

# Macalester

# Today

FALL 2014



## Rumor Has it

We dig deep to discover the truth behind Macalester's tunnels and other enduring myths. **PAGE 16**





## Features

### Second in Command 10

A city focus on racial equity persuaded Kristin Beckmann '92 to become St. Paul's deputy mayor.

### Ink Spot 12

Brianne Farley '06 is building an impressive career as a children's book author and illustrator.

### Rumor Has It 16

We dig deep to discover the truth behind Macalester's most enduring myths, legends, and mysteries.

### Ultimate Exec 22

Denitza Batchvarova '06 uses her business skills to help run a company promoting mixed martial arts.

### Mac Map 24

An irreverent look at a well-loved campus

### Life on the River 26

The Mississippi, flowing just a mile from campus, exerts a strong pull on student life at Macalester.

### Foundation Fellows 34

Two alums are helping diversify the Twin Cities philanthropy community.





## Departments

Letters 2

Household Words 3

Summit to St. Clair 4

*New magazine, new profs, new plans, more*

Class Notes 36

Mac Weddings 40

In Memoriam 45

Grandstand 48



## Staff

### EDITOR

Lynette Lamb  
llamb@macalester.edu

### ART DIRECTOR

Brian Donahue

### CLASS NOTES EDITOR

Robert Kerr '92

### PHOTOGRAPHER

David J. Turner

### CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Rebecca DeJarlais Ortiz '06  
Jan Shaw-Flamm '76

### DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

David Warch

## MACALESTER COLLEGE



### CHAIR, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

David Deno '79

### PRESIDENT

Brian Rosenberg

### DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS

Gabrielle Lawrence '73

### MACALESTER TODAY (Volume 102, Number 4)

is published by Macalester College. It is mailed free of charge to alumni and friends of the college four times a year. Circulation is 32,000.

### FOR CHANGE OF ADDRESS, please write:

Alumni Relations Office, Macalester College,  
1600 Grand Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105-1899. Or  
call (651) 696-6295. Toll-free: 1-888-242-9351.  
Email: [alumnioffice@macalester.edu](mailto:alumnioffice@macalester.edu)

### TO SUBMIT COMMENTS OR IDEAS,

Phone: 651-696-6452. Fax: 651-696-6192.  
Email: [mactoday@macalester.edu](mailto:mactoday@macalester.edu)  
Web: [macalester.edu/alumni](http://macalester.edu/alumni)



Macalester Today is printed on Rolland Enviro 100, a 100 percent recycled paper. Our printer, Bolger Printing of Minneapolis, is FSC® certified.



# Letters

## First-gen

I read the recent issue of *Macalester Today*, and much enjoyed the article about “First-Gen” students (Summer 2014). I so identified with the students you profiled and with so many of the things they said, because I, too, was a First-Gen student, over 60 years ago. At that time my sister and I were unlikely Macalester College prospects, from a tiny town in North Dakota where college was rarely discussed. No one in my own family had ever attended college, or even dreamed of it. Macalester took a chance on us.

Just like your First-Gen students today, we experienced some of the isolation and the awe. Like them, we were thrilled with our rooms at Kirk Hall, and even the cafeteria, where free meals were provided every day. One of the first experiences I remember was receiving an invitation to Ms. Doty’s tea, which was to be held at Mrs. Driscoll’s house on Summit Avenue. Not only had we never been in a house that grand, we had no idea how to make ourselves presentable. With the aid of new friends, we rounded up appropriate outfits: a nice dress here, pretty shoes there, and certainly gloves.

I also identified with the challenge of receiving invitations to dinner or concerts; like today’s First-Gen students, we had neither the time nor the money for such extra activities. My free time was spent working at a grocery store on Grand Avenue, while my sister worked at a drugstore on Snelling. We both remember the kindness of Mr. Budolphson in the Comptroller’s Office, who in true Macalester spirit always assured us that somehow we would be fine financially—even if at times our tuition payments might be a bit late.

I have led a wonderful and full life and raised a large family; the same is true for my sister. I know that Macalester and its values had a profound effect on both of us, and on all of our children. I feel sure that today’s First-Gen students will someday be saying the same.

**Clarice G. Edwards Meacham ’48**  
Fairfax, Va.

Reading this article in *Macalester Today* (“First-Gen,” Summer 2014) was emotional for me—I cried. I am so glad that Mac is finally focusing on first-generation college students. These students’ stories echoed my own frustrations and challenges at Mac. Bravo, Mac, and keep up the good work.

**Amanda Westley Ziegler ’06**  
Milton, Fla.

That was a wonderful article on students who are the first in their family to attend college. My parents came to the U.S. the year I was born, following Finland’s wars with the Soviet Union in the 1930s and 1940s. We still spoke Finnish at home when I began attending Mac in the fall of 1972. I remember thinking that, in a sense, many of the other students had already learned how to play chess and I knew only how to play checkers. There may have been more first-generation students at Mac then, but I can insert the names of some of my fellow students into your article and the sentiments then are almost identical to those today. Thank you for the fond memories!

**Ray Piirainen ’76**  
Hopkins, Minn.

## Students and staff

I was so pleased to see the recent article (“Staff attachments,” Summer 2014) about members of the Macalester staff, and that my campus supervisor, Jayne Niemi, was quoted. The staff of the Registrar’s Office (Jayne, Julie McEathron, Linda Foss, Cheryl Job, Dan Balik, and others) was my second family during my time at Macalester. I learned so much from all of them, and their passion for serving students sent me down the career path I have today. As an admissions officer at the University of Puget Sound, supervising students is one of the most rewarding parts of my job.

**Martha Wilson ’00**  
Tacoma, Washington

Reading the piece about Macalester staff brought to mind the mentorship I received from Charles Norman, who directed the student-learning center while I was at Mac. I was introduced to him by a professor, who thought Charles might cure me of my inclination toward using run-on sentences. While I didn’t get fully cured in that area, the support and guidance I received from Charles was a huge part of my success and happiness at Macalester.

**Cay Adams Kimbrell ’96**  
New Orleans, La.

## Kudos

I just love the magazine—the writing (student centered), the graphics, the photography, the fonts, the color palette. I keep one in my office here at work and it turns out that a lot of other people are familiar with it and think highly of it, too. Nice job!

**Carolyn Bucior**  
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

## Corrections

I’m writing to provide some additional information on the recent article (“Gadget Guy,” Winter 2014) in which you mentioned math professor Stan Wagon and his square-wheeled bike. Professor Wagon asked his neighbor Loren Kellen to construct the square-wheeled bike for him. Kellen was active in the puppet theater community and known for his ability to transform ordinary objects into tools, outdoor theater pieces, and other fanciful objects. The original square-wheeled bike was a product of his ingenuity. Professor Wagon should be acknowledged for recognizing such talent in his own neighborhood.

**B. Jessica Shaten ’78**  
Cincinnati, Ohio

## Mac Social



**Stephanie Curtis** @stephcurtis

Macalester = better than Carleton = better than Olaf in drawing, enrolling low-income students: <http://www.nytimes.com>

**Victoria Guillemard** @vicg613

\*gets excited by thunder and lightning because of the obvious distraction potential\*  
#heymac

**WMCN 91.7fm** @WMCN917

FIRST DAY OF WMCN BROADCASTING!!!!  
YAAH!! LISTEN TO @Macalester COLLEGE RADIO 91.7FM IN ST PAUL

**Andrew Latham** @aalatham

In 17 y, best semester yet @Macalester!  
Teaching one course on the #FWW and another on #Medieval Political Thought. Happy, happy! #heymac

## LETTERS POLICY

We invite letters of 300 words or fewer. Letters may be edited for clarity, style, and space and will be published based on their relevance to issues discussed in *Macalester Today*. You can send letters to [llamb@macalester.edu](mailto:llamb@macalester.edu) or to *Macalester Today*, Macalester College, 1600 Grand Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105.



# Civility and Its Discontents

BY BRIAN ROSENBERG

**O**n college campuses, discussions of civility have become strikingly uncivil.

The event that has clearly inspired the recent spate of what I would term “anti-civility” declarations was the decision by the University of Illinois to rescind an offer of a tenured professorship to Stephen G. Salaita on the basis of comments he made on Twitter and in other contexts that were perceived—by some—to be at best inflammatory and at worst anti-Semitic. Those who oppose the Salaita decision contend that the university is using the standard of civility as an excuse to restrict academic freedom and to silence voices that challenge authority.

Related arguments have since arisen at other institutions, including the University of California at Berkeley, whose chancellor began the year with a request for civility that has provoked a backlash, and Ohio University, where a controversial YouTube video led the president to appeal for civility, which in turn led once again to claims that the actual attempt was to stifle free speech.

There is nothing fundamentally new about this argument—Benjamin DeMott voiced it with much passion in his 1996 essay, “Seduced by Civility: Political Manners and the Crisis of Democratic Values”—but the Salaita case has lent it considerably more energy and visibility.

Both those who have called for civility and those who have rejected such calls are inclined to define the concept in ways that are, in my view, unhelpful. Berkeley’s chancellor observed that “free speech and civility are two sides of a single coin.”<sup>1</sup> This is, at best, misleading. Incivility is a necessary corollary of free speech. Free speech would be more easily achieved if everyone were civil; it is more elusive and more precious because it must allow

for the fact that some people are not.

On the other side, civility’s critics are too quick to equate it with mere politeness or to assume that all calls for civility are calls to silence dissent. To be civil is not, in its most profound sense, to be courteous, and while appeals for civility can certainly be used by those in power to deny agency to those who are not, this is not necessarily or universally the case.

If we are going to argue about civility, let



President Brian Rosenberg talking with alumni at Reunion 2014.

us at least argue about a question more consequential than whether it is good to be polite or whether all leaders who defend civility are tyrants. Let us argue about whether Stephen L. Carter is right when he contends that civility is “an attitude of respect, even love, for our fellow citizens” and that “civility is a moral issue, not just a matter of habit or convention: it is morally better to be civil than to be uncivil.”<sup>2</sup>

Now, that is interesting.

My own view is that Carter is correct, though I would extend his argument in a more pragmatic direction. Putting aside moral issues, I believe that civility is more *effective* than incivility in accomplishing one’s goals, particularly if one’s goals include the changing of minds or policies. If the aim is chiefly to energize those with whom one already agrees,

incivility can be a powerful and seductive tactic; but, like some other seductive things, it can feel good but accomplish little. If the aim is persuasion, civility is more effective in virtually every case.

Few rules apply universally, and it is certainly possible to point to instances in

which uncivil behavior changed public policy. But I believe that these instances are greatly outnumbered by those in which it has been ineffective or even counterproductive, and that the change agents most admired and most influential have been masters of civility in the deep sense defined by Carter.

I would also be more sympathetic to those who are outraged by calls for civility in the Salaita case—such as the American Association of University Professors—if they were more consistent in their denunciation of attempts to silence dissent. We have seen during the past year numerous instances on college campuses of speakers who are found objectionable by one group or another being chased away by threats of disruption to events such as commencement. If the Salaita case is a threat to academic freedom and inconsistent with the ideals of the academy, so too are these attempts to bar the gates against those with whose views some—even the majority—disagree. Yet, as far as I know, they have not caused the AAUP to

voice cries of protest.

A skeptic might find in this selective umbrage a certain political component.

So long as no actual harm is caused and no one’s opportunity to live and work in safety is threatened, rudeness, coarseness, and other varieties of incivility should not be forcibly excluded from a college community. (And anyone who has spent much time on college campuses knows that such forms of behavior are regrettably common and generally tolerated.) They come with the territory of free speech. So too, however, does the right to denounce them and to insist that they will, in the end, be unpersuasive. ■

**BRIAN ROSENBERG** is the president of Macalester College.

<sup>1</sup>Nicholas Dirks, message to Berkeley community, 5 September 2014.

<sup>2</sup>Stephen L. Carter, *Civility: Manners, Morals, and the Etiquette of Democracy* (New York: Basic Books, 1998), xii.



## MOVE IN DAY AT MAC



Pink-shirted volunteers (and parents!) happily helped first-year students move into the residence halls on August 28.

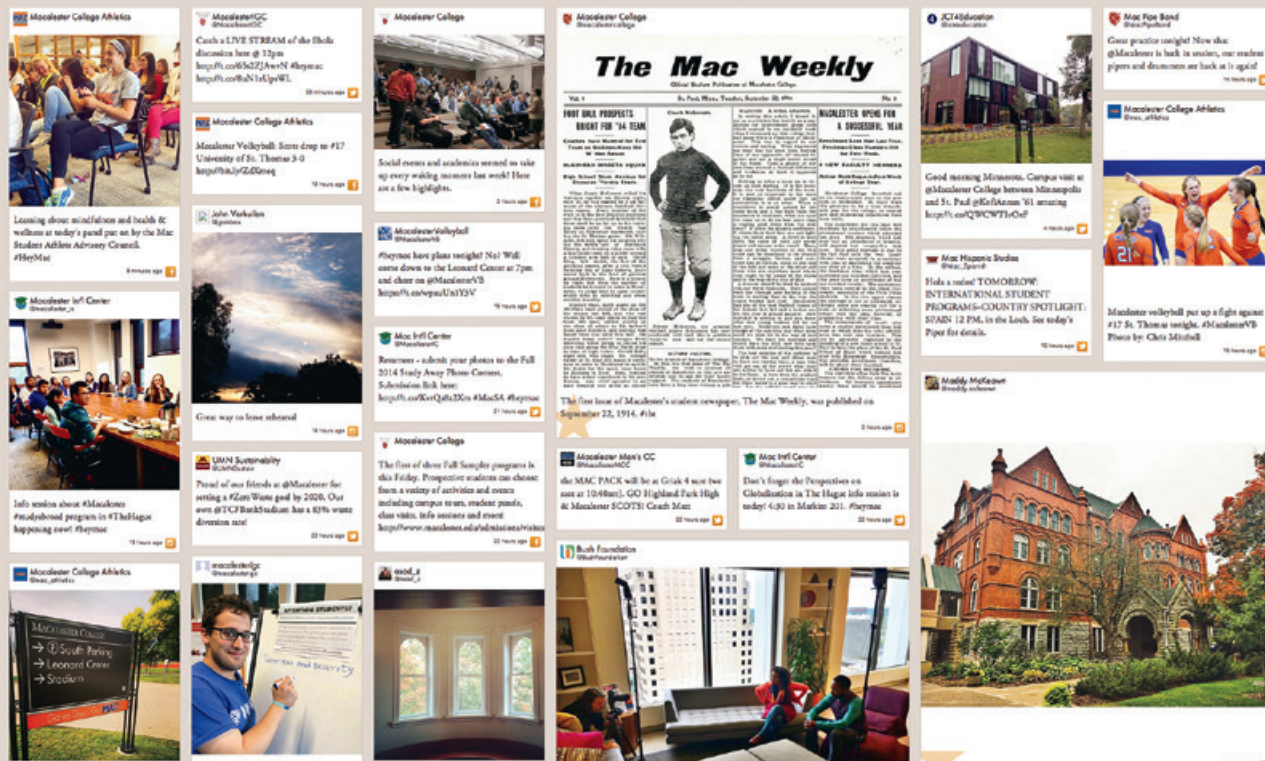


PHOTOS: DAVID J. TURNER



## MAC SOCIAL

At Mac Social



# Mac Social

CHECK OUT MAC SOCIAL, the new online space that allows you to see what people are saying about Macalester in social media. Mac Social brings together posts on Instagram and Twitter that mention or tag Macalester, as well as Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook posts from official college accounts.

Items are presented with the most recent posts on top. Everyone can participate—students, alumni, faculty, media, friends of the college. Use our new hashtag **#heymac** on Instagram and Twitter, which tells us, “Hey! Put this on Mac Social!”



## NEW COACHES

**Margaret Gehring** (right), the new head track & field coach, brings with her 20 years of successful coaching experience at the Division III level, leading programs at both Ohio Wesleyan University and the College of Saint Benedict. She has coached many All-Americans and national champions and was named NCAC Coach of the Year three times. **Kelly Roysland**, the new women’s basketball coach, spent four years as an assistant coach at the University of Minnesota. The former Gopher letter winner helped Minnesota secure the 17th-ranked recruiting class in 2011 and guided the team’s guards to numerous accolades, including six All-Big Ten honors.



# ▶ Summit to St. Clair

## CAMPUS NEWS SUMMARY



## A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS

**Djoser Ramsey '15** (Middleton, Wis.) is often the only football player in the room when he's taking a course for his women's, gender, and sexuality studies minor. And that's fine with him. As an offensive lineman and biology major with plans for dental school, he considers his own breadth "what the liberal arts are all about."

Although Ramsey knew he wanted to major in biology, he didn't get interested in WGSS until he took the class *Whiteness and Post-Colonialism*. "I wanted to challenge myself and do something I wasn't necessarily good at," says Ramsey.

Football first attracted the senior to Macalester. The suburban Madison kid figured he'd attend the UW—his hometown college—and play club rugby, but head football coach Tony Jennison persuaded him that

Macalester would give him both the strong academics he needed for dental school and the chance to play football.

"I was sold after my visit, blown away," says Ramsey. "I felt I could be myself here. Every Mac football player has more going on than meets the eye. We really care about each other and help each other reach our goals, and not just in football."

One of Ramsey's goals was to conduct original research, which he did over the summer in biology professor Marcos Ortega's lab. There they researched the viral enzyme *terminase* and its involvement in the replication of viruses, such as the Epstein-Barr virus, which can cause lymphomas.

Juggling football, research and coursework demands excellent time-management skills and a commitment to physical

and emotional health. Ramsey sleeps at least seven hours a night and practices meditation.

He used to pride himself on waking up just 20 minutes before his first class, but no longer. "I've learned to respect the process. I have a set bedtime, study until then, take pride in what I've done, and get some sleep. In the morning I have breakfast, meditate, clean the dishes, and go to class."

Ramsey is quick to acknowledge the many others at Mac who have helped him: Financial Aid staff, coaches, Café Mac staff, work study supervisors, custodians, professors, and of course his teammates and classmates. "Coming to Macalester is the best decision I've ever made. I'm 100 percent confident that I'm a better person for having come here."



# Barbie and friends

In an effort to keep that Mac synergy and creativity flowing past graduation, a small group of alumni—including **Kate Ryan Reiling '00**, **Matea Wasend '12**, and **Sarah Marsh Olson '05**—last year started *Tempered* magazine. An online-only publication full of the flash fiction, poetry, watercolors, photography and songs of their fellow Mac alums, *Tempered* published its first issue in December 2013; the second is scheduled to be released next month.

Among the most visually striking entries in their premier issue were a series of four posed shots of Barbie, the work of photographer **Nicole Hoult '98**. A studio art major who focused on printmaking at Macalester, Hoult “absolutely loves taking photos,” and reports taking “incredible amounts of them” on many subjects beyond the iconic 12-inch doll.

To see *Tempered*, go to [temperedmag.com](http://temperedmag.com)





# BIG PLANS

## How should Mac look in 10 years?

That's the challenge the college's Strategic Planning Committee began grappling with early in 2013. Last month the campus community reviewed the committee's findings: a strategic plan that will guide Macalester for the next decade. (Visit [macalester.edu/strategicplansummary](http://macalester.edu/strategicplansummary))

### AMONG THE PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED:

- Reinforce Macalester's distinctive excellence in internationalism
- Make entrepreneurship—social and commercial—an area of strength
- Become a leader in offering issue-focused academic programs
- Strengthen the connections between a liberal arts education and vocation by making career paths more obvious and accessible
- Increase diversity within our student body, faculty, and staff
- Become a leader in using technology to broaden our reach
- Create a culture in which strategic thinking and careful, timely decision-making are the norm
- Build a sustainable financial model
- Create the institutional will to stop doing some things we do now, while recognizing that every program has some value and support
- Move from a model of divided governance to a model of truly shared governance to facilitate informed, strategic decision-making

## NEW FACULTY FACES



PHOTOS: DAVID J. TURNER

Two new tenure track faculty members are joining Macalester this year: **Cari Gillen-O'Neel** (left), assistant professor in Psychology and **Kanta Kochhar-Lindgren**, associate professor in Theatre and Dance. Gillen-O'Neel, who earned her PhD at UCLA, researches how children develop social identities and come to understand the stereotypes or stigmas associated with these identities; she is also interested in the role social identities play in academic achievement. Kochhar-Lindgren, who joins the faculty in January, investigates the histories, practices, and critical engagements of theatre, dance, inter-arts, and everyday practice, particularly in relation to cultural diversity. She previously taught performance studies at the University of Washington at Bothell, founded both dance and theater companies, and this fall opens a large site-specific work in Hong Kong called *Pier Windows*.



## Key staff hires

**Gary D. Martin** (left) became the college's Chief Investment Officer in July. As CIO, Martin oversees the college's \$746 million endowment, which ranks 18th among U.S. liberal arts colleges. Martin was previously the vice president for pension investments at SuperValu Inc. He also worked for 18 years at

Northwest Airlines in pension investments. **Rev. Kelly J. Stone** began work last summer as Chaplain and Associate Dean for Religious and Spiritual Life. She oversees the Center for Religious and Spiritual Life, which includes student religious groups, programs and events, and Weyerhaeuser Memorial Chapel. Previously Stone worked at Wellesley College in Mass., most recently as Interim Dean of Religious and Spiritual Life.





# ARCHIVAL OBJECT

On the second floor of Macalester's DeWitt Wallace Library, tucked away within two well-organized, well-lit rooms, is the college archives. We thought it was high time we shared a few objects from those rooms with our readers.

This valise belonged to **John Ned Mason** of Williams, Minnesota, a small town in Lake of the Woods County, that far northern triangle of the state that juts into Canada.

Mason is a bit of a mystery, having only attended Macalester for one semester in the fall of 1942. Did he enlist in the armed forces during World War II? Drop out to run a family farm? Switch to another college? All we have left of him is this traveling valise, which was donated to the college by **John Chamberlain '69** of Le Sueur, Minn., in 2011.

**A**S SOON AS THE MESSAGES began rolling in congratulating **Kristin Beckmann '92** on being named deputy mayor of St. Paul she noticed a theme.

"Almost every note came with a line like, 'Hey I've got this issue,' or 'I have an idea for a food truck,' or 'There's a Porta-Potty in front of my window that I want gone,'" Beckmann says. "Big issues, little issues—the vast majority involved roads."

If there's an issue anywhere in the capital city, chances are Beckmann, on the job since May, has her fingers on it. The heads of St. Paul's 12 city departments report to her, and she reports to the mayor.

Beckmann was drawn to the job because of Mayor Chris Coleman's decision two years ago to focus on advancing racial equity in every aspect of city life. For a bureaucracy used to responding to the most vocal residents, it's a sea change to consider equity in decisions about everything from patching potholes to youth programming. For Beckmann, the challenge is one she has been preparing for her entire life.

# SECOND IN COMMAND

A city focus on racial equity persuaded **Kristin Beckmann '92** to become St. Paul's deputy mayor.

BY **BETH HAWKINS** → PHOTOS BY **STEVE NIEDORF '72**

She grew up in Omaha, Nebraska, in a Roman Catholic family that deeply valued the concept of service. The more you have, the more you give, she was taught. Arriving at Macalester in 1988, she realized she could live those values on a much bigger scale. "Mac opened up the whole world—politically, socially and philosophically," Beckmann recalls. "But in a safe space."

Beckmann gravitated toward activism. She volunteered for Paul Wellstone's first U.S. Senate campaign in 1990 and pestered then-brand new political science professor Adrienne Christiansen into helping her conduct and present research on Wellstone's use of humor.

Christiansen, laughs Beckmann, "pushed me to do things I thought I was too smart to do," such as read the work of Republican speechwriter Peggy Noonan.

Beckmann and her husband, **Robert Richman '95**, first "hung out" at a rally for Michael Dukakis. After graduation, the two moved around the country staffing political campaigns, but "we always came back to St. Paul," says Beckmann, who now makes her home with Richman and their two children in the Summit-University neighborhood. "It's home to us. We're the Mac grads who never left."

Richman went on to co-found Grassroots Solutions, a consulting firm that helps campaigns and advocacy organizations mobilize support. Beckmann earned a master's degree at the University of Minnesota's Humphrey School of Public Affairs and began running the political program of the Service Employees International Union.

In 2009 she became vice president of programs and services for Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity. There she polished the operational skills key to ensuring that a city's countless moving parts all pull in the same direction. She was a natural, according to Habitat CEO and mentor **Susan Haigh '73**.

"The whole region will be 40 percent people of color in 30 years. If we continue to have these disparities we're going to have problems maintaining our level of prosperity," says Haigh, who also chairs the Met Council. "The ability to make a vision and a dream come true is the ability to execute on the fly. Kristin excels at that."

"I love to write a plan and work a plan," Beckmann agrees. "How else do you build 60 houses a year using volunteer labor and public money?"

Last year she was tapped to co-chair the transition team of new Minneapolis Mayor Betsy Hodges, who won office by building a coalition around social justice issues. There, Beckmann saw the power of city government to make change. "I thought about leaving Habitat for Humanity to work with Betsy," she says, "but it really just kept coming back to, 'I am a St. Paul girl.'"

Call it career kismet. While driving to work shortly after having that realization, she heard on the radio that St. Paul's deputy mayor was resigning. "When I got to work there was a message," she says. "Do you want to have coffee with Mayor Coleman?"

She did indeed, and Coleman, now in his third term, was thrilled. "The deputy mayor's key quality is the ability to juggle a thousand balls," he says. "This is a natural progression from what she had been doing in her career so far."

Beckmann's first test was starting her job at the end of a brutal winter that had taken a huge toll on the city's infrastructure and services. "I walked in the door and Chris said, 'Fix the

roads,'" she says. Specifically, he wanted St. Paul's "Terrible Twenty"—among them Mac-area thoroughfares Grand, Hamline, and Fairview—made safe to drive, walk, and bike before the snow flies.

Sixty percent of people who drive in St. Paul don't live in St. Paul; they come to the city to access state government or to use its infrastructure. So Beckmann must balance the city's position as a statewide resource with the needs of St. Paul residents—especially those third who are living in poverty and least likely to call City Hall.

"One of the first things I learned about equity is that you don't base your work on complaints," she says. "If we based our decisions about distributing resources on complaints, we'd only fix Highland Park and Crocus Hill."

Beckmann would like to leave her adopted city a place where every resident has access to opportunities. "When I was at Mac, we were told not to go beyond Selby Avenue," she says. "I don't want there to be barriers like that anymore." ■

**BETH HAWKINS** is an award-winning journalist who writes for MinnPost, Mother Jones, and other regional and national publications.



St. Paul deputy  
mayor Kristin  
Beckmann '92 on  
the Wabasha Bridge  
near City Hall.





# ink Spot

**Brianne Farley '06** is building an impressive career  
as a children's book author and illustrator.

BY ELIZABETH TANNEN '05 → PHOTOS BY EVAN SUNG

"I thought it was going to be terrible news!" says **Brianne Farley '06**, vividly recalling the day she found out that her acclaimed picture book, *Ike's Incredible Ink*, was picked up for publication. "I'd forgotten my phone at home," she recalls. "And I saw this email from my agent that said I needed to call him back with a glass of wine in my hand!"

At the time Farley was working as a design assistant at Random House. When she returned her agent's call, it took her a minute to realize that not only was the book going to be published, but it would be published by Candlewick, one of her favorite presses, and they wanted to sign her for a two-book deal.

"I was trying to remain calm," she says. "Like, 'Oh, sure, great, cool' but while I was on the phone I was literally jumping up and down on my bed!"

It was November 2011: a year since her agent had begun trying to find a home for the book, and almost two years since she had written

it for a course at the Savannah College of Art and Design. "On the first day of class our professor asked us to come to the next session with thumbnails and a manuscript for whatever we wanted to illustrate," she remembers. "We had two days to do it."

Fortunately, the idea for *Ike* had been brewing for a while in Farley's mind: it's about a character whose storytelling efforts are stymied by a bad case of writer's block. "I'd tried it as a short story," she says. "And then as a graphic novel. But thinking about it as a children's book really helped me simplify it."

She knew she wanted the *Ike* character to be an inkblot: his procrastination technique would be his quest for the perfect materials for his ink. In the two days before that second class, Farley hunkered down with a few of her favorite picture books, including *Olivia* and *Where the Wild Things Are*, studying the way their artwork was organized, the patterns of spot and full-page illustrations.





**Brianne Farley '06**  
in her home studio  
in Brooklyn.





**Above and right: Two spreads from Farley's book *Ike's Incredible Ink***

Although her professor only required students to finish three spreads, by semester's end Farley had completed all 12 for the book. For the *Ike* artwork, Farley drew heavily on her experience at Macalester, where she had minored in studio art. In printmaking classes with Professor Ruthann Godollei, Farley had learned a technique called *chine-colle*, in which precut paper is bonded to base paper in a fashion that resembles collage, but creates the appearance of embossing. "I like collage," she says. "But for *Ike* I wanted something more refined."

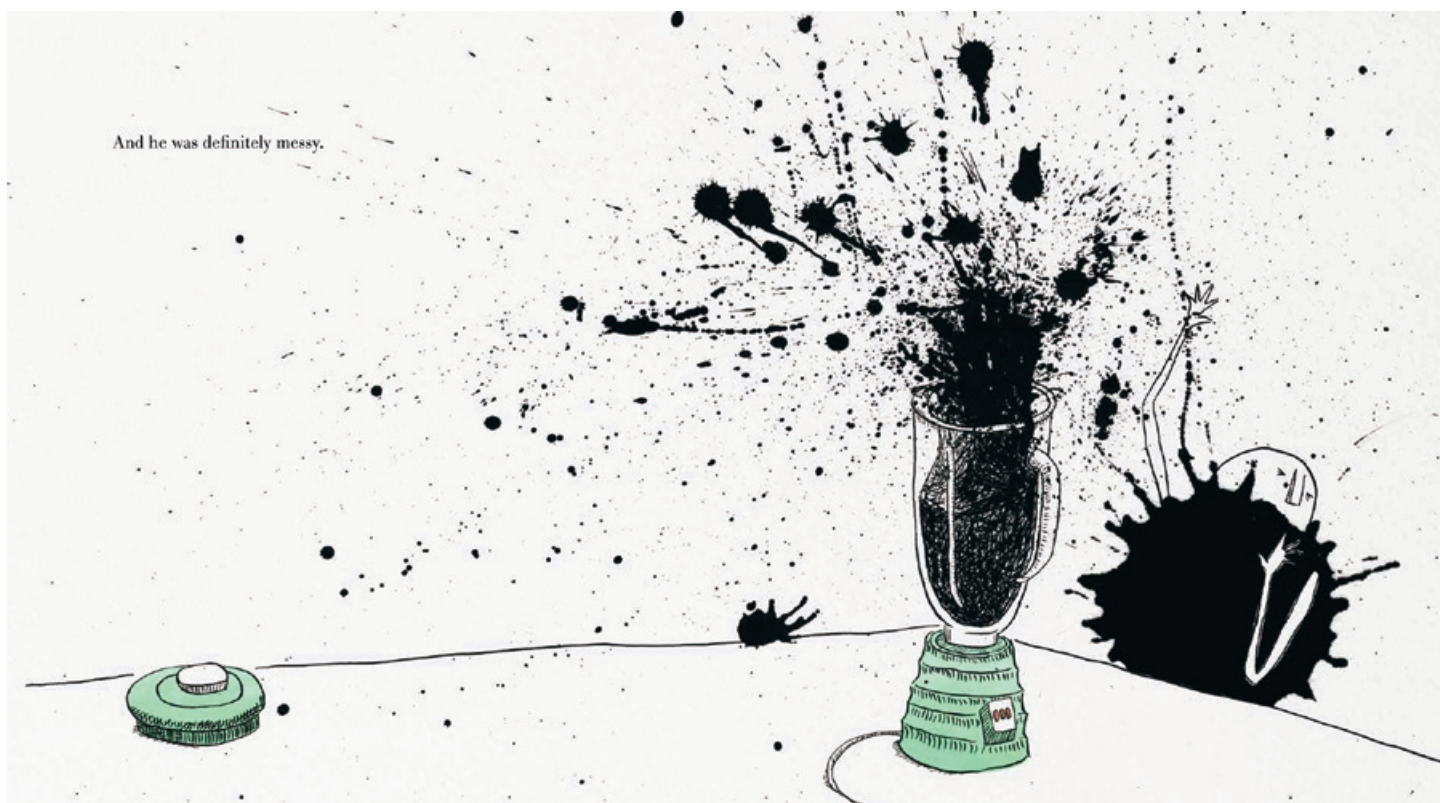
Her process integrates digital work with manual drawing: she scanned her "library" of ink splotches representing Ike's body along with found paper—ranging from vintage graph paper to dry cleaning tags—then used Photoshop to digitally collage the paper and her ink drawings, which she drew by hand. The vibrant, playful black and white illustrations show the trajectory of Ike's extravagant efforts to collect things like shadows, a booga-bird feather, and a piece of the dark side of the moon.

While enjoying the success of *Ike* (it won a 2014 Ridgway Honor Award and was chosen for the Society of Illustrators Original Art Show), Farley is keeping busy at her home studio—a nook in her apartment with IKEA lights and a glass piece for a desk—working on her second book for Candlewick. This one draws on her childhood experiences living in rural northern Michigan, and follows a pair of sisters as they concoct an elaborate fantasy about a tree fort. Hoping to continue writing children's books, she's already at work on a couple more manuscripts.

Farley is freelancing for Random House now, which allows her to focus more on design. She's also volunteering with 826NYC, part of the Dave Eggers-founded national franchise of tutoring centers (see "Education Rock Stars," Spring 2014). Farley first learned about the organization while a student at Macalester, and volunteered for the Chicago branch while living there. She calls the Comic Book workshops and other activities she's involved with at 826NYC as among her favor-



*The former editor was so enthusiastic after taking a printmaking class that her parents insisted she switch careers.*



ite activities. “I love the work they do and it’s just an inspiring place to hang out,” she says.

Also on that list of favorites is editorial illustration, an arena where Farley is finding increasing success, having recently sold illustrations to such prominent publications as *McSweeney’s* and *The New York Times*. “Children’s books are like a marathon and editorial work is like a sprint,” says Farley. “I really like exercising those different parts of my brain.”

She also draws just for herself and her followers; Farley’s Tumblr account includes frequent posts of miniature black and white ink sketches, often accompanied by the hashtag *#tinydrawing* (she hates to waste paper, so tends to work on a small scale).

The drawings, in her trademark playful style, reveal a real enthusiasm for her work—a career that took the former English major by surprise. “I thought I wanted to be an editor,” she says. During college she dutifully held internships at a New York publisher and at Minneapolis’s

Coffee House Press, but quickly realized she wasn’t cut out for the day-to-day work of the publishing business.

In Chicago, she switched to working as an administrative assistant at The Art Institute of Chicago, which allowed her to take studio art classes for free. She was so enthusiastic after taking a weeklong intensive class in which she produced a book from woodblock prints that her parents—both of whom began businesses stemming from their own passions—told her she *must* switch careers.

Several years later, Farley is sure she made the right choice. “When I’m doing the less glamorous bits of designing and writing and illustrating it still doesn’t seem like work to me,” she says. “I mean, it’s not as if I think, ‘Hooray, now I get to format files!’ But if you love your job, you sort of love the whole job.” **M**

---

A former editor and producer for NPR’s *All Things Considered*, **ELIZABETH TANNEN ’05** now writes, edits, and teaches in Minneapolis.

# Rumor Has it

We dig deep to discover the truth behind Macalester's most enduring myths, legends, and mysteries.

BY ERIN PETERSON → ILLUSTRATIONS BY BRIANNE FARLEY '06





Maybe you were on a campus tour when you heard that Macalester alum and benefactor DeWitt Wallace brought a cow to the top of chapel when he was a student. Perhaps you were strolling past Old Main when a friend mentioned the time that Carleton students ferried “the rock” down to Northfield, then mailed it back—postage due.

Like any school with more than 100 years of history, Macalester has a treasure trove of incredible tales that *seem* true enough. Tell the stories often enough, and they develop a sheen of authenticity that seems too good to fact-check.

Until now. To find out the truth behind Macalester’s own urban legends, we dug deep into the archives with archivist and special collections librarian Ellen Holt-Werle, called up experts from Macalester and beyond, and scoured the Web for supporting details. The tales you’ve heard are sometimes true. They’re sometimes false. And they’re sometimes not nearly as interesting as what actually happened.

### **Rumor #1: Dupre was designed as a riot-proof dorm, and was a “cast-off” design from another college.**

**True or False:** False.

**The backstory:** There’s plenty to love about the Macalester’s campus architecture—the beautiful, historic Old Main, the bright and spacious Leonard Center. But you’ll have to forgive us if we don’t sing the praises of the boxy structure with tiny windows on the northern edge of campus that looks as if it were built on stilts to prepare for Minnesota’s non-existent hurricane season.

Students have long speculated that Dupre looks as it does—concrete with gun-turret-style windows—because it was designed to be riot-proof. Those narrow windows would certainly prevent unruly students from hurling chairs from the top story, for example.

But the facts get in the way. While student unrest was something that administrators had to seriously consider by the late 1960s, Dupre was built in 1962, years before student outrage had reached a fever pitch. Macalester administrators may be forward thinking, but they’re not fortunetellers.

Other theories hold that Macalester, strapped for cash, simply borrowed the design of the dorm from one at the University of Miami, where student housing might actually be required to withstand hurricanes.

But in 2006, then-Dupre Hall director Brian Curfman debunked the rumors with the even (ahem) uglier truth. “Dupre’s architecture is representative of many buildings that were built across the country at that time,” he told *The Mac Weekly*, a style known as Brutalist architecture, examples of which are found on campuses across the world. Still, the riot-proof dorm assumptions have proved surprisingly durable and widespread: Kenyon, Yale, and Colgate students also frequently (and inaccurately) insist that their ’60s-era dorms were built to quell rioting students.



## Rumor #2: DeWitt Wallace led a cow to the top of Old Main.

**True or False:** False. (Macalester has been the site of at least one cow prank, but Wallace was probably not among the practical jokers.)

**The backstory:** There's a reason that the definitive book of college pranks is called *If at All Possible, Involve a Cow*: Bringing livestock to the top of a campus's tallest building is one of the most popular college pranks of all time, and Macalester is no exception.

While you might be hard-pressed to find a cow in the heart of St. Paul today, that was not the case a century ago. On Halloween night 1923, as part of what may be the most extensive collection of stunts ever conceived and executed at Macalester in a single night, a cow was indeed brought to the third floor of Old Main (then the chapel). "I don't really know who took the cow up to the chapel," reported **Mabel Frey '24** in a 1978 issue of *The Mac Weekly*. "Those sorts of things were kept hush-hush. But I remember there were also chickens in the women's restroom." **Frank Paskewitz '25** confirmed both the cow and chicken stories.

But it turns out that the cow and the chickens were only the crowning achievements of a crazy night. According to stories recounted by alums, pranksters didn't just bring livestock into Old Main: they painted sidewalks and smokestacks, tossed toilet paper around, and hung a toilet from the building's ceiling. They also barricaded classroom doors with chairs and sealed them shut with plaster of paris. **Richard Hokel '27**, who recounted the story years later in a *Mac Weekly* story, recalled that the dean was furious. "Everyone else," he told the *Weekly*, "enjoyed the day."

Because Wallace left Macalester in 1909, it's unlikely that he participated in the events of that night. Mac's famous benefactor may not have been a paragon of virtue as a student, but he never copped to any farm animal pranks either.

## Rumor #3: Carleton stole Mac's rock and returned it postage due.

**True or False:** False—probably.

**The backstory:** It's brilliantly devious, the idea that Carleton students would spirit the much-beloved 700-pound rock from Macalester's campus, only to return it at massive expense to Macalester. It's just the sort of thing those wiley Carls—forever trying to rub their supposed superiority in Macites' faces—would do.

It's a fantastically crazy tale. And it just may be too good to be true.

To be fair, the tale comes up in a 1965 *Mac Weekly* story about the rock. Yet even in that reference it is mentioned only in an aside, the source of which already seemed lost to the mists of time. "A few years ago," the author wrote in that 1965 article, "The Rock found its way to Carleton and was mailed back—collect!"

But that's it: A single sentence referring to an event that happened at some indeterminate point in the past, a tale that didn't merit any ink when it happened. The story is mentioned repeatedly in future articles, but always referring back to that single line in that single story in 1965.

Perhaps it makes sense, though, that Macalester wouldn't want to share the details of this humiliating prank in its paper of record. So we decided to check with Carleton. Surely a prank so clever would be recounted in the greatest possible





detail by Carleton alumni for generations? Perhaps written up in a celebratory front-page story for the campus newspaper?

Longtime Carleton College archivist Eric Hillemann admits that the tale came as a surprise to him. “In 24 years as Carleton’s archivist, I’ve heard a lot of good Carleton stories being savored and resavored in conversations with alumni and others, including a lot of very good prank stories,” he says. “But I do not recall ever hearing so much as a whisper of this.” After checking the college archives, he found that no story concerning the supposed

prank had ever appeared in Carleton’s campus paper, *The Carletonian*.

To double-check his memory and that of the newspaper, he contacted the members of Carleton’s alumni listserv, asking them to share any details they had heard—or perhaps to encourage the guilty party to come forward. Not a single story surfaced.

Of course, while it’s often easy to confirm a tale, dis-confirming a story like this can be nearly impossible. Still, we’re pretty convinced that this story is apocryphal.



## **Rumor #4: Macalester denied teaching evolution to its students.**

**True or False?** True.

**The backstory:** If you thought the battle over teaching intelligent design in schools has been intense recently, you might look back at the evolution-in-the-schools war that raged in St. Paul in the mid-1920s. Jeanne Hलगren Kilde lays out the tale in all of its astonishing detail in *Nature and Revelation: A History of Macalester College* (University of Minnesota Press, 2010).

In 1926, a Macalester donor wanted to know if the school was corrupting students with “evolutionary thinking.” It was a serious charge, and then-president John Acheson wrote the donor back, stating that, “No Godless evolutionary theory is being exploited at Macalester College in any department of the institution.” The reality is likely messi-

er—the much-beloved biology professor O.T. Walter was teaching at the school then, and at least one alumna remembers him teaching evolution in the 1930s.

When another supporter hurled the evolution accusation at Macalester while President Acheson was on an extended vacation, the Virginia, Minn., minister and Macalester parent Arthur G. Bailey stepped in to state that key religious allies believed “the safest institution in [Minnesota], and most free from godless evolution...was Macalester College.” (The real culprits, according to religious leaders at the time, were Carleton College and the University of Minnesota.) Up through at least 1928, Macalester administrators continued to firmly refute any rumors that the school was teaching evolution to its students.

Today, of course, even impressionable first-year students can sign up for the class History and Evolution of the Earth, in which they learn all about evolution during our planet’s 4.6 billion years of existence.



## **Rumor #5: Secret tunnels lie beneath campus.**

**True or false?** True (though they're not secret)

**The backstory:** What's not to like about secret passageways? They lead to Narnia or the Batcave and hold magic potions and priceless treasures, right? Well, not *all* of them, and certainly not those beneath Macalester. The college's tunnels are strictly utilitarian, says director of facilities services Nathan Lief. Starting in the basement of the fine arts center and branching out to each building on campus, these tunnels bring utilities—such as steam, chilled water, and electric power—across campus.

If you don't recall seeing a tunnel entrance during your student days, it's for good reason. The 13,000-volt utility feeds and high-pres-

sure steam can both be lethal, which is why entrances are unlabeled, found in out-of-the-way corners, and behind locked doors. In other words, students won't be using them as underground passageways to classes anytime soon.

Even facilities staff members rarely venture into the tunnels, since appropriate preparation can be extensive. "We have to force air through to make sure there's a non-stagnant environment," Lief says. "We sometimes have to do environmental testing to make sure there's not a buildup of carbon monoxide or dioxide. We have to set up lifelines so that if something should happen, the person inside can be rescued."

And besides that, the tunnels are just generally unpleasant. "They're dark. They're dank. Have you ever seen *Nightmare on Elm Street*? It's like that," says Lief. "There's nothing nice about them."





## **Rumor #6: Dancing was once forbidden at Macalester.**

**True or false?** True.

**The backstory:** There was a time when the President of Macalester himself set the school's dancing policy, which was this: no opposite-sex dancing, period.

For at least the first 29 years of the college, dancing was forbidden at the school with a slippery slope argument. President James Wallace insisted—to the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, no less—that it led to “spoonery,” but by the early 1900s, support for the policy started to crumble.

To express their dissatisfaction with the draconian policy, Mac students did what they have always done: first, they had a spirited debate. And then they took action. According to Jeanne Halgren Kilde's *Nature and Revelation*, in early 1903, students in the literary society hosted a

debate on the dancing ban. Though no results were recorded, we're willing to bet that the debate was not settled by a dance-off. At any rate, the campus remained dance-free.

Later that year, with the no-dancing policy still in force, students staged their own form of protest. After a late-night social at the YWCA, a dozen couples climbed up to the Macalester chapel's third floor. They locked the door, put a student on guard, and held a tiny, illicit ball. “We didn't dare turn on the lights,” one student later told the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*. “They would have been easily seen from the professors' homes, so we danced in the dark.”

Though Wallace called the incident “scandalous and diabolical,” none of the students were disciplined, and the no-dancing rule was later abandoned. **M**

---

**ERIN PETERSON**, a Minneapolis writer, is a regular contributor to Macalester Today.



Denitza Batchvarova '06  
in the Ultimate Fighting  
Championship ring in  
Las Vegas.





# Ultimate Exec

**Denitza Batchvarova '06** uses her business skills to help run a company promoting mixed martial arts.

BY JULIE CANIGLIA → PHOTO BY RYAN REASON/SQUARE SHOOTING

**A**ny dream job originates with a passion; for **Denitza Batchvarova '06** it was sports. Growing up in Bulgaria, she followed a classic fan tradition, reading the newspaper from the sports section in the back to the news in front. “I constantly followed football—soccer, not American football, she says. “You really can’t avoid it in Europe. And since Bulgaria’s best national team sport is volleyball, I got interested in that, too.” When the Bulgarian team placed fourth in the 1996 Olympics, Batchvarova was inspired to train more seriously, eventually playing volleyball for Macalester. Then there was Formula One racing, which her brother introduced her to.

Later, after she’d earned her degree in economics and was working as an investment banker in New York, she stumbled upon *The Ultimate Fighter*, a reality TV series that takes 16 contestants, has them train and fight together, and then compete to win a contract with the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC).

The UFC developed to pit masters of martial arts styles against each other to determine which style was superior: boxing vs. jiu-jitsu, karate vs. *muay thai*, and so forth. Eventually, the practitioners began incorporating numerous styles into one sport, now known as mixed martial arts (MMA). “Once I learned what it takes to be a UFC athlete—the years of training, the preparation leading up to a fight, the dedication—it’s hard not to admire them,” says Batchvarova.

Two years ago she learned that the friend of a friend worked in the investment and strategy department at the UFC’s parent company, Zuffa, LLC (*zuffa* means scuffle or fight in Italian). She quickly arranged an informational interview, all the while assuming she’d probably keep working in a more traditional financial job.

But as it turned out, a few months later Zuffa was hiring. Batchvarova quit Citigroup Global Markets, where she was in line for a promotion, and left New York for Las Vegas. “Many colleagues thought I was throwing my career away,” she says. “I was rolling the dice a bit, moving to a lower paying job in corporate America. But I knew more about the UFC than the average person, so it was actually a calculated risk.”

Batchvarova readily acknowledges that ultimate fighting is polarizing. “People who don’t like the UFC just see two people brawling.” But for her and other fans, a UFC competition is more like a chess match that requires brawn as well as brains. “People are trying to understand the strategies and who’s winning and why. For the athletes, it’s about which moves will confuse your opponent, and what you know about your opponent. There are techniques and strategies they must adjust throughout the match. It’s cool to watch from that perspective, and to listen to them review the fight afterwards.”

Now that Batchvarova is working as Zuffa’s vice president of strategy and business ventures, she’s even more sure that the UFC is an ideal match for her—and not just because of its rapid global growth. As a vertically integrated organization, she points out, it has “full control of the brand,” including its representation, event venues, ticket prices, and broadcasting deals. “We acquire talent, contracting with individual fighters and acquiring new MMA leagues. We make sure the fighters are taken care of, even though they’re independent contractors. We make decisions here at headquarters and we move on.” This distinguishes the UFC from other major league sports in the U.S., which comprise the league organization, a host of separately owned teams, and players’ associations—each with its own objectives and decision-making processes.

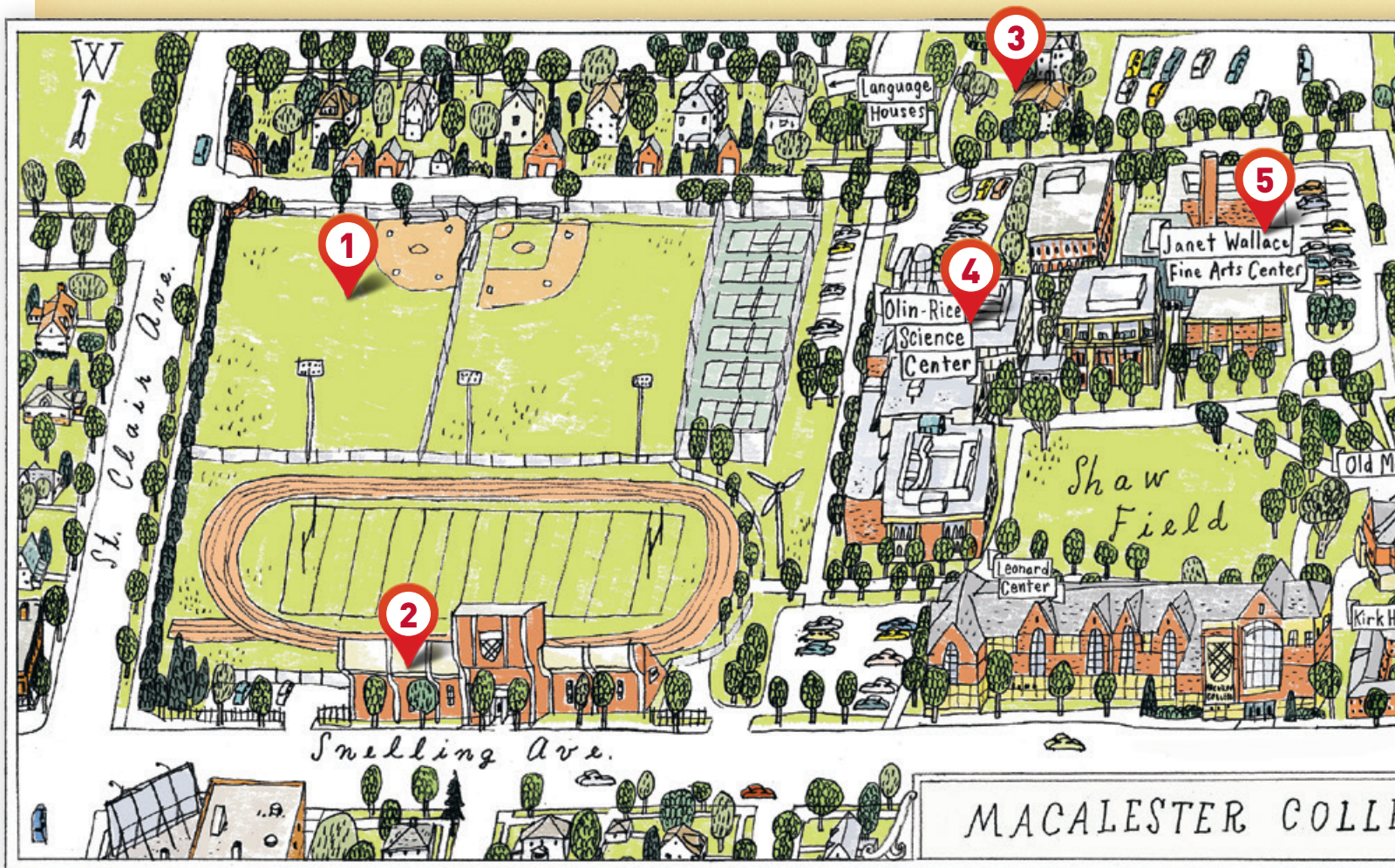
As for her job, “it’s kind of difficult to describe,” says Batchvarova. “It’s like being a jack of all trades.” While she can’t talk about UFC’s long-term projects or strategies (just as she can’t name her favorite UFC fighters), in general, she works with Zuffa’s executives and business department leaders, helping to develop growth strategies for everything from events, products, and content to marketing and sponsorship. Recent projects included brokering an agreement with a 4D theater company and managing joint ventures to develop UFC-branded fitness centers and in-home training programs.

Regardless of what she’s working on, “it all goes back to thinking strategically and analytically about the next steps. Where do we go in the next five years? How do we get there?” She credits that approach—“asking the bigger questions around any action”—to her college education: “I love Macalester,” she says. “It opened my eyes to the world and made me think critically about everything that’s put in front of me.” In her first months at Citigroup, Batchvarova thought her colleagues who’d graduated from major business schools had an advantage. But she quickly realized that “they didn’t have the ability to think from different angles, to think creatively. They were very much linear thinkers, following formulas.” Macalester trained her in such expansive inquiries: “That’s how I was able to catch up and get where I am now.”

After two years at Zuffa, Batchvarova remains thrilled to have a job building the business end of one of her favorite sports. One of the interviews for this profile took place the morning after UFC 173, a match the *Las Vegas Sun* called an “upset for the ages,” in which 8-to-1 underdog T.J. Dillashaw ended Renan Barao’s 32-match winning streak with a total knock-out. “It was such a historic fight, I woke up this morning still not believing what I got to see last night,” she says, the amazement apparent in her voice. “I love to be here working and also be a fan in my heart.” ■

JULIE CANIGLIA is a Minneapolis writer and editor.

# MAC MAP



1

Cross-country team given to streaking here

3

Newest affinity house, Food House—where residents “try to cook”

5

“J-Wall” coffee cart—when Dunn Bros. feels too far

2

Veggie Co-op buried within these walls

4

Busiest building in summer months

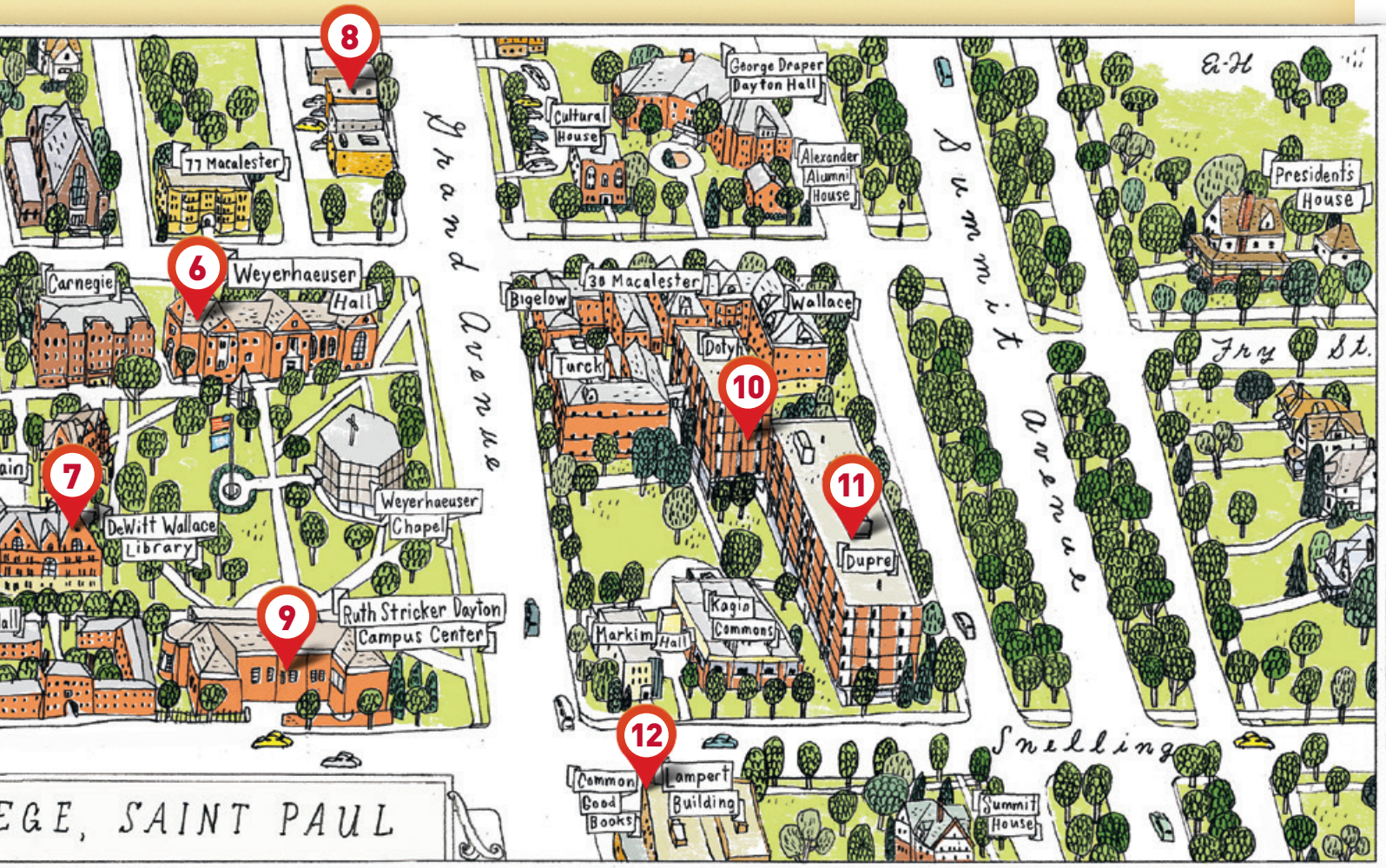
6

Prez and dazed touring teens found here



# An irreverent look at a well-loved campus

ILLUSTRATION BY ERIC HANSON



7

Iconic campus building,  
frequently photographed

9

Always free popcorn  
in basement!

11

Infamous '60s  
bunker-style dorm

8

Shish Middle Eastern  
restaurant=longtime  
Mac fave

10

2nd floor Doty, all  
men, a.k.a. "Bro-ty"

12

Garrison Keillor  
sightings here



# *Life on the River*

The Mississippi, flowing just a mile from campus, exerts a strong pull on student life at Macalester.

BY GREG BREINING → PHOTO BY DAVID J. TURNER









**D**awn is the bewitching hour. Fog rises from the glasslike river. Shadows of cliffs loom to right and left as the indigo sky above turns slowly to bright blue. The cities on either side of the river—St. Paul to the east, Minneapolis to the west—begin to stir as traffic crosses the black arch of the Lake Street bridge.

**Clara Friedman '16**, a biology major, hauls down to the Mississippi every morning at six during the autumn rowing season. As rowers slide their shells into the river and climb aboard, soft gray light filters into the gorge. As they pull at their oars, beating a path upriver toward St. Anthony Falls, daylight suddenly strikes the western bank. "It's beautiful when all the trees turn color," says Friedman. "They're red and yellow and orange. There's wildlife. We see bald eagles swooping in front of us."

The Mississippi, despite lingering pollution and the existence of two major cities on its banks, is a stretch of unrealized wilderness. Biology professor Dan Hornbach takes his environmental studies students to the confluence of the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers to test water quality. "When we go down to Fort Snelling and start looking along the river, many of them ask, 'How can we be in the city?' They're surprised by the beautiful river system they have so close to Macalester."

The Mississippi flows with the power of a landscape that stitches together the nation, from the forests of northern Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico. It has a strong connection to the Macalester campus, barely more than a mile away. Students wander down Summit Avenue to hang out on the river bluff, bike along the river trails, take classes and conduct research, wading in the river's waters and scrambling along its banks and floodplain forests. Professors incorporate the river into their classes, and alumni work for conservation organizations. But one of the college's most notable river connections is the Katharine Ordway Natural History Study Area, located on the bluffs and floodplain overlooking a backwater lake halfway between St. Paul and Hastings, 15 miles from campus.

**Samuel Adels '09** grew up in Philadelphia, on the banks of the Delaware, a well-known river in its own right. But once he decided to attend Macalester, he grew really excited knowing he'd be living near America's most famous waterway. "It's the Mississippi, you know?" says Adels. "It's a big deal in American history and the continental ecosystem." Adels earned a degree in environmental studies and wrote his honors paper on using explorers' and settlers' journals to determine the native plant communities along the river. His most exciting discovery was finding unpublished journals from Henry David Thoreau when he visited Minnesota.

"The river really fascinated me," says Adels, now an environmental educator at the New York University's Wallerstein Collaborative for Urban Environmental Education in New York City. "Everyone kind of hangs out by the river. It's right there. It's a huge part of living in the Twin Cities."

## *A Tale of Two Rivers*

The Mississippi River isn't pristine. It isn't the river Zebulon Pike ascended when he bought the land for Fort Snelling in 1805. The river exceeds water quality standards for mercury, bacteria, sediment, and nutrients, and industrial chemicals such as PCBs. But it's also not the sewer that people imagine it to be. The river harbors more than 200 species of fish and dozens of freshwater mussel species. Nearby wildlife include red and gray foxes, raccoons, beaver and muskrats, even river otters. Black-crowned night herons prowl the banks at dusk, and great blue heron wade the backwaters for fish. Bald eagles continue to make a strong comeback: At last count, 48 pairs nested between Dayton and Hastings, including one nest by the I-35 bridge in downtown Minneapolis.

When Dan Hornbach takes his classes to the river, they hike the trails through Fort Snelling State Park over Pike Island. That's the low-lying sliver of alluvial soils and forest that formed where the Minnesota River, flowing from west-central Minnesota, joins that Mississippi, which runs from the forests and dairy country of northern and central Minnesota.

There, they wade into the river and take "grab samples" of the water from both rivers, testing each for turbidity, acidity, and concentrations of dissolved oxygen and ions.

They do all those tests to show students the kind of fieldwork that goes on, but also to demonstrate how different two rivers joining together can be, says Hornbach. The students learn that the Mississippi, which has already flowed through downtown Minneapolis, is usually cleaner than the Minnesota, which arrives from western Minnesota farm country loaded with nutrients and sediment. Hornbach says they not surprisingly often assume it will be the opposite.

The Mississippi wasn't always so clean, of course. It was a very different river just 80 years ago, when Minneapolis and St. Paul dumped raw sewage into it, relying on the current to flush it away. Beginning in 1938, the cities gradually began filtering and then breaking down the organic waste in the sewage before adding it to the river. Even so, until the 1960s, organic crud fed a crop of microbes that consumed all the river's oxygen, leaving none for fish or other aquatic life. Except for bacteria, says Hornbach, "basically the Mississippi River was a desert."

Since then, improvements in sewage collection and treatment have dramatically improved water quality. Where once virtually no fish swam, anglers now catch game fish including smallmouth bass, walleye, channel and flathead catfish, white bass, and northern pike. Mayflies, whose nymphs live for up to several years in the bottom sediments, emerge as adults and swarm above the river by the billions. During profuse "hatches," cities have had to activate snowplows to clear bridges and roadways. As inconvenient as massive bug hatches may be, says Hornbach, "that's really an indication of hugely improved water quality."

---

*"It's beautiful when all the trees turn color. They're red and yellow and orange. There's wildlife. We see bald eagles swooping in front of us."* —CLARA FRIEDMAN '16, biology major

---



---

*“The river really fascinated me. Everyone kind of hangs out by the river. It’s right there. It’s a huge part of living in the Twin Cities.”*

—SAMUEL ADELS ’09, *Environmental educator*

---



Sam Adels '09, who wrote his honors project on native plant communities along the Mississippi, is now an environmental educator in New York. He's shown here along the Atlantic coastline outside New York City.

---

## *A National River*

---

In 1988, the 72 miles of the river from Dayton to Hastings was designated the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area. This national park includes dozens of islands and parks upstream from the Twin Cities. In town, the designation incorporates the natural and manmade artifacts of the early Twin Cities, including St. Anthony Falls, the Mill City Historic District, the steep-walled gorge between Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnehaha Falls, the historic Coldwater Spring, and Fort Snelling. The river is lined with miles of bike trails and several boat access points.

“It’s such a great asset,” says **Anna Waugh ’08** of the Mississippi River Fund (MRF). “It’s so close to the campus.” With all these attractions, you’d think people would swarm to the river like, well, mayflies. But getting people to the river is often a challenge.

Waugh is the project manager and volunteer coordinator for the MRF, a nonprofit auxiliary to the National Park Service. “We have two main missions,” she says. “One is to get people to the river and experiencing the river. The other is to support the National Park Service and their programs in education, youth education, adult outreach and recreation, and volunteer programs.”

As a student in environmental studies, Waugh often ran the trails along the river. “It was my personal escape,” she says. Soon after she

graduated, she began work for the River Fund (with another Macalester alum, **Kate Havelin '83**). Waugh organizes wilderness canoe adventures on the urban river, taking summer school students out in big voyageur canoes. She also organizes work crews, cleaning up trash and removing invasive species such as buckthorn.

The river, she says, “is an amazing natural area. It’s so close to so many people that you can easily escape from city life by walking a few blocks or biking. The cities are blessed with so many wonderful parklands, and the river is one of the things that ties all of that parkland together.”

Jeff Evans, an adjunct professor in accounting and investing, knows well the value of the river. “A couple times a week I go down to the river bottoms to get recharged,” he says. “Crosby Farm is one of my favorite places—hiking, biking, birding. It’s a great spot to see warbler migration in early May and waterfowl migration in the fall.”

Evans has volunteered for conservation organizations for 30 years, initially devoting his attention to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. But because he was spending so much time enjoying the urban Mississippi, he “thought I should get involved in protecting that.” Now he serves on the board of directors of Friends of the Mississippi River, a conservation group that lobbies for legislation to protect the river and organizes service projects to restore riverside land. “Here we have a major metropolitan area of three million with a wilderness running right through the heart of it,” says Evans. “We see the same plants and vegetation that settlers would have seen 300 years ago.”

## The “Other Campus”



Macalester’s strongest institutional tie to the Mississippi is the Katharine Ordway Natural History Study Area. The field station, perched on a bluff 200 feet above the backwater known as River Lake, overlooks patches of tall-grass prairie, riparian forest, aspen woodland, and seasonal and permanent ponds and springs—nearly 300 acres in all. Visitors might think they’re alone in a wilderness or transported back in time, but for the oc-

casional jet that thunders overhead as it lifts off from Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport 12 miles to the northwest.

“I like to call this the other campus,” says Jerald Dosch, field station director, dressed this morning in tick-detering insect repellent—laden clothes and high rubber boots.

The property was purchased in 1967, with a donation from Katharine Ordway, an heir to the 3M fortune. Her brother, Richard Ordway, was a member of Macalester’s board of trustees at the time. Katharine was an ardent conservationist determined to protect a key piece of prairie and woodland in the burgeoning Twin Cities.

The protection Ordway intended became more assured in 2012, when Macalester completed a deal with Inver Grove Heights and the Friends of the Mississippi River to sell them—at a discounted rate, with funds provided by the state—a conservation easement on much of Mac’s property. The easement provides Macalester with an endowment

that will fund future operation of the field station and that guarantees the biggest undeveloped area along the river will be preserved. The field station abuts the 1,300-acre Pine Bend Bluffs Natural Area, which includes a 256-acre state scientific and natural area.

One responsibility involved in owning such a choice piece of natural habitat is sustaining the prairie through regular prescribed fires and cutting out the encroaching aspen, oak, and sumac. A patch of overgrown woods near the entrance, for example, was recently restored to tall-grass prairie.

Another responsibility of such a site is to involve the community, which Mac has done in various ways. Dosch himself, for example, recently led 25 Cub Scouts and their families through the property, helping them meet requirements for Cub Scout badges. He also has begun work with aspiring Eagle Scouts on a dock and boardwalk—building project on River Lake.

But the chief purpose of the field station is to provide education and research for Macalester students. The research piece at the Ordway has really grown, he says, and not just for biology students.

For example, anthropology professor Scott Legge was awarded a state historical and cultural heritage grant to survey Ordway for archeological sites. During the 2013 field season, he and his students designed a digging survey to search for the remains of Dakota Indians and their predecessors. “I told the Ordway staff they wrecked those students for life,” says Dosch. “The first day, before lunch, the first four random holes they dug each hit something, including pottery that may be up to 2,500 years old. The students are going to think, ‘This is the way science works. Archeology is easy! Dig a hole and there it is!’”

Another project had geology professor Ray Rogers and student **Jansen Smith '12** burying rat and trout carcasses for various durations (up to two years) to compare their decomposition rates and predict whether fish are underrepresented in the fossil record.

And then there were environmental studies professor Louisa Bradtmiller and **Karoline Hart '11**, who used an ice auger to drill through River Lake ice to get a 14-foot core of sediment from the lake bottom. Their goal was to study variations in the compacted muck in order to characterize historical events and human development, and their effect on the natural environment.

Student work at the field station has even extended to art and dance. Students in Megan Vossler’s class constructed “ephemeral sculptures” on the property, created from found rocks, wood, grasses, and other plant materials, which they left to fall apart or decay when the sculptures were complete. And Becky Heist’s dance students performed and videotaped the dance performance “Terrain” on the Ordway property.

But, as one would expect at a field station found on a riverbank, much of the research has revolved around biology.

Dosch, biology professor Mark Davis, and students have studied the impact of nonnative garlic mustard on native plants in an intact woodland. (Surprisingly little, so far.)

In another exotic species study, biology professor Sarah Boyer and students have examined the community of arthropods that live in the leaf litter beneath common buckthorn, exploring whether it differs in composition and diversity from leaf litter communities found beneath native plants.

National Science Foundation funds allow Mac professors to “engage students in real research—not made-up lab projects,” says Dosch. Among those projects are a turtle population survey, an emerald ash borer survey, and tracking of forest carbon storage. All tie into a continental network of similar research, which expands the range of what is possible at a small liberal arts college. Says Dosch, “You can do this continental-scale ecology that you couldn’t as a small private liberal arts school.”



*“The flags have become a way to share art, hope, and messages of environmental stewardship.”* —WANG PING, English professor



PHOTO: MARISA WOJCIK / MINNESOTA DAILY

English professor Wang Ping's Kinship of Rivers project celebrated the Mississippi River and the Yangtze River in China.

## *Kinship of Rivers*

English professor **Wang Ping** found her relationship to the Mississippi by way of the Yangtze, China's longest river. Wang grew up in Shanghai, which lies at the mouth of the Yangtze, and traveled it extensively a decade ago, writing prose and poetry about the river and the million-plus people displaced by the construction and rising waters of its Three Gorges dam.

That trip inspired Wang to develop her Kinship of Rivers project, which she describes as an interdisciplinary project designed to build bridges between communities along the Mississippi and Yangtze, and to bring awareness to their respective ecosystems through art, literature, music, and food. Among those art projects has been creating “river flags” from hand-dyed cloth—inspired by Tibetan prayer flags—which Wang, her students, and other artists have carried along the Yangtze, the Ganges in India, and the Mississippi and its tributaries to share with riverside communities. The flags, says Wang, have become a way to share art, hope, and messages of environmental stewardship.

A Wallace Scholarly Activities Grant from Macalester has allowed Wang to take writing students on the Mississippi and its tributaries—the St. Croix and Minnesota, which they have used as grist for their writing. On the first trip, the professor and about a dozen students paddled the Minnesota River and met with Dakota Indian historians, storytellers, and medicine practitioners. In four days on the river, the class paddled past many of the sites of the U.S.–Dakota War of 1862. “I could feel the ghosts,” says Wang. Apparently, many of her students could as well. “Their writing was just astonishingly good.”

Since that initial voyage, additional ones by canoe and other means have inspired the writing of dozens more Mac students. The Mississippi is invaluable for that purpose, says Wang, because rivers connect not only their headwaters with their final destination, but everything in between. “I really think a river is such a perfect symbol for human lives, for civilization,” she says. “All civilization was born on the riverbanks.” **M**

**GREG BREINING** is a Minnesota writer specializing in environmental and outdoors topics.





Anna Waugh '08 on the banks of the mighty river she works along and loves.





---

# *River Refuge*

---

BY **ANNA WAUGH '08** → PHOTO BY **DAVID J. TURNER**

On my third day at Macalester, tired of organized group orientations and moving my stuff into Dupre, I headed west on Summit Avenue on a solo adventure. When I reached the end of the street, I asked a stranger at the overlook, “What river is this?” “The Mississippi,” he answered, and I was shocked. I hadn’t known the Mississippi River flowed through Minnesota.

Soon enough, though, that river became my refuge. I hiked along it, biked beside it, and spotted wildlife (pileated woodpeckers! bald eagles!) near it. Once, in the middle of winter, I scaled its sheer ice bluffs alone, adrenaline pumping.

But it wasn’t until two years after graduation that I learned that the 72 miles of the Mississippi River flowing through the Twin Cities is a national park called the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area. Designated by Congress in 1988, this park was envisioned well after the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul were established, and unlike Yellowstone or the Grand Canyon, it has no entrance gate.

The Mississippi breaks the traditional model of “nature” untouched, and many are proud of the human history that stretches back at least two millennia along its banks. The natural world, industry, human cultures, recreation, and beauty joyfully collide in a space that celebrates the intersection between people and place.

Humans have not always respected the river, but over the past 25 years the Mississippi’s urban portion has seen otters return to its banks, dozens of pairs of nesting bald eagles call it home, and countless waterfowl use it as a migration flyway. And people are using the Mississippi in greater numbers, too: biking and walking its paths, paddling along it, and drinking its water, pumped each day from the river to their taps.

Today I greet the river like an old friend as I enjoy teaching kids the value of a prairie plant, seeing adults awestruck by a soaring eagle, and watching volunteers take pride in caring for this place so close to home, yet connected to the rest of the world. **M**

---

**ANNA WAUGH '08** is project manager and volunteer coordinator for the Mississippi River Fund, a nonprofit that supports the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area.



# Foundation Fellows

Two Mac alumni are helping diversify the Twin Cities philanthropy community.

BY ERIN LUHMANN → PHOTO BY DAVID J. TURNER

Many alumni volunteer for philanthropies, but few make the leap to actually working for a philanthropic foundation. And fewer still identify as minorities—the very constituents many of these foundations are responsible for supporting.

Because of this dearth of minority leadership in philanthropies, the executive boards of many foundations do not adequately represent the communities they serve, affecting their direction and priorities.

To address this disconnect, the Minnesota Council on Foundations and the Bush Foundation recently launched a three-year fellowship program to promote diversity in philanthropic leadership. In their first year they selected just four fellows, two of whom are Macalester alumni: **Dameun Strange '95** and **Venessa Fuentes '97**. Both joined the Bush Foundation in January.

"The field of philanthropy has traditionally been pretty insular," says Fuentes, a former grant writer and education associate at the Loft Literary Center who identifies as a writer, artist, and gay woman of color. "This fellowship allows me to have a new level of impact in the communities I believe in and want to support."

"Venessa has a keen sense of humor and a genuine compassion for those around her, which makes for a wonderful working relationship," says longtime Loft colleague Jerod Santek. "Those qualities will serve her well as a Philanthropy Fellow."

Strange, who majored in English and music at Mac, comes from a background in music and arts fundraising. "Dameun was a consistent and enthusiastic member of all my classes and performance ensembles, always contributing positive work," says emeritus music professor Carleton Macy. "I think he can appreciate the many marginalized musical venues we have in our communities."

Recognizing Strange's passion for music, the Bush Foundation placed him on a committee devoted to developing a new arts program, a sector the foundation struggled to sustain during the latest economic downturn. Strange is proud to be involved in shaping this initiative. "If we can offer the arts to communities as a healthy, unifying tool, then our communities will be much better off," he says. "If I can be a part of providing funding to people looking to do that, I will be a happy, happy man."

The Bush Foundation distributed more than \$28.6 million across Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and the 23 Native nations last year. By inviting Strange, Fuentes, and their two fellowship colleagues to learn the grant-selection process from top to bottom, the foundation hopes to equip them to establish themselves in the field of philanthropy while also improving its own level of inclusion.

"We're excited and grateful to have their experienced voices on our team," says Bush community innovation manager Mandy Ellerton. "We're already better for it. They've made big contributions to our strategy around communications and program design. We're already imagining the impact they'll have in years to come."

Both fellows work with Ellerton on the community innovation team, reviewing grant proposals, conducting site visits, participating in the grantee selection process, and helping craft evaluations.

Although the work is intense, says Fuentes, the position fits her well, providing a perfect outlet for her combined passions for the arts and social justice. She's proud, she says, to play a small role in "breaking down the institutionalized racism that limits the potential of foundations to effect change."

As for Strange, he's already been challenged by his



OUN





**Venessa Fuentes '97 (left) and Dameun Strange '95 won three-year philanthropic fellowships.**

responsibilities as a program associate on the one hand and his natural sympathy for the underrepresented groups applying for funding on the other. "It's hard to find that balance between being an advocate and working as part of your foundation's team," he says. "But to have the money stewarded well, we must have people who represent the larger community at the table."

That challenge is one that both Strange and Fuentes have wholeheartedly accepted. The more they expand

their professional networks, they say, the more they've come to realize that diversity in philanthropy is both necessary and attainable. "There aren't a lot of people of color in philanthropy," says Strange, who met some fellow Macalester alumni at a recent gathering of foundation professionals. "The fact that there are so many from Macalester makes for a remarkable story." **M**

---

**ERIN LUHMAN** is a *Twin Cities* freelance writer.



**MACALESTER TODAY** publishes all class notes that we receive. You can send us your note by:

EMAIL: [mactoday@macalester.edu](mailto:mactoday@macalester.edu)

**THE POSTAGE-FREE REPLY CARD** found in copies of the magazine mailed to alumni in the U.S.

**REGULAR MAIL:** Class Notes Editor, Communications and Public Relations, Macalester College, 1600 Grand Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105-1899

**DEADLINES FOR CLASS NOTES:**  
Feb. 15 for the Spring issue;  
May 15 for the Summer issue;  
Aug. 15 for the Fall issue; and  
Nov. 15 for the Winter issue.

**PHOTO POLICY FOR CLASS NOTES:**

- We publish one photo per wedding.
- We do not have space to publish baby photos.
- We welcome photos of alumni gathered together anywhere in the world but cannot guarantee to publish every photo. We publish as many as space permits.
- Photos must be high-resolution (300 dots per inch) or approximately 1MB or greater in file size.

If you have a question about your class note, call Editor Lynette Lamb at 651-696-6452.



## MAC AROUND THE WORLD



Macalester alumni and friends in Mongolia in August 2014 (from left): Wynn Lee, Leah Wortham '70, Anne Silvers Lee '69, Eric Hirschhorn, Rich Burton, Jacquelyn Mobley Cronin '61, geology professor Holly Barcus, Julie Lenhoff Zhu '97

### 1955

*The Class of 1955 will be celebrating its 60th Reunion June 5-7, 2015.*

### 1965

*The Class of 1965 will be celebrating its 50th Reunion June 5-7, 2015.*

**Rolf Peterson** is semi-retired from Peterson Brothers Funeral Home in Willmar, Minn. The *West Central Tribune* reported in June that the business, which recently celebrated its 125th anniversary, has been in the Peterson family for five generations. Rolf's son Lance is now the funeral home's proprietor.

### 1969

**Sara Kemp Graffunder** has posted pictures from the 2014 Macalester Reunion to the Class of 1969's Facebook page. She invites classmates to post their own pictures, comments, and updates.

### 1970

*The Class of 1970 will be celebrating its 45th Reunion June 5-7, 2015.*

**David Nordstrom** spent July through October 2013 in Malawi assisting that country's Ministry of Health in efforts to assess and improve maternal morbidity and mortality. David has a new home in Portland, Ore., in addition to one in Madison, Wis.

**Nancy Westrell** reports that she has become a "crazy dog lady" since her retirement. Her three dogs compete in nose work and flyball racing events in Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia.

### 1971

**Mary Ewing Fairbairn** received the James V. Salzwedel Award for Excellence in Church Music from the Moravian Music Foundation last fall. She was recognized for more than 30 years of service to a small Moravian congregation in

the Twin Cities. Mary is now choir director and organist at Minnehaha United Methodist Church.

**James Young** has retired. "Now I've got to figure out what's next," he writes.

### 1972

**Linda Ekvall Campbell** has retired after 37 years as a school psychologist for the Kalamazoo [Michigan] Public Schools. She planned to start visiting her three sons, all of whom live in other states, this fall.

### 1974

After 29 years as planetarium director at Mayo High School in Rochester, Minn., **Larry Mascotti** has retired. He told the *Rochester Post-Bulletin* in June that he chose to attend Macalester because the college had its own planetarium.

### 1975

*The Class of 1975 will be celebrating its 40th Reunion June 5-7, 2015.*

**Cheryl Jensen Reitan**, associate director of external affairs at the University of Minnesota-Duluth, collaborated with Sue Lorenzi Sojourner on *Thunder of Freedom: Black Leadership and the Transformation of 1960s Mississippi*. Cheryl has given numerous presentations around the country about the book, which tells the story of a group of black farmers who elected the first African American to the Mississippi Legislature in the 20th century. It was a finalist for the 2014 Minnesota Book Award and received an honorable mention for the 2014 Deep South Book Prize.

**Pat Thiel** received the American Vacuum Society's 2014 Medard W. Welch Award for her contributions to the field of surface chemistry, in particular her research on quasicrystals and nanoparticles



on metal and semiconductor surfaces. Pat, a faculty scientist at the Department of Energy's Ames Laboratory and a distinguished professor of chemistry at Iowa State University, is the first woman to receive the award since it was established in 1969.

**1979**

**Steve Bennett** hosted Kit Pierson, Jim Borgel, Dave Bolt, Tony Robertson, Mark Mundahl, **Diane Bratvold '81**, and **Hope Gleicher '81** during a weekend mini-reunion in Sherman, Conn.

**Christina Clark** has been named general counsel at Education Minnesota, a 70,000-member educators' union. Christina began a 19-year stint as a staff attorney with the union in 1990, and then served as executive director of the Minnesota School Employees Association before returning to Education Minnesota.

Nonfiction writer **Marisella Veiga** has been awarded a month-long artist's residency at the Anderson Center in Red Wing, Minn.



## MAC AROUND THE WORLD



**Class of 1965 friends gathered in Curlew, Wash., last summer for what has now become an annual mini-Mac reunion (from left): Carole Chinn-Morales, Evelyn Harm Headen, Betty Green Risser, Dorothy Beaty Gerard, Margee Smith Wheeler, Janet Rudberg Hall, Betty Gackle Davis, Gail Otterness Baker, and Pam Ertsgaard Lien.**



## MAC AROUND THE WORLD



**At their fourth annual Class of 1969 Reunion Women's Retreat, attendees had dinner and then met in small groups to discuss *The Gift of Years* by Joan Chittester. A pretty formidable group both in 1969 and today.**

**1980**

*The Class of 1980 will be celebrating a cluster Reunion June 5-7, 2015.*

**Lewis Hunt** has worked for CSX for 30 years. He plans to attend his Macalester Reunion next year.

**Mary Tubman Livingston** has retired from the City of St. Paul Department of Parks and Recreation. For most of her 35-year career, she planned and led recreational programs for people with disabilities, and more recently designed programs for adults and senior citizens. Mary now plans to embark on a second career as a certified music practitioner and freelance musician.

**1981**

*The Class of 1981 will be celebrating a cluster Reunion June 5-7, 2015.*

**Robert Fass**, the award-winning narrator of more than 100 audiobooks, is becoming an audio publisher with the release of an audio version of Russell H. Greenan's 1968 cult novel *It Happened in Boston?* through Blackstone Audio in December.



# ► Class Notes



## MAC AROUND THE WORLD



Mac friends who got together at the Wildwood Beach Ultimate Tournament in Wildwood, N.J., were (from left): Nolan Levenson '11, Marina Test '10, Charlotte Fagan '12, Lily Gordon-Koven '11, James Mayer '11, Pat Kemp '11, Robert Griffin Schwed '10, and Andrew Anastassi '10.

Robert was also one of 30 photographers to participate in the Bronx Artist Documentary Project, in which 80 Bronx, N.Y., visual artists were photographed at work. The photographs were exhibited at the Andrew Freedman Home this fall.

### 1982

**Julie Adams Branch** was one of 20 artists invited to participate in "20 for 20," an exhibit celebrating the 20th anniversary of Textile Center of Minnesota. Her work was on display in the center's Joan Mondale Gallery from Aug. 28 to Oct. 25.

**Kathryn Linafelter Johnson** "had a ball" when she returned to KMAC/WMCN as a disc jockey during the 2013 Macalester Reunion. She looked forward to doing so again at the 2014 Reunion.

### 1983

**Kenneth Port's** book *Deciphering Japanese War Atrocities: The Story of Doctor and General Shiro Ishii* was published in June.

**Lois Quam** has been named global chief operating officer at The Nature Conservancy. She

appreciates the organization's strong Minnesotan roots and global reach. Lois lives in St. Paul, a block from the Macalester campus.

### 1985

*The Class of 1985 will be celebrating its 30th Reunion June 5-7, 2015.*

### 1987

**David Maeda**, city clerk for Minnetonka, Minn., was interviewed in July by *The Canvass: States and Election Reform*, a newsletter of the National Conference of State Legislatures. He spoke about the challenges he faces in administering elections, particularly those related to absentee voting and voting technology.

### 1988

**Rick Sollom** is senior advisor for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, Division of International Protection, in Geneva.

**Pauline Knaeble Williams** read from and signed copies of her novel *Finding Hollis* at Common Good Books in St. Paul in September. She was joined by



## MAC AROUND THE WORLD



Margaret Westin '74, Janet Lunder Hanafin '66, and Julie Tilgner Ramphal '66 toured Switzerland and northern Italy in June with the Roseville Festival Singers. The 50-voice ensemble finished the tour singing for mass at St. Mark's Basilica in Venice.

**Kathleen Osborne Vellenga '59**, author of *Strangers in Our Midst*.

### 1990

*The Class of 1990 will be celebrating its 25th Reunion June 5-7, 2015.*

**Andrew Volkoff** moved to Chicago in 2013 to become artistic director of About Face Theatre. He directed the Chicago premiere of the play *Brahman/i*, written by **Aditi Kapil '94**.

### 1992

In August, **Dana Scherer** began working for the Congressional Research Service as an economist. She analyzes issues related to competition, mergers, and public policy in the media, telecommunications, and technology industries.

### 1994

Visual artist and poet **Jen Bervin** received a fellowship from the



Bogliasco Foundation. She will be in residency at the Bogliasco Study Center in Italy this fall.

## 1995

*The Class of 1995 will be celebrating its 20th Reunion June 5-7, 2015.*

**Eileen Harrington** is the author of *Exploring Environmental Science with Children and Teens* (American Library Association), an all-in-one resource for public and school librarians on environmental literacy and science and nature programming.

## 1996

**Daniel Moore** has launched Pandion Consulting & Facilitation, a Seattle-based firm that serves businesses and organizations in the travel industry and facilitates leadership and organizational retreats for businesses. He previously co-led the travel company EverGreen Escapes.

## 1998

*The San Francisco Chronicle* profiled **Tom DeCaigny**, the San Francisco Arts Commission's cultural affairs director, in July. Since his appointment to the post in January 2012, Tom has worked to involve artists and educators in the bureaucratic process and to assist struggling nonprofits in danger of being priced out of the city.

## 1999

**Shekinah Stewart** has returned to Minnesota after more than a decade away. During that time she obtained a makeup artist license, worked in retail and as an administrative assistant, and lived in Seattle for nine years. She is now a fine paper buyer with a local paper distributor and lives on the East Side of St. Paul with her boyfriend, whom she originally met more than 20 years ago while working at Davanni's in St. Paul.

## 2000

**Justin Brandon** has finished his second year as upper school director at Moorestown Friends School in suburban Philadelphia. Justin and his wife have a daughter, Josephine.

## 2001

**Sarah Roberts Delacueva** and her husband, Brian, welcomed their first child, Sabrina Luz, on March 27, 2014.

**Sarah Garland** has been promoted to executive editor of *The Hechinger Report*. She has worked for the nonprofit news organization, which produces in-depth coverage on education, since its launch in 2010. She received a Spencer Fellowship in Education Reporting and is the author of two books, most recently *Divided We Fail: The Story of an African American Community That Ended the Era of School Desegregation*.

**Diana Miller** was named a "rising star" in Great Plains Super Lawyers 2014. She practices family law with the Iowa-based firm of Whitfield & Eddy, P.L.C.

## 2002

In August, **Nick Berning** and his husband, Drew, had lunch with **Kathryn Benz**, her husband, Michael, and their son Emmett (1), in Missoula, Mont.

**Gretchen Wolf Burgess** has joined the law firm of Nowlan & Mouat in Janesville, Wis. She practices estate planning and real estate law.

## 2003

**Erica Andersen** received a PhD in genetics from the University of Wisconsin in 2011. She is now assistant professor of pathology at the University of Utah and medical director of the cytogenetics and

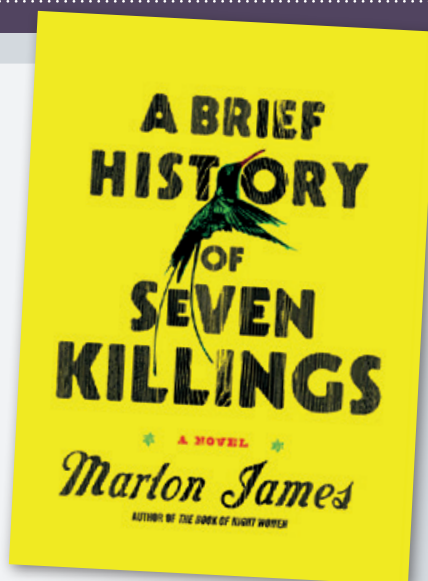
*Continued on page 43 →*

## ► BOOKS

Excerpted from *A Brief History of Seven Killings* by Marlon James, assistant professor of English (RIVERHEAD, 2014)

**L**isten. Dead people never stop talking.

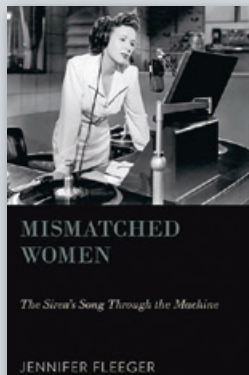
Maybe because death is not death at all, just a detention after school. You know where you're coming from and you're always returning from it. You know where you're going though you never seem to get there and you're just dead. Dead. It sounds final but it's a word missing an *ing*. You come across men longer dead than you, walking all the time though heading nowhere and you listen to them howl and hiss because we're all spirits or we think we are all spirits but we're all just dead.



**Arlin Buyert '64**, *Oh Say Can You See: War Poems* (ARLINBUYERT.COM, 2014)

**Eric Dregni '90**, *By the Waters of Minnetonka* (UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, 2014)

**Jennifer Fleegeer '00**, *Mismatched Women: The Siren's Song Through the Machine and Sounding American: Hollywood, Opera, and Jazz* (BOTH OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2014)

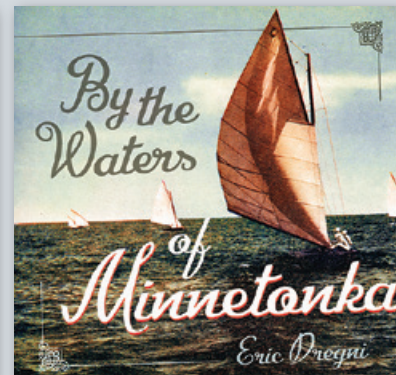


**Jeffrey Helgeson '96**, *Crucibles of Black Empowerment: Chicago's Neighborhood Politics from the New Deal to Harold Washington* (UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO, 2014)

**David Hoppe '73**, *Personal Indianapolis: Thirteen Years of Observing, Exhorting, and Satirizing the Hoosier Capital* (HAWTHORNE, 2014)

**Shawn Lawrence Otto '84**, *Sins of Our Fathers* (MILKWEED, 2014)

**Beth Severy-Hoven**, associate professor of classics, *The Satyricon of Petronius* (UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA, 2014)





# Mac Weddings



**1. Garrett Peters '02** and Emilia Gambale were married on June 7, 2013, in New York.

**2. Elizabeth Larson '10** and **Federico Burlon '10** were married in London, England, on July 26, 2014. Shown here are (from left): John Roslansky '82, Catherine Skluzacek Weide '10, President Brian Rosenberg, the bride and groom, Jeff Larson '79, Steve Bennett '79, Maeve Kane '08, James Mallek '10, Garrett Schneider '10, and Ezequiel Jimenez '13.

**3. Nelli Thomas '10** and **Brian Martucci '09** were married May 25, 2014, in Coon Rapids, Iowa.

**4. Anna Schwartz '05** and Nat Felder were married on June 1, 2014, in Brooklyn, N.Y.







**5. Daniel Schroeder '07** and Ashley Sammis were married in Portland, Ore., on July 26, 2014.

**6. Natasha Suelflow '05** and **Eliza Schrader '05** had a love ceremony in July 2013 in Marlboro, Vt.

**7. Anne Reeder '09** and **Ben Knurr '09** were married May 24, 2014, in Salem, Ore.

**8. Michael Melamed '06** and **Nathalia Brashear Melamed '06** were married on Sept. 3, 2011, in San Jose, Calif..





# Mac Weddings



**1. Alison Albrecht '84** and Robert DeVoe were married on July 19, 2014, in Wayzata, Minn. Karen VanderPloeg '84, Laurie Mangan Schreyer '84, and Nancy Hassinger '84 celebrated with them.

**2. Junius Gunaratne '03** and Lindsay Bennett were married in Brooklyn, N.Y. on May 25, 2014.

**3. Lynn Ernst Kidwell '03** and Nathan Kidwell were married in Dubuque, Iowa, on June 7, 2014.

**4. Teresa Mitchell '05** and Justin Van Dunk were married July 19, 2014, in Akwesasne, N.Y.



## ► Class Notes



### MAC AROUND THE WORLD



Mac grads Stephanie Farrior '74 and Shana Tabak '00, both of whom are now human rights law teachers, met recently at the International Human Rights Clinicians Conference held at Yale University Law School in New Haven, Conn.

→ Continued from page 39  
genomic microarray lab at ARUP Laboratories in Salt Lake City.

**Sonya Clarkson** completed a PhD in microbiology from the University of Georgia in 2011. Since 2012 she has conducted postdoctoral research at the Department of Energy's Oak Ridge National Laboratory, focusing on the metabolic engineering of microorganisms to generate renewable bioenergy products. She plans to share her enthusiasm for traditional Scottish dancing by becoming a dance instructor.

**Dan Eisenbeis** received a German Chancellor Fellowship from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation.

**Kaebah Orme-Evans** earned a medical degree from Oregon Health & Science University and now practices as a resident physician in obstetrics and gynecology at the University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill.

### 2005

*The Class of 2005 will be celebrating its 10th Reunion June 5–7, 2015.*

### 2008

**Andrea Hansen-Miller** and Neil Miller welcomed their first child, Freya Elanor Miller, on Aug. 11, 2014.

### 2010

*The Class of 2010 will be celebrating its 5th Reunion June 5–7, 2015.*

### 2011

**Emma Locatelli** is pursuing a PhD in paleontology at Yale and volunteers for the Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History. She is conducting a crowdfunding campaign on Experiment.com to support her work on a thesis chapter about the impact of decay on plant fossil formation.

## What's it all about?

Spend 10 minutes with a Mac professor and find out!

Our new online web series, MacTalks, allows you to hear from your favorite professor, whenever you're ready.



## MacTalks

[Macalester.edu/alumni/alumnicollege](http://Macalester.edu/alumni/alumnicollege)



# A GUIDE TO BEING GROWN-UP

BY NEELY HEUBACH '06, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS



"I want a checklist," a student bemoaned. "Just tell me what to do!" It's a common refrain during my conversations with Macalester students, especially when we're talking about life after Mac. I remember expressing an identical sentiment as I got closer to graduation, yearning for some sort of Guide to Being a Grown-up that would help me figure out my next steps. Unfortunately, I still haven't found that guide (anyone?), but the next best thing

I can offer is you—my fellow alumni!

When it comes to career resources, our alumni are one of the most important ones at Mac's disposal. Macalester alumni live around the globe and work in almost every industry imaginable. Whether you're in your dream job or looking for the next step, retired or job hunting, doing what you planned on or in a role unrelated to your undergraduate education, you can help students by sharing your story. Here are a few tips to get you started.

**Let students know you're available.** Even the most confident Macalester student can feel shy about cold calling alums to ask about their career experiences, and many are nervous that they might be imposing. For that reason we created the Career Helper badge for MacDirect, our online alumni directory. Activating your Career Helper badge electronically raises your hand, indicating to students that you are not only available but interested in talking with them about careers and life after Mac.

**Share your failures as well as your successes.** One downside of the vibrant intellectual environment at Macalester is that students can be afraid to admit making mistakes. Talking honestly about the times you failed and the lessons you learned along the way helps students understand that mistakes are normal, inevitable, and often instructive. Normalizing this struggle can help students take chances with their next steps.

**Reflect on your own journey—dead ends and all.** Recently, while sorting through boxes before a move, I found an old issue of *The Mac Weekly* in which I was interviewed. It reminded me that once I had considered attending both law school *and* seminary. When talking with students, it's important to share not just where you landed, but how you ended up there—and how and why that changed over time.

**Keep Macalester updated on your career.** Students, faculty, and staff usually search for alumni based on job title, occupation, employer, and location. If we don't know where you are or what you're doing, it's impossible to connect you with the right students. You can easily update that information by using MacDirect or contacting the Alumni Relations office.

**Utilize hashtags when sharing job posts.** Whenever you share a job position on social media—particularly Twitter and LinkedIn—include the #hiremac hashtag. Given the prominent role social media plays for our students, the Career Development Center is promoting the use of this hashtag among students, employers, and alumni. Using the #hiremac hashtag also helps our students discover the variety of careers enjoyed by alumni and broadens their ideas for post-graduate job possibilities.

**Offer an internship.** The internships I held while at Macalester provided crucial real-world experiences for me when launching my career. If your organization has internship opportunities, please share this information with the Internship Program ([macalester.edu/internships](http://macalester.edu/internships)). If you're interested in providing an internship but don't know where to start, the Internship Program can help you. And you needn't be in the Twin Cities to provide this learning opportunity—students seek summer and January term internships across the globe.

More than 580 alumni participated in volunteer programs last year that connected them with current students in career conversations, including providing internships and job shadowing opportunities, speaking on campus, serving on panels, and hosting first-year dinners. Learn more about career volunteer opportunities at [macalester.edu/alumni/macbas-sador/opportunities](http://macalester.edu/alumni/macbas-sador/opportunities) or contact me at [ncranesm@macalester.edu](mailto:ncranesm@macalester.edu). **M**

## Class Agent

Macalester's generosity made it possible for her to attend a U.S. college, says **Elena Tonc '13**, who hails from Osijek, Croatia. And not just any U.S. college, she hastens to add: "Mac was a great educational and personal experience."

Her coursework and research work in biology professor Devavani Chatterjea's lab prepared

Tonc for her current role as a graduate student in immunology at Washington University in St. Louis.

But the relationships she forged with her peers and Mac faculty and staff were "just as valuable as the great education I received," says Tonc. Because of her gratitude for her years as a biology/chemistry major, she already—even as a struggling graduate student—contributes as much as she can

monthly to her alma mater.

In addition, Tonc serves as class agent, keeping in touch with classmates and urging them, too, to give to Mac. "It's important to get into the habit of donating, and increasing the amount as you can," she says. "When someone isn't sure they can afford it, I encourage them to start with \$10 a month—not much to give up for a good cause." **M**





## In Memoriam

**1935**

**Dorothy Wick Janes**, 101, of Mahtomedi, Minn., died July 19, 2014. She was an activist and volunteer who fought racial segregation in Chicago and advocated for improved senior housing in Stillwater, Okla. She served as chair of the Stillwater Housing Authority, and one of the city's streets, Janes Court, was named in her honor. Mrs. Janes is survived by five children (including **Jennifer Janes '74**) and four grandchildren.

**1936**

**Valera Hubmer Weyrauch**, 99, of Louisville, Ky., died Aug. 2, 2014. She managed a grocery store for 25 years and worked in the retail clothing business. Mrs. Weyrauch is survived by a daughter, two sons, four grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and a sister.

**1938**

**Mary Roberts Wilson**, 97, died June 6, 2014, in Spring Park, Minn. She was a flute instructor at Macalester and several other colleges and universities in the Twin Cities. She also taught private students, was principal flutist with the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, and served as a church organist and choir director. Mrs. Wilson is survived by sons **John Wilson '65** and **Richard Wilson '73**, two grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

**1939**

**Marcia Johnson Arnold**, 99, of Worthington, Minn., died June 8, 2014.

**Vadis Woolsey Robshaw**, 96, of Bloomington, Minn., died July 29, 2014. She assisted her husband, Charles, with his work as a Presbyterian minister in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Mrs. Robshaw is survived by two daughters,

two sons (including **C. Michael Robshaw '68**), 10 grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren.

**1940**

**Edgar C. Burseth**, 95, died June 11, 2014. He served as a flight surgeon in Germany at the end of World War II and practiced medicine in Mora, Minn., for 28 years. Dr. Burseth is survived by a daughter, son **Jon Burseth '67**, and seven grandchildren.

**1941**

**Hazel Stoltz Alfons**, 94, of St. Petersburg, Fla., died May 25, 2014. She served in the Army Air Corps during World War II and taught school in Minnesota and St. Petersburg.

**1942**

**Marjorie Edelsten LaTerre**, 92, of Minneapolis died recently. An advertising copywriter, producer,

marketer, and fashion consultant, Mrs. LaTerre wrote and produced numerous national and award-winning advertising campaigns with such firms as J. Walter Thompson, Batten Barton Durstine Osborn, Norman Craig Kummel, Young Quinlan, and the Dayton Company. She is survived by a son.

**1943**

**Joyce Moulton Gold**, 92, of St. Louis Park, Minn., died June 25, 2014. She is survived by her husband, Robert, a daughter, two sons, three grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, a sister, and a brother.

**Melvin S. Sjerven**, 93, died July 28, 2014, in Overland Park, Kan. After serving in the Army during World War II, he began a career in journalism covering agribusiness. He was assistant manager of the *Grain Bulletin* and worked his way up to senior editor of markets for *Milling & Baking News*. He

Macalester College Alumni Relations and Knowmad Adventures present

## Darwin's Galapagos Islands & Haciendas, Markets and Volcanoes of Ecuador

January 30 – February 10, 2015

For more information and to sign up

[macalester.edu/alumni/events/trips/#galapagos](http://macalester.edu/alumni/events/trips/#galapagos)

or contact **Gabrielle Lawrence**, Director of Alumni Relations,  
[lawrence@macalester.edu](mailto:lawrence@macalester.edu)



# In Memoriam

retired in 1989 from Sosland Publishing Company. Mr. Sjerven was active in the civil rights movement, serving as president of the Human Relations Council of St. Louis Park, and was a founding member of the United Nations Association of Greater Kansas City. He is survived by a daughter, two sons (including **Jay Sjerven '73**), five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

## 1944

**Harold W. Hermann**, 91, of Raleigh, N.C., died Aug. 4, 2014. He practiced pediatric medicine in Minneapolis for 18 years and conducted pharmaceutical and nutritional research with Mead Johnson and Co., in Evansville, Ind., for 17 years. He retired in 1983 as vice president and medical director of the company's nutritional division. Dr. Hermann is survived by two daughters, three sons, 10 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren, and a brother.

**Carol Lloyd Hillsley**, 92, of Cincinnati died July 26, 2014. She was a high school English teacher and taught music to students from preschool through high school. Mrs. Hillsley is survived by two daughters, seven grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, and a brother.

## 1947

**Louise Larson**, 88, of Little Falls, Minn., died July 14, 2014. She worked for the Larson Abstract Company, eventually becoming a part owner of the business. Ms. Larson is survived by a brother.

**Marian Andersen Lones**, 89, of Pine City, Minn., died July 9, 2014. She taught English in the Pine City schools for 44 years. Mrs. Lones is survived by a daughter, a son, a grandson, and two sisters.

## 1948

**Robert C. Burnes**, 94, of Palo Alto, Calif., died Aug. 25, 2014. He served in the Air Force during World War II. During his 34-year career in education, he taught sixth grade in Palo Alto, served as a principal, and received two lifetime awards from the California PTA. Mr. Burnes is survived by three daughters (including **Betsy Burnes Knoche '71**), six grandchildren, and a great-granddaughter.

**Barbara Daum Butler**, 87, of Decorah, Iowa, died March 26, 2014. She worked as a medical technologist with Miller Hospital and was a research associate at the University of Illinois. She helped establish the Depot Outlet, a nonprofit that operates a secondhand store in Decorah. Mrs. Butler is survived by a daughter, two sons, and five grandchildren.

**Priscilla Doran Moody**, 87, of White Bear Lake, Minn., died June 22, 2014. She was recognized by Mothers Against Drunk Driving for forming the country's first victims' support group. Mrs. Moody is survived by a son and four grandchildren.

## 1949

**Dorothy E. Holstrom**, 86, of Santa Barbara, Calif., died June 21, 2014. She was a social worker with Hennepin County. Mrs. Holstrom is survived by her husband, Charles Whitney, two sons, 11 grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

**W. Frederick Myers**, 87, died June 19, 2014. He is survived by his wife, **Patricia Long Myers '48**, a son, and four grandchildren.

## 1950

**Gordon K. Branes**, 92, of Rochester, Minn., died May 16, 2014. He served as a machinist mate in the Navy during World War II in the Pacific Theater. After graduating from the Mayo School of Physical Therapy in 1952, he served the Mayo Clinic in various positions for 35 years, retiring in 1985 as director of the institution's physical therapy program and assistant professor of physical therapy in Mayo's School of Health-Related Sciences. Mr. Branes is survived by his wife, Kathleen, a daughter, two sons, seven grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

**Theodore E. Guth**, 94, died May 25, 2014. He was stationed with the U.S. Army Air Corps in Fairbanks, Alaska, during World War II. He is survived by a daughter, a son, two grandchildren, and a great-grandchild.

**Suzanne Brey Royer**, 84, of Denver died April 16, 2013. She is survived by two sons.

**John W. Schaller**, 86, died Feb. 14, 2014, in Jefferson City, Mont. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II and the postwar occupation of Japan and was a professor of education at the University of Regina in Saskatchewan. Mr. Schaller also served on the board of Ranch Ehrlo Society, an organization serving at-risk students. In recognition of his service, Ranch Ehrlo named its Schaller School and Schaller Education Center after him. Mr. Schaller is survived by his wife, **Joanne Leigh Schaller '50**, and two children.

## 1951

**Margaret Larson Setzer**, 84, died July 31, 2014, in Mankato, Minn. She helped build the business Free Set Design. Mrs. Setzer is survived by her husband, **Hubert Setzer '49**, two daughters, a son, and four grandchildren.

## 1953

**Mary Ensley Eckhoff**, 84, of Maple Grove, Minn., died June 8, 2014. She worked for St. Paul Children's Hospital for 25 years. Mrs. Eckhoff is survived by three daughters, a son, 11 grandchildren, a great-grandson, and sister **Marjorie Ensley Martin '54**.

**Paul G. Grussing**, 81, of Baxter, Minn., died July 13, 2014. He served in the U.S. Army in Frankfurt, Germany. He was executive director of the Minnesota State Board of Pharmacy and spent nearly 20 years at the University of Illinois at Chicago as professor of pharmacy administration, retiring in 1988. Mr. Grussing was a two-time recipient of the Rufus A. Lyman Award for the best paper published in the American Journal of Pharmaceutical Administration. He is survived by a daughter, a son, six grandchildren, and brother **Roger Grussing '59**.

**Harry C. Smith**, 82, of Hopkins, Minn., died June 11, 2014. He served as a captain in the Army and practiced optometry in Hopkins and Glen Lake, Minn., for 40 years. Mr. Smith is survived by his wife, Christy, four sons, seven grandchildren, a great-granddaughter, and two sisters.

**Duane W. Wyss**, 86, of New Lisbon, Wis., died July 23, 2014.

He served in the Navy and worked for his family's business, Bunker Ford. Mr. Wyss is survived by his wife, Pat, two daughters, two sons, nine grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, four sisters, and a brother.

## 1954

**Rhoda Pease Holden**, 82, of West St. Paul, Minn., died Aug. 5, 2014. She retired after more than 25 years as a counselor with the State of Minnesota. Mrs. Holden is survived by four daughters, seven grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and a brother.

## 1956

**Mary Winchester Ryan**, 83, died June 19, 2012. She was an elementary school teacher. Mrs. Ryan is survived by two daughters and two granddaughters.

## 1957

**Robert H. Dahl**, 81, of Minnetonka, Minn., died June 19, 2014. He played trombone with the 98th Army band in Italy and was vice president at Franklin National Bank in Minneapolis for 26 years. Mr. Dahl is survived by his wife, **Nancy Stiles Dahl '59**, two daughters, three grandchildren, a great-granddaughter, and a sister.

**Gerald L. Dreier**, 79, died Aug. 13, 2014. He is survived by his wife, Ann, two daughters, and three grandchildren.

**James H. Kinsey**, 82, of West Concord, Minn., died July 15, 2014. He is survived by his wife, Judy, a daughter, a son, two granddaughters, and a sister.

**Virginia Green Melin**, 88, of Grant, Minn., died June 12, 2014. She was a schoolteacher in Nebraska and Minnesota and worked as a home-bound teacher for eight years. Mrs. Melin is survived by a son.

**Gerald W. Olson**, 79, of Las Vegas died June 15, 2014. He worked for Valley National Bank in Phoenix for 29 years and worked in commercial real estate lending at First Interstate Bank of Nevada and Bank of America. Mr. Olson is survived by his wife, **Mary Ellen Harring Olson '59**, a son, a sister, and a brother.



## 1958

**Melvin M. Bocko**, 86, of Champlin, Minn., died May 31, 2014. He is survived by his wife, Lee, a daughter, a son, two granddaughters, and a sister.

**Richard E. Gower**, 78, of Huntley, Ill., died recently. He served in the Army Reserves from 1958 to 1964. During his 35-year career in sales and marketing he promoted confectionery products and worked for Pillsbury and Sunmark. Mr. Gower is survived by his wife, Mary Ann, four daughters, seven grandchildren, and a sister.

## 1959

**Loyal T. Farrell**, 86, of Safety Harbor, Fla., died April 9, 2013. After a career as an English and theater teacher, Mr. Farrell became a popular radio personality on WFLA and other stations in the Tampa Bay area under the name Scott Farrell.

## 1960

**Kenneth E. Wharton**, 79, of Mahtomedi, Minn., died June 20, 2014. He served in the Army for three years in the United States and Germany. He later taught for 30 years in Mahtomedi and served on the Fountain Hills, Ariz., school board. Mr. Wharton is survived by two daughters, a son, nine grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and a sister.

## 1961

**Katherine Giese Cassel**, of Rochester, Minn., died July 23, 2014. She is survived by a daughter, a son, and two grandchildren (including **Jesse Carroll '13**).

## 1962

**Virginia Anderson Hansen**, 73, died Aug. 11, 2014. She was foreign operations manager at the American Abroad Travel Agency, worked at the University of Minnesota, taught composition at Anoka Ramsey College, and worked as a freelance editor since 1985. She also wrote essays, poems, song lyrics, and books, including *Notes of an Elder Care Giver*. Mrs. Hansen is survived by a sister.

**Kent C. Larson**, 75, of Wayzata, Minn., died Aug. 14, 2014.

He worked at The Pillsbury Company, Williams Sonoma, and U.S. Bank, and served as board director for The Charles Schwab Bank and Bachman's. In addition, he was committed to numerous education and health care nonprofits. Mr. Larson is survived by his wife, Sandra, two daughters, five grandchildren, a sister, and a brother.

**Richard T. Osmanson**, 74, died June 11, 2014, in Pasadena, Calif.

## 1963

**Mary Lou Zeiloth Sundberg**, 73, of Lake Forest, Ill., died June 1, 2014. She taught elementary school students and children with learning disabilities. After her retirement, she launched Sunform, an educational company offering products to promote literacy, and served as its president and chief executive officer for more than 20 years. Mrs. Sundberg is survived by her husband, Dean, a daughter, a son, four grandchildren, and three sisters.

## 1964

**Jon H. Magnusson**, 72, died July 18, 2014, in Iceland. He is survived by his wife, Aslaug.

## 1965

**Sally A. Holmgren**, 71, died May 15, 2014. She owned Evergreen, a floral and gift shop in West St. Paul. Ms. Holmgren is survived by a brother.

**Margaret Muhvich Randall**, 71, died July 11, 2014. She was a medical technologist and served as director of laboratory services at Samaritan Pacific Communities Hospital in Newport, Ore. Mrs. Randall is survived by her husband, Robert, two sons, two grandchildren, and two sisters.

**Susan Wolgamot Smith**, 68, of Columbia, Md., died April 7, 2012. She is survived by her husband, Robert, a daughter, a son, two grandchildren, two sisters, and two brothers.

## 1967

**Dianne K. Husby**, 69, of Billings, Mont., died Aug. 16, 2014. She taught at Dakota County Technical College in Rosemount, Minn. After retiring, she served

as a math tutor and as a volunteer at Billings Clinic. Mrs. Husby is survived by her mother, Marlys, a sister, and a brother.

## 1968

**Cheryl D. Coyle**, 67, died April 20, 2014. She practiced as a veterinarian in Faribault, Woodbury, and Oakdale, Minn., and farmed south of Northfield, Minn. She later taught in the veterinary technology program at Argosy University and worked as a veterinarian for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service. Mrs. Coyle is survived by two daughters, a son, five grandchildren, and seven siblings.

## 1973

**Charles "Chuck" Young**, 63, died Aug. 19, 2014. He was a well-known music and political writer for *Rolling Stone*, *Men's Journal*, and many other publications. He was perhaps best known for helping introduce America to punk music. A native of Madison, Wis., he spent much of his life living on the Upper West Side of Manhattan. Mr. Young is survived by a brother and a sister.

## 1974

**Shirley J. Saloka**, 84, died May 11, 2014, in St. Paul. She was retired from the FAA. Mrs. Saloka is survived by her daughter, **Sioux Saloka '75**.

## 1981

**Wendy S. Gartner**, 56, died May 24, 2014, in Lincoln, Neb. After earning a master's degree from Sorbonne University in artistic technique and art history, she taught artistic technique and language to International Baccalaureate, Advanced Placement, and adult students. She lived and worked in Paris, with sojourns in India, Argentina, Mexico, Israel, and Coronado, Calif. Ms. Gartner is survived by two sisters and three brothers.

## 1992

**Richard A. Peterson**, 44, of Brainerd, Minn., died June 10, 2014. He worked for Larco/Atek. Mr. Peterson is survived by his wife, **Dina Wormuth Peterson '92**,

a daughter, a son, his parents, two grandparents, and a sister.

## 2002

**Benjamin J. Dickinson**, 34, died unexpectedly on July 29, 2014, in Reno, Nev. He worked as an actuary in Minneapolis and Melbourne, Australia, before earning a geology degree from the University of Sydney. Mr. Dickinson is survived by his parents and a sister.

## Other Losses

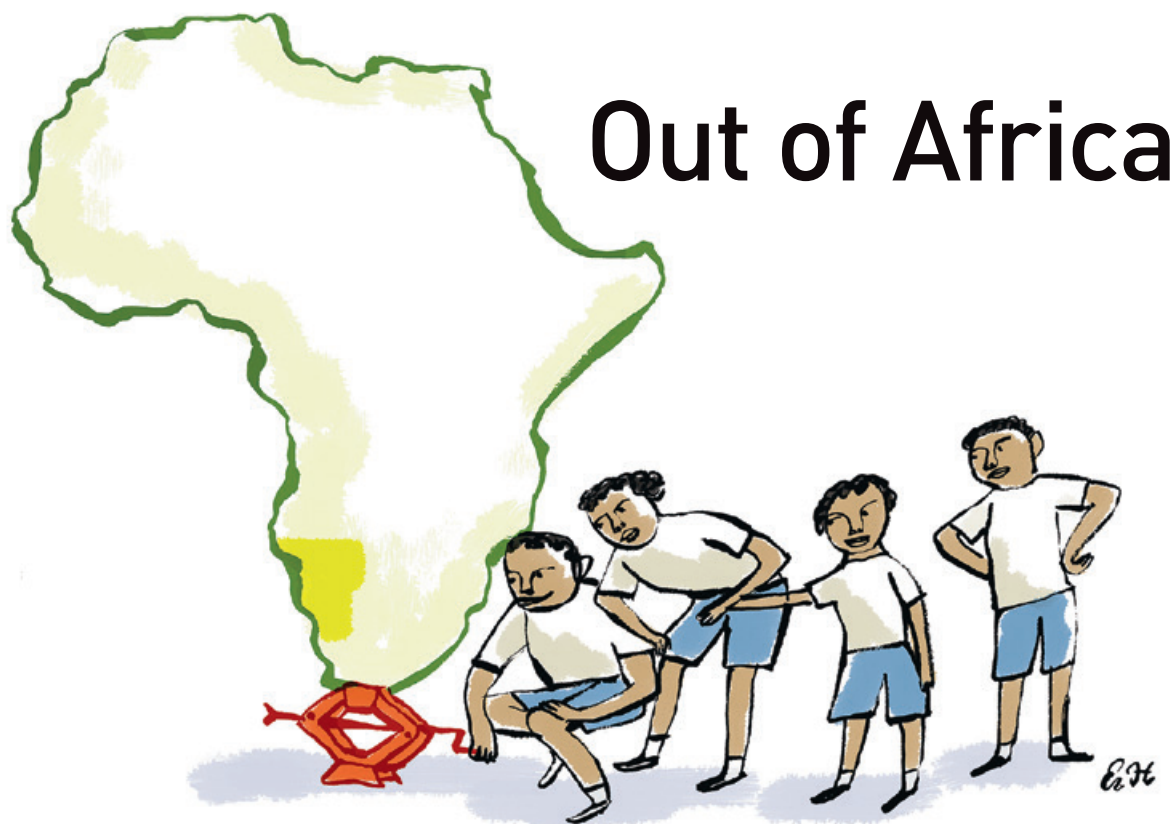


**Paula Paul-Wagner**, associate director of international programs at Macalester, died at her home in St. Paul on Aug. 18, 2014, at the age of 44. She worked with study abroad and international student programs at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte and Minnesota State University-Mankato before coming to Macalester as assistant director of international programs in 2002. Mrs. Paul-Wagner is survived by her husband, Brian Wagner, her parents, three sisters, and two brothers.

**Barb Spado**, biographical records assistant in Macalester's Advancement Operations Department from 2008 to 2012, died June 8, 2014, at the age of 61. She began working at Macalester in 1999 and was living in River Falls, Wis., at the time of her death.

World Press Institute Fellow **Federico Campbell** died Feb. 15, 2014, at the age of 72. He was an essayist, journalist, translator, editor, and author of numerous books, most recently *La ficción de la memoria*.





# Out of Africa

BY ERIKA BISBOCCI '12

*In December 2012, Erika Bisbocci '12 moved to Namibia to volunteer through WorldTeach, an NGO affiliated with Harvard's Center for International Development. There she taught English and computer skills to rural middle school students for the country's Ministry of Education. Namibia, located along Africa's southwestern coast, has been one of Africa's greatest success stories in terms of stability and development but is also home to great poverty and one of the world's highest rates of HIV. Today Namibia hopes to emerge into a newly prosperous era, though there are many obstacles standing in the way—among them a lack of access to education, especially in rural areas. The following is taken from Bisbocci's blog.*

**W**e came to Namibia for adventure. We wanted to challenge ourselves, to stretch ourselves, to step out of our comfort zones. We came for the personal journey of self-discovery and in the hope that this year abroad would help us uncover a bit more about the path we would like to follow in life.

Ultimately though, we came to Namibia to make an impact.

Though my fellow volunteers and I had different backgrounds, we were all drawn here by a mutual interest in making an impact on our communities. We came to offer the skills and knowledge we acquired in college and to share what we learned with the people of this young country. In the words of Pico Iyer, we traveled here to “bring what little we could, in our ignorance and knowledge, to those parts of the globe whose riches are differently dispersed.” We wanted to navigate the world of haves and have-nots, of withs and withouts, and do our best to bring these realities together.

Now that my second term of teaching at Olukolo is ending, I've

been thinking a lot about what this experience has meant to me, what I want to give this place, and what I want to gain from it.

It's easy to set off on a yearlong journey with grand notions and plans. Yet it's even easier to allow this idealism to fade. As romantic as it might sound, living in the bush comes with sacrifices. I have sacrificed warm water, entertainment, the presence of family and friends, and the daily comforts of home. It also comes with frustration. It's easy to get discouraged working in the developing world, especially when you start with the illusion, as I did, that I could singlehandedly change the world. In the end, I knew, all I could hope for was to touch a few lives.

I was frustrated with all the hours I'd spent with my students, which had seemingly resulted in so little progress. I began to believe that the lessons I'd so carefully crafted had made no impact. Since my arrival, their grasp of English had hardly improved. I was now faced with the unsettling reality that some of my students would fail their exams and have to repeat the eighth grade. Yet despite my fears about their progress, ultimately 80 percent of them improved their exam scores.

I may have done little to close the gap between the haves and the have-nots, but at least I had brought a few students a step closer to ninth grade. And though I didn't have the revolutionary impact I had once naively expected, I did contribute something, which makes every sacrifice worthwhile.

I also gained more than I gave. I learned to wash clothes by hand, cook with limited ingredients, and navigate the sand sea of Onantsi village. I learned to trust strangers, manage a classroom, and hold entire conversations using nothing but facial expressions. Most notably, I learned to leave my world of withs and begin learning how to cope without. **M**



# Count me in!



EPH

Macalester donors support today's students  
through the Annual Fund.



MACALESTER COLLEGE



1600 Grand Avenue  
Saint Paul, MN 55105-1899

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 921  
Twin Cities, MN



PHOTO: DAVID J. TURNER

Safety and Security director Terry Gorman (right) reassures a nervous mom on move-in day as principal gifts assistant and volunteer mover Isabel Nelson '04 looks on.