Levitt speaker series dealt with “The Environment: Public Policy and Social Responsibility”

Continuing the tradition of bringing intellectually challenging speakers to Hamilton students, this year’s speaker series included a wide range of impressive speakers. Five speakers were hosted in the fall with a total of twelve events in the spring, many of whom spoke on environmental issues.

Consumer Advocate Ralph Nader spoke enthusiastically about “Politics and the Environment: Winners and Losers” to a capacity crowd in the Chapel. One week later he announced his candidacy for the presidency.

Richard Rhodes, author of many award-winning books including *The Making of the Atom Bomb* crafted a thoughtful argument for nuclear power and compared it to different forms of energy production and their impacts on future generations.

(Continued on page 2.)

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

a. To encourage students to address public affairs in their classes and research.
b. To create opportunities for students to become involved in public affairs.
c. To encourage faculty, particularly in the social sciences, to address public affairs in their own research and in collaborative research with Hamilton Students.

Prof. Paul Hagstrom (on left), Director of the Levitt Center, introduced Ralph Nader, who spoke to an overflow crowd in the Chapel in February. Nader also spoke to an auditorium full of student leaders in the afternoon.

The Levitt Center Speaker Series

“The Environment: Public Policy and Social Responsibility”------------------ 1
Community Connections------------------ 4
Communities That Care, Hope VI, Women’s Fund, others
Faculty/Student Research:------------------ 6
Levitt Fellowships
Special Programs
Levitt Scholars------------------ 8
Think Tank------------------ 12
Levitt Council------------------ 12
**Levitt environmental speaker series continued**

**Richard Rhodes**, discusses his talk “Comparing Energies” with Prof. Hagstrom and Prof. Philip Klinkner. (The President’s Office was the co-sponsor of the event.)

Other speakers in the environmental series included the following:

“Alternative to globalization and war,” was the topic of a lecture in September by **Dr. Vandana Shiva**, Director of the Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Natural Resource Policy, New Delhi, India. She was co-sponsored with the Kirkland Project and the Department of Biology.

“Applying science and economics to the study of air pollution in the Adirondacks,” was a talk in October by **Dallas Burtraw**, Senior Fellow at Resources for the Future.

**David W. Orr**, Chair and Professor of the Environmental Studies Program at Oberlin College, presented “Educational Possibilities in the Age of Terror,” in November.

**Dr. Nina Schoch** DVM, (below) a former veterinarian in the Adirondacks, shared her experiences with “The Adirondack Cooperative Loon Program: A New Approach to Wildlife Understanding.”

**Dai Qing**, a Chinese dissident, shared her impressions of “The Three Gorges Dam: China’s Environmental and Political Crisis.”

A “Faculty Forum on Climate Change” in April featured a panel of Hamilton’s own: Government Professor Peter Cannavo, Geology Professor Eugene Domack (shown on left), Biology Professor Bill Pfitsch, and Chemistry Professor Ian Rosenstein.
Topics cover gamut from U.S. Budget to Iraqi War

The Center was a major contributor to a multi-cultural conference featuring Russell Simmons in March.

The Levitt Center sponsored a movie “Choropama: The Price of Gold” and talk by the filmmakers in April.

Robert Greenstein, Director of the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, talked about “The Future of the Federal Budget” in April.

A forum on “Governing the Adirondacks” also in April, featured: Ross Whaley, Chair of the Adirondack Park Agency; Virginia Branderth, Adirondack Landowners Association; Peter Litchfield, Blue Line Council; J. R. Risley, Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages; and John Sheehan, the Adirondack Council.

John W. Berry, Professor Emeritus at the Department of Psychology at Queens University, described “Acculturation and Adaptation among Immigrants and Refugees” in April.

The total cost of these seventeen events was about $37,600.

Karl Zinsmeister, (shown above) editor-in-chief of The American Enterprise magazine, shared his experiences as a reporter imbedded with the 82nd Airborne Division during the recent war with Iraq in November. His recently published book, Boots on the Ground, describes his month-long tour in Iraq.

“Promise and peril of environmental justice,” was a lecture in November by Christopher H. Foreman, Jr., Chair of the Social Policy Program at the University of Maryland.

Alex Kotlowitz, journalist and visiting professor at Northwestern University, discussed “The Things They Carry: Growing Up Poor in the World’s Richest Nation” in February.

The Levitt Center contributed to the lecture by Peter Balakian on “The Armenian Genocide and America’s Response” in March and also to a talk by Medea Benjamin.

Prof. Dennis Gilbert and Prof. Paul Hagstrom discuss the U.S. budget with Robert Greenstein, Director of the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.
The Arthur Levitt Public Affairs Center provides opportunities for Hamilton College students to engage in policy-related off-campus projects that both improve student understanding of policy issues and create positive outcomes for the community. The Levitt Center, through Judy Owens-Manley, the Center's Associate Director for Community Research, has been instrumental in forming ties to a number of formal community projects in addition to a comprehensive community initiative based on a national model of risk and protection for positive youth development – Oneida County Communities That Care. The Levitt Center participates in, or directs, the following projects for student and faculty engagement:

- **Communities That Care** (CTC) is a network of public and private agencies working together to better provide services and support to the people of Oneida County. With a network of over forty agencies, the Levitt Center creates opportunities for students and faculty with varied research or service interests. In addition, the Levitt Center has been instrumental in conducting community-based research and producing several well-used reports for CTC and Oneida County.

- **The Women's Fund of Oneida and Herkimer Counties** partnered with the Levitt Center to produce a two-part report on The Status of Women in Oneida-Herkimer Counties. Student Research Assistants worked with the Associate Director to produce Part I, and proposals are underway to fund and develop Part II, utilizing the talents and skills of both faculty and students.

- A planning year is well underway for the **SHINE (Students Helping in the Naturalization of Elders)** grant received by the Levitt Center in January 2004 in partnership with Utica College. The grant calls for the development of five service learning courses per year and the placement of sixty students in the community assisting immigrants and refugees over fifty years of age with English language or citizenship skills beginning in September 2004. The grant

Motivational speaker, Carlton Hall (center) was featured at the Oneida County Communities that Care conference held in November. Taking part in the conference were: (from left to right): Dan Lowengard, Utica City Schools Superintendent; Judy Owens-Manley, Levitt Center Associate Director for Community Research; Mr. Hall; Linda Sallel, consultant; and Ed Paparella, CTC Community Board Chairperson.
requires student training and the development of effective community partnerships.

- The Levitt Center has received a contract to complete a program evaluation for the **HOPE VI Project**, an 11.5 million dollar HUD-funded grant to the Utica Municipal Housing Authority, spread over the next five years. Under the Owens-Manley's supervision, the program evaluation plan will be completed by students enrolled in a Program Evaluation Seminar taught during the spring semester, and a Summer Service Fellowship student.

- A **Family Drug Court Treatment Project** is just beginning, with the Associate Director as the program evaluator for a community-based team that includes a Family Court Judge. This project will engage students in the project beginning in the fall 2004.

- Planning for a **Community School** to be the centerpiece of the HOPE VI Project in Cornhill has been facilitated by the Associate Director in the Levitt Center as a neutral party to bring partners in the project to the table. Ongoing discussions are also including Hamilton College as a partner in the project, enhancing tie-ins for student and faculty fieldwork and research. Hamilton has a strong presence already in the Martin Luther King Elementary School, future site of the Community School, through placements of students from the Teacher Education program.

The Levitt Center has plans this year to begin an Outreach Office in the Utica community to facilitate the projects listed above. A **VISTA Grant** was awarded this year to begin in July 2004 to facilitate community outreach from the campus. The VISTA member's workplan is designed to have him or her working full-time in the community with two Levitt Center programs: Communities That Care and SHINE. The Vista worker will focus on ways to further involve Hamilton College students in engaging in effective community outreach, and programs are strongly encouraged to provide housing for the workers, preferably in the low-income community they are serving.
Levitt Fellowships - Summer 2004

The following students were selected to receive Levitt Fellowships of $3500 each plus $500 for expenses. They will be working with their faculty mentors throughout the summer on these research projects.

- Chris Bordoni with Prof. Julio Videras (Economics) "Violations and Enforcement of Environmental Regulation in New York State"

- Christopher G. Takacs with Prof. Daniel Chambliss (Sociology) "Dissolving Distinctions between Public and Private Spaces and Identities among the African-American Urban Underclass"

- Svetoslav Derderyan with Prof. Alan Cafruny (Government) "European Enlargement and the Future of European Foreign Policy"


- Danielle Levine with Prof. Steve Orvis (Government) "Economic Liberalization and the Effect on Kenya's Agrarian Economy"

- Qi Ge with Prof. Steven Wu (Economics) "Why Uninsured? An Analysis of Behavioral Factors in Predicting Health Insurance Coverage"

- Alexis Buscaglia with Prof. Alan Cafruny (Government) "The Probable Effects of the Pending European Constitution on France"

- Jonathan Rick with Prof. Yael Aronoff (Government) "Does the War in Iraq Have Sufficient Justification?"

Levitt Fellows - Summer 2003

Brian Alward '04 with Prof. Peter Cannavo
"Coastal Beach Nourishment Programs in New Jersey - an Ethical Analysis"

Brian studied the impact of programs by various agencies that replace the sand on beaches along the Atlantic shore in New Jersey and New York. What interests are served and on what grounds can these programs be justified? Should nature take its course, or is the huge impact of tourism on state revenues reason enough to fund these programs? What are the ethical implications?

Matthew Zeller ‘04 with Prof. Alan Cafruny "Is the pursuit of oil the dominating strategic factor in current U.S. and global foreign policy?"

Matt studied the extent that oil influences both U.S. and global foreign policy. Is it a factor in the war with Iraq? If so, which groups influence government policy (businesses, non-governmental organizations, bureaucracies, etc.)?

Josue Laforest ‘04 with Dr. Judith Owens-Manley
"What should be the government's role regarding domestic violence?"

Josue Laforest (on right) studied various programs in the community that deal with domestic violence and its prevention. He conducted interviews with key informants regarding the impact of federal and state policies on the local community level. Of particular interest to Josue was discovering gaps in the programs and learning why attempts to prevent domestic violence have met with limited success.
Jin Rong (Yuki) Zhang '04 with Prof. Jeffrey Pliskin
"Determinants and Measurement of Inequality in China"

Jin Rong (Yuki) Zhang spent the summer examining the role of preferential governmental policies in China on the unequal development of inland China versus the coastal areas. She examined factors such as location, education, degree of urbanization, agricultural areas versus industrialized areas, and other determinants of rate of growth.

Christopher Martin-McNaughton '04 with Prof. Paul Hagstrom
"Refugee populations"

Chris (shown above) gathered data for a pilot study of refugee populations. “Most prior research has been done on immigrants as a whole, but little has been studied about refugees as a distinct group,” Chris says. “Because refugees have been forced to leave their native lands, rather than having chosen to leave, their experiences differ from other immigrants.”

Laura Crandall '04 was able to spend the summer through a Levitt Center “extra” community fellowship provided by The Community Foundation of Oneida-Herkimer Counties, a philanthropic organization that set up funds for donors who wish to give something back to the area. During her ten-week internship she went to organizations that have received grants from the Community Foundation over the past two or three years to evaluate how the grant money was used and the ongoing benefits the grant had provided for the organization and the community. She evaluated about fifty organizations and created a final report of her findings that was presented to the Community Foundation Board.

Haley Reimbold worked with Communities that Care and other community agencies under the supervision of Judith Owens-Manley, Associate Director of Community Research for the Levitt Center. She has continued this work as volunteer director of the Hamilton Action Volunteer Outreach Coalition (HAVOC), a student group that undertakes community projects throughout the academic year.

Community Service Fellowships
Summer 2004

Hope VI Fellowship - Ernesto Medina
Assistant - Richard Reichenbach
A federally sponsored program to provide affordable housing to low-income people in the community

Communities That Care Fellowship - Joshua Bruff
A cooperative effort of social service agencies, churches and interested individuals to address risk factors in Oneida and Herkimer Counties

Women’s Fund - Haley Reimbold
A subsidiary of the Community Foundation that develops resources to create opportunities for women and girls.

Community Foundation - TBA
A philanthropic agency that dispenses grants to more than 50 organizations.
High schools served

Bainbridge-Guilford
Brookline (MA)
Canastota
Chittenango
Clinton Central
Corcoran
Danvers (CT)
Delaware Valley (PA)
East Syracuse Minoa
Fayetteville Manlius
Frankfort
Jamesville Dewitt
Jordan-Elbridge
Kingswood (NH)
Lincoln Academy
Little Falls
Manlius Pebble Hill
New Hartford
Newton North (MA)
Oneida
Onondaga
Proctor
Rome Free Academy
Sherburne-Earlville
Stony Brook Prep.
SUNY at Stony Brook
Vernon Verona Sherrill
West Genesee
Westmoreland
Westover (CT)
Whitesboro
Winthrop Academy (ME)

Stephanie Bragg (on left) and Alexis Ribak (on right) discuss their presentations with Prof. Susan Mason (center).

**Levitt Scholars Visit Local High Schools and Schools Back Home**

There were a total of 30 students who were recommended by faculty members and selected as Levitt Scholars. All completed a course in oral communications with Prof. Susan Mason. They made a total of 50 school visits and spoke to a total of 69 high school classes.

Two graduated in December, but still found time to give presentations. Two took part in the New York City program in the spring, and one spent the spring studying in Australia, and thus will give their presentations next fall. Twelve Scholars are juniors and will be available to speak at high schools during the fall semester.


Many Scholars were able to present to their alma maters back home during college breaks. These included: Newton North in Massachusetts, Winthrop Academy in Maine, Danvers and Westover High Schools in Connecticut and Delaware Valley High School in Pennsylvania.
Comments from teachers on Scholar evaluation forms

“Adina’s personal account solidified students’ understanding of Communism better than any textbook could! My students loved it and I was thrilled they had the opportunity to hear about the world beyond New Hartford.”
-Susan Hamilton
New Hartford High School

“Ryan did a great job - he was very knowledgeable - the kids asked many questions about the presentation topic and about college life in general!”
-Meghan McGee
Jamesville DeWitt High School

“Dan gave my students a sharpened understanding of and appreciation for literary research. His positive approach and articulate presentation kept students engaged and learning.”
-Rosemary Maio
Rome Free Academy

“Nice job - timely issue presented well.”
-Mark Bailey
Chittenango High School

“Even with 85 minute classes my students wanted more time with Matt. The discussion continued the next day and they have requested a return visit.”
-Vicki Anderson
Bingham-Guilford High School

“When you can connect high school students with individuals from such a prestigious school as Hamilton College, it provides a stimulation in our students to achieve higher goals. Many of our students went up to Greg after his talk to learn more about Russia.”
-John Crouse
Delaware Valley High School

“The students were excited to hear Ashley’s presentation. I believe they learned a lot and were impacted by the stories shared. It was truly a life lesson that they will take with them.”
-Naomi Berg
Newton North High School
9/11 and U.S. immigration policy: An open door to terrorism
Christopher Abram
Can men be feminists? The role of men in the feminist movement
Thomas J. Acampora
The environmental crisis - finding solutions
Brian Alward
Keeping in touch through technology
Stephanie Bragg
How are African Americans portrayed in most television shows and movies?
Keturah Brown
Can the law keep up with advances in technology?
Keturah Brown
Psychopaths, murderers, and gang leaders: Life in a prison psych. ward
Ryan Burke
Why must some cells die so that others may live?
Christine Campbell
Children’s television - for whites only?
Ashlyn (Chuckie) Field
The art of cross-dressing in the theater.
Shannon Fitzsimons
What racial stigmas are perpetuated by the media?
Erica Gómez
Why is there so much emphasis on thinness in our society?
Ashley Jaffe-Aneciarico
The application of anthropology to field research.
Allison Kerbel
What’s in store for elections 2004
Jeffrey Long
Ireland vs. America: The importance of understanding socio-cultural differences
Jeannine Madow
Modern techniques in anti-cancer drug design
Gabrielle Markeson
Political views of the war with Iraq
Matthew Marks
From ACTUP to Apartheid: The history of AIDS activism
Lindsey Martin
Inka Samana: A unique high school in Saraguro, Ecuador
Lauren Perkins
Islam and democracy: compatibility and diversity
Jarrel Price
Rituals are important
Alexis Ribak
The benefits of stem cell research
Jeffrey Rubino
The fruits of their labors
Linwood Runney
Seeing Wales through the eyes of an anthropologist
Rachel Swartwout
Reconstructing a country: Romania after communism
Adina Unguras
Travel abroad is broadening.
Eleni Venturas
Why do we behave differently when we are in a group?
Erin Voyik
Learning how to study classic literature
Daniel Walker
How do we create our own reality?
Katie Yates
Russia today - a unique blend of Communism and Capitalism
Gregory Zalasky
Is access to HIV/AIDS treatment a basic human right?
Matthew Zeller
Analysis Project

Each summer analysis projects are solicited from state and local agencies and government officials. The seniors in the Public Policy Program taught by Prof. Paul Gary Wyckoff have the opportunity to select a project that aligns with their interests, or they may select a more traditional senior project. The research they accomplish provides data of special interest to the agencies, and the students gain some “real world” experience.

This year seniors Wyatt Arthurs and Jennifer Munoz performed a study on "Enforcement and Compliance: A Study of the New York State Residential, Building, Fire and Energy Codes." They were supervised by Raymond Andrews, R.A. Assistant Director of Code Development and John Addario, Senior Building Construction Engineer for the Codes Division of the New York State Department of State.

Wyatt and Jennifer devised a questionnaire which they put on the Hamilton College website. Their response rate of code enforcement officers (174 of a possible 250) was excellent. They found that, though many officers have taken ten or more training sessions, enforcement practices seem to lack uniformity. Their suggestions were that more educational opportunities be provided, and increased use of the DOS website be encouraged for code enforcement officers to obtain updated information.

Report from the Director

As I write my last column as director, I want to recognize those who have played such a vital role in moving the Levitt Center forward in so many ways. Over the last three years the Levitt Center has opened new doors for Hamilton College students to extend their studies and learning experiences beyond college hill. Through courses with added community-based research projects, a growing Levitt Scholars program, numerous community research programs, and a new faculty/student research program, Hamilton students have learning opportunities unmatched at peer institutions.

In addition to the strong support of the college faculty and administration, the Levitt programming could not succeed without the tireless work of Sally Carman, the Levitt Administrator, and Judy Owens-Manley, the Associate Director for Community Research. Over the last three years, Judy has continually connected Hamilton students to community needs in ways that benefit both the community and our students. Her work with the Hope VI project, the Community School, the Women’s Fund, the Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees, SHINE, and the family drug court was recently recognized by the YWCA by naming her the Women of the Year in Human Services. I have been privileged to work with Judy.

Finally, I want to thank Sally Carman on behalf of the Levitt Center and Hamilton College for her superb work as the Levitt Administrator, a position without which the center could not function. Sally’s commitment to the mission of the center and her ability to independently manage numerous projects at the same time has made my job as director much easier. In July Sally will be retiring and we will miss her. All of us who have enjoyed working with Sally and depended on her work for the last 13 years wish her all the best as she pursues her many interests.
Think Tanks combine stimulating topics, conversation and lunch

Weekly Think Tanks are sponsored by the Levitt Center and organized by students for informational lunch-time talks on Fridays at noon. Erica Hassink ’04 and Karima Shah ’04 (pictured on the right) contacted speakers, publicized the topics and ordered the lunch.

Topics during the year were wide ranging. These are only a few examples: Anthropologist Doug Raybeck (shown above with Shauna Sweet ‘03) compared “The Paedomorph and the Priestess: Michael Jackson and Martha Stewart as Cultural Icons.” Professor of Sociology Daniel Chambliss led a discussion titled “George W. Bush: Not At ALL A Conservative?” Hamilton Chaplain Jeff McArn focused on the popularization of the Jesus figure (in such films as Godspell and Jesus Christ, Superstar) and the Jesus movements of the late 1960s/early 1970s.

History professor Aram Goudsouzian discussed the popularity of Sidney Poitier and his popular film, “Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner,” in an effort to understand how racial politics shaped both his popularity and his downfall.

Government professor Carlos Yordan discussed the origins of the U.S. postwar strategy for Iraq. Classics professor Carl Rubino spoke about Alexander Hamilton’s birth and upbringing on the island of Nevis and how they affected his subsequent opinions and career.

Erica and Karima will “hand the torch” to a new student duo who will continue the tradition of lunch and conversation in 2004-2005.

Levitt Council
Prof. Paul Hagstrom, Levitt Center Director
Prof. Douglas Ambrose, History
Prof. Alan Cafruny, Government
Prof. Dennis Gilbert, Sociology
Prof. Ann Owen, Economics
Prof. Todd Franklin, Philosophy
Prof. Paul Gary Wyckoff, Public Policy, Government Department

ex-officio members:
Dr. Judith Owens-Manley, Associate Director of Community Research,
Sally Carman, Administrator