecture on her best-selling book, *The Shock Doctrine: the Rise to Disaster Capitalism*. The event was co-sponsored by the Kirkland Endowment and the Dean of Faculty. Klein began by outlining the contemporary economic crisis and linking it to her definition of the "shock doctrine" and "disaster capitalism". She noted that the depth, scope and speed of the current crisis have caused a rupture in modern society. Klein then linked her concept of the shock doctrine with history, citing examples from the Great Depression, the rapid deregulation of the financial sector in Latin America, as well as the U.S. economic crisis in the 1970's which gave rise to stagflation. According to Klein, crises such as September 11th and the Iraq War inhabited all the trappings of the shock doctrine. She noted that by examining past examples of disaster capitalism, our society must work to combat the effects of the shock doctrine.



Naomi Klein (left) with Hamilton student. Photo credit: Sylvia De Swaan

# Levitt Speaker Series

## **Major Carter: Her Battle to Save the South Bronx**

Beginning with a quote from Franklin D. Roosevelt stressing the need for sustainability, Majora Carter, an activist and MacArthur “Genius” Fellow, described her efforts as the founder of Sustainable South Bronx and discussed current threats to environmental justice on November 18th in the Hamilton College Chapel. Her lecture, which the Levitt Center co-sponsored with the Diversity and Social Justice Project and the Kirkland Endowment, stressed the ways in which small incremental changes in seemingly hopeless circumstances can yield tremendous and surprising results that improve not only environments but also local economies. Joking that “a crisis is a terrible thing to waste,” she ended her talk by pointing out the opportunity the current economic crisis enables for America to reorient itself in a more sustainable fashion.

## **Norman Bowie: Economics: Friend or Foe of Ethics?**

Norman Bowie examined the relationship between ethics and economics in his lecture at Hamilton on April 20. Bowie, formerly a member of Hamilton’s Philosophy Department in the 1970s, is the Elmer Anderson Chair in Corporate Responsibility and Strategic Management/Organization at the University of Minnesota. Bowie opened by saying that it is his wish to “bridge the gap” between the fields of economics and the humanities. Bowie explained that people often have a concept of what is fair and what is not fair, and their economic behavior reflects that. By challenging some of our assumptions of economic patterns and human nature, he said, we can change economics from a foe to a friend of ethics.

## **William Easterly: All Are Created Equal: Liberty for the Poor and the Escape from Global Poverty**



“What must we do to end world poverty?” William Easterly asked his audience in the Chapel on April 23. After all, such widespread destitution “is unacceptable in a world with so much affluence.” Easterly is a professor of economics at New York University and co-director of NYU’s Development Research Institute. Easterly began his lecture by deconstructing the original question. “Who is this we?” he asked. Does this pronoun refer to people with unchecked political power? To experts in developmental economics? This approach to the dilemma of global poverty is flawed in three major ways, Easterly explained. First, this attitude is authoritarian – that is, “we” require absolute control and total obedience in order to solve the problem. Second, this attitude is paternalistic, since ultimately we are imparting our solution onto someone else’s problem. And third, this attitude is hubristic. The solution to global poverty cannot be designed from the top down, Easterly stated emphatically. Rather, it must grow from the bottom up, with institutions accommodating it.

## **Moustafa Bayoumi: How Does It feel to be a Problem? Being Young and Arab in America**

Moustafa Bayoumi, author of *How Does It Feel to be a Problem: Being Young and Arab in America*, spoke about the subject at the Science Center’s Kennedy Auditorium on May 7. The Brooklyn College professor spent more than an hour lecturing and answering questions about what he learned interviewing Brooklyn youth and their families about growing up Arab and Muslim American in a post-9/11 world. Bayoumi expressed hope that Obama will put aside some of the Bush policies that have been used to target Arab and Muslim Americans. After African-Americans, Muslim Americans were the demographic group that supported Obama in the greatest proportion, and many have been pleased with Obama’s concrete early steps of banning torture and closing the Guantanamo Bay prison. Bayoumi ended with a general plea for understanding that we are dependent on each other for answers to the problems that face us all, and that we are really not so different from each other. “Great opportunity lies in our shared global condition,” he said. This lecture was co-sponsored by the History Department and the Dean of Faculty Office.



# Sustainability Program



The Levitt Center's Sustainability Program continued to grow, supporting faculty/student research, faculty research, academic support for courses, and opportunities for students to speak about their work to local high school students. This year, the student initiated Microfinance Club made its first loan. There are several components to this interdisciplinary program designed to encourage a comprehensive engagement with issues related to sustainability.

## Faculty/student research

Students engage in collaborative research with faculty either as part of the Levitt Fellows program or by working with affiliated faculty on senior theses. This year, two Levitt Fellows worked on sustainability issues. Xiaolu Xu (right) examined the effects of natural disasters in China, and Razeena Shrestha (left) researched the effects of social entrepreneurship in Nepal.



## Faculty research

Faculty affiliated with the Levitt Center's Sustainability Program used data collected with the help of a Blue Moon Fund grant to research pro-environment behavior and identity. An interesting finding of this research is that community characteristics affect an individual's identity as an environmentalist. Specifically, individuals who may have beliefs and values consistent with being an environmentalist are more likely to say they are environmentalists when they live in areas with many other people like them or in areas with many other people who are different from them.

To further this research on individual behavior, an interdisciplinary group of faculty began developing the first wave of a panel survey that will be conducted in August 2009 as part of the American National Election Studies panel that is coordinated by Stanford University and University of Michigan.

The sustainability program also maintains an active working paper series to facilitate the communication of faculty efforts. In addition, the sustainability program offers opportunities for faculty interested in sustainability research to gather and share ideas. This year, faculty met to hear presentations from colleagues in Biology, Women's Studies, Geosciences, Sociology, Russian Studies, English and Environmental Studies.

## Sustainability Scholars

Four Levitt Scholars (Erica Dressler, Sally Powell, Emily Stinson, and Cameron Gaylord) visited local high schools to give a presentation on a topic related to sustainability. Topics included alternative energy, the role of non-profit organizations in Guatemala, living in Tanzania, and the acidification of the oceans.

## Microfinance Club

Hamilton's Microfinance Club (right, with loan recipient) made its first loan to a local contractor who used the \$1,000 loan to help purchase necessary insurance to allow her to accept some home improvement jobs. This year, the Club laid the foundations for future work, establishing a charter and working with a local bank to develop a lending relationship. The Club engages in its own fundraising to provide the money for these loans.



# Civic Engagement in the Levitt Center

The Levitt Center engages students and faculty in the Greater Utica community to address public affairs on a local level and to connect academic learning to real life experiences. While co-curricular activities acquaint students with community-level issues, academic engagement in the community through service learning or community-based research uses the civic engagement as “text” for learning academic content as well as local issues.

The Levitt Center provides support through coordination and technical assistance to faculty who want to add service learning or community-based research components to their courses and transportation for students to their community sites.

## Community-Based Research

Several projects were underway in the community this year thanks in part to a grant from Learn & Serve America that brought the Levitt Center into a Community-Based Research Network administered by Princeton University (<http://cbrnet.pbwiki.com/FrontPage> ). An additional grant of \$10,000 was received this year from The Bonner Foundation to begin incorporating issue briefs and policy analysis into courses using an online wiki, and a \$2,000 grant, also from the Bonner Foundation serves to increase the use of various social media to connect the community-based learning projects and increase their visibility.

## Women and Aging

The Levitt Center published a final report in May, 2009 of the latest research in the Status of Women Project, conducted with and for the Women’s Fund of Herkimer & Oneida Counties. Margaret Gentry’s Women & Aging class participated in a community-based research project in the spring of 2007 and 2008, interviewing older women caregivers who provided care for someone in their home. At the Women’s Fund 2009 Spring Luncheon, copies of the Executive Summary were distributed to the 200+ people attending.

Caregivers noted gaps in coverage for home health care and the difficulty of entrusting care of their loved ones to others. Their services often go unrecognized, and the length of time providing a significant level of care averaged more than 6 years. Most care was provided by wives to their husbands, and many of the care recipients had multiple handicaps or disabilities. The caregiver loses income, and there is an impact on her health and well-being. Caregivers believe that more support is needed and report services that would make it easier for them: help with overnight emergencies, access to Medicaid, less expensive rates for home care and assisted living, and assistance with various tasks that become difficult at home. A report of the results of their work is available at <http://www.hamilton.edu/CACHE/FinalCaregiving3Column3-2009.PDF>.

The data analysis was completed and report compiled from the students’ work by Judy Owens-Manley, Associate Director for Community Research in the Levitt Center and edited by Owens-Manley and Aileen Townsend, Women’s Fund. Kari Arenson contributed the literature review for the final report through her work in the Levitt Center. Community partners identified the women to be interviewed and participated in making the study possible: Oneida County Office for the Aging and Continuing Care, Acacia Home Care, and Ava Dorfman Senior Center. Earlier reports of work with the Women’s Fund can be found at <http://www.hamilton.edu/CACHE/womensfund.pdf>.

# Community-Based Research

## Seminar in Program Evaluation

Students in Govt 342 (right) worked with the Oneida County Family Treatment Court using a variety of research methods to complete a program evaluation of a program designed to empower families who are at risk of losing their children due to alcohol and drug abuse. Jennifer Kleindienst, Cali Garson, Erin Hoener, Alissa Lintala, and Ezra Rosenberg visited the Court to do participant observations, developed program theories based on their observations and pertinent literature for best practice, and surveyed participants on educational and vocational background and goals. Each completed a case study of one individual in the Treatment Court. The students prepared a poster session of their work to present to the col-



lege campus and Family Treatment Court personnel, including Judge James Griffith, the Family Court Judge responsible for bringing the program to this community. Their posters can be viewed on the Levitt Center website at <http://www.hamilton.edu/levitt/civic/Web%20copy%20%20FTC%2009%20presentation.pdf>.

*Frank Furno, Oneida County Public Defender-Civil Division and the Participant Attorney for the Family Treatment Court discusses the poster session from GOVT 342 with Colleen Callaghan-Kirkland, FTC Case Manager, Professor Judy Owens-Manley, and Hamilton College students Jennifer Kleindienst and Alissa Lintala. (photo credits here and above: Greg Huffaker '09)*

## Secrets, Lies & Digital Threats

Computer Science students in Fall '08 and Spring '09 participated in a project in several community schools. Professor Mark Bailey taught the course, Secrets, Lies & Digital Threats, which serves as an introduction to digital threats, computer security technology, and strategies for combating digital threats. Students investigated the nature of digital threats, the limits of technology, and roles humans must play in protecting and securing digital creations. Judy Owens-Manley supported the project in the Levitt Center through making arrangements with the community schools, including Clinton, Westmoreland, Sauquoit, and Utica's Proctor High School. Hamilton students developed a 45-60 minute tutorial on an aspect of computer security such as recognizing e-mail scams, controlling privacy on the Internet, or the risks and benefits of using social networking sites like Facebook and took it in small groups to 9th and 10th graders. The high school students were administered pre and post-surveys that will be used to gauge how well the service learning project increases student awareness of digital threats. Data analysis and a report will be generated in the coming year.

Professor Bailey states that "everyone, especially those interested in public policy, needs to be exposed to the nature of digital threats and the strengths and limitations of computing. This course is being developed jointly at Hamilton and the University of Virginia with the expected outcome of national dissemination of course materials to an audience that spans small colleges and research universities. The initial research was supported by a grant from the External Research & Programs Division of Microsoft Research, and an additional grant has just been awarded from the National Science Foundation's CCLI program (Course, Curriculum, and Laboratory Improvement).

# Community-Based Research

## Immigrants & Refugees in the U.S.

Students in Govt. 202 learned primarily about refugee resettlement through interviewing experts in the field and contributing to the analysis of issues locally, in New York state, nationally, and globally on a policy options wiki (<http://policy-options.pbworks.com/Hamilton-College>). The students interviewed the President of Lutheran Immigration Refugee Services, Ralston Deffenbaugh; Lavinia Limon, President of the U.S. Committee on Immigrants & Refugees; and Thomas Hart, Director of the Bureau of Refugees and Immigrants for New York State. Podcasts of the interviews can be found at <http://academics.hamilton.edu/s09refpod>.

## Bonner Leaders Program at Hamilton

The Bonner Leader Program continued this year with the selection of seven new leaders as incoming freshmen. Bonner Leaders at Hamilton are part of a national network of 80 colleges and universities with Bonner programs. Bonner programs are designed to “engage students in service and civic work to strengthen their communities, while also building mutually beneficial relationships with community partners to achieve impact and building a broader campus culture and infrastructure for civic engagement” ([www.bonner.org](http://www.bonner.org)). The new Bonner Leaders were placed in youth-serving programs and after-school programs in the city of Utica. Bonners and their sites are: Stefanie Russell, Kernan Elementary School; Laura Gilson and Henry Edelson, Donovan Middle School; Yoko O’Hara, The Underground Café; Liam Ronan, Thea Bowman House; and Caroline Pantazis, YWCA Y-Girls.

A continuing group of Bonner Leaders, juniors and seniors, worked at the Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees and Oneida County Family Treatment Court, For The Good, and the Utica Municipal Housing Authority’s children’s programs. We said goodbye to seven graduating seniors who were a part of the first Bonner Leaders class at Hamilton in 2006: Rachel McReynolds, Amanda Levin, Colin Forwood, Emma Stewart, Jesse Stromwick, Emily Powell and Rita Tran. They left us with a video of their views on Bonner and the impact of the Bonner program on their time at Hamilton! (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5hFA8qY061g>.)

**The Bonners spoke of their altered relationship with the community that they worked in and also how their community work altered their relationships at Hamilton College:**

The people at my site inspired me to make choices that I believe in my heart are the right ones and are really good . . . it taught me that you have a lot of choices and you can make your own way.

Working at a place and then having a group to come back to and talk about what happened . . . it gave all of us such a great opportunity to explore what it means to work at a place, what problems come up and how they get worked out.

I tell everyone that Bonner has changed Hamilton for me completely . . . it’s such a unique experience and so long, three years for me, that it changed the way I felt here in all of the other things that I do at Hamilton.

I wasn’t someone who participated in community service, and it’s not a career field for me. I think, though, out of this experience, I will always be engaged in some way with contributing through some kind of service in my community . . . and that wouldn’t have happened without the Bonner Leaders program.

# Community-Based Research

The Bonner Leaders Program in 2008-09 was coordinated by AmeriCorps VISTA workers, Jordan Fischetti in the Levitt Center, and Jeremy Wattles in the COOP. All Bonner Leaders attend weekly training and development sessions where they share their experiences, reflect on the unique challenges faced by the local community, and gain new skills and tools for serving at their sites. First-year Bonner Leaders are encouraged to do a first-year service trip, and this year's Bonners traveled to Puerto Rico, working in a high school, a veteran's hospital, a boarding house, and at the Red Cross.



*Jordan Fischetti (far right) with several Bonner Leaders during their service trip to Puerto Rico in early 2009.*

Diane DiMeo, Program Director at Catholic Charities and Anne Lansing, Executive Director of Safe Schools/Healthy Students led a workshop this year for all Bonners entitled "Bridges out of Poverty." The first year Bonner Leaders also began policy research related to their respective sites, gathering data on school graduation rates, test scores, and funding information to develop a policy options wiki on after-school programs (<http://policyoptions.pbworks.com/After-School+Programs>). Bonners are encouraged to engage in summer employment to continue a focus on service, and Stefanie Russell received a Community Service Fellowship award from the Levitt Center to work at the Learning Disabilities Association.

## Service Learning

### Service Learning Courses 2008-2009

ANTHR114 Fieldwork and Ethnography - Chaise La Dousa

CPLIT 268 Korean Literature & Film - Su Yun

CPLIT 126 Adventure & Magic in Near East Epics - Anna Oldfield

CS 104 Secrets, Lies, & Digital Threats - Mark Bailey

EDUC 201 Methods in Tutoring ESOL Students - Barbara Britt-Hysell

EDUC 301 Seminar: Teaching English to ESOL Students - Barbara Britt-Hysell

ECON 235 Policy, Poverty, & Practice - Margaret Morgan-Davies

ENCRW 215 Intermediate Fiction Workshop - Doran Larson

ENG 126 Children of the Empire - Pat O'Neill

GOVT 202 Immigrants & Refugees in the U.S. - Judy Owens-Manley

GOVT 342 Seminar in Program Evaluation - Judy Owens-Manley

RSNST 100 Introduction to Russia: Autocracy & Reform - Sharon Rivera

WMNST 101-01 Introduction to Women's Studies - Marla Jaksch

WMNST 101-02 Introduction to Women's Studies - Margaret Gentry

WMNST 101-03 Introduction to Women's Studies - Joyce Barry

# Service Learning

## Project SHINE

Project SHINE (Students Helping in the Naturalization of Elders) completed its sixth year as a service-learning program of the Levitt Center. Project SHINE is a national service-learning program that seeks to form intergenerational and intercultural ties between college students and elder immigrants and refugees. Participating Hamilton College students spend approximately 20 hours over the semester assisting adult immigrants and refugees in ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) and Citizenship Classrooms. This year six professors offered Project SHINE in ten classes in the Anthropology, Education, Government, and Women's Studies Departments. Ninety-two students participated in Project SHINE during the 2008-2009 school year completing nearly 1,700 hours of service.



*Adult learners in an ESOL class at the Utica City School District's Adult Learning Center*

Project SHINE continues to benefit both Hamilton participants and community members. A student participant this year said that, Project SHINE helped give me new views on a culture and a way of life very different from my own. Being at Hamilton I am surrounded by a lot of wealthy, white students so it was nice to get off-campus to put myself back into the real world. It really humbled me and I enjoyed every minute of the experience.

Teachers at Project SHINE's community sites, the Utica City School District's Adult Learning Center and the BOCES Utica Access Site, appreciated having Hamilton Students in their classrooms. One teacher said, "SHINE tutors provided an invaluable service to my ESOL program. They provided additional tutoring and a connection to the American community."



*Kate Hails '10 (far left) and Kenyon Laing '09 (center) meeting with Burmese refugees to discuss the weaving collective.*

The Levitt Center and Project SHINE continue to seek new opportunities to reach out to refugees and immigrants, and this year began a new project to help local Burmese/Karen refugee women to begin forming a weaving collective. During the Fall 2008 semester with support from the Levitt Center, Professor Marla Jaksch's Global Feminism class began a series of open forums with 40 female refugees from Burma. At these forums, it became apparent that this group of women wanted to work, but could not find jobs. Many of the women weave traditional items, so the plans arose to create a working collective so that the women could make and sell their work. The collective would provide them with a source of income while giving them a chance to share their culture with the greater Utica community.

During the spring semester Emily Powell '09, a Bonner Leader working with the Adult Education Center (Utica City School District) on-site at the Refugee Center, received a \$1,000 grant from the CASE Foundation for the project. Former SHINE Volunteer Travis Mockler '11 is working on the Refugee Weaving Project this summer through the financial support of the Arthur Levitt Public Affairs Center. The initial work done by students and Levitt staff provided a foundation for the Refugee Center to apply for a much larger grant which they expect to receive in the Fall.



# Service Learning

## VITA Project and Econ 235

Hamilton participated in the Internal Revenue Service's Voluntary Income Tax Assistance Project (VITA) for the fifth year this spring. VITA offers low-income families free income tax preparation and is targeted primarily to families who qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit. Twenty-five students and two faculty/staff members (right) were active at several different sites in completing tax returns with families. The college works with the Mohawk Valley Asset-Building Coalition as a group of community partners for the VITA Project, which is funded by the United Way and coordinated this year by Chrystal Pridemore, who was an AmeriCorps VISTA worker in the Levitt Center in 2007-08.



Margaret Morgan-Davie taught Economics 235 Policy, Poverty and Practice with several faculty as guest lecturer: Paul Hagstrom, Gary Wyckoff, Steve Wu, and Rick Werner. The class connected student experiences in the field to academic study of topics such as the Earned Income Tax Credit, Public Expenditure Programs, Poverty and Inequality, Health and Socioeconomic Status, and Ethics and World Poverty. Bret Lineberry, also a student in the course, was responsible for coordinating transportation and communication between the students and the sites.

Students are recruited for Econ 235 in the Fall semester and spend part of their winter break completing training on tax law. They are required to pass an on-line test and complete a training session on the tax software when they return to campus for the spring semester. Each year has brought an increase in tax returns completed and increases in the Earned Income Tax Credits refunded to the community. This year the students were placed at GPO Federal Credit Union, Mohawk Valley Perinatal Network, Harding Nursing Home in Waterville, and the Resource Center for Independent Living.

### Student reflections on service learning

"The most rewarding thing about Project SHINE was meeting people from around the world and helping them gain confidence in learning English. I loved seeing their faces when they finally understood a new concept."

-Katherine Costa '12

"I liked talking with the immigrants and learning about their lives while I participated in Project SHINE. It helped me understand that the things we talked about in class actually did happen."

"I think that the YDP helps establish the idea in elementary-schoolers that as college students, it's expected that you get involved in the community and do something to give back to the people who got you to where you are today."

"I realize how important it is to give back to a community that is supporting me. I really enjoyed being a role model for children . . . I would recommend that at some point during a student's time at Hamilton College, he/she participate at least once in the YDP to have a feeling of accomplishment and make an impact, even a small one, on the children's lives."

"It was sobering to realize that some of the people in Family Treatment Court had once been successful. Understanding the different ways to evaluate how participants have done in the program has been a tremendous learning experience. "

# Service Learning

## Youth Development Project

A new service-learning project that was begun with an AmeriCorps VISTA last year took a different turn in 2008-09 with a neighborhood coalition on the West Side of Utica. The West Side Coalition created an initiative called Family and Community Connections at Kernan. They observed that Kernan Elementary School students suffered from low test scores and a lack of responsible role models. The project in the Levitt Center moved from placing Hamilton students generically in any educational setting to addressing the needs identified by the Coalition for Kernan Elementary.

Kernan's administrators and librarian worked with this year's AmeriCorps VISTA Outreach Coordinator to engage students in several academic courses at Hamilton in spending time with the elementary-aged children during their library time. Comparative Literature Professors Anna Oldfield and Su-Yun Kim added service-learning components to their courses. Professor Oldfield's students in Adventure and Magic in Near Eastern Epic read condensed versions of Near Eastern Folktales to the children and then engaged them with discussion, games, and coloring activities. Professor Yun's



*(l-r) Lauren DGregoria '11, Glenn Watkins '12, and Mary Lancaster '12 discussing riveting Near-Eastern folklore with Kernan elementary fourth-grade students during their library time*

students in Korean Literature and Film discussed North Korea's unexpected 1966 World Cup performance. Also two students from the Hispanic Studies courses, Representing Gender in Latin America and Envisioning the Real, brought short stories and poems in Spanish and English to a student body that is 16 percent Spanish-speaking as their first language.

Student reflections from Oldfield's class testified to the value they derived from the service-learning project. One student wrote, "I started babysitting at age 14...I've been working in a children's nursery of a fitness center since junior year, and I volunteered as an elementary school tutor . . . none of these jobs were as fulfilling as my experience with the YDP."

More student reflections and pictures of the Youth Development Project can be found on the Levitt Center website at <https://my.hamilton.edu/levitt/civic/YDP.html>.

A Round Table discussion completed this year with Professors Oldfield, Kim, and Aguila; Kernan Librarian Valerie Witte, Francisca Villa, a Hispanic Studies major; Jordan Fischetti, AmeriCorps VISTA Project Coordinator; and Judy Owens-Manley, Associate Director for Community Research. Next year we anticipate the project growing to include Donovan Middle School, also a part of the "West Side Project." Russian Literature: Empire and Rebellion students will read the children Greek Myths from the Caucasus Mountains. Professor Aguila's Spanish Immersion students will teach children weekly Spanish lessons. Barbara Britt-Hysell, Coordinator of the English for Speakers of Other Languages Program (ESOL) at Hamilton, will incorporate the international students at Hamilton through her Methods of Tutoring ESOL Students class. The international students will speak to Utica and Clinton students about their countries and cultures.

# Service Learning

## Hamilton named to Presidential Honor Roll for Community Service

The Levitt Center contributed to Hamilton being included on the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll this year. The Corporation for National and Community Service began selecting schools for the honor in 2006 for recognition of their commitment to service-learning and civic engagement. Judy Owens-Manley in the Levitt Center and Amy James in the Coop jointly submitted the application, which allows up to five programs. The College is then judged on the innovation of service projects, the numbers of students who participate, and the breadth of academic service-learning courses that are offered.

Projects in the Levitt Center for which Hamilton received recognition include:

- Project SHINE (Students Helping in the Naturalization of Elders), in which students work in ESOL or Citizenship classrooms twenty hours over the course of the semester as a component an academic course.
- VITA (Voluntary Income Tax Assistance), which engages students in completing income tax returns for low-income families as a component of an academic course.
- HOPE VI Project, which for five years was the focus of a Seminar in Program Evaluation for a federal grant to the Utica Municipal Housing Authority. A website was constructed to feature the history of Washington Courts and its residents. This and the evaluation reports can be found at [www.hamilton.edu/cache](http://www.hamilton.edu/cache).

The news release from Hamilton College can be viewed at [www.hamilton.edu/new/more\\_news/display.cfm?id=15253](http://www.hamilton.edu/new/more_news/display.cfm?id=15253), and a full list of schools named to the Honor Roll is available at [www.nationalservice.gov/honorroll](http://www.nationalservice.gov/honorroll).

## AmeriCorps VISTA in the Levitt Center

Stephanie Wolter '07 and Jordan Fischetti '08 are leaving the Levitt Center this year, Stephanie after completing 2 years of service with VISTA. Stephanie has worked with Project SHINE for two years and expanded the program to new academic courses and to new projects, such as the weaving project with Burmese women that Travis Mockler is working with as an intern this summer. Stephanie will begin classes at Columbia Law School in August. Jordan worked with the West Side Coalition in Utica to expand our Youth Development Project this year. He will be moving on to a new position in Washington D.C.

Two AmeriCorps VISTA workers have been hired for the Levitt Center for 2009-10. VISTA workers are employed for one year through the federal government and are placed in community sites. In this case, VISTA's anti-poverty agenda is accomplished through the development of service-learning programs on our college campus that address community need. Both will begin their employment on August 3 following a 3-day orientation and training for VISTAs held in Wilmington, Del.

Namrata N. Idnani is from Short Hills, NJ and received her Bachelor's degree from Cornell University in May with a double major in Government and Asian Studies. Namrata is interested in Southeast Asian governments and issues for immigrants to the U.S. and will become the Project Coordinator for Project SHINE in the Levitt Center.

Jordan P. Davis recently graduated from Syracuse University with a Masters Degree in Social Work. Jordan also has a Bachelor's degree in Wildlife Conservation. His experience ranges from working in childrens' summer camps to providing counseling for the dually diagnosed and to college students at LeMoyne College. Jordan will be working with the Bonner Leaders and the Youth Development Project, a service-learning program that places Hamilton students in educational or after-school settings for enrichment and mentoring.

# Levitt Scholars Topics 2008-2009



*Eve Stevens '09*

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 typically juniors and seniors, selected by faculty members for their outstanding research and communication skills. This year, our scholars represented 14 different majors, including several double 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, 20 students participated in the program. In addition to speaking to several area high schools, most of this year's Scholars brought their presentations to their home town high schools during Hamilton's Winter and Spring Breaks. 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.

- \***Erica Dressler:** *"Guatemala's Rocky Transition to Democracy & the Role of Non-Profit Organizations like The Guatemalan Project"*
- \***Allison Gaston-Enholm:** *"Putting Your Best Foot Forward: The College Interview"*
- \***Charlie Dworkin:** *"Active Citizen: Developing Your Political Outlook through Congress"*
- \***Sally Powell:** *"Ocean Acidification: A Frightening Future for our Seas"*
- \***Katherine Alser:** *"Combating Antibiotic Resistance: Applications of Research in the Sciences"*
- \***Christina Culver:** *"Inside Congress: Your Representatives and You"*
- \***Julia Penrose:** *"Art throughout History"*
- \***Alexandra Jenik:** *"Developing Democracy in Iraq"*
- \***Maura Donovan:** *"Human Rights: An Emerging Field"*
- \***Leandra Folk:** *"Genetic Counseling: What It Is and What It Means to You"*
- \***Emily Stinson:** *"Learning to Embrace a Different Way of Living in Tanzania"*
- \***Becca Griffin:** *"Communication Apprehension: What Is It and How Can It be Overcome?"*
- \***Caroline Sprague:** *"Retaining Traditional Culture in a Modern World: Scotland and the United States"*
- \***Emma Woods:** *"Terrorism: Separating Fact from Fiction"*
- \***Cameron Gaylord:** *"For the Encouragement of Alternative Energies"*
- \***Eve Stevens:** *"Uganda in Times of Peace and Conflict"*
- \***Nicole Edry:** *"Extraordinary Rendition: An Examination of the Outsourcing of Torture"*
- \***Steve Rowe:** *"Adventuring and Self Discovery"*
- \***Sarah Bertino:** *"Adventures in Molecular Biology"*
- \***Hampus Eriksson:** *"Social Democracy: What It Is and How It Works"*

## Participating High Schools, 2008-2009

Amherst-Pelham Regional HS (Amherst, MA)  
Canastota Central HS (Canastota, NY)  
Cazenovia HS (Cazenovia, NY)  
Christian Brothers Academy (Syracuse, NY)  
Cooperstown HS (Cooperstown, NY)  
Corona Del Mar HS (Newport Beach, CA)  
East Syracuse-Minoa HS (Syracuse, NY)  
Fayetteville-Manlius HS (Manlius, NY)  
Gettysburg Area HS (Gettysburg, PA)  
Hamilton Central School (Hamilton, NY)  
Jamesville-DeWitt HS (DeWitt, NY)  
Haverhill HS (Haverhill, MA)  
Liberty HS (Bethlehem, PA)  
Lincoln Academy (Utica, NY)  
Marcellus HS (Marcellus, NY)  
Mohawk HS (Mohawk, NY)  
Morrisville-Eaton HS (Morrisville, NY)  
New Hartford HS (New Hartford, NY)  
Niskayuna HS (Niskayuna, NY)  
Notre Dame HS (Utica, NY)  
Oneida HS (Oneida, NY)  
Rome Free Academy (Rome, NY)  
Vernon Verona Sherrill HS (Verona, NY)  
Watertown HS (Watertown, NY)  
Waterville Central School (Waterville, NY)  
West Genesee Sr. HS (Camillus, NY)  
Westmoreland HS (Westmoreland, NY)  
Whitesboro HS (Marcy, NY)

# 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 offices, such as the President's Office, the Dean of Students, and Student Activities. Highlights of this year's events included:



*Students at the NY Fed (left-right): Zee Haider, Clay Masters, Andrew Ravenna, Brendan Dunuwila, Chris Lloyd*

## **Economics Class Attends Seminar at Federal Reserve Bank of New York in Manhattan**

Students in Economics Professor Ann Owen's Monetary Policy class attended a seminar at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York in Manhattan on Oct. 10. They heard presentations by Federal Reserve economists and officials about the implementation of monetary policy, current economic conditions, fiscal policy considerations for monetary policy, the current state of the labor market and its implications for policy, as well as a general discussion of interest rates. The students attended the seminar to help prepare them for the College Fed Challenge, a national competition in which college students make presentations that provide economic analysis and a recommendation for monetary policy to finance professionals and policy makers. The first round of the competition was held at the end of the October, and the Hamilton team received second place.

## **Hamilton Students Participate in Model UN Conference in Montreal**

Twelve Hamilton students (shown, right) participated in the McGill Model United Nations Conference (MCMUN) Jan. 29-Feb. 1 in Montreal. The conference consisted of approximately 1,400 delegates. The keynote speaker at the opening ceremonies was the right honorable Joe Clark, a former Prime Minister of Canada and a member of the Canadian Parliament for 25 years. Students attending from Hamilton College were Matt Arnold '09, Dorian Bakogiannis '10, Aminata Diop '11, Sam Doyon '12, Rachel Horowitz '09, Ranga Kotani '10, Sitanshu Mishra '10, Brandon Moore '12, Heather Prigg '11, Jordyn Taylor '12, and Polina White '12. They represented the delegation of Costa Rica on a variety of committees including the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development, United Nations High Commission on Refugees, the Security Council, United Nations Counter Terrorism Committee, Commission on Science and Technology for Development, the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as several UN General Assembly Committees. In preparing for the conference, Hamilton students conducted extensive research with the help of Government Professor Ted Lehmann, the MUN faculty advisor, in order to accurately portray Costa Rica's foreign policy at the conference.



# Student Conferences and Projects



## Students Participate in National Model UN

Twelve Hamilton students (shown left) participated in the National Model United Nations Conference on April 5-9 in New York City. The conference hosted approximately 2,500 delegates from 29 countries and was sponsored by the National Collegiate Conference Association. Opening and closing ceremonies, as well as closing committee sessions, were held at UN headquarters. Keynote speakers, featuring under secretary generals of the UN, delivered opening speeches in the UN General Assembly Hall. Kiyotaka Akasaka, undersecretary general for communications, also delivered an address prepared by Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, who was unable to attend due to scheduling

difficulties. Hamilton students attending were Matt Arnold '09, Ranga Kotani '10, Sitanshu Mishra '10, Robert D. Eisenhart '11, Aminata Diop '11, Heather Prigg '11, Sam Doyon '12, Brandon Moore '12, Jordyn Taylor '12, Grace Liew '12, and Maria Del Pilar Lozada '12 and Anna Zeng '11. They represented the delegation of Peru on a variety of committees including the General Assembly plenary committees, the Economic and Social plenary, World Trade Organization, Commission on Sustainable Development, and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. In preparing for the conference, Hamilton students conducted extensive research with the help of Government Professor Ted Lehmann, the MUN faculty advisor, in order to accurately portray Peru's foreign policy at the conference.

## Alumni Panel on US Healthcare System

What would you do if you had to reform the entire US health care system? That's just what the students in Topics in Public Policy must accomplish. As a group, they are charged with finding a way to cover the nation's 45 million uninsured and control spiraling medical costs. Their plan must be specific, comprehensive, fiscally sound, ethically defensible, and politically feasible. Hamilton alumni who are experts in health care came to campus in early May to critique Hamilton students' proposed solutions to the U.S. health insurance system. The students were from two of Professor Gary Wyckoff's "Topics in Public Policy" classes. The alumni panelists were Dr. Anthony Contronea, '79, a family physician in practice in Rome, NY; Dr. David Duggan '75, Professor of Medicine at SUNY Health Science Center at Syracuse, and Julie Meyers '91, a social worker at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. Julie Meyers joined the discussion via videoconferencing, the first time the videoconferencing system in the new Levitt Conference Room has been used.



*Gary Wyckoff (top left) with Topics in Public Policy students and alumni panelists*

# Student Conferences and Projects

## Students travel to Tanzania

This summer, students enrolled in Women's Studies 332: Field Study Tanzania will embark on a 5-week trip to work with grassroots organizations in Tanzania. Led by Assistant Visiting Professor of Women's Studies Marla Jaksch, the group will co-create and participate in various collaborative service oriented field projects in the rural Masaai and Hadzabe lands, in the Arusha area, along the coast in Dar es Salaam communities, and with Swahili groups on the island of Zanzibar. Kate Payne '10, who participated in the field school last year, commented that "This field study is ... a colorful exploration of Tanzanians outside of the stereotypes of "tribe" or war-torn Africa." Of the approximately 16 students headed for Tanzania, all are currently enrolled in women's studies 331: Seminar on Women's Movements and Grassroots Organizing: Tanzania. In preparation for the field study in Tanzania, this interdisciplinary course focuses on the social, economic, cultural, and political issues that influence and determine the women's movement and grassroots organizing in Tanzania. Students are exploring topics such as colonialism, globalization, neo-liberalism, gendered violence, HIV/AIDS, education, reproductive rights, feminist-centered interventions to eradicate poverty, and more.



Caroline Davis '11 (left) and Laura Gault '11, shown here in traditional Tanzanian fabrics, participated in the Tanzania Field trip. More about the trip can be found at the class' blog: <http://wmst332tanzania.wordpress.com/photo-gallery/>

## Insights

### The Best of Undergraduate Social Science Research

Paul Gary Wyckoff, Associate Professor of Government and Director of Hamilton's Public Policy Program, has long felt that outstanding student work has all too often ended up on some professor's dusty shelf, never to be read again. His belief that work of this quality deserves to be part of the scholarly discussion in the social sciences, to be read, discussed, lauded, and critiqued, led him to create Insights. His goal is that Insights will publish the best in undergraduate social science research, in print form and via the Internet. Insights is both written and edited by undergraduate students. Professor Wyckoff solicited papers from both professors and students, and hashed out guidelines to help referees sort out the papers that were merely good from those which were exceptional. This year's selections are:

**Anthony Carello, "The Divisive Primary Hypothesis in Presidential Elections"**

**Blake Hulnick, "The Holodomor: Continuing Controversy in Ukrainian Politics and External Relations"**

**Danielle Raulli, "Why is the Rule of Law in China Unsuccessful?"**

**Sarah Caney, "Violence as a Last Resort: How Government Failures Have Perpetuated the War System in Colombia"**

# Think Tanks combine stimulating topics, conversation and lunch

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

With topics ranging from student course evaluations to Obama’s first 100 days in office, this year’s Think Tank engaged many students and faculty in thoughtful and lively discourse. 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 past year, **Gail Corneau ‘10** and **Chipidza Fallon ‘10**, with the assistance of **Amy Tannenberg ‘10**, co-directed Think Tank. **David Foster ‘10** and **Emily Anderer ‘10** will take over as co-directors for the 2009-2010 academic year.

## Think Tank Topics 2008-2009

**Professor Michael “Doc” Woods**, “Saving America’s Music”

**Professor Bonnie Urciuoli**, “The Shifting Meanings of ‘Culture’ and ‘Diversity’”

**Professor Russell Marcus**, “‘On Jokes’ or ‘what makes jokes funny, and some observations about political power and being a Jew in America’”

**Professor Carl Rubino**, “‘A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away’: Star Wars and Ancient Myth”

**Dean Joseph Urgo**, “Drafting Hamilton’s Strategic Plan: A Community Project”

**Professor Nigel Westmaas**, “Walter Rodney, ‘groundings’ and the legacy of scholar-activism”

**Professor Morgan Marietta**, “On the Election “

**Professor Delia Aguilar**, “Are We Past the ‘Feminist Moment’?”

**Professor S. Brent Plate**, “The Altar and the Screen: Mythmaking and Filmmaking”

**Professors Shoshana Keller and Anjela Peck**, “Middle East/Islamic studies at Hamilton: what do students want? What can faculty do?”

**Professor Chiara Sulprizio**, “Political Humor: Just a Joke?”

**Professor Rebecca Murtaugh**, “Consuming the Quotidian”

**Carolyn Carpan**, “Sisters, Schoolgirls and Sleuths: Girls’ Series Books in America”

**Professor Ann Owen**, “Student Course Evaluations”

**Professor Esther Kanipe and Jennifer Karl ‘09**, “Accessibility at Hamilton”

**Professor Phil Klinkner and the Hamilton Democrats**, “Obama’s First 100 Days in Office”