Be It Resolved:

The faculty of Skidmore College expresses its

usan Jean Bender came to Skidmore in 1980, having earned a B.A. in German Literature from

Jill reports, “while the men made a name for themselves as directors of an excavation site,” and “got the

Organizational Theory and Design. With her strong interdisciplinary bent, she also participated in the Liberal Studies program and more recently the Scribner Seminars, as well as the International Affairs program, a program which she helped launch. Mary also made significant contributions as a member of the Middle States Accreditation Steering Committee, and was a strong departmental voice in support of AACSB accreditation.

Regarding International Affairs, Roy Ginsberg, Professor of Government, notes that "Mary was a major contributor to the founding of Skidmore's International Affairs program in the mid-1990s. She brought to the deliberations leading up to the program's founding a humanistic, medical scientific, comparative management, and otherwise interdisciplinary and global approach that so nicely bridged the business and management department with the other constituent departments who together ushered in the new program. Moreover, Mary was involved in the implementation and evaluation of the program as it evolved from a minor to a major, participated in federal granTD.0l(to sup)4.6(port t)5.2(h)4.6(e intr)9(od)4.6(uct)5.2(i)-.5(o)4.6(n)4.6(of the new)3.9(c)5.5eu2 most important and lasting legacy for her colleagues and students in International Affairs."

With respect to her more mainstream management and business courses, Mary particularly relished her Leadership course. Her long-time colleague and office neighbor, Tim Harper, recalls that "Mary introduced the student coach role to the MB107 program within that course. Mary taught Leadership on a regular basis while integrating and directing the students to work with the MB107 student teams as if in a learning lab. The students applied lehip theory to the overa ocess related to the MB107 team's development. The MB107 program has been successful, in part, because of Mary's application of diverse pedagogies in the Leadership and Coaching courses and her creative input with respect to the design of the MB107 coach-studenTD relationship. Mary was also part of the MB107 faculty team assisting in the selection of case studies, evaluating student dry run and final presentations, fostering relationships with the MB107 executives and working endlessly with MB107 student teams to perfect their final presentations."

Within the larger community, Mary was a passionate supporter of the MALS program, where she guid many students in independent studies, functioned as a faculty advisor, assessed final projects, and reviewed over 60 individual graduate curricula during her several terms of service on the MALS committee. John Anzalone, a former MALS Director, wrote that Mary's "rich varied intellectual history was of constant, vital use to the program and its students." He further noted that "because of her background in psychiatric nursing and her detailed knowledge of policies and protocols in a variety of areas in the social sciences, Mary was an incredible resource for the many MALS students whose final projects had psychology, sociology or public policy emphases. She certainly spared students many false starts by helping them hone in on the issues that their projects could manage most effectively. Just as important as her deep awareness of the ramifications of

feature leaders in the field of supporting individuals living with developmental disabilities. More recently,

languages, it probably comes as no surprise that Rob doesn't have any hobbies. Last year, we might have been able to say that Rob enjoyed watching football, but he no longer gets TV reception, so he doesn't even do that. For Rob, his work life has no separation from his personal life – they are one and the same, and it is a life that Rob undertakes with complete dedication and joy. Rob doesn't "work," he lives.

Not one to toot his own horn, Bill tends not to publicize the fact that he has published in a wide variety of venues, including prestigious journals such as *Physical Review B* and *Physics Letters A*, and that he holds a patent for a superconducting alloy of palladium. His Ph.D. dissertation on the "Effect of hydrostatic pressure on transition temperature and upper critical field of superconducting indium-impregnated porous glass" placed him in the field of superconductivity just in time for the high-temperature superconductivity breakthroughs of the 1980s.

Bill has taught and developed courses across the curriculum, from topical introductory courses like "Light & Color" to advanced senior theses. He has taught the core eight-credit sequence of General Physics countless times, as well as the inaugural section of Honors General Physics. He has been highly popular as the teacher of our intermediate-level Modern Physics course, where students are introduced to the upheavals of twentieth-century physics, most notably relativity and quantum physics. At the upper level, Bill has often taught Electricity & Magnetism, a course based on the Maxwell's mathematical structure that not only united the phenomena of electrical fields and magnets, but also revealed the nature of light as oscillating electric and magnetic fields.

processes, along with a will to conserve. A walk in the woods with Sue touches the mind and the heart through all of the senses.

Sue has been an extraordinarily dedicated, compassionate, and effective teacher. In addition to contributing her ecological perspective, field expertise, and mycological prowess to the development and delivery of laboratory classes, she has also embraced and taught new methodologies and content essential to Biology's evolving curriculum. Students in the introductory Biology and Environmental Studies courses that she teaches come from the broadest of backgrounds, and are often in the thick of transition to college life. Sue engages them with clear, confident, and animated presentations of material – and steadies them as they take on challenges. Students accept her high standards because they know that she truly supports and cares for them, both academically and personally.

Going beyond the traditional classroom, Sue takes students on midwinter snowshoeing expeditions, a pre-orientation Sustainable Farming & Forestry Service Program for first-year students, fungal forays, and interpretive walks of all stripes. She initiates group missions of environmental stewardship in which participants don hip waders to battle invasive plants in Wilson Pond, tend trails, install signs, and learn that Skidmore's North Woods is a repository of biological treasure (as Sue puts it, "not your average woodlot"), a sanctuary that refreshes the spirit, a rich natural laboratory central to our learning community, and a dynamic ecological community in need of steady, wise stewardship. While in the field, Sue widens her collaborators' perceptions of nature, particularly of what biologist E.O Wilson characterizes as the "little things that rule the world," and students observe that "to save species is to study them closely and learn them well." Examples of the contagion of Sue's passion and ethic abound. Most recently, in the tropical cloud forest of Costa Rica, Sue's former students immediately picked up on disturbances and threats to the forest, did not overlook the small important details, and snapped photographs of fungi to bring back for Sue.

Sue is expert in the ways of fungi, actively working to see how their attributes might be harnessed for healing, ecological restoration, and "green" mycoproducts. Her recent EPA and USDA funded work as mycological consultant for Ecovative Design, an RPI incubator program for the development of green building components and packaging using fungal mycelium, is testimony to Wilson's dictum, "Love the organisms for themselves first, then strain for general explanations, and, with good fortune, discoveries will follow." Over her sabbatical, she collaborated with Skidmore students to determine optimum combinations of fungal species and agricultural waste substrate to make insulation and packaging material; this material can serve as a biodegradable replacement for polystyrene foam. Ecovative has used the data to inform their current production methods. One collaborator

book, *Treasures of the North Woods*, published in 2007, was nurtured, edited and brought to fruition by Sue over the course of seven years.

In addition to serving as a fount of mycological and botanical expertise, Sue has been perceptive and responsive to the needs of her students and colleagues, touching us in ways that include humor, emotional openness, and wisdom; she holds us to high standards while energetically supporting our efforts. A walk in the woods with Sue has become a standard part of a Biology Department interview: candidates in suits don their boots, relax a bit, and experience our natural laboratory, accompanied by a skilled interpreter. Sue is committed to community at every level: to her students, and colleagues, to community organizations, and to proactive stewardship of the Earth's biota. Always using her knowledge and insight to improve and sustain the communities of which she is a part, Sue is an indefatigable advocate for wellness and the environment. Her generous spirit will be treasured always in the communities for which she has cared.