

## Additional Programming in 2003 – 2004

In addition to presenting the “Technology, Science and Democracy” speaker series, the Kirkland Project co-sponsored a number of events on campus this past year. Here are some highlights.

Internationally renowned jazz artists Jon Jang and David Murray visited campus in September 2003. Their concert showcased the possibilities of new forms of cross-cultural engagement within the distinctively American musical form known as jazz. Together, these two artists have produced some remarkable music that further expands the cultural reach of jazz, therewith also re-imagining its possibilities. In addition, Jon Jang led a workshop for students and faculty, “Cultural Activism and Curricular Transformation,” discussing how to create a more diverse curriculum and the role of the arts in activism. The Edwin B. Lee Lecture Series Fund of the Asian Studies Program was the sponsor.

In October, José Muñoz lectured on “Brown Feelings, Queer Lives.” José Esteban Muñoz is Associate Professor of Performance Studies at NYU, where he teaches Latin/o American performance, gender studies, the history of

performance art and visual culture, and critical theory. Additionally, José Muñoz led a teaching table for faculty. The Kirkland Project received co-sponsorship support from the departments of Comparative Literature, Spanish, Theatre and Dance, and the Office of the Dean of Faculty.

Professor Leslie Roman from the University of British Columbia visited the Hamilton campus in November 2003. Leslie G. Roman is Associate Professor in the Department of Educational Studies at the University of British Columbia. She publishes widely in feminist cultural studies and education on the inter-relations among various anti-oppression pedagogies, particularly antiracism, feminist materialism, and critiques of neo-colonialism. Her schedule included a public lecture and classroom visits, as well as a faculty pedagogy session. Professor Roman delivered a public lecture entitled “Now You See Us, Now You Don't: Discourses of Disability in and Around Education.” She also led a pedagogy session for faculty, “Making Common Ground: Antiracism and Feminist Critical Disability Studies.” Leslie Roman's visit was sponsored by the Women's Studies department.

## Intercultural Women's Empowerment

The Intercultural Women's Empowerment Series completed its second year as a Hamilton College interracial women's student coalition, with leadership by Director Susan Sanchez-Casal, Associate Professor of U.S. Latino and Women's Studies, and nine student directors. There were fifty members (more than 50% were women of color) in ICWES for 2003 – 2004; twenty-two of these women were returning for their second year.

ICWES is both a research and community-building enterprise that seeks to investigate women's “difference” by studying the histories and experiences of women students from diverse cultural and racial backgrounds, as well histories of racism and antiracism, and anti-oppression work in general. The ultimate goal of ICWES is the creation of democratic and diverse student communities dedicated to feminist intellectual and political cooperation across racial differences.

Our October workshop, “Women: Confronting Our Differences So We Can Build Community,”

was facilitated by antiracist educators and activists Elizabeth Garcia (Hunter College) and Amie A. Macdonald (John Jay College, CUNY). The April workshop, “Personal Identities and Political Coalition,” was facilitated by nationally renowned poet, educator and activist Minnie Bruce Pratt. The nine student directors engaged in research and advanced study of feminist race theory in an independent study course taught by Sanchez-Casal during the spring semester. The directors' retreat, held in April at the Adirondack Center, brought together current student directors, rising student directors for 2004 – 2005, Sanchez-Casal, and Acting Director for 2004 – 2005 Danielle DeMuth. The yearlong series concluded in early May with a one-day sex education retreat facilitated by sex educator and Hamilton alum Ashley Merriman '98, held in the Womyn's Center on campus. The Kirkland Project contributes financial support to ICWES.

*Susan Sanchez-Casal, Spanish and Women's Studies*

## Hewlett Grant

**W**e are concluding the final year of a three-year grant to Hamilton College from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. The goal of the grant is to support the development of courses that work to develop awareness of “pluralism and unity.” The Kirkland Project administers the grant at the College.

In May 2003, Kirkland Project members Dana Luciano (English) and Jenn Sturm (system administrator, Chemistry) attended the annual National Council on Research for Women conference in Berkeley, California, and presented papers there. The panel, “Hitting Our Stride for the 21st Century: Challenges and New Directions,” allowed them to speak about our series, “Technology, Science and Democracy,” and the stresses of working on social justice issues at a liberal arts college. Dana was a member of the first Hewlett cohort and revised the syllabus for the Kirkland Project-sponsored course, College 130.

As part of the grant’s assessment, last spring Professors Julie Dunsmore (Psychology) and

Margaret Gentry (Women’s Studies) and Assistant Dean of Students for Multicultural Affairs Marc David supervised several students as they sought to research campus climate from the perspective of students from historically underrepresented groups at Hamilton. The students then traveled to national meetings in Atlanta to present a paper based on the study.

In fall 2003 we began work to choose the third and final cohort of faculty for the grant program. We held an informational meeting in September, open to all faculty and attended by faculty members from all disciplines of the College. At the end of the application and selection process, we had a new cohort of 13 individuals, representing a variety of fields and levels of seniority on campus.

Throughout the year, the members of the second cohort, participants in the spring 2003 Institute, met over dinner to discuss how the courses were going and to solicit advice about pertinent issues.

## Journal Writing Program

**J**essica Ambrose, a member of the class of 2002, created the Girl Culture Journal Writing Program. Girl Culture aims to create an environment where middle school girls feel comfortable discussing issues relevant to their lives, such as their struggle to find an identity. Hamilton College women are trained to facilitate the younger girls in discussion groups and in journal writing. The journal writing is key to the program. “Journals are a way for girls to explore their various identities and the ways race, gender, socioeconomic class, and sexuality intertwine” (Ambrose, 2001). Once a week the facilitators meet with their group of girls to discuss issues such as family, race and ethnicity, gender formation, and body image. Schools that participate in the program include Clinton, New Hartford, and Westmoreland.

The Journal Writing Program is a wonderful space for young girls to connect events in their personal lives to larger issues such as how race and gender privilege work. The girls also make personal connections to one another when issues such as family or body image are raised and they realize that they are not alone in their thoughts and feelings. Facilitators serve as role models and also ask questions to spark thoughtful conversation and provocative journal entries. It’s important to break down theoretical information to make it accessible and fun for the girls to talk about.

The original funding for the Girl Culture Journal Writing Program came from the Women’s Fund of The Community Foundation of Herkimer and Oneida Counties, Inc. The Kirkland Project continues to fund this very worthwhile project.

*Laura Crandall ‘04*

## Associates

**T**he Kirkland Project sponsors two student associate programs. In spring 2004, four research associates worked under the direction of Kirkland Project Director Nancy Rabinowitz. Research associates either receive academic credit for their work (an independent study class) and money to fund research expenses or they are hired as research assistants of the Kirkland Project. In summer 2004, two service associates will intern with non-profit organizations, with financial support from the Kirkland Project.

The theme for the research associates this year was "Students' View of Life at Hamilton." Mark Castro '05 researched "Hippies, Potheads, and Yuppies: A study of marijuana use and its impact at Hamilton College." Haley Reimbold '06 studied "Community Outreach at Hamilton College: Where do we stand?" Brian Tilley '05 looked at "Concepts and Reality: Is the 'Hamilton Experience' what you expected your college

experience to be?" Finally, Nesa Wasarhaley '04 pursued "Light vs. Dark: Stereotypes about the two sides of the Hamilton campus." The associates presented their findings twice in the spring: work-in-progress at the Kirkland Project conference in March and final presentations in late April. Their final papers will be available through the Kirkland Project web site.

Service associates will start their internships in June 2004. Emily Barber '05 will intern with the Attorney General of Connecticut's office, in Hartford, Connecticut. She will assist the attorneys in their work, prosecution of abuse and neglect petitions, by contacting the child protection agencies and potential witnesses to gather information and help prepare the cases.

Young Han '06 will intern with the National Cooperative Business Association, in Washington, DC. NCBA is a national membership association representing cooperatives of all types and in all industries.

## Fall 2005: Conference at Hamilton

**K**ee your eyes peeled for a special conference/gathering of Hamilton and Kirkland alumni/ae! In fall of 2005, the Kirkland Project will be celebrating its TENTH, and we want to share it with those alums who share the social justice goals of the Project.

Several years ago, we sponsored the very successful conference, "Making Change: Working for Social Justice"; we hope this event will be even bigger and better. Please let us know if you would like to be involved in planning or just by participating.

## Community Outreach

**T**he Kirkland Project has been in conversation with the Access Project, Arthur Levitt Public Affairs Center, Career Center, and Hamilton Action Volunteer Outreach Coalition (HAVOC) regarding Hamilton College's community outreach efforts. Since the beginning of the spring 2004 semester, faculty, staff, and students at Hamilton have been exploring the possibility of getting space for a shared outreach office in Utica to develop an even stronger commitment to the local community.

Another initiative has Hamilton students Sharon Hakim '06, Danna Klein '07, Diana Mastrocola '06, and Haley Reimbold '06, representatives of HAVOC, receiving assistance from the Kirkland Project to design a summer camp that will be held at Hamilton in 2005. The

10-day camp aims to motivate and empower young women from the Utica area by giving them the tools they need to make positive changes in their communities. Students and faculty will facilitate workshops on race, class, gender, and community organizing throughout the week. Then, the youth participants will put their newly formed skills to use by completing a service project and participating in a strategic planning session focusing on how to identify and meet needs in their communities. A direct-action advocacy group will be formed from the young women who attend this camp, with assistance from Hamilton students. This youth-led organization will identify and work to meet community needs throughout the year.

*Haley Reimbold '06*