

# MDOCS

THE JOHN B. MOORE DOC STUDIES COLLABORATIVE

Newsletter 1.1

September 23, 2014

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## Director's Note

**Welcome to MDOCS newsletter 1.1.** As the John B. Moore Documentary Studies Collaborative (MDOCS) begins its work, look to this fortnightly message to keep you updated on events and programming, as well as on longer term planning and activities.

**What is documentary?** It's creative and evidence-based work that can engage you through a range of media from sound and video to photography and exhibition. Over the course of this year, get a taste for documentary in all its forms in our inaugural programming.

**Is it new to Skidmore?** Absolutely not! Whether it's a faculty member assigning science students to present their research in a radio news hour or a student exploring a family history for a capstone paper or a staff member interviewing members of a military regiment, documentary work is already happening across the campus.

MDOCS' goal is to support this work, develop resources to serve it, and become a virtual and physical place (Library 113) to build connections and synergies

**What does MDOCS add?** In our first semester, MDOCS is hosting two feature events: a workshop on Sound & Storytelling with Eileen McAdam (October 17/November 7) and a screening and conversation with Haitian filmmaker Raoul Peck (November 6). (See "What's Up Next")

We're also talking with students, faculty, staff and retirees about how to move forward with more low-key networking on campus, building skills in curricular offerings and in training sessions, and helping individuals, classes and programs incorporate documentary traditions and practices into existing work. We want to work with you, not reinvent the wheel. (See "What we've been up to")

**Save the dates!**

**October 2: 5-6:30pm: Open House, Library 113, new home of MDOCS & the Visual Forum.**

**October 24, 10am:** Planning starts now for the Summer 2015 Storyteller's Institute. We'll host an initial retreat to on, to start the discussion about what kind of structures (and flexibilities) will make the Institute an attractive and exciting opportunity for all parties. Hope to see you there!

*Jordana Dym, Interim Director*

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## What We've Been Up To

### 9/10 MDOCS Planning Meeting: Skidmore-Saratoga Memory Project

On September 10, a dozen Skidmore faculty, staff and students came together for the inaugural MDOCS Skidmore-Saratoga Memory Project (SSMP) meeting! (Learn more about SSMP here: <http://www.skidmore.edu/mdocs/memory-project/>).

The conversation centered on how to connect faculty with students and community partners effectively to help launch the Memory Project. Attendees exchanged ideas about documentary projects they hoped to pursue. Suggestions ranged from personal storytelling projects (like "the Moth") and plans to use GIS mapping technology for local history to deepening collaborations with Saratoga Springs community organizations.

Stay tuned for next steps on this exciting project that links the present with the past, connects students with faculty, and unites Skidmore with the Saratoga Springs community.

### 9/11 and 9/12 Documentary Filmmaker Chip Duncan.

MDOCS faculty, staff and students paid rapt attention as Wisconsin-based documentarian (and playwright) Chip Duncan came to the capital district. Chip presented clips from his 3-part documentary on the Reagan Presidency at The Linda in Albany (9/11), learning how a balanced approach landed interviews from Walter Mondale, Condoleeza Rice and xxx among others. On September 12, Chip offered a sneak preview of "The Sound Engineer," a just-finished short video doc on African journalism in Lisa Aronson's "Africa in Film," class, answering questions from a rapt group who saw and heard and began to appreciate the costs of covering the news across the continent. Thanks, Jim & Sue Towne, for sponsoring the visit!

### 9/17 MDOCS Planning Meeting: Video & Audio Technology

What tools do sound and video documentarians need to do their work? Academic Technologies, Media Services, the College Videographer, and faculty members talked through ideas in a lively opening discussion about existing resources and growing strategies that led to a decision to get some equipment and software in hand in time for MDOCS and Project Vis October workshops. Inventory will be kept in Documentary & Visual Forum Lab (Lib 113) and maintained by student assistants. Next steps: developing procedures inventory equipment and to train users over the next few months. We're still open to suggestions and look forward to helping develop the tools needed for multi media documentary work.

## What's Up Next

### In the next 2 weeks, check out:

September 24: Tom Lewis: The Art of the Interview, Ladd 307, 3:30-5pm

September 25: Adam Tinkle: A Mess of Things, Zankel Auditorium, 8pm

October 1: Dan Nathan (American Studies): presents Schooled: The Price of College Sports (Saratoga Film Forum, 7:30 pm)

October 2: Opening Reception, Lib 113, 5-6:30 pm.

Come see the MDOCS/Visual Forum new home!

October 2-3: Project Vis Workshop: Go-Pro Cameras, led by Simon Biswas '13?

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## **Feature Event: Sign up for a sound & story workshop!**

### **Eileen McAdam & the “Cube” at Skidmore College for Celebration Weekend**

Audio storyteller Eileen McAdam will be leading a workshop in “Sound and Story” on audio interviewing and recording on October 17 & November 7, kicking off the Skidmore Saratoga Memory Project with interviews on October 18, and introducing Skidmore to “the “Cube” a portable sound recording studio.

Want to know more? What to sign up for the workshop? Click here?

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1520710604837003/>

## **Coming Soon**

October 9: Martin Bruckner, “American Map Wars: The Rise of Cartography in the Long Nineteenth Century,” 7pm, Emerson Auditorium. History & MDOCS

October 24: MDOCS Retreat/Roundtable: Storyteller’s Institute V.1 : 10-12pm and lunch  
Brainstorming to make the first Storyteller’s Institute a draw for documentarians, students, faculty, and the broader Saratoga Springs community.

November 6: Filmmaker Raoul Peck presents “Fatal Assistance” (2013)

## **Doc Dates: Wednesdays, 3:30-5:00 pm, Lib 113**

October 8: MDOCS Planning: Curricular Development: Workshops & Add-Ons

October 15: What’s Up, Doc? Viviana Rangil, Multimedia Doc, “Comida Latina”

October 22: What’s Up, Doc? Larry Hott, Florentine Films/Hott Productions

October 29: What’s Up, Doc? Nicole Coady, “Screenwriting for the Real World”

For the full MDOCS calendar, see <http://www.skidmore.edu/mdocs/news>

## **Weigh In: What does MDOCS need to know?**

Have an idea? Want to participate? Know someone we should reach out to? Have an idea for what we should do to make this newsletter more lively?

## **Connect with MDOCS**

By telephone: 518 580 5271

By e-mail: [mdocs@skidmore.edu](mailto:mdocs@skidmore.edu)

In person: Please come to our events!

Send us a line: MDOCS, Skidmore College, 815 N Broadway, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

Tell us about you/your project: <http://www.skidmore.edu/mdocs/connect>.

If you no longer want to receive this newsletter, please send an email to [mdocs@skidmore.edu](mailto:mdocs@skidmore.edu) with the header ‘unsubscribe.’