

# The Arthur Levitt Public Affairs Center

Hamilton College



2010-2011

## Annual Report

### From the Director

The Levitt Center has embarked on an exciting new initiative to create a leadership program at Hamilton College. The Leadership Initiative is a multi-faceted plan intended to increase opportunities for students interested in public service. The initiative includes public service internships, research group grants that help to inspire student interest in public affairs, increased scholarship aid for students exploring careers in public service, and faculty workshops that will enhance the teaching of leadership skills in Hamilton courses.

One notable component of this initiative is a two-week Leadership Institute. A group of 20 selected students will undergo intensive training in personal leadership skills led by former Ambassador Prudence Bushnell and Christine Powers, the former Director of the Executive Development Division of the U.S. Department of State Foreign Service Institute. The first week of the Institute will be in January 2012 and the second week will take place over the March 2012 Spring Break in Washington, D.C. Students who successfully complete the program will return to campus as Levitt Leaders to become engaged in leadership in the campus community. The returning Levitt Leaders will be mentored by Hamilton Trustees and alumni.

Another unique feature of the new initiative is research group grants. Research groups represent a new model for student and faculty collaboration in the social sciences. The team nature of the work will help to foster leadership skills of the participants as well as facilitate interdisciplinary collaboration that is crucial for the study of many important policy issues.

More details about the Leadership Initiative can be found on the following pages. The Levitt Center continues to impact the education of hundreds of Hamilton students each year and inspires many to pursue careers in public affairs.

Ann Owen  
Director, Arthur Levitt Public Affairs Center

# The Arthur Levitt Public Affairs Center

## Changing of the Guard

Ann Owen, two-term Levitt Center Director, will be stepping down this summer to pursue her teaching and research duties full-time. Owen, Professor of Economics and the Henry Platt Bristol Professor of Public Policy, has guided the Levitt Center for the past two years, overseeing a significant reorganization of the Center and the implementation of several innovative new programs.

Ann will be replaced as Director by Julio Videras, Associate Professor of Economics. Julio has overseen the Sustainability Program for the past year and been an active member of the Levitt Council. Julio will be replaced as Director of the Sustainability program by Peter Cannavò, Associate Professor of Government.

Thank you and best wishes to Ann, and welcome to Julio and Peter. We're looking forward to a great year.

## The Levitt Council 2010-2011

**Ann Owen**, Director of the Levitt Center, Professor of Economics, and Henry Platt Bristol Professor of Public Policy

**Frank Anechiarico**, Director of the Security Program and the Maynard-Knox Professor of Government and Law

**Jenny Irons**, Director of the Inequality and Equity Program and Associate Professor of Sociology

**Chaise LaDousa**, Associate Professor of Anthropology

**Robert Pacquette**, Publius Virgilius Rogers Professor of American History (Fall 2010)

**Robert Simon**, Professor of Philosophy

**Julio Videras**, Director of the Sustainability Program and Associate Professor of Economics

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# The New Levitt Center Team

## 2011-2012



**Julio Videras, Director**, earned a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Colorado at Boulder. His research focuses on applied environmental economics, in particular how cultural and social factors influence the voluntary provision of the public good of environmental quality and sustainable development practices; the relationships between community composition, collective action, and the supply and demand of environmental goods; and how to identify and account for sources of unobserved heterogeneity through finite mixture models.



**Frank Anechiarico, Director of the Security Program**, studies constitutional law and public administration. He is the co-author (with Eugene Lewis) of *Urban America: Politics and Policy* and the author of *Suing the Philadelphia Police: The Case for an Institutional Approach*, and *Remembering Corruption: The Elusive Lessons of Scandal in New York City*. Anechiarico and James Jacobs' book, *The Pursuit of Absolute Integrity: How Corruption Control Makes Government Ineffective*, was published by University of Chicago Press. His latest project is a book on the relationship between ethics and the quality of performance in public management.



**Peter Cannavò, Director of the Sustainability Program**, received a Ph.D. from Harvard University in 2000, an M.P.A. from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School in 1992, and an A.B. from Harvard University in 1986. He is the author of *The Working Landscape: Founding, Preservation, and the Politics of Place* (MIT Press, July, 2007), in which he examines the conflict between development and preservation as a major factor behind our contemporary crisis of place. Cannavò's work and teaching are in areas of political theory, environmental politics, and ethics and public policy.



**Jenny Irons, Director of the Inequality and Equity Program**, completed work for her master's degree and Ph.D. in sociology at the University of Arizona, Tucson. She has published articles in *Gender & Society* and *Mobilization*. Irons' research interests include race, gender, social movements and culture. Her current research focuses on the relationship between the state, social movements and race. Irons is the author of a book published by Vanderbilt University Press, *Reconstituting Whiteness: The Mississippi State Sovereignty Commission* (2010).



**Chris Willemsen, Assistant Director of the Levitt Center**, has a master's degree in the study of religion and completed all but her dissertation in political theory at Harvard University. She was previously the Associate Dean of Students, Academic at Hamilton College. She has published a paper on happiness and democracy with Ann Owen and Julio Videras. Her research interests include the relationship between happiness and freedom and the decline of the American middle class.



**Sharon Topi, Levitt Center Administrator and Service Learning Coordinator**, is a 2002 graduate of Hamilton College where she majored in Anthropology with a minor in Physics. Sharon lives in Clinton, NY with her husband Jason and their four children. Her research interests include medical anthropology and cross-cultural child-rearing practices.

# Leadership

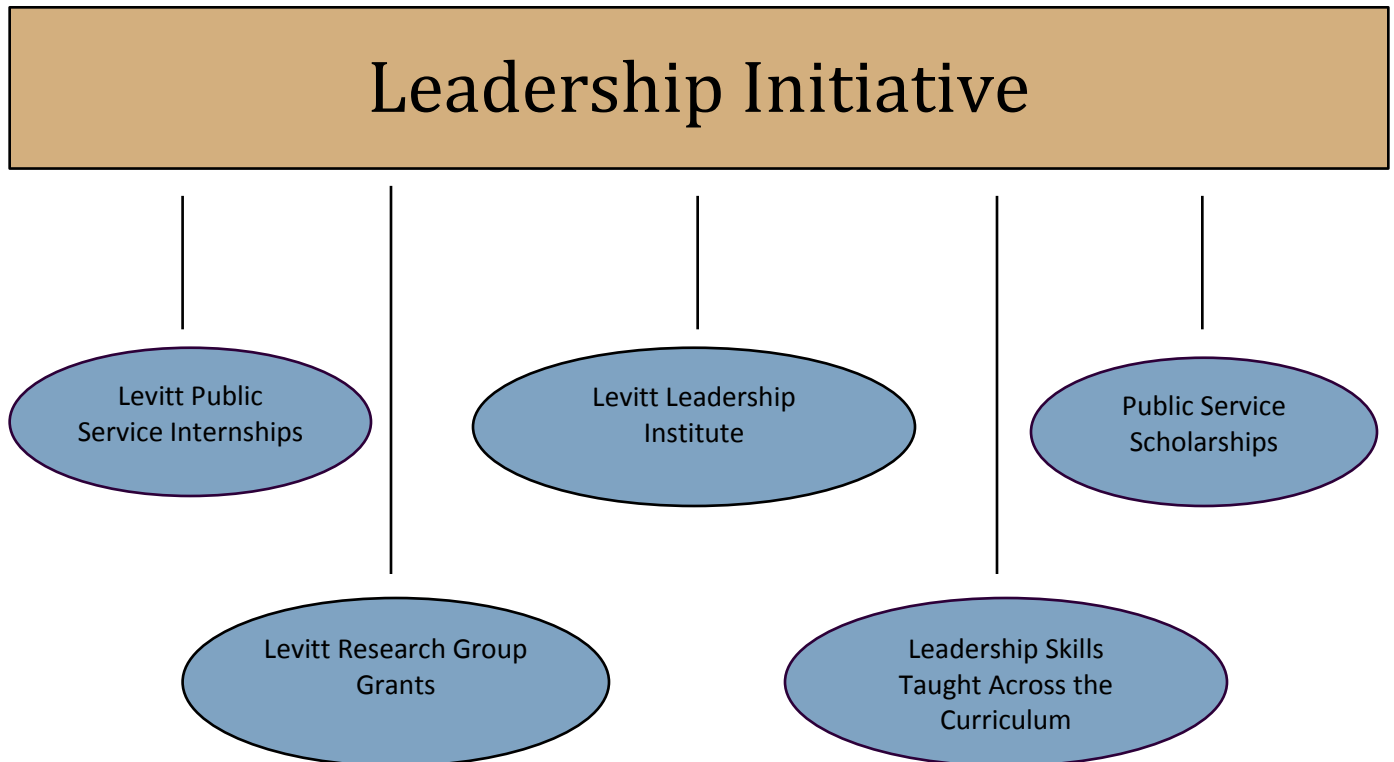
## Leadership Initiative

The Levitt Center is spearheading the creation of a Leadership Initiative at Hamilton College. There are several components to this initiative, including the Levitt Leadership Institute, funding for public service internships, Levitt Research Group Grants, scholarships for students interested in public service, and a move to incorporate the teaching of leadership skills across the curriculum.

A prominent part of the overall initiative, the Levitt Leadership Institute is a two-week program for Hamilton students described on the following page. In addition, the Levitt Center will be funding student-faculty research groups, which will foster leadership skills through teamwork and their focus on issues of public significance.

Another important part of the program is funding for public service internships. During summer 2011, eleven students with career interests ranging from human rights advocacy, law, and politics are working at the Institute for Policy Studies, Amnesty International, the offices of several members of Congress, and the National Research Center for Women and Families, among others. These internships were made possible by additional financial support from Arthur Levitt, Jr.

The Levitt Center also hosted a workshop for twenty members of the faculty from the sciences, arts, languages and social sciences. The workshop focused on teaching leadership communication skills in the context of a liberal arts education.



# Leadership

## Levitt Leadership Institute

Funded by a generous gift from Arthur Levitt, Jr., the Arthur Levitt Public Affairs Center has developed a new opportunity for rising sophomores and juniors. The Levitt Leadership Institute, a program focused on the development and practice of personal leadership set in the context of individual student career interests, a global mindset, ethical behaviors, and regard for the public good will be offered in an intensive two-week format next spring. The Institute's goal is to cultivate leaders by increasing awareness of motivations and skills, exploring and practicing leadership concepts and behaviors, and applying these skills to address real challenges.

Program applications will be distributed, collected, and reviewed during the fall semester. The first week of the Institute will be conducted in January on campus and will be focused on developing leadership skills including team-building, problem-solving, interviewing and presenting, and studying related literature. The second week, which will be conducted in Washington, D.C., will involve a series of team interviews with public service practitioners, including trustees as well as recent graduates and other alumni, in an exploration of personal leadership styles and organizational and individual goals.

The Institute was created around a set of defined leadership skills identified via surveys of Hamilton trustees, alumni and faculty. The first two groups were queried on the skills they felt were most important in a work environment and most useful in their own professional lives. Faculty members were asked to identify those that are currently being taught in the classroom and via student support services. The program director is Prudence Bushnell, who is the 2010 Sol M. Linowitz Visiting Professor of International Affairs, former dean of the Leadership and Management School at the Foreign Service Institute, career diplomat, and CEO of Sage Associates.

*Adapted from a story by Vige Barrie*

## 2011 Levitt Public Service Interns

Elizabeth Bilharz '12: New Hampshire Center for Public Policy Studies

Trang Nguyen '13: Connecticut Office of Policy and Management

Victoria Grieves '12: Environmental Law Institute

Susannah Spero '13: New Farms for New Americans

Robert Kosineski '12: Congressman Paul Tonko

Kevin Tutasig '13: Ecuadorian National Assembly

Roxanne Makoff '12: Amnesty International

Dylan Wulderk '13: Senator Frank Lautenberg

Sarah Miller '12: Human Rights First

Fertaa Yieleh-Chireh '12: Institute for Policy Studies

Caroline Novas '13: National Research Center for Women and Families

# Levitt Research Fellows

## Summer 2010



**Jeff Cardoni '11** has always been interested in cars and the companies that make them. "Reading car magazines as a kid, I always wondered why American cars never seemed to perform as well as imports," Cardoni said, "and driving an Oldsmobile Cutlass all through high school more than confirmed my suspicion that something was amiss with domestic cars." Through the Levitt Summer Research Grant, Cardoni explored his interest in the auto industry further by focusing on the recent developments at Ford and General Motors. After looking at steps taken by the two companies, he concluded that Ford did not escape a government bailout due to luck, but through "a larger strategy of self-critical reform." Cardoni's research shows that future prospects at Ford are much brighter than those at GM, as well. Cardoni described his experience as "fantastic" and was grateful for the opportunity to explore new areas of academic study. Professor Alan Cafruny served as Cardoni's faculty advisor.



**Arielle Cutler '11** looked around her and saw media messages "destructive to women's physical and mental well-being," equating "a woman's overall worth with her physical attractiveness." Because of this, Cutler became interested in finding ways to "inoculate young girls against the effects of toxic media." Throughout the summer, Cutler researched "the efficacy of media literacy education and programs...which promote an understanding of the effect media has on individual consumers and society at large." Cutler decided to complicate her research to account for differences in class which may also affect ideas of beauty. "This project transformed the very way in which I think about and treat my body, as well as my understanding of the way racial, economic, and educational privilege operate," Cutler said. "I will be forever grateful for this awakening experience." Professor Anne Lacsamana served as Cutler's faculty advisor.



**Cristina Garafola '11** spent her summer trying to "plug a small but important gap in comparative political theory." Garafola's research focused on the persecution of public dissent in two authoritarian states, Russia and China. Paying attention to the "price of public dissent" within Russia and China is important since these countries are "models for other transitioning states, and the two regimes' relative success in quashing dissent may inspire others to follow their example." Russia is an electoral authoritarian regime, which means "restricted avenues of consent have been institutionalized." China, on the other hand, has a one-party regime where dissent is outside of the nation's institutions. Garafola attempted to prove that "electoral authoritarian regimes are, overall, less repressive than one-party regimes." Garafola's experience goes far beyond scholarship, however. "Conducting this research was meaningful to me because I hope to become a Foreign Service Officer in the future," she said. "Understanding institutions and political processes in different countries is crucial for Foreign Service Officers, so for me, the scholarship made possible by the Levitt Summer Research Grant gave me a valuable opportunity to expand career-related knowledge." Professor Sharon Rivera served as Garafola's faculty advisor.



# Levitt Research Fellows

## Summer 2010



Political activism appears to have increased in recent years, but is that all an illusion? **Emily Gerston '11** spent her summer trying to figure this out. "This project started as simply a question for me when I came across the world 'slacktivism' in a newspaper article," she said, "and turned into a complex, time consuming project." In Gerston's words, *slacktivism* occurs when "people do things that would seem to fall under the 'activism' umbrella, yet their actions seem to have a negligible effect on the world." Gerston surveyed more than 100 people and discovered "emerging trends in how people think about activism and how they participate in it." Gertson wrote that without the "generous funding and support" of the Levitt Summer Research Grant, she never could have completed this project. "Having the opportunity to design my own research project for the first time and work closely with a knowledgeable professor was absolutely invaluable," she said. Professor Stephen Ellingson served as Gerston's faculty advisor.



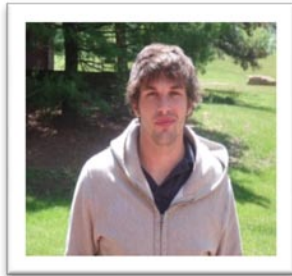
**Annie Hudson '12** became interested in national identity while living in Germany at the time of the 2006 FIFA World Cup. "Rather than the soccer matches themselves," she said "I was more fascinated with the sudden show of German pride that had been nonexistent." In order to feed her interest in this phenomenon, Hudson spent her summer traveling through Europe to research the state of national identity in the Balkans region, focusing on "whether or not countries deeply rooted in ethnic ties...can be molded through the European Union to fit a more westernized model." By traveling to Serbia, Kosovo, and Macedonia, Hudson obtained "a deep understanding of both the historical and current social causes of seemingly perpetual ethnic tensions in the region." Through the Levitt Research Fellows Grant, Hudson "developed a new interest in the national development of less-westernized nations" and was inspired to study abroad in Turkey in order to explore the issues of national identity even further. "The summer experience was invaluable," she said, "both in helping me to shape my future plans and in providing me with a chance to explore a topic I have been interested in for several years." Professor Alan Cafruny served as Hudson's faculty advisor.



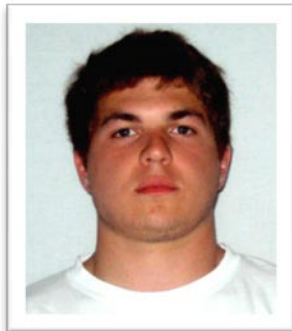
**Tongxin Lu '11** spent the summer researching the history of Catholic missions in China, Chinese policies concerning the Catholic Church, and Papal documents relating to China. Lu also maintained a correspondence with a professor from Whitworth University, who had been able to interview three Chinese bishops over the course of the summer. Lu found that because the Chinese government maintains tight control over religious practices, Chinese Catholics have formed two communities: an "official" community which is regulated by the government, and an underground community which remains loyal to the Pope. She concluded that the future of the Catholic Church in China depends on the government recognizing that Chinese citizens not only have relations with each other, but also moral obligations to God. "The Levitt Summer Fellow Program gave me an opportunity to pursue a topic that interests me personally as a Chinese Catholic and intellectually as a history concentrator," Lu said. "I feel satisfied to have an informed opinion on things I knew almost nothing about prior to my research." Professor Douglas Ambrose served as Lu's faculty advisor.

# Levitt Research Fellows

## Summer 2010



**Steve Mello '11** began researching contraception in Rwanda last spring and was so fascinated by it that he dedicated his summer to researching the issue more in depth. Using Demographic and Health Surveys from 2000 to 2005, Mello analyzed the effects of increased access to contraception. "While some previous literature argues that preferences are the only determinants of fertility," he said, "my findings suggest that exogenous changes in contraceptive supply can reduce fertility, and that reduced fertility can produce dramatic improvements in child and newborn wellbeing." His research provided evidence that the availability of condoms led to reductions in short-term fertility, increases in average birth weight, and increases in the percentage of children born to educated mothers. "During the summer I realized the real-world importance of such research and its implications for poverty alleviation, and came to the realization that continuing this work is what I want to do with my life after college," Mello said. "I was able to devote my summer to something I feel really passionate about." Professor Stephen Wu served as Mello's faculty advisor.



**Adam Minchew '12** spent this past summer studying the political theorist Frank S. Meyer (1909-1972). Meyer claimed that in order to create a successful conservative movement, there would need to be "a compromise between libertarianism and traditional conservatism." Years after his death, Meyer's ideas still resonate within the conservative intellectual community, and because of this, Minchew was interested "in analyzing closely [Meyer's] 'fusionist' policy and his reactions to the issues of his day." Minchew was given access to 250 of Meyer's published works and read them chronologically, which gave him the opportunity to "study the history and politics of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century through a unique lens." Minchew spent time studying primary sources "on a seldom studied, yet highly important individual in the modern conservative intellectual movement." He added, "With the aid provided by the Levitt Grant, my understanding of partisan politics and the history of the twentieth century has been deeply enriched." Professor Robert Paquette served as Minchew's faculty advisor.



**Shichen Xu '12** spent his summer studying the behavior of worker cooperatives, specifically the Mondragon Corporation in Spain. "Worker cooperatives are firms entirely owned by their employees, and might be an alternative way to govern business enterprises with beneficial social effects of employment maintenance, personal income maximization, and lower income inequality," Xu said. By making use of econometric analysis, Xu was able to examine differences between worker cooperatives and traditional capitalist firms. He found that "worker cooperatives are much more likely to maintain employment levels than conventional firms, while their wage determination schemes are similar to those of conventional firms." Through the Levitt Summer Research Grant, Xu was able to remain on campus during the summer and gain access to the proper resources. "The research enriched my knowledge in both labor economics and economic systems. At the same time I gained very valuable experience in hands-on research experiences," Xu said. "These will all be valuable assets for my future studying and research." Professor Derek Jones served as Xu's faculty advisor.



# Levitt Research Fellows Summer 2010



**Hanbin Yang '12** spent the past summer researching the determinants of technological innovation to evaluate Chinese domestic high-tech companies. Throughout his research, Yang worked to develop “hypothetical factors that can influence the performance of technological innovation,” and then applied statistical analysis. He discovered that six variables influence the long-term and short-term performance of technological innovation. In addition, he applied the research to the Chinese “Shanzhai” industry and found that “factors described in the model helped some of these ‘Shanzhai’ companies make progress with their technological innovation.” For his research, Yang also traveled to the Silicon Valley to visit high-tech companies such as Intel, Cisco, and Applied Materials. “I sincerely appreciate Arthur Levitt Jr. for the generous research fellowship funding,” Yang said. “As an international student, I cannot afford to stay in the United States without funding. It would have been very difficult to communicate with my research advisor, and to enjoy the access to English literature resources.” Professor Christophre Georges served as Yang’s faculty advisor.

## 2011 Levitt Summer Research Fellows

### **Henry Anreder '12 with Professor Steve Orvis**

Comparative Effectiveness of Governmental Agencies and Non-Governmental Organizations in the Assistance of African Refugees in Israel

### **Wlajimir Alexis '13 with Professor Todd Franklin**

**Rodric Waugh '13 with Professor Todd Franklin**  
The Impact of Co-Curricular Field Trips on Middle Schoolers in the District of Columbia

### **Scott Blosser '12 with Professor Doug Ambrose**

Federalism and the Problem of State Debt: The Debate over and Lessons of the Federal Assumption of State Debt

### **Thomas Cheeseman '12 with Professor Doug Ambrose**

The Naked Public Square? The New Natural Law Movement’s Impact on Public Morality

### **Austin Walker '12 with Professor Steve Orvis**

Development Perspectives: The Lost Voices of Kenyan Youth

### **Yinghan Ding '12 with Professor Margaret Morgan-Davie**

Challenges in Climate Finance: How to Ensure a Measurable, Reportable, and Verifiable Support to Climate Action in Developing Countries

### **Mihai Dohotaru '13 with Professor Christophre Georges**

The Housing Bubble and the US Labor Market after the ‘Great Recession’

### **Noah Ford '13 with Professor Paul Hagstrom**

The Effects of Local Networks on First and Second Generation Immigrant Entrepreneurs in the United States

### **Jasmina Hodzic '13 with Professor Alan Cafruny**

Bosnia’s Time to Govern: Overcoming International Supervision in Bosnia and Herzegovina

# Levitt Research Groups

## Levitt Research Groups

Levitt Research Group Grants are a new Levitt Center initiative that supports groups of two to three Hamilton students completing summer research projects under the supervision of one faculty adviser. The research projects completed by each individual student in the group last for 8 to 10 weeks and help to answer an overarching research question. Students in research groups and their faculty advisers meet face-to-face regularly to coordinate and communicate research efforts. The grants are intended to encourage faculty publication as well as faculty-student publications. Projects that have output that will be useful for policy makers or other researchers are also encouraged.

Levitt Research Group Grants conduct research related to at least one of the Levitt Center's theme-based programs: Inequality and Equity, Security, or Sustainability. Field work or original analysis of existing data is required.

### Levitt Research Groups, Summer 2011

**Will Rusche '13 and Andrea Wrobel '13  
with Professor Stephen Ellingson**

"The Making of Green Religion:  
Embeddedness, Strategic Choice and the  
Development of a New Social Movement  
Field"

**Anastassia Baldrige '12,  
Paige Cross '13, and Clayton Larsen '13  
with Professor Chaise LaDousa**

"New Literacies for an Old City"

**Amy Dow '13, David Schwartz '13, and Elly Field '13  
with visiting Professor George Hobor (funded by the  
Community Foundation of Oneida and Herkimer  
Counties)**

"Entrepreneurship among Utica's Refugee Population"



Levitt Research Group participants, top:  
(right to left) Rust to Green Fellows David  
Schwartz, Amy Dow, and Elly Field, with  
volunteer Kathryn Steck; middle: last  
year's fellow, Kevin Alexander '13.



# Inequality and Equity Program

## Inequality and Equity

The Program on Inequality and Equity investigates the factors that affect the distribution of income, distribution of health outcomes, impact of policy on intergenerational equity, welfare analysis, discrimination, access to the legal system and the role of incentives, race, gender, and immigration. The Inequality and Equity Program sponsored speakers, lunch discussions, and the service learning program, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program (VITA). Jenny Irons, Professor of Sociology, is the Director of the Inequality and Equity Program.

## Speaker Series

### Robert Moses '56: Quality Public School Education as a Constitutional Right

Robert Moses '56 spoke to a packed audience on October 26 in the Hamilton College Chapel. In his talk, he detailed the history of American race relations, beginning with the institution of slavery, moving through the Civil War and Reconstruction, then to the Great Migration of blacks to northern cities, and finally the Civil Rights Movement of the 60's. He then described his own participation in the Civil Rights movement and his time teaching in Tanzania from 1969-1976. Upon his return to the United States, Moses began to focus on the problem of mathematical achievement among underprivileged children living in the inner cities and their more privileged counterparts. He discovered that many of these children were not being prepared to pursue college preparatory math courses in high school. He said that this was "the clearest representation of the American caste system that can be found in our educational process." In response he created the Algebra Project, which is a national non-profit mathematical literacy program.



*Robert Moses '56 speaking  
in the Hamilton College  
Chapel*

# Inequality and Equity Program

## Speaker Series, continued

### Elizabeth Mitchell Armstrong: How We Begin: The Origins and Consequences of Fetal Personhood

On February 7, Elizabeth Mitchell Armstrong, Associate Professor of Sociology and Public Affairs at Princeton University, delivered a lecture titled “How We Begin: The Origins and Consequences of Fetal Personhood.” In her lecture, Armstrong discussed the origins of fetal personhood and its effects on the process and phenomenon of modern pregnancy. Armstrong argued that the development of fetal rights and the increased use of technology during pregnancy have actually resulted in women losing rights, for now their interests are overlooked in favor of those of the fetus. Armstrong urged the audience to think of pregnancy as an “inextricably unified relationship” rather than a conflict between two units. In doing this, she argued, the health and rights of the mother and the fetus will be respected, meaning fetal personhood will not need to detract from maternal personhood. In addition to her position at Princeton, Armstrong is a faculty associate at the Office of Population Research, the Program for the Study of Women and Gender, and the Center for Health and Well-being.

### Edward “Ted” Miguel: Is It Africa’s Turn?

Ted Miguel presented the lecture “Is It Africa’s Turn?” on April 6. Miguel is a professor of economics and director of the Center of Evaluation for Global Action at the University of California, Berkeley. His work largely focuses on African economic development, and the lecture explored the impact of child health investments, specifically his deworming project, on increases in the living standards of adults. His findings demonstrated that improving child health does, in fact, result in better health, increased labor market earnings, and an overall higher standard of living in adulthood, and he argued that people need to consider child health when dealing with the issue of underdevelopment in Africa.



*Elizabeth Armstrong speaking  
with Alex Lawson '13*

# Inequality and Equity Program

## Faculty Lunch Discussions

The Inequality and Equity Program hosted three lunch discussions for interested faculty. These lunches allowed Hamilton faculty members to present and discuss their research on topics relevant to issues of inequality and equity.

- Emily Conover, Assistant Professor of Economics: "Morbidity Consequences of Easier Access to Alcohol."
- George Hobor, Visiting Assistant Professor of Sociology; Chaise LaDousa, Associate Professor of Anthropology ; and Chris Willemsen, Assistant Director, Levitt Center: "Off the Hill: Students Studying Inequality in the Local Community."
- Haeng-ja Chung, Assistant Professor of Anthropology: "Japanese Visa Categories and Hostess Workers."

## VITA

VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) is a service learning program that offers free tax help to low- and moderate-income families. Eleven students in Policy, Poverty and Practice (Econ 235), taught by Lecturer in Economics Margaret Morgan-Davie, trained and then worked to assist local residents in applying for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). Through their efforts, these Hamilton students are becoming more aware of their civic duties and increasingly proficient in the language of tax returns.

The VITA program was initiated by the Mohawk Valley Asset Building Coalition (MVABC), the United Way of the Mohawk Valley, and the IRS as a way to ensure that qualifying taxpayers would receive Earned Income Tax Credits. The Levitt Center coordinates with MVABC to enlist college students' help with the program. Students in Policy, Poverty and Practice attend IRS TaxWise training and obtain at least basic-level certification. Thereafter, they complete at least 15 hours of electronic tax filing as a part of their class requirement. This year, the students worked at the Resource Center for Independent Living (RCIL) in Utica to complete their hours.

**Policy, Poverty, & Practice**  
**Economics 235 Spring 2011**  
**Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA)**

- Learn about poverty and tax policy with real-life application.
- Prepare 15 hours of free income tax returns for community members.
- Register for Econ 235 (.25 credit) to volunteer.

**IRS training, certification and transportation provided**

Contact Margaret Morgan-Davie at mmorgand@hamilton.edu or Shirin Rashid at srashid@hamilton.edu for more info.



# Inequality and Equity Program

## Youth Poll

A panel of students taking Topics in Survey Research with Professor of Government Philip Klinkner presented the results of the most recent Levitt Center Youth Poll via webcast on Thursday, May 12. The poll, titled "Immigration and Racial Change: Are All Generations On The Same Page?" found that on divisive issues of race and immigration, younger generations (specifically 18-29 year olds) were generally much more open to change and accepting of differences than older generations.

The survey itself was composed of questions posed by the students of Topics in Survey Research. The topics ranged from the integration of immigrants into American society to the perception of president Obama's religion. Knowledge Networks of Palo Alto, Calif., aided the students in the distribution of the survey, which was administered to a sample size of about 1000 people via the Internet. Percent error was +/- 3 percent for most respondents, but +/- 4.6 percent for the younger generations. Although the survey stressed that "young Americans display more tolerance for America's changing racial and ethnic character than do older generations of Americans," it also noted that the opinions of young Americans do not represent a "monolithic block [...] their attitudes and interests are subject to change."

At the official release of the survey's findings on May 12, Klinkner and his students took the opportunity to discuss some of their more compelling findings. Sarah Kreiger '11 found that younger generations are increasingly diverse in terms of ethnicity, which she sees as a partial reason for the more positive views on issues addressed in the survey. Krieger was also very interested in the partisan divisions that the survey uncovered. Partisanship was especially present in responses to a question Kreiger posed about public support for laws that would allow police officers to verify citizenship status. Although the idea for the question stemmed from the recent controversial legislation in Arizona, Kreiger was quick to point out that she phrased the survey question neutrally.

Younger Americans are consistently more open to multiculturalism than their older counterparts, and are also more optimistic about the future in general, as Caroline Epstein '13 found. After citing recent data showing that by 2030 the majority of the U.S. population will be non-white, Epstein asked survey participants whether or not this multiculturalism will have a positive impact on the country. The youngest survey demographic consistently responded that the multiculturalism will have a positive impact upon the country, whereas older groups were less likely to be optimistic about the nation's multicultural future.

*Adapted from a Hamilton News web article by Holly Foster.*



*Professor Philip Klinkner and members of the Hamilton class that worked on the Youth Poll.*

# Security Program

## Security Program

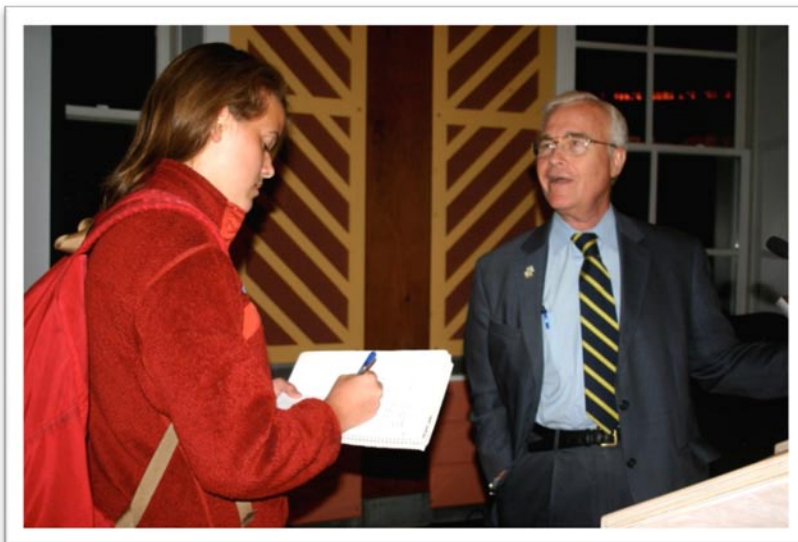
The Security Program centers on both domestic and international security. Security issues encompass the safety and protection of persons and property, food supply, market exchange, national security, banking and security regulation, cultural preservation, cyber security, local law enforcement, and public health among other public and private concerns across nations, and cultural values and institutions. The Security Program sponsored speakers, lunch discussions, and the service learning program, Project SHINE. Frank Anechiarico, Maynard-Knox Professor of Government and Law is the Director of the Security Program.

## Speaker Series

### James C. Cobey '65: International Campaign to Ban Landmines

On September 15, Dr. James C. Cobey '65 presented a lecture titled "The International Campaign to Ban Landmines." In his lecture, Dr. Cobey discussed his work in Cambodia, a nation traumatized by landmines. In addition, he addressed the problems landmines cause for civilians in other developing nations. Using visuals and statistics, Dr. Cobey argued that in order to end the use of these weapons, "mines must become socially unacceptable." He urged the United States to ratify treaties that would end the use of landmines. Although Dr. Cobey acknowledged the lack of progress on this issue, he indicated that America is taking significant steps toward ending its use of these weapons. The lecture was followed by a question and answer session.

Dr. Cobey, as a member of Physicians for Human Rights, shared the Nobel Peace prize in 1997.



*James Cobey '65 speaks  
with a student reporter*

# Security Program

## Speaker Series, continued

### Margaret Stock: Immigration, Citizenship and Security: The Current Debate

On October 21, Lieutenant Colonel Margaret Stock presented a lecture titled “Immigration, Citizenship and Security: The Current Debate.” In the lecture, LTC Stock discussed the complexities of immigration law and how policies can both promote and hinder national security. She argued that after September 11, the United States has demonstrated a profound shift in its immigration policy, moving towards identifying “security threats.” The problem with this, Stock believes, is that “national security” is not clearly defined, thus leading to disagreements over immigration law and government policy. Stock argued that the United States needs to create immigration laws and policies that will benefit and protect America, but will not have too high a cost. Stock also urged the audience to consider the complexity of immigration, citizenship, and security issues in contemporary debate, as well as the aspects that contribute to our national security.

### Alasdair Roberts: Government Secrecy in the Age of Wikileaks

Alasdair Roberts, Professor of Law and Public Policy at Suffolk University, presented a lecture titled “Government Secrecy in the Age of Wikileaks” on April 8. In the lecture, Roberts argued against the claim that we are moving towards an age of radical transparency in government, stating that the information that Wikileaks put forth was only a small fraction of the total amount of classified government information. He then argued that the internet is not an unregulated commons, but a market that reacts to popular opinion much like any other. In addition, he stated that the government wields power when it comes to halting rumors and finding breaches in security. Roberts believes that Wikileaks did not create the public outcry that founder Julian Assange hoped for not only because of these reasons, but also because of a lack of organization: their timing and publicity were not well-managed.



*Lieutenant Colonel Margaret Stock speaks with a Hamilton student after her talk*

# Security Program

## Panel Discussions

### Panel Discussion: The Effect of Corruption on National Security: A Consideration of Russia and Islamic Law Tradition

On November 4, the Security Program presented a panel discussion titled "The Effect of Corruption on National Security: A Consideration of Russia and Islamic Law Tradition." The program began with lectures by Gordon Smith, Director of the Walker Institute of International and Area Studies at the University of South Carolina, and Mark Welton, Professor of Law at the United States Military Academy at West Point. Smith and Welton discussed corruption in Russia and Islamic law, respectively. Both men argued that corruption is now embedded in the culture of these legal traditions, and that attitudes and norms will need to change in order to ameliorate this problem. The lectures were followed by a panel discussion, which explored the steps that could be taken to prevent corruption in the future, as well as how reforms might come about. This discussion was led by three members of the Hamilton College Government Department faculty: Frank Anechiarico, Charlotte Lee, and Nathaniel Richmond.

## Faculty Lunch Discussions

The Security Program hosts lunch discussions for interested faculty. These lunches allow Hamilton faculty members to present and discuss their research on topics relevant to issues of security.

- **Otto Petersson**, Ph.D. Candidate in Public Administration Linnaeus University, Sweden, and Hamilton Scholar-in-Residence: "How Experience in the Streets Turns Idealistic Cadets into Pragmatic Constables: Research from a Multi-Year Panel Study in Sweden"

### Faculty Discussion of the Revolution in Egypt: 1989 All Over Again?

Hamilton College Faculty Members Shoshana Keller, Ned Walker, Sharon Rivera and Peggy Piesche led a panel discussion on Egypt titled "1989 All Over Again?" on Wednesday, March 2, 2011. It was a comparative discussion of Egyptian politics past and present, and set in the context of "people power" revolutions of the last 30 years, especially 1989. The panel spent about half the time taking questions and having a good discussion with the audience.



# Security Program

## Project SHINE

Project SHINE (Students Helping in the Naturalization of Elders) completed its seventh 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 10-20 hours over the semester assisting adult immigrants and refugees in ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) and Citizenship Classrooms. This year, seven professors offered Project SHINE in ten classes in the Anthropology, Education, English, Government, and Women's Studies Departments. Over the past seven years, over 500 students have participated in Project SHINE.

Teachers at Project SHINE's community sites, the Utica City School District's Adult Learning Center and the BOCES Utica Access Site, appreciate having Hamilton Students in their classrooms. The overwhelming consensus seems to be that they can never have enough students aiding them in the classroom. Each year students come back with stories of their broadened horizons: of people with different experiences and an appreciation for a person's ability and commitment to learn without the numerous resources that many of their peers have had.



*Stacy Marris '13, Hamilton College (right) and Emilia Tidona, Colgate University (top right) work in refugee center classrooms; center left, Emily Cranshaw '12.*



# Sustainability Program

## Sustainability Program

The Sustainability Program is an interdisciplinary program that supports research as well as programs that complement and enrich classroom learning. This broad-based, multi-faceted initiative promotes both academic research on sustainable practices, and policies to achieve them, as well as hands-on learning experiences for Hamilton students. The Sustainability Program sponsored speakers, lunch discussions, and the Cornell University initiative Rust to Green, Utica. Julio Videras was Director of the Sustainability Program in 2010-2011. Peter Cannavo will take over as Director for 2011-2012.

## Speaker Series

### Matt Kahn '88: Climatopolis: How Our Cities Will Thrive in the Hotter Future

On September 21, Matthew Kahn '88, Professor at the Institute of the Environment, the Department of Economics, and the Department of Public Policy at UCLA, returned to Hamilton to deliver a lecture titled "Climatopolis: How Our Cities Will Thrive in the Hotter Future." In his lecture, Kahn summarized his "alternative," and relatively controversial, opinion that free market capitalism is both the cause of climate change and our best solution for adapting to it. Kahn argued that although climate change is inevitable, in the future people will adapt and cities will thrive because profit-seekers will respond to the opportunities that the crisis offers. In his opinion, rational, self-interested individuals will follow the most beneficial path towards adaptation. Kahn's lecture was based on his recently published book *Climatopolis*.



*Matt Kahn '88 discussing  
his talk with a Hamilton  
student*

*The following students contributed to articles in the Annual Report: Dylan Wulderk '13, Grace Fulop '13, Alexandra Ossola '11, and Patrick Dunn '12*

# Sustainability Program

## Speaker Series, continued

### Steven Hayward: Is Sustainable Development Sustainable?

On October 4, Steven Hayward, the F.K. Weyerhaeuser Fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, presented a lecture titled “Is Sustainable Development Sustainable?”. Hayward discussed a variety of issues ranging from pollution to population growth. He argued that in recent years, significant environmental progress has been made, citing decreased birth rates in developing nations and decreased levels of air pollution in cities such as Los Angeles. Hayward was not entirely optimistic, however, and stated that he believes there are weaknesses in the current environmental movement. He argued that in order for future progress to occur, sustainable development should move away from centralized planning, and instead should focus on a bottom-up approach powered by ordinary people working on separate, individual projects aimed at a sustainable future.

### Sean Safford: Why the Garden Club Couldn’t Save Youngstown: Lessons for Regional Resilience

On November 10, Sean Safford presented a lecture titled “Why the Garden Club Couldn't Save Youngstown: Lessons for Regional Resilience.” Safford’s lecture examined how the structure of civic relationships can shape the paths of economic change by focusing on a comparison of two cities: Allentown, Pennsylvania and Youngstown, Ohio. By looking at these two cities, Safford examined how cities take two different paths: adapt to economic change and crises to thrive in the future, or fail to and get left behind. He argued that success depends upon utilizing a community's social capital and forming interconnected ties between civic society and the economy. If this occurs, he believes, cities will be able to adapt and support their new industries in the future. Safford is visiting professor of management at the University of Pennsylvania’s Wharton School.

### Paul Wapner: Living through the End of Nature: The Future of Environmentalism

On February 24, Paul Wapner, Associate Professor and Director of the Global Environmental Politics Program at American University, presented a lecture titled “Living through the End of Nature: The Future of Environmentalism.” In his lecture, Wapner discussed what the end of nature would mean for the environmental movement. He believes that rather than being a catastrophe, the end of nature as we know it could be an opportunity for analysis, action, and the reframing of environmental politics. Wapner argued that by honestly recognizing our involvement with nature and treating our relationship with it as that of parent and a child, we will be able to interact with the natural world more responsibly. If we follow these guidelines, Wapner claims, we can “live through the end of nature by living through the relationship.”

# Sustainability Program

## Faculty Lunch Discussions

The Sustainability Program hosted three lunch discussions which allowed Hamilton faculty members and others to present and discuss their research on topics relevant to issues of sustainability.

- Joyce Barry, Visiting Assistant Professor of Women's Studies: a talk based on her book, *Standing Ground: Gender and Environmental Justice in the Age of Mountaintop Removal Coal Mining*.
- Eugene Domack, J.W. Johnson Family Professor of Environmental Studies: a talk on his latest research.
- George Hobor, Visiting Assistant Professor of Sociology: a talk about his research on demographic trends in Utica.

## Rust to Green, Utica

The Levitt Center continued to participate with Rust to Green, Utica, forging successful partnerships with Cornell University, other local colleges and universities, and local organizations. Rust to Green is an action research project started by Cornell University professors and funded by the Federal government that has the aim of bringing the resources of the academy to the struggling rust belt cities of New York State. In the summer of 2010, Kevin Alexander was named the first Hamilton College Rust to Green Civic Research fellow. He worked closely with the Cornell University graduate students to design programs for educating local citizens about the environmental challenges facing Utica and the surrounding area. In addition, he was part of a research team supervised by Visiting Professor George Hobor that gathered demographic and organizational data about Utica.

This fall, the Levitt Center and our Cornell University colleagues successfully applied for a grant from the Community Foundation of Herkimer and Oneida Counties to support Rust to Green, Utica. Hamilton received funding to support a research group of three students headed by Visiting Assistant Professor George Hobor. The group is researching entrepreneurial activity among Utica's large refugee population. The students are Amy Dow '12, Elly Field '13, and David Schwartz '13.

The Levitt Center is also supporting two new *Rust to Green Civic Research Fellows*. Emina Memesevic '12 will be collaborating with Cornell University graduate students doing Story Corps style interviews of Utica residents, particularly among the Bosnian population. Kristen Morgan-Davie '12 will be working with the newly formed Rust to Green College Consortium to help design a website, as well as assisting other Fellows who will be working on a number of projects in Utica.



*President Joan Hinde Stewart accepts a grant award from Jan Squadrito of The Community Foundation of Herkimer and Oneida Counties*

# Programs and Conferences

## Levitt Scholars

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. 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, 15 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.

### Participating Schools:

Camden High School  
Canastota High School  
Cazenovia High School  
Chittenango High School  
Clinton High School  
East Syracuse - Minoa Central High School  
Frankfort-Schuyler High School  
Herkimer High School  
Holland Patent High School  
Jamesville DeWitt High School  
Manlius Pebble Hill School  
Marcellus High School  
Martha's Vineyard Regional High School  
Notre Dame High School  
Oneida High School  
Paul D. Schreiber High School  
Pittsford Sutherland High School  
Richfield Springs Central School  
Rome Catholic School  
Rome Free Academy  
Scotch Plains Fanwood High School  
TR Proctor Senior High School  
Waterville High School  
West Genesee Senior High School

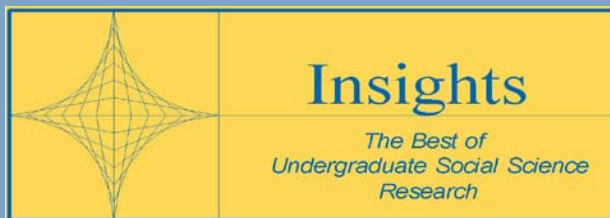
### Levitt Scholars Spring 2011

Sophia Boehm: "Ethnocentric Approaches to Africa: The Rwandan Genocide"  
Jeff Cardoni: "The Hidden Costs of Car Ownership"  
Amanda Cohen: "An American Genocide? An Examination of the Treatment of Native Americans"  
Rachel D'Angio: "Hydrofracturing: Hot Button Environmental Issue"  
Danielle Forshay: "Why Learn a Language?"  
Himeka Hagiwara: "A Quick Look at Consciousness"  
Andrew Harris: "The Best Semester of College: Navigating the Study-Abroad Experience"  
Mandy Hyne: "Attachment Theory: Disordered Attachment, Implications and Treatment Approaches"  
Evan Klondar: "Phenomenology in Practice"  
Mary "Bret" Lineberry: "Backpacking Europe 101"  
Tongxin Lu: "History of the Catholic Church in China"  
Kyle Mason: "Study Abroad: A Life-Changing Experience"  
Kelsey Mellette: "Civic Engagement: Discovering Interests and Getting Involved"  
Julie Meurer: "Speaking Without a Voice: American Sign Language and American Deaf Culture"  
Samantha Rabin: "The Art of Hidden Messages: An Application of Content Analysis"

# Programs and Conferences

The Levitt Center supports a number of additional programs that encourage students to explore the world of public affairs either through funding, advising, or by providing office space and transportation.

- Hamilton College Micro-finance Club
- Model EU Program
- Model UN Program
- Fed Challenge
- Young People's Project, a math tutoring program
- Friends Without Borders, an English for Speakers of Other Languages program aimed at teenagers and young adults



<http://www.hamilton.edu/levitt/insights/>

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 supported by the Levitt Center, but 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:

The Politics of American Aid and Conflict in Northern Uganda  
*Sophia Boehm '11*

The Science behind "Organic": Conflicts among Government Standards, Public Perceptions, and Scientific Findings  
*Catherine Ferrara '11*

America's Newest Health Crisis: The Childhood Obesity Epidemic  
*Brent Palmer '11*

Capital Market Liberalization in China: Opportunities and Dangers  
*Chris Shi '12*



# Think Tank

A student directed organization sponsored by the Levitt Center



"Just bring an open mind and an empty stomach!"

**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. Ipsita Bhatia '11, Benjamin Hootnick '12, and Mikayla Irle '12 co-directed Think Tank for the 2010-11 academic year.

Haeng Ja Chung, "Multiculturalism and Visa Categories"

Amina Sibtain '11, Rouvan Mahmud '11, Arpita Banerjee, Chaise LaDousa, "Devastation without Awareness: the Pakistan Floods"

Chaise LaDousa, "Collegiate Fun, Reflection, and Critique"

Michael McCormick, "Life Cycle Assessment and the Environmental Preferability of Consumer Products"

Philip Klinkner, "The Public Career of Condoleezza Rice"

James Bradfield, "Social Security"

Peter Cannavo, "Artificial Food and the Yuck Factor"

Thomas Rath, "More Ballots, More Bullets? Mexico's Debate about Militarization and Democracy"

Christopher Vasantkumar, "The Hamilton America/Chinese Exchange"

Alan Cafruny, "Inequality in the United States: How Much is Enough?"

Cheryl Casey, Galia Slayen '13, and Perry Ryan '12, "Eating Disorders and the Media"

Donald Carter, "What does it mean to be a Chief Diversity Officer at Hamilton?"

Ted Lehmann, Haeng Ja Chung, Kyoko Omori, Masaaki Kamiya, and Wakana Maekawa, "Disaster in Japan"

Antonio Sison, "Humanity in Deep Focus: World Cinema, Theology, and the Human"

David Gapp, "The Debate on GMOs"

***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***