

Sophomore Seminar: 1968

The 2003 – 2004 academic year marked the first time that Sophomore Seminar 285, *1968: Year of Protest*, was offered. Sophomore seminars are required courses as part of Hamilton's new curriculum. 1968 was a year ripe with the possibility for change. What led up to this rebellious period in the United States and the world? What have been the consequences and the legacy of 1968? This cluster of courses considered these and other questions by looking at the Civil Rights, anti-War, and student movements in the U.S. and France, and the sexual revolution. Each section had a different focus, with varied formats for the final project.

Five sections of the course were taught by faculty members who had participated in the Hewlett Pluralism and Unity grant program (see accompanying article in this issue). Carole Bellini-Sharp (Theatre) taught *1968: Theatre in Your Face*; Esther Kanipe (History) taught *1968: Students in Revolt*; Cheryl Morgan (French) taught *1968: Is Paris Burning?*; Nancy Rabinowitz (Comparative Literature) taught *1968: The Sexual Revolution*; and Franklin Sciacca (Russian) taught *1968: Pop Culture in the Age of Sex, Drugs and Rock 'n Roll*. Sophomore Seminar 285 was conceived as an extension of the emphasis on social justice issues that has long been a part of the Kirkland Project first-year seminar, College 130, *Coming of Age in America: Narratives of Difference*.

In December 2003, the cluster sponsored a panel, featuring four members of the Hamilton

class of 1968, entitled "The Best of Times, the Worst of Times? Life at Hamilton College in 1968." Panelists were Rabbi Stephen Fuchs, Senior Rabbi, Congregation Beth Israel, Hartford, Connecticut; Mr. Stuart D. Horowitz, Library Media Specialist, Harborfields High School, Greenlawn, New York; Dr. Lawrence Kerr, Plastic Surgeon, United Medical Association, Binghamton, New York; and Mr. John Oates, Superintendent of Schools (retired), Taconic Hills Central School, Craryville, New York.

In February 2004, the cluster sponsored a companion panel featuring "KIRKLAND '68!" Sam Babbitt, former president of Kirkland College, and three alumnae spoke about "Women's Movement/Women's College." What was it like to be a woman on the Hill in those days? Was there a sexual revolution? Why did Kirkland College give its students *Our Bodies, Ourselves* anyway? Is a women's college always a feminist college? Alumnae panelists were Dolores Mancuso Chainey K'72, Cassandra Harris-Lockwood K'74, and Alison (Woody) Root K'72.

Finally, in conjunction with the Kirkland Project's programming on "Technology, Science and Democracy," we screened Peter Green's 2002 documentary: *The Weather Underground*. Nominated for an Oscar for best documentary, this film is based on archival footage of the participants in the Weather Underground, as well as interviews with them in the present. Professor Maurice Isserman (History) put the film into the context of the student movements of the 60's.

Natalie Babbitt Featured

The Kirkland Project hosted a reading by noted author and illustrator, and former Clinton resident, Natalie Babbitt. Currently a resident of Providence, Rhode Island, Natalie is the author and/or illustrator of more than a dozen well-loved books for children, including the contemporary classic *Tuck Everlasting*. Natalie read before a full

gathering, made up of personal friends, students, and local school children, in the Dwight Lounge of the Bristol Campus Center. She shared several stories from her work-in-progress, *Jack Plank Tells Tales*. All present enjoyed an opportunity to hear her and then greet her afterward at a reception and book signing.

2004 – 2005 Series Class in Context

Our series for next year is “Class in Context: Explorations of the Intersections of Class, Race, Gender, Sexuality and Nationality.” U.S. theorists of class often speak of it as an 800-pound gorilla in a small room; everyone knows the animal is there, but no one wants to mention it. Most Americans identify themselves as middle class and act as if that status were irrelevant to “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness” in the United States today. As a result class is erased. At the same time many social scientists consider class in isolation from other distinctions of human identity. As a result the complexity of class is lost.

In 2004 – 2005 the Kirkland Project will tackle the topic of social class in the U.S. as it intersects with other variables to shape work, family, education, law and public policy, art and representation, health, and psychology. Speakers, workshops and conferences in this

series will address a wide range of topics, for instance: race, class and education; women, welfare and class; prisons and class; Native American, Asian American, African American and Latina women and class; disability and class.

Here are a few highlights of the fall programming. Our series opens on Thursday, September 2, with an opening panel and reception. On September 9, Dalton Conley, Professor of Sociology and Director of the Center for Advanced Social Science Research at NYU, will lecture under the sponsorship of the Sociology department. Noted educator and activist Jonathan Kozol will be our guest on September 16, 17 and 18. Dorothy Allison, author and Kirkland Project guest in fall 2000, will visit on October 7, 8 and 9, Hamilton’s Fallcoming weekend. More series information is at our web site.

Series Planning Committee

Brown Bag Talks: 2003 – 2004

Friday, September 10

Monk Rowe, Joe Williams Director, Jazz Archive:
“One on One with the Masters of Jazz”

Thursday, October 2

Katie Sarris '04: “The Characteristics, Obstacles and Success of Entrepreneurs”

Friday, November 21

Doran Larson, Associate Professor of English:
“Industrial Porn; Or, The Politics of Mass Pro(Se)duction in the Work of Busby Berkeley”

Tuesday, December 9

Judith Owens-Manley, Associate Director for Community Research, Levitt Public Affairs Center:
“New Communities, New Cultures: How are Bosnians faring 5 – 10 years after arrival?”

Wednesday, February 11

Brian Rosmaita, Assistant Professor of Computer Science: “A Citizen's Guide to Electronic Voting”

Monday, February 23

Henry Rutz, Professor of Anthropology:
“Reflections on the World Social Forum: Globalization and its Discontents”

Wednesday, March 10

In cooperation with Vox, Hamilton student group:
roundtable discussion about abortion

Wednesday, March 31

Verena Blechinger-Talcott, Assistant Professor of Government: “Can you hear me now?” Internet and Democracy in East Asia and Western Europe”

Friday, April 30

Reports by summer 2003 Kirkland Project Service Associates