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autumn 2008

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a student-run magazine based at hamilton college

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The Hlexander Hamilton Institute Founded 2007

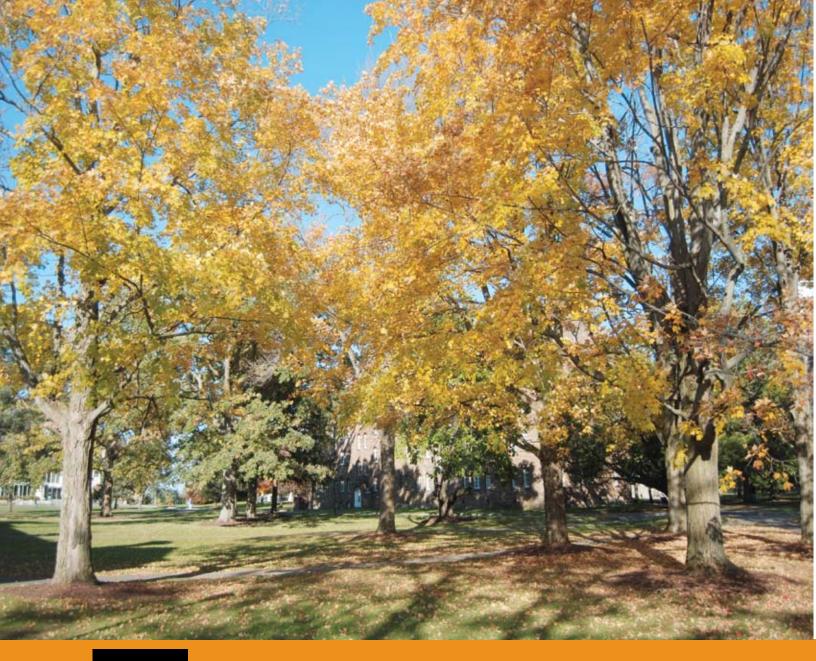


The Alexander Hamilton Institute for the Study of Western Civilization (AHI) promotes rigorous scholarship and vigorous debate in the study of freedom, democracy, and capitalism. Hamilton College Professors Douglas Ambrose, James Bradfield, and Robert Paquette established the AHI as an independent entity, unaffiliated with Hamilton College, during the summer of 2007.

Headquartered in a stately mansion in Clinton, NY, AHI has a national constituency, but Hamilton students are among its greatest beneficiaries. The Institute encourages persons, particularly students, to present programs compatible with the mission of the Institute. These programs could be speeches, organized debates, or reviews of books, among many other possibilities. Interested persons should visit the Institute's website at www.theahi.org, or speak to one of the founding professors.

The Alexander Hamilton Institute is located at 21 West Park Row in the Village Square of Clinton, NY, about one mile from Hamilton College's campus, and about twenty miles from Colgate University. (315) 8594118





in this issue



listen

Hamilton's very own Will Preston, aka 'Ill Will', is a gifted free style rapper. He and his group Triality are preparing to release their self- produced CD this winter. Check out his interview with Talk of the Town Editor Nicole Dietsche.



explore

Open up the Society section and learn about an array of Hamilton clubs and organizations. Each of these groups brings a unique and vibrant voice to the hill. Flip through the pages as we profile some of the coolest groups on the hill.



vote

In our newest feautures survey we investiage the political mind of the student body. See where you peers fall on the ideological spectrum and no matter where you fall rememember to get out there on Nov. 4 to make the youth voice heard.



visit

Mike Hayes is adjusting to his new home in China. After gradating, Hayes travelled to the Far East to experience the challenges and rewards of living and working abroad. Share in his adventures as he reveals stories of his daily life.

We Have Waited 200 Years for You...

Welcome to the Hill Class of 2012



The Office of the President (315) 859-4105

on the cover

This year we have decided to break with the traditional couple covers in order to highlight more Hamilton students. For our first cover, we have selected our Senior Adirondack Adventure leaders. The entire photo shoot consisted of the leaders playing their AA games as our photographer ran around catching these hilarious snapshots. The amazing group of seniors consists of: Steve Allinger, Sydney Fasulo, Matt Gordon, Emily Goughary (not photographed), Pat Hodgens, Lars Margolis, Kathleen Marshall, Dave Moroney, Sarah Powell, Amanda Schoen, Jeffrey Seymour, Emma Stewart, Chris Sullivan, Phil Tracy, Peter Woodruff and Rebecca Yaguda.





the continental \mid autumn 2008 9



Luckily for us, Hamilton students seem to do exceptionally well when it comes to obtaining a job and excelling in the nation's top business companies and corporations. The Eugene M. Tobin Distinguished Professor of Sociology Dan Chambliss, the leading researcher on how Hamilton students do so well after graduation, tells us why we are able to distinguish ourselves after we leave the Hill.

Chambliss explains that the intellectual flexibility as well as the communication and people skills that Hamilton students acquire over the course of their four years here is what makes them appealing to future employers in the field of business. The classes students take at Hamilton provide us with the tools to improve the way that we write and speak; graduates who leave the Hill discover that alumni from similar colleges are afraid to write reports or to demonstrate clarity of thought in their communication. Hamilton students know how to think analytically and tackle problems from different angles.

An anecdote that has been passed on to Chambliss illustrates the benefit of a Hamilton education. According to the story, a recent graduate from Hamilton was working in a business company. She went into a meeting one evening, and her boss and colleagues began discussing a difficult issue. Many differing opinions were offered, and the Hamilton grad said: "The real underlying problem is ..." and offered a definitive solution that solved the problem. Next thing you know, this Hamilton student became vice president of the company. The demonstrated the skills that she honed on the Hill: high intellect, confidence, and an ability to communicate effectively.

It is important for us to note that "the person matters more than the program," as Chambliss says. Hamilton students are able to ef-

difficult for students just graduating from college. fectively position themselves as attractive job candidates, and later on as efficient employees in the business workplace, because the students who come here are ambitious, socially adept, and successful before they even step foot on campus. The personal experiences that students have on the Hill facilitate an easy transition to the world of business. Just living in the dormitories for four

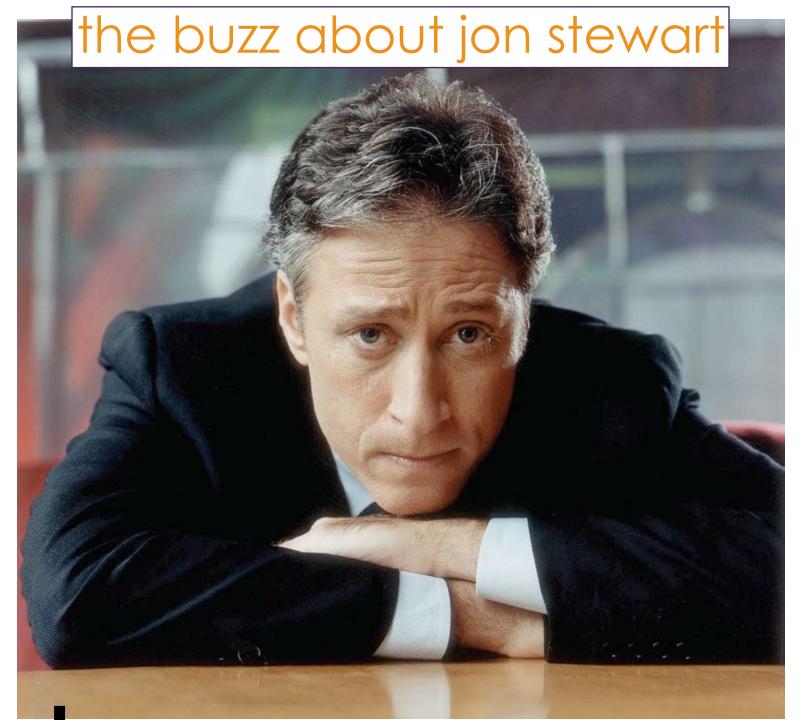
years, Chambliss explains, allows Hamilton students to work closely with people they do not know and pushes them to understand "human motivations," a skill that is crucial in business. Being liberally educated at a competitive school like Hamilton also endows students with what

Chambliss calls "a big-picture perspective of the world." That is, we understand perennial problems and trends and can criticize and generate arguments, abilities for which high-level managers are on the lookout.

In order to best position themselves for success in the business world, Chambliss states that "in the very short term, Hamilton students should get experience talking in front of a group and they should learn to use Excel." Though the latter point may seem very straightforward, Excel is a necessary tool for the business realm and employers at the entry- and high-level positions will expect that an incoming employee has understanding of the program. Students should also keep their motivation levels high and their happiness intact in order to present themselves as committed and confident to their employers.

With a Hamilton degree, a positive attitude, and a willingness to take initiative, students will be on the road to success. It is clear from models like A.G. Lafley '69, current chairman of the Board of Trustees and CEO of The Procter & Gamble company—the largest U.S. consumer-products company that is famous for excellent management—and Kevin Kennedy '70, former chair of the Board of Trustees and managing director of Goldman Sachs, that obtaining a Hamilton education means a great deal in the real world.

- lily nathanson '11



oth students and faculty are excited for Jon Stewart's upcoming performance on Friday, November 14th at 7:30. Stewart, the comedian best known for hosting Comedy Central's "The Daily Show," will be this year's Hamilton College Sacerdote Great Name Speaker.

The Sacerdote Great Names Series at Hamilton began in 1996 following a generous donation from the parents of Alex Sacerdote '94. The series aims to provide the community with access to a free speech or performance by a national or international figurehead in science, government, art, or business. President Joan Hinde Stewart notes that "since I joined the Hamilton community five years ago, our Great Names speakers have been Bill Cosby, Bill Clinton, Tom Brokaw, Al Gore and Aretha Franklin. The excitement around each has been palpable and has brought our community together in various and

interesting ways, both at the events themselves and around the discussions that followed." This year's speaker, appearing so shortly after the presidential election, will undoubtedly create a stir.

As the date grows close, Director of Student Activities Lisa Magnarelli '96, who is in charge of the Sacerdote Great Name speaker committee, admits concerns about the seating capacity of the field house. "I can't tell you how many sleepless nights I've had worrying that we won't be able to accommodate the Hamilton community," she confesses. This year, attendance policies have been changed: Hamilton students are allowed one guest while faculty are allowed two. "Every year we invite large groups of people, including high schools, to join us at the event, but this year we have had to cut back." The maximum capacity for the Margaret Bundy Scott Field House is 4,999 people but an application for a Mass Gathering Permit is in the works. "The Mass Gathering permit will allow us to seat over 5,000 people ... we are ex-

pecting between 5,700 to 5,800."

Procuring Jon Stewart as a speaker has proved to be a long process. There have been multiple attempts to bring him to campus over the past three years, but problems have continuously arisen. "One year he cancelled his college tour and another year he demanded pay that was twice our allotted budget," Magnarelli explains. "Aretha Franklin and Jon Stewart share the same agent. Aretha was very pleased with Hamilton's hospitality and put in a good word for us." Magnarelli was pleased to be bringing Jon Stewart to campus as he has continually been at the top of the student survey's list, followed closely by Tony Blair, Bill Gates, Steven Speilberg, and J.K. Rowling.

But, some question his 'greatness.' One anonymous student asked, "Is Jon Stewart really as 'Great' as someone like Al Gore?" When asked to respond to this concern, President Stewart was quick to point out the subjective nature of the question and Lisa Magnarelli noted he was a ten time Emmy award winner as well as being among the top comedians in the country.

Jon Stewart is not only a renowned comedian but also an executive producer and a writer. His books include Naked Pictures of Famous People (1998), followed by America (The Book): A Citizen's Guide to Democracy Inaction (2004). In 2006, he wrote and co-hosted the 78th

Annual Academy Awards. The multi-talented individual attended William and Mary College in Virginia, a small liberal arts college, where he played soccer and studied Psychology (although his original major was Chemistry) before his breakthrough role on The Larry Sanders Show.

His influence on culture is unmistakable. A couple of weeks ago, President Joan Hinde Stewart attended a seminar for college presidents where the discussion turned to "the dramatically evolving ways in which America and American youth get their news in today's world. Jon Stewart may be as much a provider of "news" as any other television commentator and interviewer. The title of a recent article in the New York Times asks: 'Is Jon Stewart the Most Trusted Man in America?' His appearance at Hamilton will give everybody a closer look and a better sense of him."

Although his performance does not begin until 7:30, Hamilton students will begin to be seated between 4:30 and 5:00. But Lisa Magnarelli notes that students may start lining up for seats as early as 2 o'clock. "I would not be surprised if every student at Hamilton attends this event," she says. "He is a very funny and refreshingly honest entertainer. I cannot tell you how happy I am that he will finally perform at Hamilton College."

- victoria nygren '10

profile: hamilton's bicentennial class



his past August, Hamilton welcomed the newest class of incoming freshmen to the Hill. Although this is always an exciting event, the current freshman class has the additional honor of being Hamilton's bicentennial class. They will graduate in May 2012, which marks two hundred years since the college's 1812 establishment.

The landmark class of 2012 represents how far Hamilton has come over the years, as well as a vision for the college's future. Hamilton's growing reputation as one of the top schools in the nation is evident in the record number of applications received for the class of 2012. The Admissions Office received 5,073 applica-

tions, passing the 5,000 mark for the first time in Hamilton's history and surging 19% over the number of applications received just two years ago. Only 1,424 of these first year applicants were admitted, matching last year's record low acceptance rate of 28%.

Standardized test scores and class ranks of incoming freshmen also continue to rise. The average SAT scores for students admitted to the class of 2012 showed a 10-point increase over last year and a significant rise of 52 points since 2003. Additionally, 77% of the class of 2012 ranked in the top 10% of their high school class and 94% ranked in the top 20%, which is significantly higher than in past years.

Along with their impressive credentials, the class of 2012 also represents Hamilton's continuing strive for diversity on campus. This year's freshmen are the most diverse class on record. Of the class of 463 students, 19% identify themselves as multicultural, compared to 14% in the freshman class five years ago. International students make up 5% of the class, and an additional 7% identify themselves as dual citizens.

As far as economic diversity, 45% of the freshman class is receiving need-based scholarships (which totals about \$5.5 million in financial aid) and 7% of incoming students are from the first generation in their family to attend college. The economic diversity of the class of 2012 is all the more impressive in light of the fact that this is the first class in more than a decade that will not receive merit scholarships from the school. The gender ratio has also changed this year, with women making up 56% of the freshman class, compared to 53% the past two years. Overall, the incoming class of 2012 more than lives up to the expectations for the bicentennial class. These new students represent the high-quality applicants who choose Hamilton College for their undergraduate experience, as well as the growing economic, racial and geographic diversity of the campus.

- celia coan '09

where we fall: hamilton in rankings

Recently, President Joan Hinde Stewart joined a number of other small college presidents in a statement that strongly questions the value of rankings and rating systems in determining the worth of particular colleges. Stewart and her counterparts believe that such lists do colleges a disservice by reducing their many multifaceted attributes to just one number. Here's a look at how Hamilton stacks up beyond U.S. News and World Report:

-rebekah mintzer '09

languagemonitor.com

#1

highest increase in "media momentum," an annual count of citations in the media

Forbes Magazine/Center for College Affordability and Productivity

#24 Best American College



College Sustainability Report Card

for creating a sustainable campus environment

COLLEGE SUSTAINABILITY
REPORT CARD 2008

A Review of Campus & Endowment Policies at Leading Institutions

New York Times

#]

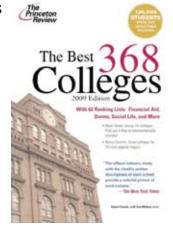
largest Norway Spruce in the U.S. located on campus





Princeton Review.com student rankings

#1 7 in the Lots of Beer Category



collegeprowler.com

B+on report card for attractive, smart, and friendly coeds with good girl to guy ratio



'We're always looking out

for bands on the rise, and I

think we caught these guys

at a good time'

n conjunction with its Fall concert series, the Campus Activities Board (CAB) is proud to announce that The Flobots will be performing with The Blue Scholars and Asher Roth November 7 in the Tolles Pavilion.

The idea of The Flobots concert came about this summer and rapidly progressed at the start of the fall semester. Paul Ryan comments, "Unlike the Kooks show (where CAB got in at the last second and was lucky to find a spot at the start of the tour), CAB was one of

the first groups to get onto the Flobots tour, and they routed their entire northeast run around their stop in Clinton, NY."

Since the booking, The Flobots have been touring constantly with big name groups like Rage Against the Machine and The Fray.

Jarrod Burton '09, the concert organizer for CAB, adds that the organization is "always looking out for bands on the rise, and I think we caught these guys at a good time when there

were very affordable but definitely gaining popularity and momentum as a band."

The Flobots formed in 2000 when MC James Laurie (Jonny 5) teamed up with producer Farhad Ebrahimi. They released their first album *Onomatopoeia* in 2001. The band expanded with MC Brer Rabbit, violist Mackenzie Roberts, bassist Jesse Walker, guitarist Andy Guerrero, trumpet player Joe Ferrone, and drummer Kenny Oritz. The group members identify themselves by numbers: Jonny 5 is 05, Brer Rabbit is 0, Mackenzie is 33, Andy is 17, Jesse is 101, Joe is 79, and Kenny is 69.

The Flobots released *Flobots Presents... Platypus* in October 2005. Two years later they released *Fight With Tools*. The single "Handlebars" peaked at number 3 on Billboard's Modern Rock Tracks chart. In June 2008, The Flobots expanded their artistic horizons and released a webcomic series created by D.J. Coffman (13) called *Rise of the Flobots: Architects of Change*. The band is currently working on their next album, which is expected to be released in 2009.

For the show, Asher Roth and The Blue Scholars will be joining The Flobots. Asher Roth performed his first show recently and is now

called "the next big thing in hip-hop." Steve Rifkind calls him "the best lyricist he has heard in the last 10 years." Roth's lyrics are sharp, witty, and have made a definite impression on his college-targeted audience.

The Seattle-based hip-hop group The Blue Scholars has made a solid name (and following) for themselves with their focus on

the struggles between socioeconomic classes, youth empowerment, and challenging authority.

Along with their opening acts, the Flobots provide a wide range of styles in their music, from the anthem "Handlebars," to the rough and simple "Stand Up," to the melancholy "Rise." All in all, the Flobots progressive music, in both lyrics and style, and dynamic live performances will be sure to set the Annex aflame with its rocking symphonic breakbeats.

- ashley stagner '09



It's genuinely one of the

most innovative, surprising

and creative works done in

the last five years.

the summer. Maybe you just think that the idea of an internet musical about supervillains sounds silly.

Whatever the reason that you didn't watch Dr. Horrible's Sing Along Blog, you should, because it's genuinely one of the most innovative, surprising and creative works done in the last five years. And I'm not just saying that because Neil Patrick Harris bursts into song.

Dr. Horrible is a quirky, hourlong musical about a supervillain, Dr. Horrible (Neil Patrick Harris), who runs a video blog about his evil deeds and desperately wants to be accepted into the Evil League of Evil. İt's not your average Broadway fare, but it's cute. Dr. Horrible is a painfully shy nerd who stalks the pretty girl from his laundromat, Penny (Felicia Day), and is continually being beat-up by his nemesis, Captain Hammer (Nathan Fillion). Even though he seems pathetic, Whedon manages to make Dr. Horrible a truly sympathetic character. You actually want him to rule the world.

Dr. Horrible came into being during the Writer's Strike last year, when Joss Whedon (the writer of

Buffy and Firefly) got the idea to do a project solely for the internet. After

all, internet royalties and the shift towards television housed on the internet were large motivating factors behind the strike.

Whedonisoneofthosepeople who can just make a phone call and cast a show, so it should come as no

shock that two of the main actors, Felicia Day and Nathan Fillion, are alums of his previous shows. Some prominent scenes also feature his brother, Jed Whedon, who helped write the music. The great coup of the show, though, is the perfor-

mance of Neil Patrick Har-The ris. Doogie Houser and How I Met Your

Mother actor had not worked with Ioss Whedon before, so Whedon was stunned when his cold call was met with a resounding "Yes!"

"I didn't even get the sentence out before he said yes. And then I sort of got defensive: 'No, no, no,

> it's really going to be good, and Neil's like, 'I said yes.' And I said, 'No, no, no, I mean, but I mean the point is, is mean, I mean' ... I couldn't handle it," said Whedon, in an interview with TVGuide.com.

Ultimately, Neil Patrick Harris was perfect for the role, throwing away his usual super-confident persona for that of Billy Buddy, Dr. Horrible's true identity, a fumbling

nerd who only wants to connect with Penny. Watching Billy's transformation is one of the best parts of the show.

And then there are the songs. Perhaps supervillains do not strike you as a good subject for striking arias, but whatever the case, Dr. Horrible's got them. Shot in only a week, you have to be impressed that a low budget and a tight schedule created such a masterpiece of

News has come that the show will be released on DVD, so that those who lent their services to its creation can get paid, and the DVD will even feature Commentary: The Musical! Rumors abound about a sequel in the works, and the whole thing is exciting and new.

So what's the big deal? At its heart, Dr. Horrible is a show about self-discovery, but its impact has much more to do on the way people are viewing internet content. As a show that was only hosted on the internet, and will be so until its DVD release, Joss Whedon has given us a model of what internet content can be and the surprising popularity it can have. After all, in the first hours that Dr. Horrible was available online, there were so many visitors to the site that the server crashed.

- rachel frazier '09





You've probably seen him around campus.

Will Preston, aka "Ill Will" is probably one of the best freestyle rappers at Hamilton, and this winter, he and his group, Triality, are releasing their third self-produced album. Straight out of Kansas City, MO, Triality's self-titled album will be available on iTunes, Napster and Rhapsody in November. The group pulls inspiration from bands like Yo La Tengo, Del tha Funkee Homosapien, Common, and The Roots, but are still wonderfully unique. From songs like "The Truth II" about the negative influence of gangster rap on the inner city and the decline of the industry to "Better All The Time" about coping with break ups and learning from change, Triality demands your attention, because they're going to teach you a thing or two about what you thought you knew about rap.



kctriality).

How did you get your start?

I started freestyle rapping for fun in 9th and 10th grade with some of my friends, one of which had an archaic keyboard synthesizer hooked up to his computer. [Eventually] we decided to record a two track CD with vocals I wrote on the spot. Despite the CD being the most under-produced album in the history of music, my lyrics and style had a lot of redeeming qualities and I decided to start writing raps for random beats I downloaded off of the internet. Writing has always been my forte and I quickly developed a lyrical flow with fun analogies, complex rhymes, and interesting subject matter—dubbing myself "Ill Will."

How did Triality get its start?

I started rapping at parties and two of my best friends and current producers, Eddie Baker and Alex Johnson, began composing beats for me. We recorded our first CD in Eddie's bedroom closet. We handed out the album to people at school, people from other schools in Kansas City, and just random people we would meet out on weekends. A lot of people started contacting us and asking for more copies and the album became really popular amongst the groups of people who had it.

Then two summers ago we recorded the album Australian For Beer, and our song "Brookside Anthem" became a local classic in Kansas City and had great success on iTunes. Australian For Beer (because my middle name is Foster, it was funny to us) had a lot of redeeming qualities (i.e. "Frooty Loops", "The Sweedish Fish Ending"). All of this led up to the past summer when we did our third, and undoubtedly best, [self-titled] album Triality.

Tell me about Triality's new album.

First of all, the 6-song EP comes out on iTunes, Napster, and Rhapsody in November, [and] the remaining 7 songs will be released with the full album later in the winter. The music varies from funky hip-hop beats, to summer acoustic anthems, to emotional piano rap ballads, to straight party music—every song is so different. We spent almost every day of summer working on this album, and unlike our other albums the quality is very high. We utilize a lot of piano, violin, horn, and guitar. Plus, Eddie has an amazing voice for this style of music.

Do you find the Hamilton community receptive?

I absolutely find the Hamilton community receptive. So far, everyone who has heard the music really likes it. A lot of the songs relate to people but in very different ways. I hope everyone enjoys it because we really enjoy making it.

You previewed some of your new material at Rhymelab, do you plan on doing any future performances at Hamilton in the next year?

I am definitely going to be doing some concerts on campus in the upcoming months, probably with The Headband; we talked after Rhymelab. They are extremely talented and we are planning on performing Roots-esque live Hip Hop performances as soon was we can. It should be really cool. I am going to write lyrics for their songs and I believe they are going to try to learn some of Triality's music.

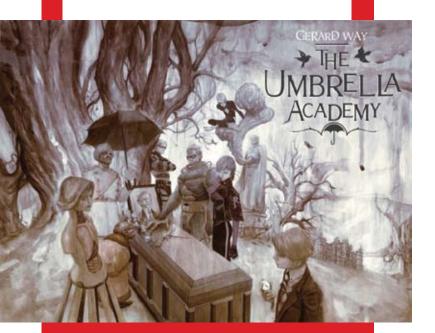
- nicole dietsche '09

comics

f you haven't read the first series (The Apocalypse Suite) of The Umbrella Academy yet, you are really missing out. It has been praised by Grant Morrison, one of the kings of the comic book world, and has been nominated for an Eisner Award. The characters, extremely reluctant superheroes, are interesting and intriguing. There's Spaceboy, the quasi-leader whose head has been grafted onto a gorilla's body after a horrible accident; The Rumor, whose power resides in her ability to tell lies; The Séance, who is morbidly humorous, can channel the souls of the dead, and has unexplored strength in telekinesis; The Kraken, who can hold his breath infinitely and is horrifyingly good with knives; and Number 0.05, who can travel through time.

At the end of The Apocalypse Suite, The Rumor is left crippled, her vocal cords sliced open by The White Violin, and the Umbrella Academy is homeless. The second series, Dallas, picks up after the end of The Apocalypse Suite. A preview of the new series was available at this year's San Diego Comic Con, and it already looks exciting.

The Umbrella Academy: Dallas will be released through Dark Horse Comics on November 26th.



music



lright,
I '11 admit
i t .
Occasionally, I start listening to bands because
I've developed an irrational crush on a

member of said band. This may or may not be the reason I am now a fan of The City Drive. I discovered The City Drive after discovering the front man Danny Smith, who played the sidekick to a werewolf in obscure late-90s sci-fi show (and *Buffy* rip-off) *Big Wolf on Campus*. Smith also wrote the theme-song for the show, and is undeniably adorable, and thus The City Drive made its way to my iTunes library. There's no reason that my television addiction can't fuel my music addiction.

The greatest thing about The City Drive is they're actually good. Their album, *Always Moving Never Stopping*, is the only album I've bought in the past year; a true gem in the middle of a vast wasteland of mediocre music. A satisfying combination of power punk, rock and indie persuasions, The City Drive has a polished alt-rock feel, with darker undertones and lyrics that manage to be meaningful while not slipping into emo territory.

The City Drive's first album, *Always Moving Never Stopping* is available on iTunes, and a preview of their upcoming album is available for your listening pleasure on their Myspace page: www.myspace.com/thecitydrive.

geek corner

whether it's being dazzled by edward cullen or foiling doctor eggman, **nicole dietsche '09** reveals her current favorites in entertainment (and merton dingle has a band?)



f you haven't heard or seen any of the commotion over Stephenie Meyers' Twilight series, you've probably been living in the Hamilton bubble too long. November 21, the first book in the series will be hitting the silver screen, sparkly vampires and all.

Twilight follows the unlikely (and very PG) romance between human Bella Swan (Kristen Stewart), and ridiculously good-looking vampire, Edward Cullen (Robert Pattison, aka Cedric Diggory in Harry Potter). Bella moves to Forks, Washington, a small and extremely rainy town, where a family of vampires reside. Her life is complicated after she falls (literally—she's accident-prone) for Edward and is thrown into the world of the supernatural. The Cullens are 'vegetarian' vampires, who don't feed on human blood. Meyers' vampires aren't particularly vulnerable, but are extremely obvious when out in daylight, where they sparkle. Twilight, while not Jane Austen by any stretch of the imagination, is an enjoyable read, and looks like it will be an enjoyable movie.

video games

emember Sonic the Hedgehog? He was pretty much the definition of our childhood in all of his blue, spinning glory. Well, Sonic is back in Sonic Unleashed, attempting to restore the status quo after his nemesis, Doctor Eggman blows the world's continents to bits with a ray weapon of destruction. Sonic also has to struggle with his beast form, Sonic the Werehog that is created because of Chaos Emeralds.

Gameplay will switch between traditional 2D Sonic side-scrolling platforms with 3D visuals, and third person stages. The game will be released this holiday season and will be available on all gaming systems. The game trailer is online in all its awesomeness:



http://www.gametrailers.com/player/32170.html

a quick guide to watching tv online



If you're like me, then there are way too many shows for you to

physically watch them during their actual timeslots. So what do you do when you've got four shows all starting at 8 pm on Monday, and you've only got one you? The easy answer is: go online. Now, I'm not suggesting that people start downloading all their shows or anything—that's copyright infringement, and that's bad. I am saying, though, that there are lots of legal ways to watch your

favorite shows online.

- Check the network's website. A lot of networks these days are hosting full episodes online for anyone who missed them. This is perfectly legal, and takes up no hard drive space. You stream the episodes right on your computer. Granted, these usually come with ads, but it's worth it.
- · Check a meta-site, like sidereel.com or alluc.org. Sites like these archive links to online streaming content. They will be able to tell you if the network has archived the show

somewhere off of their main site.

 Check iTunes and Amazon. Both of these sites sell episodes of most major television shows for a reasonable price. You download the purchased episode onto your computer and watch it there.

As far as legal ways to find things online go, these are the best. From these basic areas, you can branch out and find even the most obscure shows, streaming into your computer at a time convenient to you!

- rachel frazier '09



he European cinematic convention that less is more when telling the story of World War II can be seen in the Austrian film Die Fälscher (The Counterfeiters). Perhaps because Europeans saw this conflict rage across their back yards, European directors tend to shoot smaller. grittier films that highlight the human drama of the war and often question the ethics of those who survived it. While largely overlooked outside critical circles in the US (though it did win best foreign film at the Academy Awards), Die Fälscher was a major success in Europe. It is no surprise that this Austrian film full of moral uncertainty resonated in countries still feeling both the pride of resistance and the shame of collaboration.

Based on a true story, the film follows Salomon Sorowitsch (played by a superb Karl Markovicz), an expert forger living in Paris on the eve of occupation. Though he finds good pay in making false passports for his fellow Jews fleeing country, he feels no empathy for them. He is an opportunist not bound by a standard set of morals, but keenly intent on his own survival. So when he is captured and shipped to a concentration camp, he uses his

art to get special treatment in exchange for portraits of the Nazi officers and their families.

As the Reich begins to crumble in 1944, the Germans put Salomon to work with other Jewish experts in engraving, printing, and banking in hopes of creating counterfeit dollars to undermine U.S. financial markets. In exchange, he and his comrades, most of whom

After all, the prisoners' faces say more about the human toll of war than piles of bodies or giant explosions.

have come from the horrors of Auschwitz and Buchenwald, sleep in comfortable beds, and eat better food than the rest of the inmates.

The drama begins when a young communist named Burger (a very sullen August Diehl) insists that they sabotage their own work in order to hurt the Nazi war effort. As the prisoners divide into factions—those who favor resistance at the risk of death, and those who see the work as key to their own survival—Salomon faces his own questions about honor and morality while trying to keep

everyone alive.

The biggest fights in this film are fought with fists rather than grenades or automatic weapons. Burger becomes a hero of resistance to some and a deadly liability to others, as the prisoners begin to crack under the strain of imminent death. Meanwhile, Salomon bargains with the Nazi commandant for everything from medicine to time, using his forging

expertise as a weapon. There is even an air of grudging respect between himself and his chief captor, Herzog, based on the fact that both men care more about money than ideology.

There are no tanks in this movie, and relatively little gunfire. The movie relies on the quiet of the men's quarters broken with individual gunshots to make its point. After all, the prisoners' faces say more about the human toll of war than piles of bodies or giant explosions. It is their humanity in facing the conflict between honor and survival that makes this story so compelling. This moral conflict, written so clearly in Salomon's worn features, is something Europeans are still dealing with nearly 70 years later.

-eric thomas '09

Ambassador Ned Walker is the Christian A. Johnson Distinguished Professorship of Global Political Theory at Hamilton and also graduated from Hamilton after majoring in Philosophy. Best known in the class for his gripping stories from when he served as the Ambassador for Egypt and Israel, Ambassador Walker might just end up solving the Middle East crisis with some musical diplomacy.

"Piece of My Heart" by Janis Joplin "Gimme Shelter" by The Rolling Stones "Kashmir" by Led Zeppelin "Free Fallin" by Tom Petty & The Heartbreakers "Bitter Creek" by Desperado Eagles "Sweet Home Alabama" by Lynyrd Skynyrd "Don't Let It Bring You Down" by Annie Lennox "Money For Nothing" by Dire Straits "Sailing To Philadelphia" by Mark Knopfler "Two Soldiers" by Cowboy Junkies "Suddenly I See" by KT Tunstall "Big Wheel" by Tori Amos "World On Fire" by Sarah McLachlan "Down to Earth" by Peter Gabriel (from the WALL•E soundtrack) "New Soul" by Yael Naïm "Desert Rose" by Sting

Meredith Bonham is the

"Bad Day" by REM

Executive Assistant to the President and Secretary to the Board of Trustees. She shares her iPod with her husband and claims, "His playlist is way cooler than mine." While Bonham was initially worried her playlist might make her look like "a dinosaur," we totally disagree.

"Let Go" by Frou Frou
"Don't Panic" by Coldplay
"Fall on Me" by Cry Cry Cry
"If I Had a \$1,000,000" by Barenaked Ladies
"Losing My Religion" by REM
"Clocks" by Coldplay
"Take Me Down" by Ellis Paul
"I Found Love" by Lone Justice
"Cowboy Take Me Away" by the Dixie Chicks
"Big Girls Don't Cry" by Fergie
"Both Hands" by Ani DiFranco
"Falling Slowly" by Once
"Billy the Bully" by Justin Roberts

Dave Steadman '05 is the Associate Director of Annual Giving/Director of Young Alumni Giving. He also oversees HALT (Hamilton Alumni Leadership Training) and the Senior Gift. A recent graduate of Hamilton, Steadman majored in Music. He writes that "within a matter of weeks we go from summer's relaxation to the crisp honesty of fall; it's suddenly busy season. As a consequence, finding balance is often tricky. For me, music helps to keep that in check."

"Autumn Leaves" by Keith Jarrett (and trio)

"Deacon Blues" by Steely Dan

"Brothers on a Hotel Bed" by Death Cab for Cutie

"Falling" by Jamiroquai

"Freewill" by Rush

"Sunshine" by Keane

"O Magnum Mysterium" by Chanticleer

"The Marquee and the Moon" by Sloan

"Everything's Just Wonderful" by Lily Allen

"Rock & Roll" by Eric Hutchison

"Futures" by Zero 7, featuring Jose Gonzalez

"Let Go" by Frou

"Every Time You Say Goodbye" by Alison Kraus & Union Station

Yvonne Zylan is an Assistant Professor of Sociology. When we asked students which teachers they wanted to hear from for this article, Zylan's name always came up. Spotted always riding her bike around campus, we found out what she listened to on the way to class.

"Peace" by Tommy Flanagan

"Queen Of The Surface Streets" by DeVotchKa
"Travel" by Thao
"Unless It's Kicks" by Okkervil River
"Oh Yeah" by The Cliks
"Die Alone" by Ingrid Michaelson
"Heartbreak Even" by Ani Difranco
"A Knee-Jerk Reaction" by Limesix
"London Still" by The Waifs
"Masochist" by Ingrid Michaelson
"Undone" by DeVotchKa
"Rages of Babylon" by Joseph Arthur
"Beat (Health, Life, and Fire)" by Thao

"Pass the Hatchet, I Think I'm Goodkind" by Yo La Tengo "Light Enough to Travel" by The Be Good Tanyas

what are they listening to?

Professor Craig Latrell

of the theater department, said when asked what music was on his iPod that he only uses his iPod for Podcasts. Although we were expecting some cool tunes, we still think he has great taste.

This American Life
The Splendid Table
New Yorker
Studio 360 (WNYC)
The Treatment, Elvis Mitchell
TheMoth.org



the most unique summer internships

As soon as the last final was turned in, and the frenzy of packing and celebrating finally ceased this past May, a majority of the student body vacated the Hill to enjoy three homework-free months of summer. While some of us refused to acknowledge that our carefree years at Hamilton are slowly coming to an end, others geared up for a dose of real world responsibilities that come along with a having a summer internship. Summer internships can be found in many different places and forms. With the election season in full swing, many students looked for internships involving the campaign or in business firms on Wall Street. Not all students, however, chose this route. Three students went beyond these common boundaries and adventured into a different world of internships.

1) Peter Woodruff

When deciding to apply for an internship for the summer, one of the first things to consider is where you want to be located. Peter Woodruff '09 decided to look for an internship in the backcountry. After looking at different options through the Student Conservation Association, Peter finally decided to look on his own and received a job as a ranger at the Yukon-Charley Rivers National Reserve in Alaska.

Since we often only hear of ranger duties through childhood cartoons like Yogi the Bear, it was interesting to hear the range of tasks that Peter was required to do. While daily tasks required maintaining historic public-use cabins, clearing brush, and chopping and stocking wood, Peter also got to go on aerial patrols and learned to navigate a powerboat through the sloughs of the Yukon. One trip in particular stuck out to Peter as his most memorable. This trip gave Peter the opportunity to fly north to the "Gates of the Arctic National Preserve" where over the course of nine days, he and one other took part in a backpack patrol over 80 miles in the Brookes Range. He says that having never spent more than one week in the wilderness, this was one of the most glorious experiences he's ever had.







2) Amanda Nardi

Amanda Nardi '11 had the best of both worlds this summer when she found two internships involving two of her passions, fashion and journalism. Amanda interned at Amy Bradshaw Designs in New York City where she worked on the wardrobe set of the independent film, Once More with Feeling. Some of her responsibilities included researching up-and-coming designers for product placement, shopping for character ensembles, conducting fittings for actors and actresses, and maintaining inventory for the wardrobe department. The other half of Amanda's summer was spent interning at the award-winning newspaper North County. During the course of Amanda's internship at North County News, she had articles published in the News, Business Beat, Lifestyles, and Community sections. In spite of her crazy summer, Amanda comments that her experience is one that hopefully not only gives her connections but leaves her with valuable lessons that she can apply to aspects of both careers.

3) Xin Wang

Xin Wang '09 used her experience interning in major art institutions the past two summers to land an internship in one of the most prestigious auction houses in the world at Sotheby's New York City Headquarters. While her previous interning experiences focused mainly on art, working in the contemporary Asian Art Department at Sotheby's allowed for Xin to explore the corporate and business side of art. Her main duties included assisting the preparation of tasks such as cataloguing, contacting clients, and handling property for the September 17th Contemporary Art Asian auction.

Wang explained that one of the most important parts of the preparation is cataloguing—putting relevant information like name, year, artist, provenance, estimate, literature, and previous exhibition records on each piece of artwork together in order to produce a detailed book of the best work in Contemporary Chinese Art. While this was a lot of hard work, Xin said that this was one of the best parts of her internship.

- danielle fortier '10

utica's hidden gems

Although Hamilton students don't often venture to Utica, there are still plenty of great places to check out. If you head in with an open mind and a sense of adventure, all of these places are sure to be great for you.

That Place 216 Bleeker St.

Sick of Bundy parties? That Place has it all: Gays, straights, DJ, pool, darts, karaoke on occasion, and of course dancing, dancing, dancing.

Café Domenico

Need Coffee? Procrastinate by Driving to Café Domenico and try out some new vibes and some new brew. With cozy chairs and a diverse crowd, this is a fabulous place to perk up.

Café Florentine

If that sweet tooth has started to kick in then head to Café Florentine. It's an adorable little café with outdoor seating, wifi, cannolis, and other pastries to die for.

Pho Mekong House of Noodles

It may look like a beat up shack, but there is so much more to it! Hiding inside is authentic and delicious Vietnamese food. It's a little rustic and you might have to scrounge for your own silverware but it is definitely worth it in the end.

Virgo Bat's Retro Collective 722 Varick St.

An eclectic assortment of men's and women's vintage clothing from the 1940's through 1970's with handmade accessories and used vinyl records, CD's, tapes, and music memorabilia. Great if you're looking for a funky costume or just simply a weird outfit.

Space 26

This swanky nightlife hot spot caters to a more professional crowd rather than the frat boy scene, so if you're in the mood for getting down to jazz and electronic tunes with Utica's best, this is your spot.

andee weinfurter '10



survey: election 2008

Who are you planning on voting for in the Presidential election of 2008?

McCain: 16% Obama: 76% Undecided: 6% Other: 2%

What do you consider the most important issue in the upcoming election?

Economy: 51%

Iraq/War on Terror: 21%

Healthcare: 6% Abortion: 4%

Social Security: less than 1%

Other: 17%

Do you belong to the same party

as...

One parent/guardian: 32%

Both: 49% None/neither: 19% Has your vote changed since the primary?

Yes: 15% No: 85%

How closely do you follow election coverage?

Daily: 31%

Often (2-3x a week): 46%

Occasionally (few xs a month): 21%

Never: 2%

How do you find the political climate on campus?

Mostly liberal: 65% Mostly Conservative: 1% Even Split/neutral: 34%

Do you find that yourself and other Hamilton students discuss politics socially?

Yes, often: 40% Sometimes: 59% Never: 1% Which quality matters most to you in a President?

Age: 0% Experience: 8% Personality: 4% Moral Values: 11% Issues: 72% Other: 5%

Main source for information about the election and/or the candidates?

Print News: 7% TV News: 19% Radio: 1%

Electronic News: 65% Friends/family: 8%

How would you characterize political participation on campus?

Very active: 11% Somewhat active: 68% Apathetic: 21%

How important is it for you to vote within your party?

Very: 23% Somewhat: 36% Little/none: 41%

This election has seen unprecedented youth interest and involvement. Do you find yourself more invested in this election than others throughout your lifetime? Yes or No? Why?

"Yes, because it is the first election in which I am legally allowed to vote."

"No. Also, I think most of the youth interest and involvement in this election is grounded on bias and ignorant beliefs. I feel like a majority of young voters are for Obama simply because its what all the cool kids are doing."

Do you think being a member of an academic community like Hamilton College affects how you approach your vote in this or any other election? Why?

"No. Being in a community that discusses politics gets me more excited about the election, but it doesn't change the way I would have voted no matter where I was."

"Academia provides me with a much more critical and analytical lens to filter politics with than the general public is privileged to have. As a government and sociology student here at Hamilton, I feel like my liberal arts education helps me frame candidates, issues, and elections on my terms--not just on the terms that are fed to me by others."

"I think being a member of an academic community makes me simultaneously more aware of issues and more frustrated by the ignorance under which the majority of our country forms political opinions."

hamilton students work the conventions

or most Hamilton students, the first couple days back on the Hill after summer break are about catching up with friends, starting new classes, and having fun before homework starts piling up. But for students Stacey Klein '09 and Samuel Cowan '11, the first days of this semester were very different. Spending the first days of school off the hill entirely, Klein attended the Democratic National Convention in Denver August 25th through 28th while Cowan attended the Republican National Convention in Minneapolis September 1st through 4th. Their experiences at this year's conventions may have been different, but their reflections on their time spent there were the same—both consider their days at the 2008 conventions the opportunity of a lifetime.

Klein, a communications major, worked as an intern at CNBC during the summer, and attended the convention as part of the Press Pool. During her two weeks in Denver, she initially worked as a runner for CNBC and then MSNBC, with responsibilities including setting up workspaces in the press tent, finding office supplies, and even helping to prevent altitude sickness.

As CNBC shut down all of their stations, all broadcasts were made from Denver, which only increased Klein's opportunities. Assigned to MSNBC's Hardball with Chris Matthews, Klein worked as Chris Matthews' personal assistant. She researched stories, contacted delegates and super delegates for interviews, and provided security for panel discussions. Security was also an important part of her job, as the convention was held on public property and anyone, including vocal protestors, could attend. Klein often escorted guests to wherever they needed to go—giving her the opportunity to meet and network with many influential people in both media and politics. Some of the highlights of these included Eugene Robinson, Pat Buchanan, Norah O'Donnell, and Jimmy Carter. After her incredible experience working at the convention and other earlier internships, Klein says she definitely intends to pursue TV new production, covering both business and politics.

Cowan, a sophomore from Minnesota, had a completely different experience at the Republican National Convention. Unlike Klein, he worked at the site of the convention for the entire summer, from June 2nd to the end of the convention on September 4th. Sam was assigned to work on the Committee on Arrangement, which essentially was responsible for running the convention. Sam's main responsibilities included recruiting professional and basic volunteers, assigning volunteers to specific tasks, and providing security.

Because the 2008 convention staff was the smallest ever, Cowan enjoyed the clearance to go just about anywhere in the Xcel Center. This gave him the opportunity to meet politicians such

as George H.W. Bush and Newt Gingrich. One of the most rewarding parts of his summer, Sam claimed however, was being able to see the impact of his work. Having worked at the convention from start to finish, he said it was amazing to influence something that Americans had so eagerly anticipated. Always passionate about politics, Sam's experience at the Republican National Convention reinforced his desire to work in Washington, DC after graduation.

Both students have plenty of stories and advice to share regarding the upcoming election. Klein and Cowan naturally have their favorite candidates and are eagerly anticipating the outcome of the election. Even more importantly, however, they get to watch

this November to see how their hard work and dedication to their respective parties has paid off. Even if defeated, they know that their invaluable work at the conventions helped spread important messages to the American people that will impact all of our lives in the upcoming years. Not too bad for a summer's

- laurel symonds '10



rock the vote 2008

The race for the 2008 Presidential election has been unprecedented in every sense of the word. The U.S. has witnessed its first African American Presidential nominee, its most popular female Presidential nominee, and its first Republican female candidate for vice president in history. Just as significant as these firsts is the surge in youth political participation. This year's primaries and caucuses brought more than 6.5 million people under the age of 30 to the polls and youth participation in November's election is expected to break national records. So how do Hamilton students factor into this unprecedented political trend? The Continental sat down with Kevin Rowe—campus coordinator of Hamilton Engage '08—to find out what his organization is doing to make sure Hamilton students do precisely that this November: engage.

Hamilton Engage '08 is a pet project of the campus chapter of Democracy Matters, a national student non-profit that promotes civic engagement and pro-democracy reforms. The project, Rowe maintains, "has been evolving since last fall" when Democracy matters held a voter engagement drive. The drive featured a series of voter registration drives, a faculty panel on the 2008 election, and a film showing. "In the spring," Rowe remembers, "several of us got together and started brainstorming about how to make the biggest possible impact on campus as we approach the election." The answer was Hamilton Engage '08: a non-partisan, student-run effort to engage students in the political process and facilitate creative, inclusive, and

productive political discourse on campus.

The predominant focus of the Hamilton Engage '08 campaign, Rowe explains, is on "registering voters and providing absentee ballot applications." These efforts have already proved successful. As of September 22, Rowe and others have registered over 200 new voters and helped nearly 400 students get absentee ballots. The project, however, extends beyond voter registration. "We also want to help facilitate students' efforts to make informed choices on Election Day by providing a series of resources," Rowe explains. These resources include seven side-by-side issue comparisons in the dining halls, watch and discussion parties for each of the four debates, an organizational blog (engage08.hamiltoncollegeblogs.com) and a series of small-group discussions on political issues in collaboration with other groups on campus. These, Rowe hopes, will provide opportunities for political dialogue and information on a wide variety of election issues such as health care, energy and the environment, social issues, Iraq and Afghanistan, immigration, youth and students, and the candidates' biographies.

Rowe agrees that the 2008 election is a historic and exciting time for youth in politics. He can see evidence of this unprecedented youth political fervor here on campus. "Based on the response to our project," he asserts, "it seems that students are really energized by this election." Ultimately, however, Hamilton Engage '08 hopes to facilitate political involvement on campus beyond the November election. Rowe believes that the political dialogue on campus leaves much to be desired. Most Hamilton students, he claims, are "turned off by politics. They may register and vote every two years, but a lot of them rightly feel disconnected and unrepresented by state and national politics on a day-to-day basis." Rowe also believes that the political dialogue at Hamilton is largely unbalanced. "There is a fairly small group of students actively involved in political groups on campus, and they

are by and large progressive. I think the campus would benefit from more outspoken and active conservative students and groups."

While Hamilton Engage is geared towards the 2008 election, it is clear that its goals extend far beyond November. Rowe and others want to make sure this year's increased youth participation becomes the political rule, not the exception. "That's why we're calling the project 'engage," Rowe concludes. "We want to encourage students to engage in the political process not just this fall, but more importantly for their entire adult lives."





TURN OVER A NEW LEAF!

Embrace the change of season's this year while experiencing an Apple Cider, Iced Pumpkin, Maple Sugar Pedicure or Pumpkin Enzyme Facial. Take in all the fall has to offer before it is over! A therapeutic massage is always a good choice no matter what time of year.

Don't forget about hair services ranging from cuts to Formal up-do's. October's special is Gentleman's Cut for \$12.

Bring in your college ID and receive 10% off.

NEW HOURS!

Monday thru Friday 9am to 7pm Saturday 9am to 5pm Sunday Noon to 5pm

MASSAGES
MANICURES/PEDICURES
WAXING I FACIALS I HAIR
PACKAGES AND GIFT
CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE



style

Pian doran

Hometown: Maple Grove, MN

Major: World Politics Class Year: 2010

Signature Style: prepster

How would you define your sense of style?

I would define my style as "prepster," a word that I classify as preppy with a dash of hipster. In other words, light side meets dark side. If I were placed anywhere on campus, I would be right on Martin's way. Literally.

Do you have any specific influences that you draw from, or a style icon?

No style icon. But I wear what I like, as every one should. I am my own person. I do like Thom Browne, however. He brought back cropped trousers, which was huge last fall. I really admire him for that.

Where are your favorite places to shop?

J. Crew has some steady and classically timeless pieces. You can really never go wrong. I know this sounds redundant, but I also like to go to consignment shops. You can find really great pieces, and essentially get them tailored afterwards for much less than you would ever pay for something new. You can get a lot more for your money.

Any wardrobe staples or accessories that you can't leave the house without? My watch, because I'm always late!

What is your idea of the perfect, everyday

My perfect outfit would consist of an oxford, khaki bottoms, and a pair of Chucks. You can never go wrong with that.





from the runway to martin's way

This fall, designers filled the runway with all types of statement jewelry, from heavily adorned necklines at Balenciaga to Givenchy's piles of metallic gold chains. Yet those weren't the only trends detailing this season's collections, as Marni channeled a crafty look (think asymmetric necklaces constructed of colorful flowers) and Burberry Prorsum directed their energies towards chunky gems on heavy cuffs and big, long necklaces. With so many great styles to choose from, it's lucky for us that affordable and trendy stores have picked up on all the new looks and created their own great pieces for less expensive prices. Here we focused on options from Anthropologie, detailing where and how you can get the look for less.



"collarbone"

Balenciaga is single-handedly bringing back the choker. Who would have thought? Yet when constructed with large pearls, beautiful gems, and glass beads, it's evident that both Balenciaga and Anthropologie got it right.







Dawn Marie's Treasures
Consignment Shoppe

18 W. Park Row Clinton (315) 796-9099

Name brand clothing, purses, home accessories, jewelry & books!



Hours: Mon-Wed & Sat 10-5 Thur & Fri 10-6



charlotte russe

Charlotte Russe has a brilliant fall/winter collection of "going-out" clothes and accessories for reasonable prices. They have a wide variety of headbands and pleated tops that look great with skinny jeans and kneelength boots. If you can't bear to think about your suede Tori Burch boots swimming through beer on the floor of the Bundy Dining Hall, check out Charlotte Russe's similar footwear—at a mere fraction of the cost.

forever 21

Forever 21 has a wide variety of designer-driven apparel, jewelry, accessories, shoes, and gifts. The chain carries everything from wardrobe basics like cardigans and leggings (at only \$4.50) and has looks for every different style. One of their best-selling items right now are the F4437 sunglasses, which look like almost exact replicas of the Ray-Ban Wayfarer Sunglasses. Forever 21's version is sold in six different colors at only \$5.80 each.

sunglasses in blue \$5.80



fashion finds at ridiculously low prices

Luckily for fashion followers trapped on a stormy hill throughout the winter, many stores are now marketing fabulous trends with price tags that you would not mind getting wet in the snow or spilling ketchup on at late night diner breakfast. Stores like Charlotte Russe, Forever 21, Target, Steve and Barry's, and Kohl's are catching on and selling the latest styles that are great for the lifestyle of a college student.

-amanda nardi '11

target

Next time you find yourself at Target, stop in the clothing department before you pick up your laundry detergent. You'll be sure to come home with a great addition to your wardrobe without breaking the bank. For example, Isaac Mizrahi's Target collection features classy, quality clothes for much less then his designer collection. Take Mizrahi's Satin A-Line Party Dress for Target. It's simple, elegant, well-made, and only \$44.99.



STEVE & BARRY'S

Steve and Barry's is a clothing store that is gaining popularity by the minute. The chain sells everything at \$8.95. That's right: shoes, jackets, pants, shirts, and accessories all for \$8.95. The

chain features Sarah Jessica Parker's Bitten collection, Amanda Bynes's Dear collection, and Venus Williams's Eleven collection. Steve and Barry also have great male collections, such as Stephen Marbury's Starbury collection and Laird Hamilton's Wonderwall collection.











The Ray Ban Trend













34 the continental | autumn 2008

the fashion of politics

How one t-shirt spawned a trend that both fashion and politics can appreciate

ashion has always been political, but now politics has become fashionable. The impending presidential election has been

cause for much talk, and not only about the candidate's platforms or views on the current state of economy. It's also been about the fashions that the candidates, Barack Obama in particular, have spurred. Not since Jackie Kennedy with her oversized sunglasses and her pillbox hat has fashion played such an integral role in politics.

It is not about replicating the looks of the candidates or their spouses anymore, but rather, supporting the presidential hopeful you wish to see in the White House. These displays seem to be the advertisements of a new generation. Political PR is all about following the trends, and finding new ways to get a message across. Fashion is that new outlet. Clothing has always been a form of personal expression, but now it has also become a forum for political discussion.

Obama's campaign has perfected the use of fashion. His eye catching t-shirts can be seen

from the streets of New York City, to the movie sets of Hollywood, to college campuses nationwide. Beyonce Knowles was spotted strolling the streets of Manhattan with now-husband Jay-Z in a white Obama "Progress" t-shirt, while Ryan Phillippe was seen showing his support in a similar tee. There have even been a few wandering around the Hill. These shirts can make a statement when paired

with anything. Put it under a zip-up hoodie with skinny jeans and ballet flats, or tuck it into a high-waisted skirt with mid-calf or ankle

boots. Add a pair of funky colored sunglasses or aviators, and you're not only looking fashionable, but you are also making a statement.

Obama t-shirts, however, aren't the only way of making a political statement. Although John McCain has had less success with these walking advertisements, many of his t-shirt designs can still be found online.

Candidate endorsement is not the only way of showing political support. If displaying your political views is not what you have in mind, a more neutral way of showing political solidarity is by wearing a t-shirt that advertises the importance of voting, no matter for whom.

Urban Outfitters, either online or in the stores, is a great place to go to find Obama, McCain, or politically oriented t-shirts. This, however, is not the only option. Type any candidate's name into Google, and you can search through millions of hits. Graphic tees have always been

in, and can easily be pushed to the next level by allowing you to express your thoughts on something or someone whom you strongly believe in, while also looking politically minded and, of course, fashionable.

- sarah steiner '11

Go to urbanoutfitters.com or projecthope08.com to get your own



the supermelon

I decided to

take a dip into

the emerging blogosphere and before I knew it, I had jumped in.

ummer 2008 found me toiling away in cubicles at two lifestyle magazines in New York. Of course, factchecking for Bottega Veneta always interests me, but let's face it: I was not fully challenged by my duties. I wanted creative license! A voice! Strategic alliances! I was prepared to fetch coffee, but I was restless. A co-worker recommended "a site to check in between boring assignments for quick snippets of cool." Intrigued, I hit up The Supermelon.com. In that solitary click, my summer priorities shifted and my most gratifying personal hobby transformed into

The Supermelon is an online insider publication that serves the hip reader with the latest and greatest on arts, global trends, shopping, style, and travel. It's a pink digital lifestyle Bible! The site has a simple premise: to deliver savvy content ahead of media outlets so that readers can rely on the fresh doses delivered daily. It's like that friend of yours who is always informed of the latest

scoop. Its readers are avant-garde, sophisticated, adventurous, and passionate about the lifestyle market. My girlfriends and I are not the only ones who devour The Supermelon's content. The New York Times' City Room recommends our exclusive content to their readers regularly.

The day I discovered the site, I contacted the Los Angelesbased editors—after all, who gets more excited about the return of leather and lace this winter, designer Marilyn Minter's new collection, or a Jeff Koons art exhibit at Versailles? Timing is everything: they had just launched and were looking for contributors. I decided to take a dip into the emerging blogosphere and before I knew it, I had jumped in.

Contributing to The Supermelon has given me a global outlet. It allows me to furnish ideas that are unbelievably cool and on the verge without waiting for a head honcho at a magazine to give it the go ahead. The material is picked and chosen by moi. I chose to develop a feature called Real Style: a piece that applauds unique individual style. Since the first post with Amanda Frew (my close friend and a member of Hamilton's class of '09) as our first profile, we've received loads of requests from guys and girls alike from all over the globe requesting to be featured in

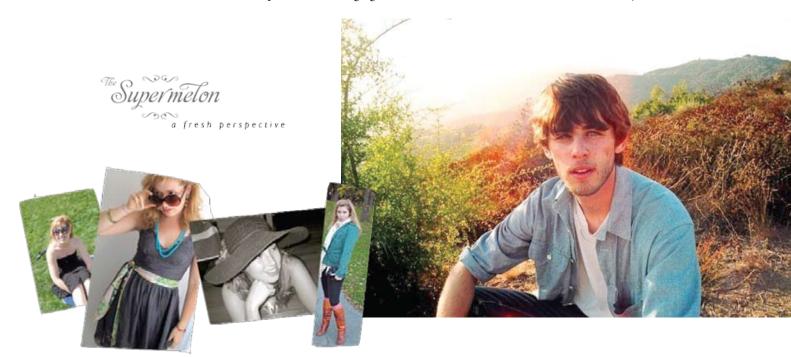
> the weekly piece. We feature emerging style bloggers like Karla Deras, Geri Hirsch, and Rachel Nguyen, and we've even beaten Teen Vogue and Glamour Magazine to the

Now, my ideas are nurtured, rather than stifled to fit "an image." I discovered how much I love working on a collaborative, innovative team with a shared vision. So far, my column has had exclusive interviews

with creator of Chictopia Lulu Chan; world-renowned photographer Julia Fullerton-Batten; and Jack Siegel, a bicoastal shutterbug who snaps for Nylon Magazine and Urban Outfitters and maintains TheSkullSet.com. Coming up, I'll be chatting with Harley Viera-Newton, burgeoning It-girl, and Marc Jacobs' shop-girl sweetheart, Ginny Branch.

I no longer shake my head when a person in the working world proclaims, "I love my job!" I am so lucky to have found that my passions can productively co-exist ... and that along the way, I can refresh The Supermelon!

- jenna fain '09



new face on campus: anat guez

This year, Hillel at Hamilton is under the new leadership of Anat Guez. Born and raised in Israel, Guez came to New York when she was offered a job teaching Hebrew at Colgate University. Later, she was offered a position at Hamilton teaching Hebrew. She currently splits her time between the colleges.

We've all seen the navy Hillel at Hamilton t-shirts scattered around campus, but few of us understand what the organization really does. Hillel—"The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life"—operates at more than 500 colleges and universities and encourages students to explore their Jewish heritage. Hillel is the largest Jewish campus organization in the world, and according to their website, their mission is to "enrich the lives of

Jewish undergraduate and graduate students so they may enrich the Jewish people and the world."

Although she has only been director of Hillel for a few months, Guez is beginning to settle in to her new position. The first Shabbat dinner Hillel hosted this year attracted between 40 and 50 people—both Jewish and non-Jewish alike. Shabbat is celebrated on Saturday, and is a day of

celebration and prayer.

Guez says that she would like to see the Jewish community at Hamilton become more active and engaged. She also hopes for Hillel to get a space of its own on campus, which would make it easier to share Jewish customs and traditions with all members of the Hamilton community. Having a unique space would also provide members with ample space to prepare meals for Shabbat dinners, which Guez hopes will become a weekly tradition.

Guez served in the intelligence field for the Israeli military for several years. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Israeli Studies from an Israeli university and is currently working on her Master's Degree in the States. Guez lives in Clinton with her 15 year-old son, and the two return to Israel

for two months every year to spend time with family and friends.

Guez would like to see more students take their "birthright" trip to Israel, and return to the United States with more knowledge and less prejudice against Israel as a culture. "Israel is more than a political place," she says. "It has a culture; a culture with amazing people and amazing food. Students should go and bring their experiences back to campus." Guez certainly has the passion and personality to make this vision a reality.

erica pettis '10

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emerson literary society

ost of us can say we've visited the ELS building for a party or to wait for the Jitney, but most do not know the original purpose of the building, how the building got its name, or that people actually lived in ELS only a few decades ago.

The Emerson Literary Society was originally founded to provide an alternative outlet for students who wanted to belong to a group that wasn't necessarily Greek, but would still allow for close relationships with a group of people with similar or different interests. 125 years later that premise still serves the current group of approximately 40 members. Not surprisingly, Ralph Waldo Emerson was the inspiration for creating the society and every meeting is kicked off with one of his quotes.

The building itself has had a long history. The house was built in 1928, and members lived together, buying and preparing their own food, and taking care of the house—similar to the co-op to-day. When Kirkland College was founded, both the society and the house became co-ed. Then, in the early 90's, the college disbanded all Greek housing, and included ELS on the list. However, unlike the Greek organizations, ELS did not fight the college. Instead, ELS made a bargain; they would rent the house to the college. Later on ELS sold it back. From the sale, \$100,000 was placed into a trust in which there is an Emerson Literary Scholarship available.



The building will once again be going through some changes in a few years—the renovations will place the student publications and the radio station in ELS, as well as creating new social spaces for student meetings and a café on the third floor. However, the Emerson Literary Society will have their own private space, and the building will still retain its name and front.

The society itself is responsible for a number of activities around campus, including the "Tell Me What You Know" lecture series. Past speakers have included an organic farmer, a female astronaut, a flute beat boxer, and a graphic novelist. ELS is also known on campus for its popular themed parties, including Welcome Back to Wonderland, Smoking Word, Cabaret, and Rocky Horror. This year, ELS is even putting on a performance of Rocky Horror Picture Show Party in the Event Barn in addition to the party. "Whether it be through lectures or parties," says Ashley Stagner '09, a member of ELS, "we like to bring something different, something eclectic to the campus."

-rachel pohl'11

duelly noted

he audience of this semester's first a cappella concert witnessed an event that has not occurred in a decade at Hamilton College: the performance of a new group, "Duelly Noted." Duelly Noted opened their performance during orientation week with two dramatic pieces, "Words" and "Bohemian Rhapsody," and had the audience laughing throughout the entire song. "As a group we enjoy having an element of performance, but that element will change with each piece," explains Andrew Quinney, one of the sophomores who founded Duelly Noted. They describe

"Bohemian Rhapsody" as melodramatic "to the extreme," which allows them to have fun with it. "The choreography had a basic structure but we wanted everyone to add their own little flare," continues Rebecca Behrens '11. another founder.

Duelly Noted was founded by eight freshmen last spring: Rebecca Behrens, Meghan Clary, Alison McLaughlin, Julia Wilber, Andrew Quinney, Nate Taylor, and Rem Myers. The group became friends in choir, and began to work on developing an ensemble.

During the pre-semester rehearsals for Westside Story, the idea of forming a new a cappella

DUELLY NOTED group noti-

began to take shape. The members were on campus for senior week and solidified it. They practiced every day, wrote the charter, and created a website. "We're doing it because we love to sing, and--for the most part--we love each other," said Meghan Clary '11. Deciding on a name was one of the biggest challenges the group faced. "We wanted to have a music reference and a Hamilton reference," Alison McLaughlin explained.

Over the past ten years there have been attempts to start new a cappella groups, but until now none have been successful. This endeavour was challeng-

ing because they had to start from scratch and find their own way. The first concern was to perform and to recruit new members. But their concerns were soon proved to be insignificant—Duelly Noted had over 30 people audition, about the same as the already established groups expect. From this pool, they chose to add Sarah Andrus '12 to the group.

Over the summer, Duelly Noted

fied the other a cappella groups that they would be performing in the concerts from that point forward, and the responses they received were very positive and supportive. The groups all exchanged compliments after the first performance. "You have to make a name for yourself, and I think we did a good job," said Clary.

Duelly Noted is different from other a cappella groups on campus because they don't have seniority—everyone in the group is an equal. They have a very unique structure and dynamic. At the end of every rehearsal they have a cheer and a group hug. They are making an effort to establish their own traditions, but they are not worried about their legacy just yet. Right now, they are just enjoying singing together.

- sarah goodell'11



samuel kirkland film society

f you are an avid moviegoer, or just someone who reads Campus LISTSERV e-mails, then you have probably heard of the Samuel Kirkland Film Society. Open to all members of campus, the society is a student organization that shows both popular and independent films every weekend in the Kirner-Johnson Auditorium. Movies are showed Friday through Sunday and provide an opportunity for Hamilton students not only to see the latest big releases, but also to watch less-mainstream movies, as well as old classics.

The movie schedule for each semester is chosen during the society's only meeting, and the goal is to cover as wide a variety of genres, eras, and movements as possible. As member Chris Rand '09 describes, "the goal of the society is to show a cross-section of older classics, films off the beaten track, and brand new films. Mostly, we are trying to bring new and popular films along with classics that may have eluded the Hamilton audience." The Samuel Kirkland Film Society gets a number of blockbuster films on "pre-release" each semester, and this semester they are *The Dark Knight, Wall-E, Iron Man,* and *Burn After Reading*.

However, not all the movie showings are recent releases and blockbuster films. This semester they showed *Johnny Guitar*, a hard-to-find Western from the 1950s. The film, which has remained highly influential for French New Wave directors, is directed by Hollywood visionary Nicholas Ray (also known for *Rebel Without a Cause*) and features Joan Crawford as the first female protagonist in a Western.

So whether you just never got around to seeing that big summer movie everyone has been talking about, or you are looking to become more familiar with alternative and classic films, the Samuel Kirkland Film Society exists to satisfy your movie-watching desires.

- scott blosser '12











caught off garde

obody would ever call me athletic. Although I do enjoy the occasional workout on the elliptical, I generally regard athletes with baffled reverence. That was my first impression of the fencing club when I went joined their practice for a day. It was clear that I had never tried anything remotely similar to fencing before. But one of the coaches pulled me aside and taught me some of the basics before we began.

The footwork of fencing feels like a sort of synchronized dance, quite different from the dance I'm used to doing—mainly located in the Annex. The "fencing dance," as I like to call it, is a bit more complicated, but with the coach's help, I learned it well enough to partner up and start fencing.

I partnered up with Zachary Pintchik '12 who showed me some of the more intricate aspects of fencing. I had a difficult time defending myself, as I was supposed to limit the "target area" and move towards my side instead of exposing myself for attack. He went easy on me at first, but I was still stabbed several times.

As I started to understand the defense techniques, I began feel-

ing as though I was in a sword fighting scene in Pirates of the Caribbean. Another member, Will Pigot '11, explained to me that the most difficult thing about fencing "isn't doing 'Jack Sparrow' motions. The idea of fencing is that you do everything with the smallest possible motion." When I asked him if fencing made him feel like a badass, he answered, laughing, "you know... we're hitting each other with swords. It would be kind of hard not to. But the fact that we're wearing these silly jackets and masks kind of detracts from it."

Like most of the members of the fencing club, Pigot has only been fencing since the beginning of this semester, which made me feel a little more at ease about my inexperience. I spoke to another beginner, Sarah Fobes '12 who told me, "It's a very playful sport ... good exercise. It's good for me because I have bad coordination so I get to work on that." Although Sarah is new to fencing, she is experienced with karate. She says, "A lot of the conditioning and instincts I've been trying to get in karate don't really apply here. The way you move, the way you attack ... it's different with fencing."

By the time practice was over, I felt almost like I had just worked out on the elliptical, except I felt as though I had worked out in a more creative, fun way. I may try fencing again, and I would encourage anyone else to do the same.

- alexandra borowitz'11







hy did I decide to come back to China? It's a question that I contemplated every night when I arrived back in Beijing in late July. It's hot. It's humid. Not to mention that the pollution burns my eyes, and makes taking a taxi an cessity in order to avoid developing lung cancer before

absolute necessity in order to avoid developing lung cancer before the age of 25.

Prior to the start of my senior year at Hamilton, I spent 8 months studying abroad in China. Unlike a lot of my good friends who spent semesters in Europe and South America, the primary purpose for my study abroad experience was to learn. Moreover, unlike a lot

of my good friends that were "studying" abroad elsewhere, I was traveling to a country on the opposite side of the planet — a country with a completely different language, social structure, political landscape, and culture than that of the United States.

Thankfully, technology enabled me to keep in regular contact with my parents (my

mom absolutely insisted), not to mention I was able to check up on my friends that were busy "studying" abroad elsewhere via Facebook. Granted, I was envious when I saw the pictures of my friends visiting Amsterdam and celebrating St. Patrick's Day in Dublin. I felt as though I was missing out. My envy turned to disappointment when I saw my friends from home celebrating Independence Day on the lake – an annual event I always look forward to.

Despite all that, I was always able to get past the disappointment of not being there by telling myself that I was experiencing something completely different and unique. On St. Patrick's Day, my friends and I found the only Irish Pub in Beijing (\$8 Guiness has never tasted so good). On Independence Day, we went to Wal-Mart (of all

places) and bought a charcoal grill, ground beef, hot dogs, and Budweiser (at least it was a true American brewery at that time). On Class and Charter Day, we celebrated the end of the semester just as you would expect.

With all that fun – why was I losing sleep when I first got back to China? Ultimately, when my second semester in China was



coming to an end, and the time came to head home, I honestly never wanted to come back here. I simply wanted to go home. My friends and I would spend entire meals talking about what we missed the most – friends, family, parties, FOOD. We would also discuss what we hated the most about life in China – the spitting, the smoking, the noise, the STARING, the lack of basic common courtesies, and – the one that probably bothered me the most - the lack of personal space. If you would like to fully understand why the Chinese government imposed the One Child Policy – try riding the subway in Beijing at 6 o'clock.

So yet again, why did I come back? I arrived at Hamilton my freshman year with the expectation of becoming a doctor. I wanted to be like a lot of the other members in my family and practice medicine the rest of my life. However, as a result of a scheduling conflict, instead of taking biology or chemistry my first semester at Hamilton, I took

introduction to physics. When it came time to select my other three courses, I chose Calculus II (thank you once again Professor Lemausier), Introduction to Philosophy, and Chinese. Needless to say, I was a little overwhelmed by the amount of work.

People would always ask me – why did you, of all people, decide to take Chinese? To be completely honest, I originally took it as a joke. I would always tell myself, none of my friends can speak Chinese, so why not give it a try. On top of that, what would be funnier than the tall, blonde kid with blue eyes speaking Chinese. I never had the foresight that it would end up being the most practical language to learn, and never in my dreams did I anticipate living in Beijing after graduation. Moreover, never did I think that my decision to take Chinese freshman year would change my life, and never did I imagine that my experiences living in China would teach me more about myself and the world than I would ever learn in a classroom.

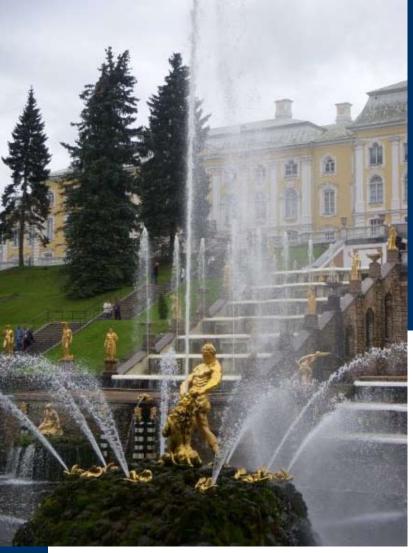
Believe it or not, my list of grievances is also my list of reasons for coming back

to China. Granted, the staring, the overcrowding, and the pollution can be overwhelming at times, but life in China is completely different from life back home in Upstate New York. I make an effort to have random conversations with cab drivers as often as possible. I get upset if I spend more than \$30 at the bars in one night. I cross the street without hesitation because I'm convinced that no Chinese driver will ever hit a foreigner. And, most importantly, I know where home is, and I know that I can always go back.

I'll be back eventually – I just want to have some fun first.

- mike hayes '08





• ust what does it mean to be a part of the Russian education system today? For the 450 students at Smolny College of Arts and Sciences in St. Petersburg, Russia, it means a four-year education resulting in a B.A. from St. Petersburg State University and Bard College. But given the recent tensions between Russia and the United States, particularly over the Russian invasion of Georgia, what is it like for an American in St. Petersburg? This is precisely what Katy Lafen '10 is finding out this year as she immerses herself in the Russian language and culture at Smolny College.

"I was a nervous wreck during the week just before I left," writes Lafen, "when all of the Georgia conflict blew up. I knew I was not entering the war zone, but I also knew that this was going to seriously change American-Russian relations for the foreseeable future, and had no idea what to expect."

What to expect from the Russian people and, more importantly, their government, has become of increasing interest to the United States. Since former President Vladimir Putin slid seamlessly into the role of Prime Minister in December of 2007 and handpicked Dmitri Medvedev as his successor, the former KGB agent has made clear his intentions to reclaim Russia's role as an international superpower. Long before the conflict in Georgia began, Russian youth groups (some affiliated with the Kremlin) unleashed their nationalistic fervor on another Russian neighbor through a cyber attack on Estonian businesses after the Estonian government voted to remove a Soviet Monument from the center of their capital city.

But, as many Americans would point out from their own

back in the ussr

Katy Lafen '10 reveals what is like like studying in Russia at a time when our governments are at conflict

experience over the last eight years, governments often do not fully represent their people. Despite what you may have read in the latest issues of TIME, Newsweek, or US News, the Russia of the 21st Century is far different from the now defunct USSR. For anyone who doubts this, think of the scandal caused by the Chinese government's attempt to censor the Internet during this year's Summer Olympics. In contrast, Russia imposes no restrictions on its citizens' Internet access (as Estonian businesses learned this past spring). Furthermore, as Lafen writes, "whoever I talk with, they always assure me that the Russian people really do love the American people."

St. Petersburg has always been the cultural heart of Russia. The university there was established in 1724 by Peter the Great, and has been in continuous operation since 1819, though it has gone through a variety of name changes to accommodate for Russia's political history. The city itself was largely unchanged (except for being dubbed Petrograd, Leningrad, and then mercifully renamed St. Petersburg) during the Soviet era. While Moscow was outfitted with Communist era relics from high-rise apartments to military installations, St. Petersburg looks much as if the Tsars never left. This "Venice on the Baltic" boasts the Winter Palace, home to Catherine the Great and her successors, and site of the October 25 assault that resulted in the transfer of power to the Bolsheviks in 1917. The city is also home to the Church of the Savior of Spilled Blood, a cousin to St. Basil's cathedral in Moscow, complete with the onion-domes many consider to be a signature of Russian architecture.

Whatever the upcoming year brings in terms of US-Russian relations, Hamilton's representative in St. Petersburg considers herself up to the challenge. "I've been asked a lot for my opinion on the Georgia situation, and on the ongoing presidential election in the US, and have become good at answering honestly but tactfully," Lafen writes. "I'm still in the process of making friends and learning the language, which is very hard, especially when there are so many complicated things that I really want to say. But I guess the main thing I keep telling myself is to be patient; I'm here for an academic year, and have lots of time to get better."

-eric thomas '09

St. Petersburg has the second largest airport in Russia, and there are daily flights in and out from destinations all over Europe as well as former Soviet states. Flying from the United States, however, it's not usually possible to go direct. Passengers can connect through Moscow or fly into almost any European capital to catch a direct flight into St. Petersburg.

autumn road trips

Looking for something to do over a fall weekend? New England hosts an array of beautiful fall destinations that are just a road trip away.

- abigail evans '09

Destination #1: The Berkshire Mountains (2.5 hour drive)

Traveling through the Berkshire Mountains in Western Massachusetts, you'll arrive in the town of Lee, named after prominent revolutionary patriot General Charles Lee. The town has been in existence since the 1760s, and you will find several historical buildings, including the Congregational Church with a 150-foot steeple and a Seth Thomas Clock. The Lee Library and the Civil War Memorial Hall are also popular destinations.

Just Nearby: In Stockbridge, Massachusetts is the Norman Rockwell Museum, which holds the world's largest and most significant collection of works by Norman Rockwell, including more than 700 paintings, drawings, and studies and an archive of more than 150,000 photographs, letters, and materials.

Destination #4: Cooperstown, New York (1 hour drive)

Head south for an hour towards historic Cooperstown, New York, home to the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum. The Museum captures baseball's timeless appeal for any loyal fan, and as an added perk, students receive a discount admission rate.

Just nearby: Stop by the historic, water-powered cider mill on the bank of Fly Creek Cider Mill & Orchard right outside of town. Minutes from Cooperstown, the Mill Marketplace has daily tasting of over 40 specialty foods!

Destination #2: Harpoon Brewery and Brattleboro, Vermont (4 hour drive)

Venture to scenic Windsor, Vermont, home of the Harpoon Brewery. All along this drive you'll experience authentic Vermont—green mountains and breath-taking fall foliage. Upon arrival you can take a free in-depth brewery tour of the Windsor on Saturdays at 3:00 P.M. It lasts about 45 minutes, and you must be 21 years or older with proper ID to sample.

Just nearby: Less than an hour away you'll discover the quaint town of Brattleboro, VT. An eccentric destination, Brattleboro offers several unique shops and various artistic attractions. Hotels can be relatively cheap in this area, but book in advance for the best deals.

Destination #3: Saranac Brewery, Utica, NY (30 minute drive)

For those of you 21 or older looking for something closer to school, stop by the Saranac Brewery in Utica. As one of the few remaining American regional breweries, the Matt Brewing Company is just 15 minutes away in Utica. Although there was a fire there this summer, the brewery is still open, offering tours on Friday and Saturday at 1 and 3 pm.

Destination #5: The Adirondacks (1 to 3 hour drive)

The Adirondacks of upstate New York are home Saratoga Springs, Lake George, and famous Saranac Lake. For those who love the outdoors, you can find a variety of hiking paths, canoe routes and skiing attractions. The Adirondack Park is one of the oldest and largest state parks in the country, and is considered one of the most beautiful regions of Upstate New York, encompassing nearly 6 million acres. Just nearby: The Northville Placid Trail is a 133-mile walking/hiking path that goes through the heart of the Adirondack wilderness.

return of the youth vote

Recently, my mind seems to be focusing on politics quite a lot. I guess this is pretty normal since we are steadily approaching a presidential election, but aren't I supposed to be part of the generation that just doesn't care? The group of kids who just didn't pay attention to MTV's Rock the Vote campaign? As a first time voter in a presidential election, I have paid close attention to the news, watched the debates, and discussed the election with my professors, friends, and family. Although nobody is perfect, I would have to say I consider myself a relatively well-educated person with a pretty thorough knowledge of the election. Yet, for years all I have heard is that my generation is uninvolved and apathetic when it comes to questions of politics.

As the landmark 2008 election approaches, I would have to disagree with this stereotype of my fellow young voters. I recently witnessed evidence at our very own Hamilton College that the youth voter today is no longer disinterested and in fact has taken an active hand in politics. A few weeks ago, I attended senior night in the pub, which coincidentally fell on the same night as the Vice Presidential debate. Under normal circumstances, it is pretty hard to draw mass amounts of students away from a full bar to watch an intellectual debate. But on that night, I sat on the floor upstairs at the pub with numerous other students listening to a cranked TV while engaging in hushed debates with my neighbor about each candidate's points. I was almost shocked that people seemed to care about not only the election, but also about the debate and knowing the issues. The bar at the pub remained somewhat empty until shortly after the debate, when many more people showed up.

Now I recognize that Hamilton College may not be the norm for youth participation in our country. And I recognize that in the grand scheme of things this instance is pretty minor. Yet no matter how minor or how atypical, if this doesn't bode well for youth involvement in politics I don't know what does. Politics drawing the average senior away from a party... yea I think this might be a good sign.

emily smith '09

three summers slaving away, and all I got was experience with prisoners...

Just like the senior year of high school, the last year of college involves answering a lot of questions. Everyone wants to know what you are doing next year. The problem is you can't just come up with a single answer. I had been using the line: "I will be moving to DC to find a government related job." That, however, does not suffice. People want more information. So I decided to try to come up with exactly what job I would love to have, regardless of whether I think it's possible to obtain or not. I decided the best way to do this would be to look at the different "skills" my previous three summers of slave labor had taught me ...

The first summer I spent working for a political consulting firm. Surprisingly, my main project all summer long was focused around prisons. I learned just how overcrowded they are in my home state of California and how many problems exists structurally. The end of the internship ended with my very own visit to the Folsom Prison (made famous by Johnny Cash) to film a commercial for the Prison Guards' Union. I even got a special tour of

the prison grounds and got leered at by several men in jumpsuits.

Perhaps this previous experience of prisons led me to obtaining an internship for my second summer with the District Attorney's office in Sacramento. This summer was even more educational than the previous. I spent an entire month, three days a week, listening to phone sex. What a fantastic skill to learn; I can definitely apply this in later jobs. I got to spend 18 hours a week listening to this one particular prisoner have phone sex with his fiancé (whom he met and got engaged to while in prison). This task started off innocently enough. I had been matched up with a prosecutor who was looking for evidence of this prisoner threatening his witnesses. He asked me to listen to this man's phone conversations from the prison—all of which are recorded by law. At first the conversations were disconcerting because they were so normal. The man mainly talked to his mother and complained about his girlfriend and caught up on family gossip. However, after a day of my listening, a new woman started receiving phone calls from him. This woman was a friend of a friend and had just called him to be "nice" and give him someone to talk to. Almost immediately after this, all phone calls turned in to phone sex. Unfortunately, our considerate criminal was smart enough to drop the information about his witnesses in the middle of his phone sex conversations thus necessitating me to listen to every second of the phone sex.

My most recent summer, luckily, did not involve prisons or criminals. It did, however, involve moving to Reno, Nevada—"the biggest little city"—for the entire summer to work free of charge for the Obama campaign. This experience was especially enlightening because I learned how to interact with every human being on planet earth. Between the five hours of phone calls I made 5 to 6 days a week, and the 10 hours of canvassing I did every weekend, I interacted with a good portion of Reno. My favorite interaction happened the weekend my younger brother came up to help me. I had just managed to convince him that canvassing really wasn't that bad, when we arrived in the neighborhood we'd been given to walk. At my very first door, I met a very dirty and smelly man wearing only "tighty-whities." To make the situation even more awkward, his left hand was down these said tighty-whities as his right hand held the door open. The best part of this entire interaction is that as I began to ask the man who he planned on voting for, the lovely tighty-whities man informed me that he was actually fresh out of prison and could not vote. Yet again, my summer internship brought me in contact with a

You can now see my trouble with trying to figure out exactly what skills I have been able to grasp from previous three summers. I did exactly what you are supposed to do. I worked hard to get competitive internships in my field. Yet some how, the skills I learned have brought me in contact with prisoners and jails several times ... I am not sure exactly how this prepares me for life. I guess now I can tell all those nosy people that if there's one thing I know I can do in DC, it is that I can work with just about ANY individual, creepers included. My experience with different types of people could, if my beloved Barack Obama does not win this November, even prepare me to work a long four years under another Republican administration.

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