

Macalester

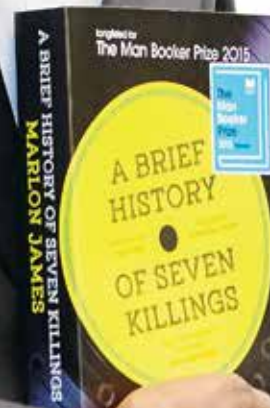
Today

FALL 2015

The
Man
Booker
Prize
2015

Our Man Marlon

Marlon James Wins
Man Booker Prize



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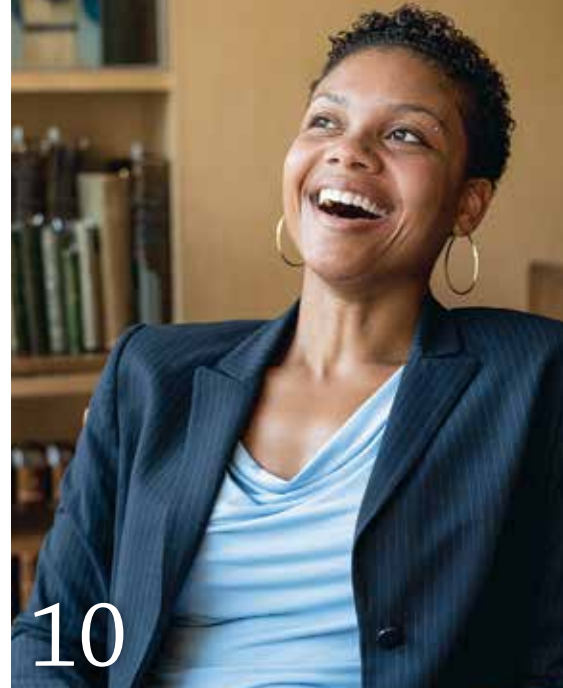
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Trained as a visual artist, Britt Udesen '98 now runs a nationally renowned literary nonprofit.



ON THE COVER: English professor Marlon James wins the 2015 Man Booker Prize for his book *A Brief History of Seven Killings*. Photo by Janie Airey.



Manny Roman (CEO Man Group) presents Marlon James with the Man Booker prize.

As *Macalester Today* went to press on October 13, English professor **Marlon James** was receiving the Man Booker Prize for his novel *A Brief History of Seven Killings*. The award was bestowed by the Duchess of Cornwall at the Guildhall in London.

James is the first Jamaican-born writer to win the highly prestigious award, which honors the very best in contemporary fiction. In accepting, he dedicated the award to his late father and credited reggae singers Bob Marley and Peter Tosh with being “the first to recognize that the voice coming out our mouths was a legitimate voice for fiction and poetry.”

The nearly 700-page novel, James’s third, explores the attempted assassination of Marley (called “the Singer”) and the gang culture, drugs, and politics of Jamaica over three decades. It has been called violent and uncompromising, as well as very funny. The judges came to a unanimous decision in less than two hours, Booker judge Michael Wood told the BBC.

In addition to inspiring many additional sales of *A Brief History*, the Man Booker Prize includes a £50,000 award. James, currently on sabbatical, has already completed a screenplay for the pilot of an HBO series based on the book.

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Learning disabilities

Thank you for the fine spring issue of *Macalester Today*. I always enjoy your publication, but the story about learning disabilities ("Overcoming Obstacles," Spring 2015) really hit home.

I came to Macalester in September 1954 with several learning "challenges" and a memo telling me I was on academic probation. I couldn't spell or memorize and I had test anxiety. I could read with comprehension, write papers, and speak in class (showing I had read the material and understood it). I was candid with all my professors and each one helped me to do my best.

No one knew much about learning disabilities in the 1950s, but the people at Mac were willing to work with my challenges and with me. A geology professor allowed me to help him set up the final exam and gave me rocks to identify; my French teacher passed me and signed my petition to take French literature for my second-year language requirement; and my U.S. history professor gave me a take-home essay test. Everyone helped me so I could graduate and become a productive member of society. I will always be grateful to Mac for making it all possible.

Sally Howard '58
Trustee emeritus
Minneapolis

Chant manuscripts

Took a glance at the latest issue of *Macalester Today* and saw the short article about the chant manuscripts found in the Mac library ("Medieval texts," Summer 2015). A good find, and nicely spotted by **Francesca Vescia '18**.

I'm not an expert on chant manuscripts—a field unto itself—but my career has involved a lot of work in church and early music. I noticed that as shown on page 8, the middle of the page contains a large letter I, the beginning of "*Inter vestibulum et altera plorabant...*" ("Between the porch and the altar, the Lord's ministers shall weep..."). This is the Offertory for the mass for Ash Wednesday.

I can't quite make out the Latin for the other texts as shown, but without checking further, it's easy to assume that the entire side



of that manuscript would contain other chants for the Ash Wednesday liturgy.

If the remaining manuscript pages are numbered or in liturgical order, one could assume that the rest of the pages contain music for either pre-Lenten or Lenten observances. If not, then further research would have to identify the use of the chants.

The article refers to the manuscripts as coming from a Psalter, but at least on the page printed in the magazine, the chants shown are not psalms at all. Perhaps the term is used more as a collection of chants. At any rate, more research beckons!

While I don't wish to set an agenda for the Music Department, it might be fun for their singers to perform some of these chants, or perhaps along with some part settings of the texts—a good early music project, indeed.

Monte Mason '71

Founding Director, The Gregorian Singers
Minneapolis

What about us old guys?

I just finished the latest copy of *Macalester Today* (Summer 2015). Thanks for sharing what's going on, but don't forget all us old guys...we're still going strong! More news if you want it. Sorry you have dropped news of older classes.

Ron Schwisow '54
Midland, Texas

EDITOR'S NOTE: We most definitely have not dropped news of older classes, but we have received very little such news recently. Please, members of the Classes of 1970 and earlier, keep sending your news to llamb@macalester.edu or Editor, *Macalester Today*, Macalester College, 1600 Grand Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105.

Cooler classes?

"Macalester's Cooler Classes" (Summer 2015) described narrowly focused, "fun" courses that, while interesting, come at the expense of broader survey courses. As a result, students get too little exposure to the wide sweep of a subject before delving into a narrow slice of it. The resulting lack of perspective prevents them from placing their newfound knowledge into the context of the overall subject.

Sweet TWEETS



Kudos to all the @macstartups teams! Today was a great day for showcasing @macalester's entrepreneurial talent!

Eleven tenure-track professors and one tenured professor join Macalester faculty this fall.

Guante @elguante Sep 17 I'm at @Macalester today visiting classes, facilitating a workshop, and performing at 7pm in Kagin's Hill Ballroom.

As a former college teacher, I can attest that it is less interesting to teach broad survey classes on an ongoing basis. But to do so in a fresh and inspiring manner, year after year, should be the goal of the best professors. Teaching an obscure subject may further one's own research interests, but is it best for the students?

I encourage Macalester alumni to peek at the course offerings and descriptions that are now offered in their own majors, available online at macalester.edu. It will be a sobering experience. Students can pick from a wide smorgasbord of courses, but few survey courses are offered to introduce students to each subject.

Fortunately, this is fixable. Macalester has always demonstrated a capacity to change as needed.

Bob Spaulding '64
Mac Moderates
Somerton, Ariz.

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 or to *Macalester Today*, Macalester College, 1600 Grand Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105.

The Book of [for] Profits

BY BRIAN ROSENBERG

Only yesterday, it seems, the experts—those defined by Mark Twain as “ordinary fellow[s] from another town”—were predicting that innovative, agile, and entrepreneurial for-profit colleges would radically disrupt the business of higher education.

Economist Richard Vedder coauthored a 2010 study in which he concluded that “The track record of for-profit education is long enough at this point that if the industry were providing a product of little value, the customers would be aware of this and simply go away. They have not. Demand at for-profits is as strong as ever. If demand for a product is strong, the product must be providing something of value for the customer.”¹ Indeed.

Journalist Anya Kamenetz, who is fond of words like *edupunks* and *edupreneurs*, championed for-profits before eventually conceding that she “may have been guilty in the past of bending over backwards to be fair to the sector, perhaps out of my own contrarian streak.”² She continues to thrive in her career as a higher education expert, which suggests that when I provided all those incorrect answers on my organic chemistry exams, I should have explained to my professor that I was merely indulging my “contrarian streak.”

Futurists like Vedder and Kamenetz were right, in a perverse way. For-profits have indeed been disruptive: not by driving innovation and cost reduction, but by dramatically increasing the cumulative amount of student debt, lowering the average rate at which students graduate, and prompting the federal government to more intrusively regulate higher education. What they have disrupted most frequently are the lives of the people whom they enticed to enroll. Only 22 percent of full-time bachelor’s degree candidates at for-profit colleges graduate within six years, and students at these institutions make up 11 percent of federal loan borrowers but 50 percent of defaulters.³

In recent years, about the only thing that

has been increasing at for-profits is the number of lawsuits and federal investigations. Enrollments and share prices have been plummeting. Recently Corinthian Colleges, one of the larger players in this market, declared bankruptcy and closed its doors, a move that affected more than 16,000 students and employees. The giant Kaplan, Inc. just closed a campus in New Hampshire and announced declining profits due to declining enrollments. The largest player of all, the University of Phoenix, has been losing students, employees, and campuses at what CNN calls a “breathtaking pace,”⁴ and is reportedly under investiga-



President Rosenberg with Presidential Leadership award winners.

tion by the Federal Trade Commission.

What are the lessons that can be learned from this—so far—unhappy narrative?

Educating students is hard work. It is not a good thing that high-quality education tends to be high-cost education, but there are reasons for this far more consequential than the climbing walls and other amenities that critics of colleges so love to mention. Outcomes are best when well-trained, appropriately compensated faculty and staff work closely with students. This is expensive, and there are few shortcuts.

Quality and value matter. About this Vedder was right, though he vastly overestimated the quality and value of the for-profits’ product. No enterprise, however well capitalized and well publicized, can long thrive by offering a service or product of little value and low quality at a high cost.

Success in college is highly dependent upon preparation for college. One of the lures of the for-profits is the promise of a college education for populations that do not traditionally attend college. This is an admirable goal, but for that goal to be realized, the quality of the service offered has to be exceptionally high. Students who are less prepared for college typically require more rather than less attention if they are to succeed. This is precisely what the for-profits have not provided. It is also unrealistic to expect a dramatic increase in the number of college-educated Americans without addressing the weaknesses and stark inequities in our K through 12 and early childhood education systems.

On-line education, in its current form, is least effective for those who most need it. On-line learning environments typically provide less structure and responsiveness than do traditional classroom settings. This can often work well with traditional, high-achieving college students. It is less successful with nontraditional consumers—precisely the audience that for-profits purportedly serve.

The free market and essential public goods do not easily coexist. Some people seem surprised that for-profits devote so large a portion of their revenues to compensating executives and shareholders rather than to educating students. They should not be surprised. While there are some for-profit corporations that include social responsibility among their highest priorities, for most the highest priority is to generate profit (thus the term *for-profit*). I am not critical of the notion that for-profit entities should make a profit, but I am skeptical of the extent to which this is consistent with delivering the best possible education (or, for that matter, health care).

We need to educate more students at a lower cost in the United States, and it may yet be the case that a thriving for-profit sector will help us achieve this goal. But we are not there yet, and we will not get there if we ignore the painful lessons of the past decade. ■

BRIAN ROSENBERG is the president of Macalester College.

1. Daniel L. Bennett, Adam R. Lucchesi, and Richard K. Vedder. *For-Profit Education: Growth, Innovation and Regulation*, Center for College Affordability and Productivity, July 2010, 54.

2. “Are For-Profit Colleges Peddling Subprime Education?” *Huffington Post*, 27 June 2010.

3. www.attn.com/stories/118/graduation-rate-profit-colleges-shocking

4. <http://money.cnn.com/2015/06/30/investing/university-of-phoenix-lays-off-900>

DIVIDED LIVES



PHOTOGRAPHER:

Muyuan "Sherry" He '16

HOMETOWN:

Shenzhen, China

STUDIES:

Studio art major, music minor

PROJECT:

This project was done last fall for Eric Carroll's Introduction to Photography class. The theme for our final project was "migration," which was also the theme for the International Roundtable. As I was interviewing my friends about their ethnic backgrounds, we came up with this idea.

PHOTOGRAPHY, CONTINUED:

Because I enjoyed Intro to Photography, I took Advanced Photography in the spring. I learned so much more in that class, and did lots of cool projects I'm proud of. I also assisted an alumni digital photography class. However, I still don't consider photography to be my main medium.

AFTER MAC:

As long as I can keep making art after Macalester, I will be happy.

THE MODELS

Clockwise from top left: **EunGyeong Shin '17**, South Korea; **Pukitta Chunsuttiwat '15**, Thailand; **Marium Ibrahim '16**, Pakistan; **Farah Al Hadad '17**, Syria

AFFORDABLE INTERNSHIPS

BY ALEXANDRA MCLAUGHLIN '16

IT'S HARD to do most internships if you need to earn money. Happily, thanks to a new grant program introduced this summer, a handful of Macalester students were able to do both, receiving stipends of up to \$4,500 for working at otherwise unpaid internships. For many, the grant made the internship possible.

Many landed the internships through personal connections or informational interviews. **Jacob Phillips '16** (Kingston, Jamaica) arranged an informational interview at the Embassy of Jamaica with the person who later became his supervisor. Before wrapping up the interview, he asked about internship opportunities at the Embassy.

Toward the end of a semester in Amman, Jordan, last fall, **Zoe Bowman '16** (Eau Claire, Wis.) asked the woman running the program about summer jobs. She was offered a position at Red Crescent around the same time that the Summer Internship Grant program was introduced.

The program came about largely because

of students like **Jolena Zabel '16** (Hastings, Minn.). While researching internships last fall, Zabel noticed that those that interested her were mostly unpaid. Recognizing this as an access problem, she proposed to fellow student government representatives the idea of a summer internship grant program, noting how disappointing it was to turn down an opportunity that could make a difference in your career.

Soon the idea had worked its way up to the administrative level and Zabel saw the chance to incorporate the program through the Career Development Center.

Many of the students stressed how the grant allowed them to immerse themselves in their internships. **Ilana Budenosky '17** (Manhattan, Kan.) put together an interactive exhibit on social justice for a children's museum. "This summer affirmed my need to work in a creative way and has shown me how many different jobs there are in the arts," she says.

Students also created their own oppor-

tunities. "Know what you want, where your true interests lie," says **Bo-Sung J. Kim '17** (Cheonan, Republic of Korea). "If the experience you're looking for doesn't exist, reach out to a person you want to work with."

Following her own advice, Kim designed an internship with the Minnesota Department of Health that integrated her interests in geographic information systems (GIS) and public health.

Other 2015 Summer Internship Grant recipients:

- **David Goldstein '16** / U.S. Department of State (Washington, D.C.)
- **Emily Muscat '16** / U.S. Department of State (Washington D.C.)
- **Emily Ahmed TahaBurt '16** / Mizna (Minneapolis)
- **Qinxi Wang '18** / Similarity (Richmond, Calif.)
- **Jeffrey Witter '16** / National Security Network (Washington, D.C.)
- **Jolena Zabel '16** / U.S. Department of State (Washington, D.C.)

Entrepreneur Guru



Kate Ryan Reiling '00 began work last summer as the college's first Entrepreneur in Residence. In her new role, Ryan Reiling will coordinate the various existing components of Macalester's entrepreneurship program including the

Macathon, Mac Startups, and the Live It Fund, will help create new entrepreneurial programs, and will teach one course each semester focused on entrepreneurship.

A new minor hit Mac this fall:

DATA Science

AS DECISIONS in politics, governance, science, and commerce continue to be shaped by the large quantities of data brought about by the computing revolution, the field of data science continues to grow because it's what's needed to support such decisions.

The Data Science minor has three main components: ideas and

techniques from mathematics and statistics are combined with skills from computer science to analyze large, high-dimensional data from a domain area. The minor requires two statistics courses, two computer science courses, and two courses chosen from a single domain area in which big data is being produced, plus an integrative essay.

ROAD WARRIOR

BY ELIZA RAMSEY '17

ONE OF THIS fall's first-year students made a special effort to visit Macalester before applying for admission. **Bethany Catlin '19** (Franklin, Ind.), who was "particularly intrigued by Macalester because of its artsy-ness, cool mail, and international focus," hopped on her bike last summer and, accompanied by her father, Dan, rode 700 miles to see the school for herself.

She also used her multi-state ride to raise money for the Arthritis National Research Foundation, an organization close to her heart because of her own struggles with juvenile arthritis. "The ride was a challenge for my creaky joints," says Catlin, "so it seemed appropriate to make it not just about me but also about setting a precedent for getting kids with juvenile arthritis out of the mindset that they're fragile."

Admittedly, Catlin and her father stopped to see a few other colleges along the way, but Mac was their final destination and the school that was already tops on Catlin's list. Its favorite status was only confirmed by the warm reception she received at 1600 Grand,



says Catlin. "This college, and all its people, really got my bike ride," she says. "A host of students, staff, and even the president came out to welcome me. They had TV stations there, sent me a Mac bike jersey to wear when I arrived, helped me plan my route, followed my blog, and gave me a personalized tour.

"I knew 15 minutes after arriving on cam-

pus that Macalester is a place where people make things happen, where they work toward big dreams, and where they not only encourage but provide support for one another's hopes and aspirations."

No surprise then, that Catlin said yes to Mac last spring, and arrived on campus with the rest of the Class of 2019 in August.



PHOTOS: EMMA PULIDO

Goats and Garlic Mustard

BY ALEXANDRA MCLAUGHLIN '16

GETTING PAID TO MAKE FRIENDS with goats, listen to birds, and conduct groundbreaking research might sound too good to be true. But each summer, Macalester biology students live and work at the Katharine Ordway Natural History Study Area, a nearly 300-acre field station located only 17 miles from Macalester.

Last summer's research included gathering soil samples from around woody plants for genetic analysis of the soil microbial community. **Andrew Boyer '17** (Bellingham, Wash.) explains that studying bacteria in the soil can help us understand why some microbial species are successful at invading new habitats.

Another project measured tree diameters for a long-term study of carbon stored in trees, a phenomenon thought to possibly help mitigate the effects of climate change.

Students estimated the diversity of the forest's avian community by listening for ovenbirds and searching for their nests. They wanted to see if these birds nest successfully at Ordway and if the young reach adulthood. **Alex Lewanski '17** (Hastings, Minn.) explains that raccoons probably reduce the ovenbird population at Ordway by eating eggs and the young.

The summer's main project was a continuation of a six-year study of garlic mustard. Lewanski, along with **Cody Dalrymple '16** (Berkeley, Calif.), **Mira Ensley-Field '17** (Appleton, Wis.), and **Alison Pillar '17** (Chicago), divided the study site into research grids to estimate the percentage of forest floor covered by garlic mustard. The students investigated why it is found in some areas at Ordway but not others. They also designed their own sub-project

to see if human and animal traffic on the trails helped disperse the seeds (it has little effect).

"People spend thousands of dollars to remove garlic mustard because it's invasive," says Lewanski. "But in our research here, we're finding that it's potentially not as invasive as people think." Conclusions from the six-year study found that native and non-native species in the herb layer of the oak woodland seem to coexist rather than compete with one another.

While gaining valuable experience conducting ecological research, the students enjoyed a lot of independence as well. Ordway director Jerald Dosch aims for students and faculty members to become research peers. Here, says Lewanski, "We're researching with the professors. They don't know any more than we do what the data's going to show. In ecology, we can't control all the variables."

Another fun part of Ordway is living on site. The newly renovated field station includes a dorm-style living space and a spacious kitchen with a clear view of the goats, prairie, and forest beyond. Lewanski enjoyed the convenience of taking just a few steps to start her 7 a.m. workday. When research wrapped up at 3 p.m., students canoed, cooked, read, and made s'mores over the fire pit.

Students also cared for three goats, provided by farmer **Don Oberdorfer '91** to eat the woody plants encroaching on the prairie.

Work concluded in mid-July, and the students presented their findings at the college's annual student research poster session this fall. Though pleased with the summer's progress, they were sad to leave. "This is a nice place to live and an enjoyable job," says Ensley-Field. Lewanski agrees: "Work didn't feel like work."



BEE BACTERIA TO GALAXIES

LAST SUMMER, **Molly Guiney '16** (Two Harbors, Minn.) snorkeled through Minnesota rivers looking for Plain Pocketbooks and White Heelsplitters—two kinds of mussels that indicate river health.

She was one of over 80 Macalester students in the hard sciences, environmental studies, and math, statistics and computer science who gained valuable hands-on summer research experience.

Back on campus, **Esha Datta '17** (Palo Alto, Calif.) studied coupled oscillators—oscillators influenced by the behavior of other

oscillators around them. Coupling can cause systems of oscillators to synchronize over time. This is seen in nature with fireflies, which will initially flash at their own frequencies but can eventually begin to flash in unison.

Other students worked further afield. **Katherine Lane '17** (Petaluma, Calif.) traveled to Switzerland to study how the bacteria in bee guts influences honeybee health. **Liang "Adrian" Chang '16** (Jinan, China) spent a second summer at the renowned MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston investigat-

ing the biochemical pathways of metastatic breast cancer.

Alex Gordon '18 (Chicago) couldn't travel to the dwarf galaxies he studies, so he obtained research data from the Hubble Telescope and other telescopes based in New Mexico and the Netherlands.

And several Mac alumni hired students to work in their labs for the summer, among them **Ray Runyan '72** (University of Arizona), **Pamela Peralta '03** (Georgia Tech), and **Erica Andersen-Nissen '98** (Cape Town HVTN Immunology Laboratory, South Africa).

Esha Datta '17



FOOTBALL'S RECORD ROSTER

BY ALEXANDRA MCCLAUGHLIN '16

IN AUGUST, the Macalester football program kicked off its current season with 79 players, its largest roster on record. Players represent 24 states, including Alaska and Hawaii.

"Ninety percent of our players had above a 3.0 GPA last semester," says head coach Tony Jennison. "I don't know where else in America you're going to find a football program with those [academic] numbers."

Last season, the team won the Midwest Conference title, the Scots' first conference football title since 1947.

"When I first got here, the football program was in pretty rough shape," says Jennison. "But a lot of people have worked hard to build a program that Macalester can be proud of. I like to think the young men we have returning are serious about pushing themselves in all aspects of their lives, not just football. We believe that greatness comes when you consistently do your best at every opportunity, whether in your personal, academic, or athletic life."

The 2015 game schedule began September 5, when the Scots faced longtime rivals the Carleton Knights.



PHOTOS: CHRISTOPHER MITCHELL



Performing History class members pose in costume in front of the James J. Hill House on St. Paul's Summit Avenue.

Urban Bonus

BEING PART OF A COLLEGE located in the middle of a major metro area is a real boon for arts students. Macalester's Theatre and Dance Department takes particular advantage of this urban location when hiring its visiting instructors.

Take, for example, former visiting professor Eric Colleary, who last spring offered the class *Performing History*, which made use of many local historical and theatrical assets. Colleary, now Clive Curator of Theater and Performing Arts at the University of Texas, has a doctorate in theater and a minor in museum studies.

He put both forms of expertise to use leading his 12-member class in writing and performing an interpretive play about the James J. Hill family of St. Paul. Hill, founder and owner of the Northern Pacific and Great Northern Railways, built a mansion on the city's wealthy Summit Avenue—today a Minnesota Historical Society site.

The first half of the semester students immersed themselves in St. Paul and Hill family history—the food (they even cooked and served a meal using recipes from the time), the etiquette, the social dance, the architecture, and family and servant papers. The class visited the J.J. Hill House (where the performance was held in May), the J.J. Hill library, and the Landmark Center, site of the old federal courthouse, where Hill fought a trust-busting suit against his railroad.

The play was set in 1910, and told mostly from the perspec-

tive of the Hills' Irish and Swedish servants. College theatrical costumer Lynn Farrington found period costumes at Macalester, Hamline University, Chanhassen Dinner Theater, and other local theaters.

Said English major **Isabella Seaton '15** (Aberdeen, S.D.), who played Hill's wife, Mary: "This has been a really comprehensive course. It's amazing the amount of detail we learned from archives, house records, letters, and so on." Hill House site manager Craig Johnson told Colleary he was "deeply impressed" with the students, and that in the quarter century he'd worked there, no other group had done such deep research nor created such an engaging program.

Other theatre/dance classes available to Mac students, thanks to its urban location, include an African American theater class taught by Sarah Bellamy, new co-artistic director of St. Paul's Penumbra Theatre Company (recently featured in a *New York Times* article about new leaders of Twin Cities theaters); a class, *Physical Approaches*, taught by performer and director Bob Rosen, cofounder of the internationally acclaimed Theatre de la Jeune Lune; and dance courses with Brian Evans, principal dancer with the Stuart Pimsler Dance & Theater; Patricia Brown, founder and choreographer for the Spirit of Ashé Performing Arts Troupe; and **Krista Landberg '85**, former principal dancer with the Susan Marshall Co. in New York City.



Britany Lewis '09
on the Bowdoin
College campus
in September.

LESSON PLAN

Brittany Lewis '09, political activist and PhD,
teaches her students never to defer their dreams.

BY **KARIS HUSTAD** → PHOTO BY **SÉAN ALONZO HARRIS**

Before she encountered her first student at Bowdoin College this fall, **Brittany Lewis '09** had a lesson planned for her first day of teaching as a post-doctoral fellow. “At the beginning, I always tell my students, ‘It’s okay if you don’t know what you’re going to do and you don’t have all the answers,’” says Lewis, who was awarded a doctorate in feminist studies from the University of Minnesota in May. “I had no clue what I was going to do when I came to Macalester, but you figure it out as you go,” says Lewis. “It’s been quite the ride.”

Lewis grew up in Minneapolis, earning attention as a top basketball player at Roosevelt High School and an invitation to help rebuild Macalester’s women’s team. She’d never heard of the school before visiting it her senior year, harboring doubts as to whether a small liberal arts college would be a good fit. Then she sat in on a Hip-hop Feminism class, “and I was blown away,” she remembers. “I just couldn’t believe there were classes that put women’s roles in hip-hop culture into an academic framework. I was sold.”

When she arrived on campus in 2005, Lewis envisioned a future in journalism, but “the classes I took and the faculty mentorship I received pushed me to ask different questions.” One pivotal class was Black Public Intellectuals, taught by Duchess Harris—now chair of the American Studies Department—which examined Black scholarly leaders in politics, theater, literature, and film, along with “Ebony Voices in the Ivory Tower.”

Says Lewis, “There is this larger history that I was completely unaware of: the history of the Black female struggle from slavery to the current moment. And it blew my mind. The course took an intellectual approach to reading their activism that I had longed for.”

Lewis quit basketball after her sophomore year as she embraced political activism and delved into the lives and writings of Black women activists such as feminist poet Audre Lorde, journalist Ida B. Wells, and civil rights leader Fannie Lou Hamer. She also interned with North Minneapolis state representative Neva Walker, the first African American woman to serve in the Minnesota Legislature, took on leadership roles at the college, and helped create Macalester’s Black History Month committee.

The close bonds Lewis forged with other student activists and faculty mentors grew more meaningful during her junior year, when she became pregnant. “People assumed I would leave school and my family really wanted me to take time off, but in my mind that wasn’t an option,” says Lewis, who remembers telling then-Student Affairs Vice President Laurie Hamre, “I’m not going anywhere.” In fact, Lewis gave

birth to her first daughter, Brooklynn, just weeks before starting her senior year.

“I wanted to show my daughter how important it is to not give up on your goals and dreams. I was planning to go to graduate school—and it was important to me to stick to the plan,” she says. To manage it all, she moved off campus and switched to mostly night classes so she could care for her daughter during the day, with now-husband Brandon Royce-Diop watching the baby at night. Her mother, who owns a group home, planned staffing so Lewis could drop off Brooklynn if she needed to run to class.

Brooklynn was also a regular at Lewis’s senior seminar with Duchess Harris. Indeed, Harris occasionally taught with the baby perched on her hip, and fellow students would take turns holding her during class discussions. The Macalester faculty and staff, says Lewis, “had a relationship with me and wanted me to finish. Now I want to be that for someone else,” she continues. “Life is complicated . . . I want to be able to assist that student who has promise and is working hard, but just needs a little help.”

Lewis kept up the same pace through graduate school at the University of Minnesota “eating, sleeping, and breathing books” except for the summer-long maternity leave she took to welcome second daughter, Naima, born in 2012.

Though she continues to face challenges as she begins her academic career—submitting book proposals and looking for tenure-track positions—Lewis feels fortunate to have found work she hadn’t even imagined a decade ago. “I didn’t know you could build a career writing about things you’re passionate about,” she says. “But I fell in love with this thing, and I believe I have something to contribute to the conversation.”

Sparking conversations that challenge preconceptions about race, privilege, and power structures is part of her lesson plans as she teaches classes such as Black Girlhood and History of Black Women’s Political Activism in Brunswick, Maine, where she moved with her family last summer. “My purpose in class is to talk *at* them less, and get them to think out loud and engage with each other more,” she says. Learning about voices traditionally left out of history books, Lewis says, “is often about unlearning what you think you know. It can be uncomfortable, but you do your students a disservice if you fail to provide them with a safe place to engage on issues of race.

“If you don’t, how can you expect them to do it in the real world?” ■

KARIS HUSTAD is an education reporter for *Streetwise Media* in Chicago.

High ANXIETY

With academic stress and mental health disorders on the rise, Macalester is boosting resources to help students build more balanced lives.

BY LAURA BILLINGS COLEMAN → ILLUSTRATIONS BY JON KRAUSE / JOANIEBREP.COM

It takes a few months for most first years to start feeling at home at Macalester, but from the moment he stepped onto campus this fall, one newcomer was on a first-name basis with nearly everyone he met.

“Kevin’s like a celebrity. When you walk with him, everyone’s calling his name and rushing over to him— ‘Kevin is here! Kevin is here!’” says **Emma Swanson ’16** (Ypsilanti, Mich.) “During move-in weekend he must have met 200 people. Everyone just loves him.”

All of that squealing, shouting, and selfie-snapping could easily go to a guy’s head, but Kevin’s closest companions report that in spite of his BMOC status, he’s still managing to keep his feet firmly on the ground. All four of them.

Kevin’s clear head and approving swagger are all part of the training this three-year-old Golden Retriever has received at the hands of his owner and trainer, Stephanie Walters, Macalester’s medical director. Her 85-pound purebred is a certified therapy dog, originally trained to work as a reading dog in elementary schools, offering tail-wagging encouragement to young learners sounding out new literacy skills.

But as Walters and her colleagues at Mac’s Health and Wellness Center (HWC) have been faced with a steadily rising demand for counseling services, off-campus therapy referrals, and other stress-reduction resources, they began to wonder whether Kevin might be cut out for work in higher education.

“I’d leave the house in the morning knowing that this wonderful therapy dog would be spending the day looking out the window, while every day I’m talking to students who are dealing with real stress, sadness, homesickness, and anxiety,” says Walters. Studies show that simply petting a beloved animal can trigger a wave of positive brain and bodily responses, boosting calming compounds like oxytocin, and lowering the stress hormone cortisol, a chemical actor in anxiety—now the top mental health complaint of college students nationwide.

As an experiment, the HWC team has put Kevin to work this year, pairing him with four trained student handlers who accompany him on his twice-weekly “rounds.” Modeling his role on a larger such initiative at the University of Minnesota called “Petting Away Worry and Stress,” Kevin has been appearing at orientation sessions and wellness-training groups, greeting students in his stride, and submitting to all manner of belly rubs, paw shakes, and ear scratches. He even has his own Instagram account (@pawsatmac), and, like other campus therapists, maintains regular office hours at the Leonard Center, offering his soulful brown eyes to slumping sophomores, and comic relief to lab-weary chemistry majors.

While Kevin’s campus gig is still a pet project, Walters believes he’s already filling a necessary niche in the growing menu of mental health services Macalester provides for its students. “He’s a dog, of course, but he really is a fantastic listener.”



Anxiety 101

Good listeners are in high demand at college counseling centers these days, which have seen an 8 percent surge in student use nationwide, according to research from the Center for Collegiate Mental Health (CCMH) at Pennsylvania State University. More than half of students visiting campus clinics cite anxiety symptoms as the reason for their visit—a trend Ted Rueff, HWC associate director, says is mirrored at Macalester.

“Last year was the first year that stress and anxiety superseded depression as the number one presenting concern,” he says, noting that counseling slots to assist struggling students are fully booked by October each year. Although most students his counseling staff sees may need only a handful of the 10 counseling sessions Mac students are entitled to each year, even a short waiting list for mental health care can be a cause for concern. According to CCHM research, more than 30 percent of college students who have sought mental health care at campus clinics report that they’ve seriously considered attempting suicide at

some point—up from a quarter of students in 2010.

“It’s not an epidemic, but we’re seeing a real increase in demand for a variety of reasons,” says Dean of Students Jim Hoppe. One major reason is the Americans with Disabilities Act, which has opened doors to students who a generation ago might not have had the support to succeed in college. In fact, each year nearly three-quarters of Macalester students who request academic accommodations plans for a disability do so because of a mental health diagnosis. Nationwide, nearly half of college students receiving campus mental health services had already had counseling in the past, while nearly a third had been prescribed medication for mental health concerns.

“We know more than we did 30 years ago, and the positive part of that is that many more students can succeed in high school and go on to college,” Hoppe says. Making a healthy transition to early adulthood, he says, “means going from having their parents manage their lives to becoming more independent, and part of the adjustment colleges have had to make is in helping students figure out how to navigate that on their own.”

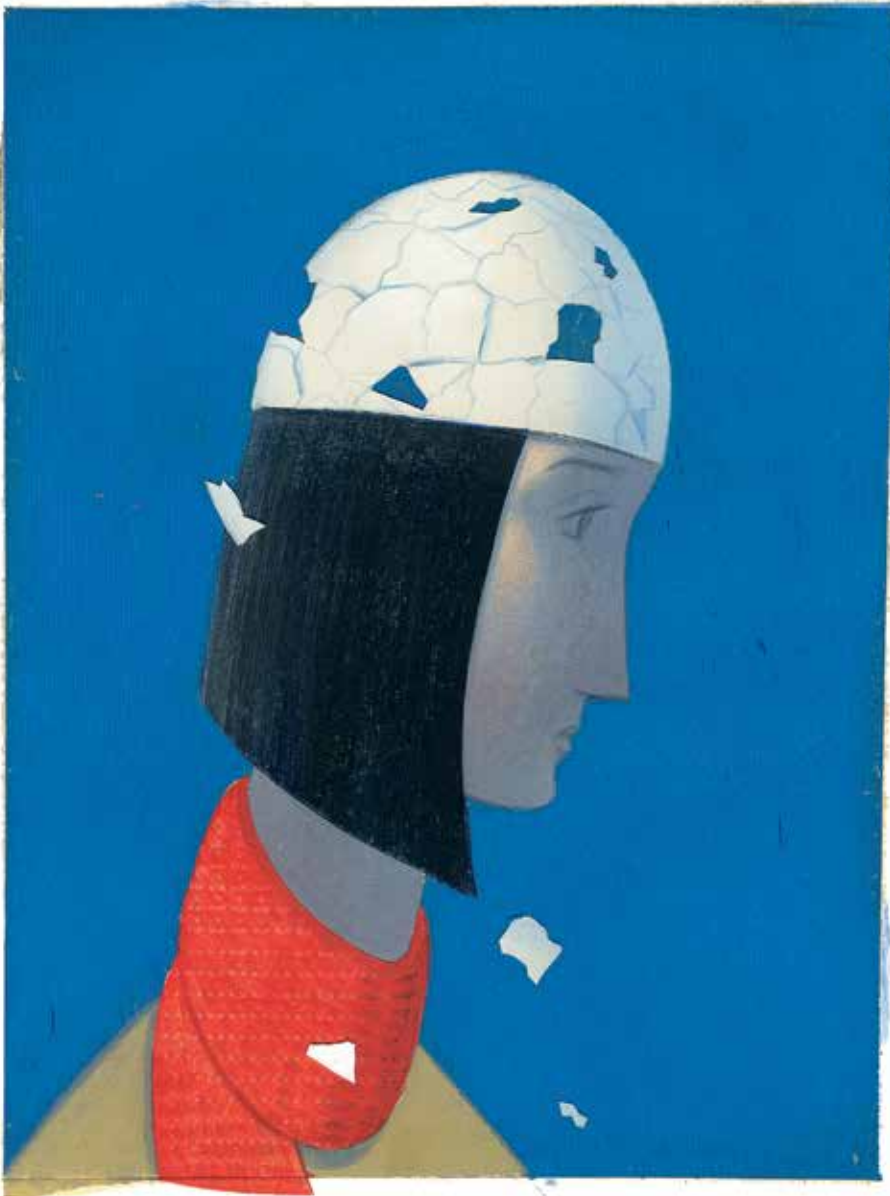
To meet the need, Macalester now has four full-time counselors and two graduate counseling interns, as well as a new staffer who helps students in crisis or those coping with chronic mental health conditions find long-term care providers. “We’re really lucky to be in a resource-rich area,” says mental health care coordinator Beryl Wingate. “I help students review their insurance, look at the providers available to them—even those in specialty areas—to provide students with the best resources available.”

While there’s an active debate in higher education circles about how much mental health care colleges are obligated to provide students, research suggests that investing in more comprehensive care provides a return for colleges through higher student retention and graduation rates. “The argument is that if a student had cancer, you’d never expect to get chemotherapy from a college, so trying to define that boundary is a challenge,” Hoppe says. “But it’s a new skill set that colleges are trying to foster.”

Trigger Points

The most common complaints that push stressed-out students to seek help would be familiar to Macalester graduates from nearly any era—roommate conflicts and romantic break-ups, “sophomore slump” and “senioritis,” the culture shock common to international and study abroad students, not to mention the first time a straight-A high school student confronts a college-level C.

While those trigger points are easy to predict, says mental health counselor Mia Nosanow, the stakes can feel higher for many of today’s students, who’ve amassed top GPAs, test scores, and extracurriculars just to get accepted at Macalester and other selective schools.





"One of the big changes we see is that academically, the bar is so much higher," she says. "These kids are sometimes writing 60- to 80-page papers, producing nearly master's degree level work, while they're also running multiple social media platforms" that have spawned a whole new subset of stressors, like "FOMO"—the fear of missing out. "I have students who will fight with me about taking 20 minutes at the end of the day to read for pleasure, because they think it's impossible to take time for themselves." The high cost of a college education only adds to their anxiety. "A generation ago, you could work two summer jobs and pay for college, but these kids are making \$8 an hour and looking at tuition costs of \$60,000 a year," Nosanow says. "That's not a mental health problem—it's an economic reality."

Psychology professor Jaine Strauss, co-director of the program in Community and Global Health, says the uptick in anxiety is a trend she talks about with colleagues and in classroom discussions. "One rudimentary way to think about it is that anxiety has to do with looking forward, it's often about *what will happen if?* while depression is more about looking backward," she says. "When I think about the phenomena we're talking about—*Am I going to get a job? Am I going to have crush-*

ing debt? Am I going to be worthy in my peers' eyes?—those are all future looking."

Coming of age during an era beset by terrorism, climate change, and a growing economic divide, she says, "this is a generation that just may have more worry about what's coming next." One strain of stress that seems more common among Mac students, she adds, is a strong sense of social justice "and a deep desire to get the most of your education and make a difference"—even if it means burning out in the process. "If the way you demonstrate your worth is by having more to do than everybody else, that's not sustainable."

Misery Poker

One telltale symptom of increasing anxiety levels is a game observers call "misery poker," in which players raise the stakes on how overwhelmed they are. "You hear people say, 'I've got a 10-page paper due tomorrow that I haven't even started,' and then the next person says, 'Oh yeah? Well, I've got a 12-page paper, and a lab due...'" explains **Lucas Myers '17** (St. Michael, Minn.), a political science and Chinese major. "It's a drive to the bottom. The academic pressure is self-imposed, but it's also part of the culture."

Misery poker and its counterparts are major topics of discussion at weekly gathering of Voices of Mental Health, a student-run advocacy group, says Myers, who is co-chair of the organization. The relentlessly sunny filter of social media is another common complaint, "where you have to remind yourself not to compare yourself to others

and that people are only posting their peak moments. Someone who's posting 'Hey, look at me, I got this great internship,' is probably not going to mention being turned down for 10 others."

Voices hosts a series of campus events that call attention to the fact that one in four young adults between age ages of 18 and 24 has a diagnosable mental illness, which can put them at high risk for dropping out of college. In fact, the National Alliance on Mental Illness reports that 64 percent of young adults who leave college do so because of mental health-related concerns. That's one reason Voices co-chair **Jessie Miller '16** (Chicago) makes a point of encouraging struggling students to get help "before it gets so bad that you can't do anything about it."

Last year, Miller fell into a depression so profound "that I couldn't get out of bed" for days and was "definitely at risk of dropping out." Working with Assistant Dean of Students Robin Hart Ruthenbeck, she requested an accommodations plan that gave her time to finish her schoolwork and start feeling better with the help of regular therapy. "It helped me so much," Miller says. "I would not have been able to finish the semester without that accommodations plans. It was a life-saver."



Teaching Resilience

WHEN IT COMES to understanding the uptick in college mental health concerns, headlines often focus on the rise of the so-called helicopter parent, hovering near their child at the first sign of trouble. But Dean of Students Jim Hoppe says that scenario oversimplifies a more complex connection between today's college students and their parents.

"This generation of students is often very close to and trusting of their parents, which is a good thing," he says. "When it becomes debilitating to students is when parents step in to make decisions for their students," sweeping away obstacles before students have a chance to solve the problem on their own, a trend some college observers call "Snowplow Parenting."

While most college parents can expect a tearful phone call or a freaked-out text message from their kids, counseling services director Ted Rueff urges those on the receiving end to relax. "At any given moment your child may be flipping out, but remember, it's a state, not a trait. Many times students will call their parents in distress, hang up in tears, and then go out for dinner with a roommate and feel much better. But the parent is at home assuming they've got a real problem on their hands."

If your child is struggling, Rueff recommends this line of questioning to help college students seek help in a way that builds self-reliance. "Start with *How are you feeling?* It's a question that can help students articulate what they're experiencing, and make them feel better understood. Next, try *What can you do about it?* which is more empowering than *How can I help?* And finally, ask them *What resources can you turn to on your campus?* which encourages resourcefulness and resilience."



WEB CONNECT: To learn more about how parents can encourage a healthy transition to college, visit macalester.edu/healthandwellness/parents.

Building a Sustainable Student

Last fall, 74 Macalester students sought accommodations plans for such issues as anxiety, depression, PTSD, OCD, bipolar disorder, and Autism spectrum disorders—yet studies suggest those numbers don't represent all the students who may need help. NAMI reports that each year, nearly 73 percent of students living with a mental health condition experienced a crisis, yet fewer than half of those students reported their concerns to the college.

That's why Macalester's counseling services are aimed at anticipating some challenges, providing a weekly grief and loss support group, keeping open drop-in counseling hours to meet emergent needs, and offering popular programs like Cultivating Calm that teach students yoga, meditation, and mindfulness training. Upstream solutions like these can help students manage stressful times, says counselor Rueff, and help keep a problem from becoming a full-blown crisis. "Macalester has really embraced the idea of wellness as a college-wide concern, where we task ourselves with building a more resilient student, one who is living a more sustainable lifestyle, and who is invested in their own self-care," he says.

One of the earliest lessons first-year students learn is the value of healthy sleep—still a tough sell in dorms where all-nighters are common. For the last three years, Lisa Broek, associate director of health promotions, has led a campus campaign for better sleep, visiting more than 20 first-year seminars this fall to share research and health tips about the value of rest. Poor sleep can negatively impact mental health, Broek says, "and new research shows that sleep is increasingly important when it comes to academic success." That's why she encourages students to check out the HWC's online "nap map" charting cozy places around campus to curl up for 20 minutes, and urges them to turn off computers, smartphones, and other devices for at least 30 minutes of "digital detox" before bedtime. "Exercise, good nutrition, and sleep—it's not glamorous, but it's what works," she says.

Another stress-busting initiative is "Embody the Change," a confidential peer community program now in its second year on campus. Last year more than 100 Mac students took part in a training session, then broke up into smaller groups of five or six students that met for weekly "ETC Circles" to discuss the tension between what they want to accomplish in life and how they want to live. In a campus community as hard-charging as Macalester's, says medical director Walters, "For many students, the answer is not always to involve yourself more, but to step back. You have to learn to take care of yourself first, before you can take care of everything else."

That's a message for good mental health that Rueff hopes Macalester students are encountering on multiple fronts. "If you want to be an effective agent of social change, you need to keep the instrument sharp—and that instrument is you." ■

LAURA BILLINGS COLEMAN, a Macalester neighbor, is a regular contributor to the magazine.



A Choral



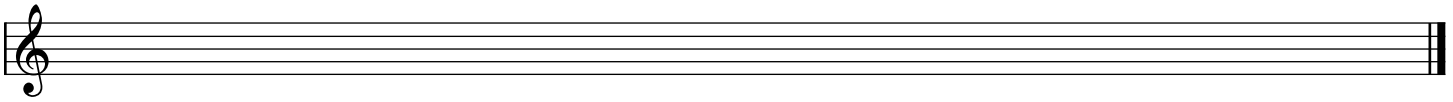
Left: Macalester's Concert Choir performing at Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Ore. right: Jolena Zabel '16 sings at Lewis & Clark; inset: Michael McGaghie conducting



Journey

Mac's Concert Choir tour the Pacific Northwest—and everyone benefits.

BY LYNETTE LAMB → PHOTOS BY JAN SONNENMAIR



It is a chilly morning in March—very early in the morning—when the Macalester Concert Choir members climb onto a couple buses parked in back of Weyerhaeuser Hall to make the short trip to the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport.

But despite the unholy 6 a.m. meeting time, “an air of excitement” fills the bus, says alto **Jolena Zabel ’16** (Hastings, Minn.). “There’s definitely plenty of energy here.”

And why not, for the 40 members of the Concert Choir are headed out on a tour of the Pacific Northwest, where they will share their music with the many Macalester alumni and friends who make their homes in Portland and Seattle.

“We’re taking up half the plane,” says Zabel. “It’s always fun when we’re together.”



Much of the fun and energy of Concert Choir can be attributed to its leader, Michael McGaghie, who took over as conductor in the fall of 2012. McGaghie has an impressive resume, with degrees from Harvard and Boston University and stints as director of choral activities at The Boston Conservatory and assistant conductor of the Harvard Glee Club.

But what you can’t see on paper is the enormous talent and enthusiasm he brings to his role of conductor. The man vibrates with energy. “Mike is always so excited about the music, and he helps get me excited, too,” says soprano **Diana Rosenzweig ’15** (Ann Arbor, Mich.).

What’s more, says Zabel, “He knows community makes a difference to the music in a choir. If community goes unnurtured, the music is affected.”



The tour’s first major community-building exercise is an hours-long trip to Powell’s Books, the famously huge downtown Portland store. Students who tire of book shopping wander around downtown Portland—encountering more bikes than cars—and stroll along the Willamette River. Later they meet their host families, mostly Macalester alumni and friends, but some, such as Zabel’s hosts, just local community members who have agreed to open their homes to visiting fellow choristers. “We ate a great meal and had a blast there,” says Zabel. “I found it remarkable that people with no connection to the college would be interested in doing this.”



“Welcome to our first full day in Oregon! How did you sleep? Great? I’m very glad to hear it! Let’s get right to work!” And so begins day two of the tour, as the choir members, McGaghie, and accompanist Ruth Palmer gather in Lewis & Clark College’s Agnes Flanagan chapel, a Douglas fir/pebble floored/stained glass building in the center of campus.

“Ee—aaah—ee—aah—ay—ooo—oooh!” soars to the chapel’s conical ceiling as the choir warms up. The first song they rehearse on the first day is “Dear Old Macalester.” “We’ll sing this with any alumni present,” says McGaghie.

As the familiar anthem rolls out, McGaghie shouts, “That’s gorgeous! Gorgeous! Keep the sound very open! Sopranos, you’re still

sharp every time you sing that D. Basses, take it down a bit, though I hate to say that. It’s like turning down a plate of really delicious food!”



Although the tour was originally destined solely for Seattle, McGaghie added on Portland because Lewis & Clark’s choir director—Dr. Katherine FitzGibbon—is a close friend from graduate school. It also happens to be the college of the twin sister of baritone and choir manager **Alex Webb ’17**. (Zoe Webb is Alex’s twin sister; their mother is Macalester math professor Karen Saxe.) These connections add a lot of life and love to the day. McGaghie keeps hugging FitzGibbon. “I’m so glad to be here!” he exclaims, his enthusiasm infectious. “Man, this is fun!”

At dinnertime in the Lewis & Clark cafeteria, both choirs sit together, eating and laughing in the large, sunny space. The Mac students are amused to discover that the same company, Bon Appetit Catering, runs the food service operations of both colleges.

Soon there’s a mad rush to get dressed—hardest for the women, trying to wriggle into their black skirts and heels and fix their hair and makeup in a too-small ladies room. And before anyone is quite ready, the concert is starting.

The repertoire is a mix of 20th and 21st century pieces including “Fern Hill” by John Corigliano, “Sure on This Shining Night” by Morten Lauridsen, and “Wanting Memories” by Ysaye M. Barnwell. The Macalester Concert Choir sings in a mixed formation, which means that altos, sopranos, tenors, and basses are spread throughout the group rather than being clumped together in sections. “I tend to think that it adds richness to the sound and strengthens the independence of the singers,” says McGaghie, who is forever tinkering with the choral members’ placement.

Says accompanist Palmer, “It takes a really keen ear to play well with placement, making sure that not all the strongest voices are on one side,” for instance. “And Mike has one of the best ears around.”

The reception following the concert is a happy mixture of Mac alumni, choir members, Lewis & Clark choir members, the Webb/Saxe family (who traveled to Portland for the occasion), Lewis & Clark students, and other community members.



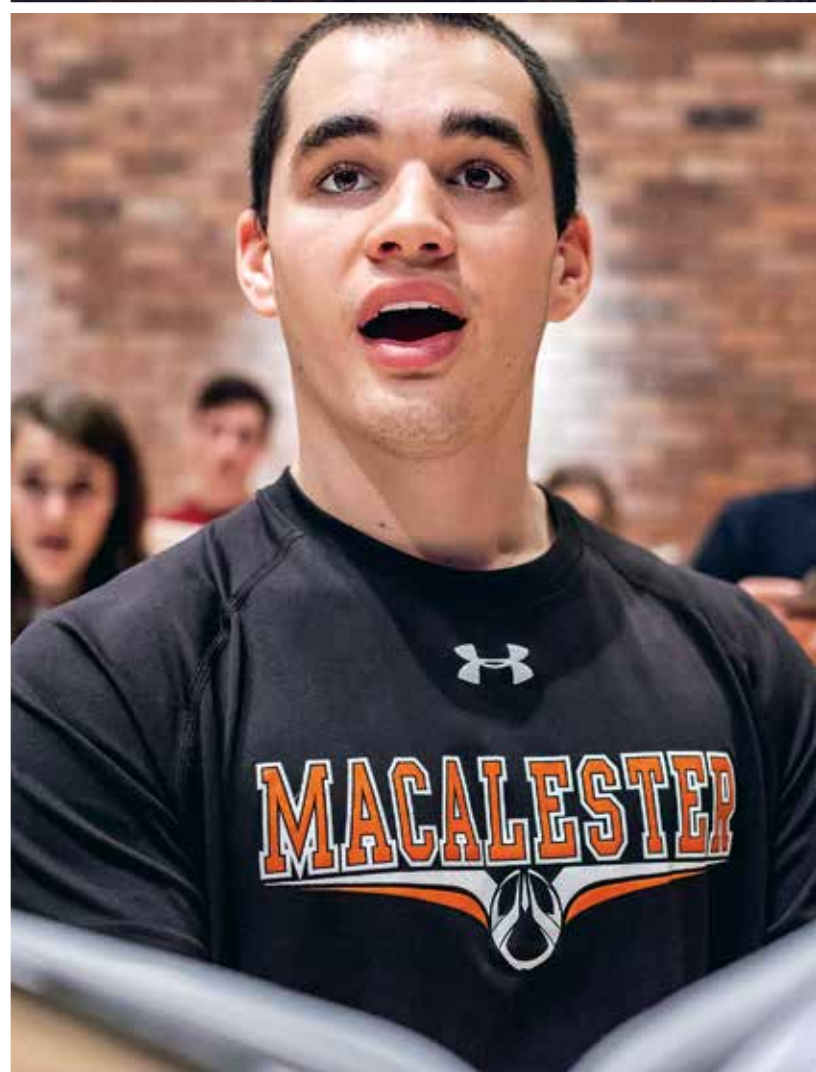
Tours, of course, are expensive undertakings for a group the size of the Macalester Concert Choir. Although every effort is made to reduce costs (staying with host families rather than in hotels, for example), buying plane tickets, feeding, and transporting a group of 40 isn’t cheap. So why do it?

“Because touring is the number one best experience for reinforcing our musicality,” says McGaghie. “The quality of our performances goes up exponentially on a tour.”

Psychologically it’s important too, he continues. “Tours build warmth, cooperation, and trust because you’re together in a time and place where the rest of life’s daily clutter is gone. And the non-music days are just as important as the concert days. Together we make something that none of us can make on our own.

“We’re more than the sum of our parts, and never is that more true than with a choir.”

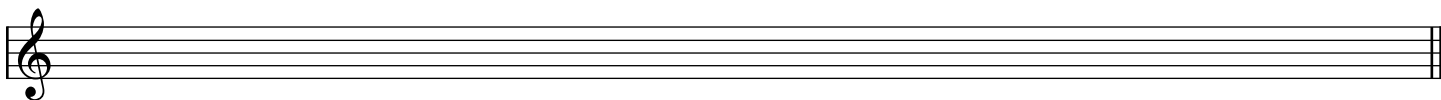
The choir members emphatically agree. “Touring as a choir is essential to honing the communication and trust among the group,” says





Clockwise from top left: Vista House along the Columbia River, site of an impromptu concert; selfie mania; a group of choristers hiking along the Columbia River Gorge; a steep section of the climb up Multnomah Falls; getting on the tour bus in downtown Portland; a trio of choir members.





bass **David Goldstein '16** (Sharon, Mass.). Adds Zabel, “Tours provide a community-building and learning experience that you can’t find anywhere else. They’re so important for the fellowship they build and for getting Macalester’s name out there. We’re ambassadors of the college while we’re on tour—for potential students, for the alumni community, and for our audience members in general.”



Ambassadorship of a more impromptu kind pops up the day after the Lewis & Clark concert, while the group is touring the Columbia River Gorge east of Portland. Having stopped at the Crown Point overlook, the choir wanders into an octagonal park building called Vista House, and there makes a snap decision to sing in the acoustically outstanding space.

They perform Rachmaninoff’s “Bogoroditse Devo” in the century-old stone structure, while more and more tourists gather to listen. As the choir members hold hands, their music soars through the Art Nouveau building with its panoramic Columbia River views. It’s a magical moment, both choir members and director agree. Says Goldstein, “I’ll never forget that performance as long as I live.”

Hiking along the spectacular Columbia River Gorge comes next, with some students scrambling up a mile to the top of the Multnomah Falls trail and others hanging back to chat at various overlooks. For Rosenzweig, the hiking day provides a rare chance to have lengthy one-on-one conversations with fellow choir members. “That’s a part of the tour that’s very special,” she says.

The long bus ride from Portland to Seattle, complete with major rush-hour traffic on Interstate 5, provides another opportunity for choral bonding. Raucous games of Mad Libs (verbs: snogging, slobbering, clenching; adjectives: slimy, chunky, prickly) alternate with questions like: Who is most likely to text during rehearsals? (Mike McGaghie, they agree, though he protests he’s using the metronome on his phone.) Who is the loudest singer? Who’s most likely to know what’s trending on Twitter? Most likely to get lost at Powell’s Books?



All this musical talent, by the way, comes from a wide range of Macalester students. Macalester’s choir includes students who are pursuing all manner of majors. Rosenzweig, for instance, is studying economics while Goldstein is tackling computer science, international studies, and Arabic. Zabel is majoring in political science, English, and international studies, while other choristers are focused on psychology, geology, media studies, Hispanic studies, and math.

Mac’s choir members hail from all over the country and the world, too. Says Zabel, “I grew up 30 minutes away from campus but we have kids from both coasts,” as well as from Tokyo and Beijing. “I find that diversity really valuable,” she says. “I’ve met friends I would otherwise never have met...it changed my friend group at college.”

Athletes are also a significant part of the choir, something you’ll rarely find at a Big Ten school, for instance. One of these is **Konnor Fleming '15** (Charlotte, Vt.), who was enjoying his first and only semester in Concert Choir, a commitment that had proven impossible while he played football and ran track. When a bass dropped out of choir at midyear, he saw his opportunity and “cut a deal between Margaret

[track coach] and Mike.” The defensive back had sung in his high school choir, and “really missed that sound” despite having stayed musically active through his membership in the a cappella group Scotch Tape. “Being part of Concert Choir has been a dream come true for me,” he says. “From the first rehearsal, I’ve been blown away by the quality of this group’s sound.”

Quarterback and tenor **Jacob Simons '17** (Oconomowoc, Wis.) is also in the choir, as is **John Verkuilen '13** (Green Bay, Wis.), a former Macalester offensive lineman who sings tenor on the tour and served all year as the group’s assistant director. (This fall he is studying choral conducting at the Boston Conservatory). Then there’s the man who was voted by his peers as loudest singer—**Alex Rack '16** (Swarthmore, Pa.), a backstroke on the men’s swim team.



Friday dawns grey and rainy in Seattle, as choir members gather at the site of the 1960 World’s Fair just north of downtown to board the bus for Tacoma. Tonight’s concert is at Christ Episcopal Church in downtown Tacoma, adjacent to a huge hospital complex. The Brutalist-style concrete building is a marked contrast to yesterday’s Art Nouveau park building. It’s colder today, too, and choir members are wearing jeans and sweatshirts as the afternoon rehearsal starts.

Choir members are full of stories about their overnight hosts in Seattle. Both Goldstein and Zabel, along with tenor **Spike Sommers '18** (Providence, R.I.) are staying with **Emma Lynn '13**. “It’s nice to meet recent choir alumni who are working as musicians,” says Sommers. “It’s cool to see their great little apartments and what they’re doing now...it makes me optimistic about what I might be doing in a few years, after college.”

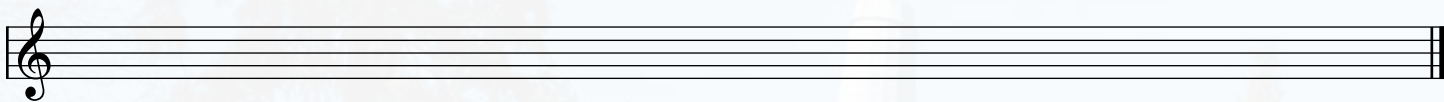
The housing and other tour logistics are complicated, and McGaghie admits he has been helped enormously in these efforts by choir managers Rosenzweig, Webb, and alto **Paige Blazei '15** (Plymouth, Minn.). Rosenzweig arranged to acquire new, more gender-neutral concert attire and ordered plane tickets; Webb handled the programs and made sure everyone got on the buses and airplanes; and Blazei arranged all the tour housing.

After a significant warm-up (McGaghie: “Brrrrrrrr! Up and stretch to the sky! Lovely! I can’t wait to share us with them!”), the whole group enjoys a church supper with the congregation, most of whom are in their sixties and seventies. Choir members mingle with church ladies, complimenting them on their casseroles and cookies.



On Saturday, the last full day of the tour, the drizzly Seattle weather brightens, allowing choir members to walk to Pike Place Market and to catch a glimpse of the Pacific. By 6 p.m. it’s back to today’s performance space, First United Methodist Church, located near Seattle’s famous Space Needle. In the large contemporary sanctuary lined with purple, blue, and green stained-glass windows, McGaghie reminds his choir members to keep looking up for musical cues, and to stretch before the performance.

The group also spends some time discussing the meaning of “Fern Hill,” with lyrics by poet Dylan Thomas. “Thank you for sharing your thoughts,” says McGaghie. “Now, would you like to do this number at



our April concert?" "YES!" the 40 singers shout as one. "Okay, that's all I needed to hear," says McGaghie, providing yet another example of the respect he routinely accords his choir members.

"Mike really listens to us, and a lot of directors of his stature wouldn't," says Zabel. "For example, last year we asked for more global music and sure enough, this year he added that to our repertoire. He knows that for us to have a role makes everything better."

Before long the concert is in full swing and then, all too soon, its soaring music ends, and the choir and its audience are filing downstairs for coffee and punch. Much hugging ensues, especially among the current choir members and recent ones such as **Emma Lynn '13**, **Hannah Warman Nkeulia '13**, **Claire Biringer '12**, and **Taryn Valley '14**.

Watching the warmth among the college singers, it's easy to believe Rosenzweig when she insists that group members stay in touch. "Choir is a constant source of security," she says. "It's really like a family, and certainly the place I've made my closest friends.

"Mike cares deeply about us, and is always checking in to see how we're doing. As he says, we're here for each other." **M**

LYNETTE LAMB, editor of *Macalester Today*, accompanied the *Macalester Concert Choir* on its *Pacific Northwest* tour.

Future Choir Tours

Feb. 2016—Performance for ACDA, Sioux Falls, South Dakota (see facing page)

March 2016—Short tour to Rochester, Minnesota, and Madison, Wisconsin

March 2017—Possible tour to Chicago or Washington, D.C.

2018 and beyond—The dream? An international tour to Europe or Asia



Spring was in full bloom in Portland on the day the Macalester Concert Choir came to town. In the background is the Lewis & Clark College's Agnes Flanagan Chapel, where the choir performed.



Choral Invitation

THE MACALESTER CONCERT CHOIR has been invited to perform at the American Choral Directors Association North Central division conference in February. The North Central division includes Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Wisconsin.

Ensembles must apply to perform at these conferences, and to be eligible, conductors must have been with their group for the previous three years. It's a double-blind audition—conductors anonymously submit recordings judged by a panel of established conductors, whose names also are kept confidential.

Given the many outstanding choirs in the region, winning a spot at the conference is highly competitive and therefore a real coup for the choir and indeed the college. The Macalester Concert Choir will be one of just five college choirs—and the only one from Minnesota—performing this year.

"The strength of our music program is not fully known among music educators in the region," McGaghie says. "There will be many high school conductors at this conference who will hear the Concert Choir perform. I hope that they'll tell their students about what our department has to offer—that if they want both a great liberal arts education and a great music community, they should consider Macalester."

The Concert Choir will perform on Feb 19, 2016, at the Mary Sommervold Hall in Sioux Falls' Washington Pavilion.



Building Leaders

A stint at an innovative Cambodian school made **Max Cady '10** a teacher.

BY ELIZABETH FOY LARSEN

Growing up, **Max Cady '10** spent seven weeks each summer at a camp in the Adirondacks, where, in addition to learning how to carve canoe paddles and hoist sails, he cared for barnyard animals and grew produce in the camp's working farm. It was such a transformative experience for the New York City native that he eventually worked there as a counselor. "I had a good education," says Cady of his Brooklyn private school, "but I'd come home from camp feeling like I'd learned more over the summer than I had during the school year."

That affinity for hands-on, project-based learning eventually took Cady across the world to the Liger Learning Center, an innovative boarding school in the rainforest just outside Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Started in 2012 by an American investor and his wife, the English-language school provides full scholarships for 50 Cambodian students, ages 11 to 18, from disadvantaged backgrounds (they're now recruiting another 60 for a new cohort to start next fall). Students are chosen not just for their academic potential but also for the kind of creative spark and dot-connecting chutzpah that, encouraged and nurtured, could one day turn them into their country's entrepreneurial leaders.

That's a high bar for any school, much less a start-up in Cambo-

dia, which missed out on the education boom of Singapore and other Southeast Asian countries when the Khmer Rouge was in power. "It's not a normal school," says Liger Learning Coordinator Jeffrey Holte, the brother of Macalester Art Department technical supervisor Mark Holte. "Our program has been developed to encourage our students to change their country." In addition to a core program emphasizing math and literacy, Liger's curriculum is centered around "explorations"—seven-week projects that examine a real-life challenge in Cambodia. Students travel throughout the country to conduct research and develop a product or other solution to address the problem.

Cady learned about Liger not from Holte but from an international school job fair. He'd been working at after-school programs in Minnesota and was considering a career in education. There was just one hitch: "I hated school," he says. Even with that reservation, Liger's real-world philosophy struck a chord with Cady. So despite having never worked as a teacher or visited Southeast Asia, he signed on as an intern, living on site and facilitating after-school activities.

It was a perfect fit. And what started as a one-year lark turned into a life-changing, three-year commitment and ultimately a promotion to full-time learning facilitator—Liger-speak for teacher. Cady was one of



Left: Max Cady '10 and Liger Learning Coordinator Jeff Holte on the Liger school grounds. Inset: Cady and his students building a banana hanger from Legos.

ten facilitators, half of whom came from other countries.

"I've always wanted to make the world more interesting and playful," says Cady. "At Liger I found that I could do fun things with education." That included coaching the school's robotics program, despite knowing nothing about the subject and working with kids who didn't own computers. He also led a water safety class, inspired by the fact that drowning is the leading cause of death for Cambodian children. A former member of the Macalester swim team, Cady taught his students to swim and helped them create a basic water safety curriculum. He also facilitated a collaboration with an international school in Singapore through which his students, just 12 at the time, provided technical support to Cambodian NGOs.

He was aided in this work by his psychology degree, says Cady, as well as by a Macalester course—taught by religion professor and Cambodia expert Erik Davis—that explored Buddhism and the supernatural. He also appreciates the impact Mac's culture had on him. "I feel like Macalester gave me a more just and equitable view of the world."

"Max was the perfect person to teach kids how to change the world," says Holte. "Kids coming out of government schools are very linear. It was mind-blowing for them to be exposed to someone like Max, who sometimes has crazy ideas that are actually very cutting edge. He en-

couraged our students to think."

Cady's playful support of his students was on display last year when Mark Holte and his wife, Pat Harty, a retired St. Paul Public Schools speech pathologist, visited Liger. Harty was there to observe and offer suggestions to the school about how to best teach English as a second language. She watched as, from a pile of Legos dumped in the middle of the classroom floor, Cady's class was attempting to fashion banana hangers—a device to keep this Cambodian diet staple fresh longer. "Max did a great job using questions and challenges as opposed to giving students the four steps to build hangers," Harty says.

Cady left Liger last summer to pursue a master's degree at the Technology, Innovation, and Education program within Harvard's Graduate School of Education. When asked what's next, Cady pauses and looks away. It's clear he's still processing his experience at Liger and isn't certain of his path. But for now he's focused on networking and acquiring some formal training in education, in the hopes that he'll find another opportunity to use his unconventional approach to schooling.

"Liger really changed my ideas about what's possible in education," he says. "I'm not a textbook teacher and don't want to be. At Liger my role was to help kids develop as innovative, creative thinkers."

With Cady as a role model, chances are good that his students—both past and future—will become exactly that. ■

ELIZABETH FOY LARSEN is a Minneapolis freelance writer and editor.

This page: Class of 1915, Eunice Finch from Slayton, Minn., died the spring of her senior year following a brief illness. Facing page: Alexandra Greenler '15 as Finch.



Reimagining Portraits

For a photography class, **Alexandra Greenler '15** re-created pictures of female students of yesteryear.

BY LYNETTE LAMB



Imagining the lives of women students from Macalester's past was the start of an ambitious photo project for **Alexandra Greenler '15** (Stoughton, Wis.) last year.

Greenler, a history major and former student worker in the college archives, tackled the project for an Introduction to Photography class taught by visiting art professor Eric Carroll. Each semester Carroll gives his class a specific topic to base their final projects around; last semester he directed them to work with an archives. Some students chose off-campus resources, but others—like Greenler—chose to engage with Macalester's own archives.

She decided to choose a portrait of a woman student from each decade—beginning in 1915 and culminating with her own graduation year of 2015—and to re-create that portrait using herself as a model. "I had the idea of putting myself in their shoes," says Greenler. "I asked myself, what was it like to be a student at Macalester in 1925, 1955, or 1975?"

To find her historic models, Greenler pored through old yearbooks, past issues of *The Mac Weekly*, and other archival sources, seeking women whose clothes she could replicate and whose hairstyles she could reproduce ("brunettes like me were easier," she laughs).

Although Greenler did not directly contact any of the surviving women, she did research their lives. "I tried to find out what their college life at Mac was like and where Macalester had led them later," she says. One woman, for example, was in the choir at Macalester and still sings in a choir in California. She discovered that another of her photo subjects, **Gay Eggen Tempas '65**, of Radnor, Pa., was attending her 50th reunion at Macalester last summer, but alas, Greenler was unable to meet her.

Greenler's job in the Macalester Archives, as well as her relationship with campus archivist Ellen Holt-Werle, were a big help as she did her research, she says, as was her long-standing interest in photography. Greenler belonged to the student organization Mac Pics for several



Above left: Class of 1925, Vila Sturgeon Peek from Amboy, Minn., math/chemistry/French major, taught high school, died in 1995.

Above right: Greenler as Peek.





Above left: Class of 1935, Ruth Goetzinger Lange from Elbow Lake, Minn., English major, earned a master's degree in library science, owned a theater in Clara City, Minn., lives in Fergus Falls, Minn. Above right: Greenler as Lange. Below left: Class of 1945, Betty Conger Summa from St. Paul, history/social science/physical education major, earned a master of education degree, taught history and social studies in Missouri, lives in St. Louis. Below right: Greenler as Summa.





Above left: Class of 1955, Donna Meline Haines from Lindstrom, Minn., elementary education major, owned her own company called Creative Originals, lives in Willmar, Minn. Above right: Greenler as Haines. Below left: Class of 1965, Gay Eggen Tempas from Hopkins, Minn., speech/English major, retired, lives in Radnor, Pa. Below right: Greenler as Tempas.





Above left: Class of 1975, Jennifer Grismer Dahlgren from Des Moines, Iowa, French/anthropology major, founded Dahlgren Communications, lives in Nevada City, Calif. **Above right:** Greenler as Dahlgren.



Left: Class of 2015, Alexandra Greenler from Stoughton, Wis., history/Hispanic studies major, lives in Seattle.

years (and was its president for a time) and took many photos while studying abroad in Alicante, Spain (one picture from that semester appeared in *Macalester Today*).

"I've loved photography for a long time," says Greenler, "and I know I will continue doing it in some capacity."

Her latest adventure, however, is geographic rather than photographic in nature. In August, Greenler, along with some classmates, headed cross-country to Seattle, where she hoped to find a job in a museum or some sort of creative field.

If her photography project is any indication, she would be an asset to any museum. Photography teacher Carroll was impressed with her ambitious work. "Alex's project was one of the best in the class because she combined scholarly research and creativity," he says. "In the end she created a project that commented on the fashions and trends in dress, style, and photography."

The final portrait in the century-long series, fittingly enough, was a self-portrait of Alex today. **M**

LYNETTE LAMB is editor of *Macalester Today*.

Leading the Loft



Trained as a visual artist, **Britt Udesen '98** now runs a nationally renowned literary nonprofit.

The Loft Literary Center, one of the nation's leading literary nonprofit organizations, is a Twin Cities institution that's gained a reputation as a premier resource for writing education, author readings, grant administration and performances. After its longtime executive director announced she was stepping down, a nationwide search was launched.

The new director is **Britt Udesen '98**, who was selected from a pool of more than 75 candidates.

Udesen, a Minnesota native, comes to The Loft from a leadership role at another respected writing center, Idaho-based The Cabin. She brings a history of innovation and collaboration, including development of a successful writers-in-schools program. "It's magical to help young writers understand the power of their own voices," she says. "In school, the fun is often taken out of writing. But creative writing is all about learning how to tell your story in your own voice, and understanding you have something important to say."

Learning to find her own creative voice was a journey that started for Udesen with her decision to attend Macalester College as a fine arts and education major. "I had been determined to leave Minnesota for college," she says. "But my aunt and uncle were Mac alums (**Jill Burkland '68** and **Bruce Burkland '72**), and my mom felt the college would be a good fit for me. She insisted I have an overnight visit at Macalester, and an hour into the visit, I knew it was the right school for me. I felt so welcome and so intrigued by a diverse and intellectually curious group of students. I was surrounded by some of the smartest people I'd ever met in my life, but no one was trying to prove anything."

Udesen's years at Macalester provided a safe and supportive place in which to make art. "It was the perfect preparation for a multidisciplinary artist because I was constantly urged to ask the essential questions," she says. "If I won the lottery today, I'd go back to college because I love exploring new things while being surrounded by people who both encourage and push me." Her focus in college was fiber arts, through she also studied printmaking, drawing, photography, poetry, and art history. She worked closely with former art professor Mary Hark. "Now, every day, I get to walk by a huge, beautiful piece of hers at the entrance to The Loft," Udesen says.

A sophomore-year internship at the Minnesota Center for Book Arts (MCBA) provided her with an introduction to arts administration. After helping out there with communications, budgeting, outreach, and other administrative tasks, says Udesen, "I was hooked pretty quickly, and I've been doing similar work ever since." After college she worked as a teaching artist for MCBA, ran education programs for the Textile Center of Minnesota, and worked at the College of Visual Arts. She left town for an administrative role at Idaho's Sun Valley Center for the Arts before taking the executive director position at The Cabin.

Although she lived in Idaho for more than a decade, Udesen's connections to Minnesota remain strong. She graduated from Mounds View High School in suburban Arden Hills, Minn., and as a young adult lived in both Uptown and Northeast Minneapolis. And her favorite place in the state—"maybe my favorite place in the world"—is the North Shore.

Udesen's Minnesota connections were among the factors that helped her become The Loft's fifth executive director in its 40-year history. "She knows the arts and literary communities of the Twin Cities very well," says Jack El-Hai, a Loft board and search committee member. Udesen's background as a visual artist rather than a writer didn't affect the committee's decision, says El-Hai. "Being a writer isn't part of the job description, and we weren't looking for a clone of previous leaders," he says. "What impressed us about Britt was the strength of her character and her personality."


For her part, says Udesen, "You won't find a person more passionate about literature, arts education, and the essential role of writers in our community than me. Plus, I can rock a spreadsheet and I know my way around a budget."

The transition to a new job has occurred along with other significant life changes for Udesen. Like The Loft itself, she just celebrated her 40th birthday. She is also a newlywed, having recently married Minnesota native Matt Furber. The occasion was an opportunity for some artistic expression. "I printed our wedding invitations and thank-you cards on my press," she says. "I'm doing art on a smaller, more personal scale these days. I may not do it every day or as my profession, but I will never stop creating things."

Asked what differences she anticipates in moving from a tiny nonprofit to the much larger Loft, with its \$2 million annual operating budget and staff of more than 40, Udesen begins with practicalities. "I expect I won't have to clean the bathroom as often," she laughs. "Seriously,

though, my first priority is to listen. This is a stable and successful organization, and it's my job to understand what's being done well, and how I can continue to support the good work."

Members of The Loft's board, who voted unanimously for her leadership appointment, are supportive. "Britt is such a good listener, and so judicious with her words," El-Hai says. "Her reputation and influence will only grow over time."

For her part, Udesen remains unabashedly enthusiastic about her chosen path, even at the risk of "geeking out" over her career. "In arts administration, I get to serve artists, introduce communities to their work, build connections, and tell stories," she says. "There isn't a person more enthusiastic, or perhaps some would say nerdy, about the work I get to do." 

Macalester was the perfect preparation for a multidisciplinary artist because I was constantly urged to ask the essential questions.

JULIE KENDRICK, a Minneapolis writer, is a regular contributor to Macalester Today.

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

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

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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



Mac friends who got together for the Wildwood Beach Ultimate Frisbee Tournament in Wildwood, N.J. were (from left): Pat Kemp '11, Nolan Levenson '11, Marina Eisenberg '10, Alex Davies '10, Lily Gordon-Koven '11, Griffin Schwed '10, Mikey Freedman '11, and James Mayer '11.



MAC AROUND THE WORLD



Maurice Robinson '76 and Dan Yarosh '76 took a weeklong whitewater river rafting vacation on Idaho's Selway River last June. Their river guide was Ari Kotler '94 (left).

1965

Ruth Milanese Lippin announces that the 21st annual Class of 1965 Holiday Tea will be held from 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, at Macalester's Alumni House. "Remember, it is a potluck," Ruth writes, "and if you want to help set up, please come at 1 p.m."

1966

The Class of 1966 will be celebrating its 50th Reunion June 3-5, 2016.

1970

Nancy Westrell competed in a flyball tournament in June in Cloverdale, British Columbia, with her two Aussie mixed-breed dogs, Clarabelle Tailfeathers and Pixel the Barbarian. Nancy has also earned a Nose Work 3 Elite title with her other Aussie, Fridley Toulouse.

1971

The Class of 1971 will be celebrating its 45th Reunion June 3-5, 2016.

In February, **Nancy Lane** moved from Boston, where she had lived since 1997, to Nashville, Tenn. She is senior vice president for population health management at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

1972

David Lapakko has completed his 28th year as a professor of communication studies at Augsburg College. He was the winner of this year's Great American Think-Off, a philosophy competition held annually in New York Mills, Minn. David addressed the question, "Does technology free us or trap us?"

1973

After 22 years of priestly ministry in the Church of England and, for the past nine years, the Scottish Episcopal Church, **Anne Sterling Haselhurst** planned to retire at the end of August. She looked forward to moving to St. Andrews, where she studied during her junior year at Macalester and met her husband.

Lucy Lind Hogan is completing a term as president of the North American Academy of Homiletics. She planned and directed the organization's annual meeting held in Nashville, Tenn., in celebration of its 50th anniversary.

1975

Jeff Friedman and Dzvinia Orlowsky are co-recipients of a 2016 Literature Translation Fellowship from the National

Endowment of the Arts. Jeff has published six poetry collections, including *Pretenders* (2014), *Working in Flour* (2011), and *Black Threads* (2008). His poems, stories, and translations have appeared in numerous journals, including *American Poetry Review*, *Poetry*, *Antioch Review*, and *The New Republic*.

Katherine Larsell of Portland, Ore., earned a MDiv degree from Marylhurst University and was ordained as a Unitarian Universalist minister in May.

1976

The Class of 1976 will be celebrating its 40th Reunion June 3–5, 2016.

David Perkins has opened a full-time private psychotherapy practice in New York City. He would love to hear from Macalester friends (davidwperkins@gmail.com).

**MAC AROUND THE WORLD**

Max Edwards '13 (right) and Lydia Bremer '11, shown here with former Macalester chaplain Lucy Forster-Smith (center, now at Harvard), graduated from Harvard Divinity School last spring.

**MAC AROUND THE WORLD**

Though she'd never ridden a road bike before last summer, **Margaret Giesel '15** nevertheless embarked on a 4,000-mile cross-country trip with **Bike & Build**, an organization supporting the affordable housing movement through service-oriented cycling trips for young people. Giesel's journey took her from Connecticut to California in 75 days. On designated "Build Days," her team worked with local affordable housing efforts, and she raised over \$6,000 for the affordable housing movement through her trip. Says Giesel, "Every day was completely different, completely new."

1978

After 14 years as arts editor at the Minneapolis *Star Tribune*, **Claude Peck** has returned to the news side as the newspaper's senior metro editor.

advisory council for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's County Health Rankings and Roadmaps project and as a member of the Rural Assistance Resource Center at the University of North Dakota.

1980

Daniel Harlov was a guest editor of the June 2015 issue of *Elements Magazine*, a bimonthly publication of the Mineralogical Society of America and other national and international mineralogical and geochemical organizations. The issue's theme is "Apatite: A Mineral for All Seasons." Dan works in the Chemistry and Physics of Earth Materials Section at the GFZ German Research Centre for Geosciences in Potsdam, Germany.

1986

The Class of 1986 will be celebrating its 30th Reunion June 3–5, 2016.

Michael Booth and Jennifer Brown won the 2015 Colorado Book Award for nonfiction for *Eating Dangerously: Why the Government Can't Keep Your Food Safe...and How You Can*. Michael is editor in chief of *Health Elevations*, a publication of the Colorado Health Foundation.

1982

Kate Houghton Zatz was elected chair of the board of trustees of the American Public University System/American Military in June. In July, she was elected governor of Calvert Education Services.

1987

Jane Seiberling received a master's degree in communication from the Northwestern University School of Communication in August.

1983

Allen Smart is interim chief executive officer of the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust. He was named the trust's vice president of programs in 2014. Allen received the North Carolina Institute of Medicine's first Excellence in Health Policy Award. He continues to serve as chair of the national

1988

Kurt Schwabe has been promoted to professor of environmental economics and policy in the University of California–Riverside School of Public Policy. He plans to spend this academic year on sabbatical in Australia working with researchers on water issues affecting Australia and the United States. Kurt is co-author of *Handbook of Water Economics* (Edward Elgar Publishing).

► Class Notes



MAC AROUND THE WORLD



Mac alumni gather to honor Thamsanqa Khumalo's graduation from Rutgers Law School (from left): Innocent Dlamini '08, Dorothy Gondwe Dlamini '08, Thamsanqa Khumalo '06, Edward Donor '04, and Debra Fitzsimmons Irvine '82.



MAC AROUND THE WORLD



After being apart for more than 40 years, Margaret Russell Skopec '73 and Janet Ericksen Johnson '72 reunited outside Kirk Hall, where they were roommates in 1970-71. Jan and Peggy found each other through MacDirect.

1991

The Class of 1991 will be celebrating its 25th Reunion June 3-5, 2016.

1993

George Theoharis was promoted to full professor at the Syracuse University School of Education in May. He chairs the Teaching and Leadership Department and works in education leadership and inclusive elementary and early childhood education.

1994

Brooklyn-based visual artist and writer **Jen Bervin** had work in three exhibitions this year: "The Book Undone: Thirty Years of Granary Books" at the Columbia University Rare Book and Manuscript Library from Sept. 2015 to Jan. 2016; "Material Fix" at the John Michael Kohler Arts Center in Sheboygan, Wis., from March to Oct. 2015; and

"Source Materials Visualized" at the Center for Book Arts in New York City from July to Sept. 2015. Her project *The Silk Poems* will premiere next May in the exhibition "Explode Everyday" at the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art in North Adams, Mass.

Ozlem Ersin and **David Naistat** welcomed a daughter, Alma Boncuk, in April 2015. Alma joins sister Soledad Isley (2).

Harold Kobrak and his family have moved from Nashville, Tenn., to Tokyo. After a brief stint in Caterpillar's financial products division, Harold has returned to the equipment marketing and sales organization.

1996

The Class of 1996 will be celebrating its 20th Reunion June 3-5, 2016.

1999

Laura Phillips-Mao and **Dave Mao '97** of St. Paul welcomed their first child, Lucy Ariella Mao, into the world on May 18, 2015. "At only 19 days old, Lucy attended her first Mac Reunion and Trads/Sirens concert—martini tent and all," Laura and Dave report. Laura earned a PhD in conservation biology in 2012 and is a teaching specialist at the University of Minnesota. Dave is pursuing an executive MBA at Columbia University, London University, and Hong Kong University while working as a sales engineer at Dell.

2001

The Wall Street Journal reported in August on the efforts of playwright

Danai Gurira and the director Liesl Tommy to secure a New York production of Danai's play *Eclipsed*, about four women held captive during the second Liberian civil war. The play, which received numerous awards when initially produced at Yale Repertory Theater in 2009, opened this fall at the Public Theater, starring Academy Award-winner Lupita Nyong'o. Danai has another new play, *Familiar*, opening in February at Playwrights Horizons in New York.

2002

Gretchen Wolf Burgess and her husband, **Chris Burgess**, welcomed their first child, Mason Steven Burgess, on Jan. 21, 2015.

Continued on page 42 →



MAC AROUND THE WORLD



David Nelson '82 was leading a raw consciousness retreat at the Farm of Life retreat center in Costa Rica when he discovered the owner, **Jody Hinchman Calvi '94**, was also a Mac grad. They plan to reunite for another retreat in January. Get the details at earthmentor-davidnelson.com

BOOKS

Excerpted from *Raising Twins: A True Life Adventure* by **Freya Manfred '66**

(NODIN PRESS, 2015)

One day a month or two later Bly said, "We don't want to go to school, I hope you know!"

"I'm your mom," I said, "and I love you. But you do have to go to school."

"Well, we don't want to!" Rowan huffed.

"Do you want to go back to Golden Years Montessori rather than Blake?"

"No way," Rowan answered.

"No," Bly said.

"So you like Blake?"

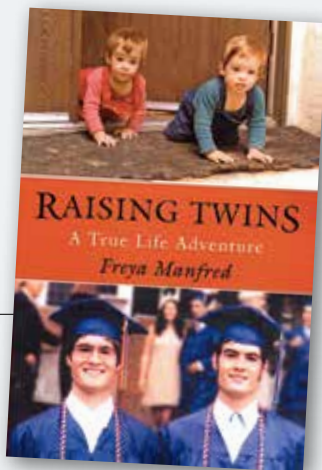
"We do," Bly said, "but home is better. You can stay home and watch us."

"The law says we must send you to school. If I don't send you to school, I might end up in jail."

"We hope you do go to jail," Bly said.

"Then we can do what we want."

"I'll be sad in jail," I said.



"Too bad for you," Bly said. "You make us sad when you say we have to go to school, so too bad if you're sad."

"What will you boys eat when I'm in jail?"

"Whatever's on the shelves," Rowan said. "We don't need you, and we aren't fussy."

"You mean you'll eat tuna, and peas, and everything?"

"No, we'll eat candy,"

Bly said.

Would this conversation have taken place with two

kids who were not the same age, with the same needs and desires? Would two other kids have felt the same unity of purpose, the same utter confidence that staying home alone, with Mom in jail, might work out just fine? I don't know. Being twins, they did not fear being without Mom as much as a single child might, and they were so relaxed in the world of creating and learning the two of them made together, they didn't want to spend as much time at school as a single child might. And when both were united in strong, assertive statement about their lives, it was hard to persuade them to change their minds.

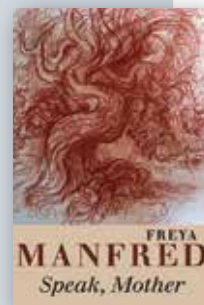
Jennifer Garrison Brownell '91, *Swim Ride Run Breathe: How I Lost a Triathlon and Caught My Breath* (PILGRIM PRESS, 2015)

Duchess Harris, professor of American studies, *Black Lives Matter* (ABDO PUBLISHING, 2016)

Freya Manfred '66, *Speak, Mother* (RED DRAGONFLY PRESS, 2015)

Hon. Martha A. Mills '63, *Lawyer, Activist, Judge: Fighting for Civil and Voting Rights in Mississippi and Illinois* (AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION PUBLISHING, 2015)

George Theocharis '93 & M. Scanlan, editors, *Inclusive Leadership for Increasingly Diverse Schools* (Routledge, 2015); George Theocharis & S. Dotger, editors, *On the High Wire: Education Professors Walk between Work and Parenting*. (Information Age Press, 2015); J. Causton & G. Theocharis, *The Principal's Handbook to Leading Inclusive Schools* (BROOKES PUBLISHING, 2014)



Mac Weddings



1. Erik Christensen '95 married Kerry Jenkins on June 20, 2015, at St. Luke's Lutheran Church of Logan Square in Chicago, where Erik has served as pastor since 2006. Shown here are (from left): **Ben Honda-Rottler '95**, **Bryce Eberhart '95**, **Kerry Jenkins**, **Kyra Ostendorf '95**, and **Erik Christensen '95**.

2. Daniel Lieu '08 and Lynn Tan were married on June 6, 2015, in Singapore.

3. Jey Moon '08 and Tim Miller were married July 11, 2015.

4. Tabbey Walquist '13 and Devin Cochran were married April 18, 2015, in Champaign, Ill.

5. Tristan Loiselle '12 and Kelsee Hayes Loiselle were married Aug. 1, 2015, in Eau Claire, Wis., in a ceremony officiated by Colin Zestcott '12. They celebrated with many Mac friends, including football coach Tony Jennison.



6. Colin Smith '09 and Carrie Potter were married on Aug. 22, 2015, in Philadelphia.

7. Kate Fahje '08 and David Stever were married in Chapel Hill, N.C., on Aug. 2, 2014.

8. Rinal Ray '04 and Getiria Onsongo '04 were married on Oct. 4, 2014, in Downer's Grove, Ill., joined by many Mac friends.

9. Julie Hessler '85 and Todd Nielsen were married on April 25, 2015, at the Macalester Alumni House. Grant Davies '79 officiated.

► Class Notes



MAC AROUND THE WORLD



In the Galapagos in May 2015 these three alums ran into each other (from left): Barbara Kane Goddard '66, Margaret Kane Edstrom '68, and Merideth Addicott '03.

→ Continued from page 39

Gretchen specializes in estate planning and probate at the law firm of Nowlan & Mouat in Janesville, Wis.

Michael Gelardi and Rose Evonuk welcomed a son, Leo James Gelardi, into the world on April 23, 2015. Leo joins older brother, Roman, on the family's farm near Eugene, Ore. Michael continues to practice natural resources law with Davis Wright Tremaine LLP.

Nicole Miceli is the creator, writer, and producer of *Tarantella*, a female-driven comedic web series.

Andy Odegaard and his wife, **Sarah Crangle Odegaard '04**, have moved to Irvine, Calif. Andy has accepted a position as assistant professor in the Department of Epidemiology at the University of California–Irvine School of Medicine, and Sarah continues to work as a lawyer for the St. Paul firm of Jeff Anderson & Associates. Andy and Sarah welcomed their second child, Jack, in February.

Jack joins big sister Grace (3).

Garett Peters and his wife, Emilia, announce the birth of a son, Charles Generoso Peters, on May 16, 2015.

2003

Taos Khazem is producing New Arab American Theatre Works, a series of three plays by Arab American theater artists, at Mixed Blood Theatre.

2005

Delvin Cai is president of the Casualty Actuarial Society's new regional affiliate in Shanghai, China. Since becoming a member of the organization in 2008, he has served on its Leadership Development Committee and its Asia Regional Committee, the *Actuarial Review* reports in its May/June 2015 issue.

2006

The Class of 2006 will be celebrating its 10th Reunion June 3–5, 2016.

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MacTalks

macalester.edu/mactalks

Jeremy Cover and his partner, Beth Wang, announce the birth of a son, Jack Wang-Cover, on Aug. 12, 2015.

Heather Lendway finished fifth in the women's professional division of the New York City Triathlon last July, and **Kate Vermann '11** finished third in the women's open division.

2007

Rachel Brady graduated from IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law in 2013 and serves as a staff clerk in the Seventh Circuit of the U.S. Court of Appeals. As the recipient of a 2015 Skadden Fellowship, Rachel will work at Equip for Equality, a Chicago-based nonprofit, to help enforce the educational rights of youth with disabilities in the Illinois juvenile justice system.

Rebecca Kreitzer completed a PhD in political science at the University of Iowa. She is now assistant professor of public policy at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

2008

Emily Pokorski Goodman Erickson graduated in May with an MA

degree in counseling psychology from the University of St. Thomas. Emily and **Lance Erickson '04** announce the birth of their first child, Owen Tarn Erickson, on June 19, 2015.

Alexander Whitworth has completed an MS degree in statistics at the University of California-Los Angeles. He now works as a data scientist at Dun & Bradstreet in Malibu, Calif.

2009

Natalie Szilvagyi Bruno received an MS degree in applied anatomy from Case Western Reserve University in August.

Benjamin Galick graduated in August from the University of Chicago with a PhD in public policy. He planned to spend several months traveling through South America before starting work at the Chicago office of the Boston Consulting Group in January.

2011

The Class of 2011 will be celebrating its 5th Reunion June 3-5, 2016.

Julia Brown has been promoted to artistic programs administrator



MAC AROUND THE WORLD



The paths of Philip Titcombe '11, Eva Beal '11, Dominika Seblova '11, and Trica Wendt '11 crossed in Stockholm, Sweden, recently.

at the Playwrights' Center in Minneapolis. She has worked for the organization for three years.

Kwame Gayle is pursuing a

master's degree in international training and education at American University in Washington, D.C.

2012

Natalie Pavlatos completed a master's degree in violence, terrorism, and security last December at Queen's University Belfast in Northern Ireland. She is an associate at CLS Strategies, a public affairs firm in Washington, D.C.

2014

Matt Dehler has moved to the Tampa, Fla., area to pursue a master of education degree in college student affairs at the University of South Florida.

2015

Asad Zaidi has moved back to Karachi, Pakistan, to work on maternal and child health programs as a research associate at Interactive Research and Development, a Pakistan-based global health nonprofit organization.

Coco Zhang is working in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.



MAC AROUND THE WORLD



Class of 2002 friends (from left) Amy Reep Wartick, Aaron Reser, Toni Konkoly, and Abby Merlis got together last summer at Minneapolis's Surly Brewery. The foursome met their freshman year as Dupre 4th floormates.

LEARNING TO THRIVE

BY **DAN RIPPY '89**, PRESIDENT, MACALESTER COLLEGE ALUMNI BOARD

The Macalester Alumni Board has spent two years determining how best to support the Macalester College Strategic Plan. As the Planning Committee noted, a plan that sits on a shelf is of little use; rather, we must live the plan, and ultimately make it a reality. That's how we can truly support this place we love, and help it to thrive. To that end, the Alumni Board has strived to define its purpose, roles, and priorities.

With respect to purpose, the Alumni Board grappled thoughtfully with its narrative, ultimately producing a powerful purpose statement that will help us thrive: The Macalester Alumni Board serves to build and strengthen the Macalester alumni community by fostering meaningful relationships between alumni and the college, connecting with current students, helping the college achieve its strategic priorities, and acting through its members as ambassadors of the college.

As for roles, we took our cues from the strategic plan and came up with these: to act as ambassadors of the college; to increase alumni engagement; to support students in their careers; and to support the college financially.

Macalester students and alumni are citizens of the world, so it's only fitting that all alumni should serve as college ambassadors. Mac Nation is made up of more than 25,000 alumni around the globe, so opportunities to engage with Mac colleagues abound. Moreover, thanks to technology and social media, fellow alumni are easier than ever to reach.

Supporting students and aiding them in their vocational pursuits is of special importance. Students and young alumni represent the future, and we should do everything we can to help them find where their passions lie.



And then there are finances. Mac is the place it is today largely thanks to your generous contributions. Mac must be sustained. We must see the college through changes ahead, and ensure that it stands as a beacon in the higher education world.

Which brings us to priorities. The Alumni Board has identified key priorities in line with the strategic plan: diversity, entrepreneurship, vocation, financial sustainability, and communication. We'll convene working groups in each area, which I'm excited to get started.

A key objective of the diversity team will be to increase engagement of alumni of color.

The entrepreneurship team will focus on establishing a network to catalyze interest in entrepreneurial activities in government, nonprofits, law, health and medicine, science, interna-

tional affairs, and business.

The vocation team will focus on recent alumni and explore ways to help them establish connections and progress in their careers. Central to this effort will be to help link the value of a Macalester liberal arts education to career interests.

Our financial sustainability group will encourage all Alumni Board members to become active class agents. We'll also work to increase the percentage of alumni giving to Macalester.

The communications team will create a plan for the Alumni Board on social media so we can share more broadly news about our work within Mac Nation. You are part of those efforts, so if you have not yet joined a Mac alumni group or chapter on Facebook, go forth and engage.

We look forward to working with you! **M**

Class Agent

Erik Christensen '95 is quite clear that he "never could have gone to Macalester without the amazing financial aid package the school offered me." That's a big part of what inspired the Des Moines, Iowa, native to become a class agent. "It gives me a way to express my

gratitude to Mac," he says.

Today Christensen is the pastor of St. Luke's Lutheran Church of Logan Square, a growing congregation in a diverse part of Chicago. He recently married his husband, Kerry Jenkins, at St. Luke's.

Gratitude toward Macalester and "the role it played in our lives" is something he encounters regularly when calling his classmates.

Why should anyone give to Mac? "Because in a culture that encourages us to be hyper-vigilant about our own prosperity and security, acts of generosity remind us how much we have to be grateful for and are one of the best ways to reflect our conviction that we're all in this together."



In Memoriam

1935

George W. Flad, 101, of St. Paul died July 7, 2015. He worked at Joy Brothers Motor Car Company and was a regional service manager for Fiat. Mr. Flad is survived by a daughter, four grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

1939

Virginia Guild Earle, 97, died July 2, 2015. She worked as a teacher, librarian, principal, and camp director. Mrs. Earle is survived by a daughter, a son, and four grandchildren.

1942

Dorothy Holland Boler, 95, of Bloomington, Minn., died Aug. 9, 2015. She was an early childhood educator and preschool director who advocated for children with disabilities. Mrs. Boler is survived by a daughter, three sons including **James Boler '65**, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and sisters **Jeanne Holland Erickson '43** and **Pat Holland Stotts '58**.

Ellen Rowley Stevahn, 94, of Pleasant Hill, Calif., died May 30, 2015. She served in the American Red Cross in Japan following World War II and taught physical education, recreation, and dance at White Bear Lake High School, the University of Washington, and Lewis & Clark College. Mrs. Stevahn is survived by her husband, Steve, a daughter, a son, four sisters, and a brother.

Mavis Crist Whiting, 94, of Fargo, N.D., died Aug. 16, 2015.

1943

Abigail Moore Johnson, 94, of Austin, Minn., died Aug. 22, 2015. She taught English at Austin High School for 22 years.

1944

John W. Lauer of Detroit Lakes, Minn., and Scottsdale, Ariz., died May 23, 2015. He practiced dentistry in Bismarck, N.D., for more than 30 years and served as president of the North Dakota

Dental Society. Mr. Lauer is survived by a daughter, two sons (including **Stephen Lauer '69**), and five grandchildren (including **Benjamin Lauer '13**).

1945

Beatrice Lawhead McClain, 91, of Salisbury, N.C., died April 6, 2015. She worked as a teacher, Girl Scout leader, and summer camp director, and competed as a bowler in the Senior Olympics. Mrs. McClain is survived by two daughters and three grandchildren.

1947

Marion Bartholomew Amundson, 89, of Golden Valley, Minn., died April 19, 2015. She is survived by her husband, **Glen Amundson '50**, two daughters, a son, and a granddaughter.

1947

Russell E. Holm, 91, died July 6, 2015, in Plymouth, Minn. He worked for Grand Rapids State

Bank for 50 years and performed regularly in local Showboat productions. Mr. Holm is survived by a brother.

1948

Edith Amundson Ekstrand, 87, died June 16, 2015. She worked as a medical technologist at Charles T. Miller Hospital and United Hospital. She also served with Macalester's Alumni Association. Mrs. Ekstrand is survived by her husband, Robert, daughter, **Cynthia Lystad Olson '79**, four grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and twin sister, **Doris Amundson Matzke '48**.

1949

Winfred A. Engstrom, 90, died Aug. 18, 2015, in Austin, Texas. During more than 60 years of service with the Mission Presbyterian Senate, Mr. Engstrom was the founding pastor of numerous churches in underserved rural communities. He also helped develop an after-school program that became the

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In Memoriam

statewide Extend-a-Care affordable childcare initiative. After his retirement, Mr. Engstrom patented a line of slide viewing consoles and designed, manufactured, and marketed a line of composting bins. He is survived by his wife, Pat, a daughter, three sons, 12 grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, and a brother.

Clyde L. Eriksen, 90, of Huntley, Ill., died June 12, 2015. He served as a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II and retired following a career with Kemper Insurance and the State of Florida Insurance Commission. Mr. Eriksen is survived by his wife, Bernice, two daughters, two sons, and 10 grandchildren.

James V. Holland, 89, of Overland Park, Kan., died May 9, 2014. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II and took part in the Normandy Beach landing. Mr. Holland retired in 1977 after almost 30 years with General Motors. He is survived by two daughters, two sons, five grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, a sister, and two brothers.

Bruce F. Peterson, 89, of Tavares, Fla., died July 31, 2015. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and was a merchandise manager at Montgomery Ward for 35 years. Mr. Peterson is survived by a daughter, three sons, six grandchildren, a sister, and a brother.

Donna Twete Steinke, 88, of Bloomington, Minn., died May 20, 2015. She is survived by a daughter and two sons.

Daryl J. Tesch, 89, of Golden Valley, Minn., died April 27, 2015. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and worked in retail sales and real estate. Mr. Tesch and his wife, the late **Arlette Benson Tesch '51**, owned Tesch's Hallmark Store. He is survived by three sons, five grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

1950

Phillip L. Tenney, 91, of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., died May 7, 2015. He served as a marine medical corpsman in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He taught

high school math and science in Yuma, Ariz., worked as a teaching principal in North Dakota, and as a principal, assistant superintendent, and superintendent of schools in Minnesota. He also served as executive director of the Minnesota Association of Secondary Principals. He is survived by four daughters, 10 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, and a sister.

Tilmer E. Thompson, 88, of Roseville, Minn., died Aug. 7, 2015. He served with the U.S. Navy aboard a minesweeper in the Pacific during World War II. Mr. Thompson is survived by four children, six grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, and two sisters.

Carl T. Thorsen, 86, of White Bear Lake, Minn., died May 27, 2015. He served in the U.S. Army from 1950 to 1952 and taught history at White Bear Lake Area High School from 1955 to 1987. He also coached varsity baseball and hockey and was inducted into the Minnesota Hockey Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 1992. Mr. Thorsen retired in 2009 after 23 years at Tartan Park Golf Course. He is survived by his wife, Ann, daughters **Jennifer White Gobel '81**, **Carlynn White Trout '82**, and **Molly Thorsen Connolly '93**, two sons, 10 grandchildren (including **Cora Trout '16** and **Jacob Trout '19**), and a sister.

Ruth Weidenfeller VanDelinder, 88, died July 15, 2015, in Hibbing, Minn. She designed and sewed costumes for local ballet and theater productions, knitted hats for infants in neonatal intensive care, and made wool helmet liners for U.S. troops in Afghanistan. Mrs. VanDelinder is survived by three daughters, a son, seven grandchildren, and a great-grandchild.

Eugene A. Wagner, 92, of St. Paul died May 30, 2015. He was a U.S. Navy pilot during World War II. Mr. Wagner became chief executive officer and president of BORSON Construction and served as president of the Builders Exchange of Minnesota. He is survived by his wife, June, a daughter, a son, four grandchildren, and a sister.

1951

George Capetz, 91, of Minneapolis died May 30, 2015. He worked in the Minneapolis schools for 30 years. Mr. Capetz is survived by his wife, **Harriet Carr Capetz '53**, two daughters, and four grandchildren.

Barbara M. Patrick, 85, of Citrus Springs, Fla., died in January 2015. She is survived by three daughters, a son, five grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and a sister.

Patricia Holland Rehbein, 85, died July 7, 2015. She was a founding member of the Cannon Falls Hospital Auxiliary and, as a volunteer with the Minnesota Literacy Council, taught English to Vietnamese refugees. Mrs. Rehbein was active in numerous other volunteer organizations, including the Cannon Falls Historical Society, Shepherd's Center, and Meals on Wheels. She is survived by two daughters, a son, and three grandchildren.

Eleanor Olson Steffens, 86, of Faribault, Minn., died Aug. 1, 2015. She taught kindergarten and second grade in various schools in Minnesota. Mrs. Steffens and her husband, Vern, owned car dealerships in Windom, Minn., and Faribault. She is survived by her husband, a daughter, a son, six grandchildren, and many great-grandchildren.

1952

Leila Lissack Gravel, 84, died June 2, 2015. She taught English and was a homemaker. Mrs. Gravel is survived by two daughters and two grandsons.

Peter I. Hughes, 82, of Redwood City, Calif., died Sept. 15, 2013. He served in the U.S. Navy and founded Hughes Plastics Corporation. He retired in 1990 after 30 years in business. Mr. Hughes is survived by his wife, Ginny, five children, seven grandchildren, and a great-grandchild.

Jeanne Lahti Nelson, 84, of Plymouth, Minn., died Oct. 16, 2014. She taught elementary school in Portland, Ore., for several years. Mrs. Nelson is survived by two sons, four grandchildren, and a brother.

1953

Donna Fredrickson Doerr, 83, of Lincoln, Neb., died June 28, 2015. She worked for the Cotner School of Religion, the Christian Church of Nebraska, and the United Church of Christ Nebraska Conference. Mrs. Doerr is survived by two daughters, a son, two grandsons, and a brother, **Arthur Fredrickson '57**.

1956

Bruce W. Welchlin, 85, of Hastings, Minn., died Aug. 27, 2015. He served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War and retired from 3M after many years as a computer programmer analyst. Mr. Welchlin is survived by his wife, Judy, a daughter, two grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

1957

Richard E. Anderson, 80, died July 14, 2015. He served as a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy and Naval Reserve and taught at various Colorado high schools from 1961 to 1995. He was also a track and field, cross country, and basketball coach who led 10 state championship teams and was inducted into the Colorado Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2006. Mr. Anderson is survived by his wife, **Mary Rautio Anderson '67**, three daughters, a son, 10 grandchildren, and a great-grandson.

1961

Darryl L. Wikstrom, 76, of Frederic, Wis., died Aug. 7, 2015. He was a guidance counselor for more than 30 years at Frederic High School, where he was also head football and golf coach. During the summer months he ran a construction business. Mr. Wikstrom is survived by his wife, Eileen, a daughter, three grandsons, and a sister.

1963

Loretta Yourd Ring, 89, of Falcon Heights, Minn., died July 31, 2015. She taught elementary school in St. Paul for 26 years. Mrs. Ring was an advocate for girls and women's hockey and played the sport herself for many years. She helped launch Macalester's women's hockey club, co-sponsored women's hockey teams, and launched the Women's Hockey Fund for graduating female

high school hockey players. She received awards from USA Hockey, the Women's Hockey Association of Minnesota, and the Minnesota High School Coaches Association, and was featured in a public TV documentary. Mrs. Ring is survived by her husband, **John Ring '51**, daughter **Sue Ring-Jarvi '73**, son **Steven Ring '70**, and two grandsons (including **Mike Ring '04**).

1964

Elizabeth Sackett Lee, 72, of Lubbock, Texas, died July 23, 2015. She worked for Texas Instruments, Women's Protective Services, and Gwen Jorden, DDS. Mrs. Lee is survived by her husband, Art, a daughter, a son, nine grandchildren, and a great-grandchild.

Lieselotte Stolle Tschesche, 95, of St. Paul died July 3, 2015. She survived a Russian prison camp after World War II and legally escaped from East Germany in 1958. She taught German at Macalester and taught junior high and high school German in St. Paul from 1964 to 1990. Mrs. Tschesche was nominated for the Minnesota Teacher of the Year Award in 1980 and received the Minnesota Business Foundation for Excellence in Education Award in 1981.

1966

Kathryn A. Ashbach, 70, of Stillwater, Minn., died July 3, 2015. She was a teacher. Ms. Ashbach is survived by a daughter, a son, six grandchildren, and two brothers.

Diane M. Johnson, 70, of Solana Beach, Calif., died April 16, 2015. She was the first in-house counsel at St. Jude Medical. After her retirement at age 53, she became a full-time volunteer with such organizations as Helen Woodward Animal Rescue, the Rancho Coastal Humane Society, the Make-A-Wish Foundation, and Scripps Green Hospital. Ms. Johnson is survived by her mother and a brother.

Gerald S. Paar, 71, of Edina, Minn., died May 6, 2015. He served in the Army Reserves and worked for Equitable/AXA Insurance. He was also active in politics as a campaign manager as well as co-chair of Senate District 41 and Minnesota's

Third Congressional District. Mr. Paar is survived by his wife, Edan, a daughter, a son, and two grandchildren.

Steven D. Wheeler, 70, of Lihue, Hawaii, died July 7, 2015. After working as a corporate attorney and officer with Northwest Airlines, he became the chief judge of the Minnesota Workers Compensation Court of Appeals. Mr. Wheeler retired as a Ramsey County district court judge. He is survived by his wife, **Margee Smith Wheeler '65**, a daughter, a son, 10 grandchildren, two sisters, and a brother.

1967

Richard A. Furze, 70, died July 19, 2015. He worked as a gold miner in South Dakota, an English instructor at Montana State University, and an English teacher at Colorado Rocky Mountain School, Philips Exeter Academy, Deerfield Academy, and Augusta Prep. Mr. Furze is survived by a daughter and a brother.

1971

Margaret Tell Auger died April 11, 2015. She retired after working for Honeywell.

1972

Jane Schoenike Takemoto, 64, of Elmwood, Neb., died Aug. 19, 2015. She served as executive director of the Minnesota Trial Lawyers Association and Hennepin County Bar Association, helped establish the Nebraska Lawyers Foundation and the Nebraska Volunteer Lawyers Project, and retired in January 2014 as executive director of the Nebraska State Bar Association. Mrs. Takemoto is survived by her husband, **Jack Takemoto '70**, three sons, a sister, and a brother.

1981

James A. Wise, 58, died Aug. 14, 2015. He was a professor at Hampton University in Hampton, Va. Mr. Wise is survived by his wife, Janis, four daughters, a son, and six grandchildren.

Other Losses



Former Macalester Trustee **Heinz F. Hutter**, 85, died June 15, 2015. Mr. Hutter was the first German to receive a Fulbright Scholarship after World War II. During a 39-year career with Cargill, Inc., he worked in Germany, the United States, Switzerland, Brazil, and Argentina. After moving to Minneapolis in 1973, Mr. Hutter was named a group vice president, a member of the corporation's board of directors, and executive vice president. He was elected president and chief operating officer of Cargill in 1991. After his retirement in 1994, Mr. Hutter helped the Prince of Liechtenstein develop businesses in the United States. He also served as a director of the Donaldson Company, a board member of American Express, a member of grain exchanges in Germany and Argentina, and a board member of the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra and the Minnesota Opera. Mr. Hutter is survived by a daughter, a son, and five grandchildren.

Former Macalester Trustee **Joseph J. Murphy**, 85, died Aug. 10, 2015, in Minneapolis. He served in the U.S. Army in Japan during the Korean War, worked as a financial analyst at Woodard-Elwood, and was a vice president at Northwestern National Bank. He also served as chairman of Midwest Communications and wrote several books on finance. An avid mountaineer, Mr. Murphy led three expeditions to Tibet, including one to the North Face of Mount Everest in 1986. He served on the boards of such organizations as the American Alpine Club, the Children's Theater, Outward Bound, the Minnesota Center for Book Arts, and the Greater Minneapolis Council of the Girl Scouts. Mr. Murphy is survived by his wife, Diana, two sons, two granddaughters, and a sister.

Former Macalester Trustee **Bruce E. Williams**, 83, died Aug. 16, 2015, in Minneapolis. He was a teacher, principal, and assistant superintendent in the Minneapolis Public Schools. He was invited by the Rockefeller Foundation to oversee its Superintendent Training Program in New York City. During his 16 years with the foundation, Mr. Williams helped dozens of African Americans become school superintendents. He then served as deputy chancellor of the New York City Department of Education and taught at Hunter College for 10 years. Mr. Williams is survived by two daughters and two sisters.

The Art of Boredom

BY BENJAMIN VOIGHT '10

MY FIRST JOB AFTER COLLEGE was at the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis. It sounds more prestigious than it was: I was a gallery guard, and my whole job was to stand back and watch and make sure nothing happened. You had to wear black. You couldn't sit down or leave or read. You couldn't call or text (though we did both). At the end of your shift, you marked down anything amiss in your gallery on a blueprint with a golf pencil, the same curt instrument we gave out to visitors using pens. It was all a lot like golf, actually: the back pain, the polite spectators, the intense focus on small, impossible things. Even score was recorded the same way: the fewer strokes, the better.

Most days, however, doing nothing really felt like doing something. Minutes were glaciers. Hours ached in your knees. I did everything I could to entertain myself. I counted floor tiles. I memorized poems ("Life, friends, is boring. We must not say so"). On breaks, I made lists of things to think about. Boredom made me friendlier. I talked to every visitor, and got to know whoever guarded the next gallery over. Todd drew comics. Oanh worked at the science museum. There was Falcon Pat, who only talked about falconry, and Just Pat, who always looked a bit lost. Reid had been there for years, even though he was maybe 30; his garden apartment was its own museum, every inch covered in art he'd made. Most of us were artists of some kind or creed, and we stayed sane by studying whatever hung on the walls.

Guarding is a funny way to experience art. How much time do artists expect audiences to spend with their work? I spent unreasonable amounts. Some shows wore on you; others grew. At first I thought Sol LeWitt was cold and dull: his retrospective was all geometric figures, often with instructions for their composition written out right next to them. But over the few months the show was up, I began to appreciate its little gestures: its meditative scale, its comforting impersonality. In its final weeks, I missed it already. I'd read every word on every plaque. My favorite plaque was for the one that turned the gallery into graph paper, the grids drawn right onto the walls: "Each line is as important as each other line. All of the lines become one thing. The viewer of the lines can see only lines on a wall. They are meaningless. That is art."

Unsurprisingly, many visitors didn't know what to make of their encounters with meaninglessness. Often they would walk in, float around the gallery, then turn to me and ask, "This is art?" Because ours was a *contemporary* art museum, their reaction was, in many cases, exactly the desired one. Starting with du Champ's famous 1917 "Fountain"—a urinal installed in a gallery—the point of our pieces was often to play with expectations, to break down the boundaries between what was art and what was life. Indeed, guarding itself often felt like



performance art, like one of George Brecht's "event scores" or Yoko Ono's instructions: *Stand in a large white room for eight hours. Do nothing.*

One of the most memorable shows I guarded went up shortly after I started. The midcentury French artist Yves Klein was a virtuoso of nothingness. His early "monochromes," huge canvases of nothing but blue, practically vibrate with color. His final works, pieces of cardboard he "painted" with fire, are like nothing else I've ever seen. Despite his visual flair, however, Klein once declared, "My works are only the ashes of my art." His real interest lay in what he called *the immaterial*, a space of pure possibility he thought he could access *through* art. He believed his monochromes brought viewers into this meditative zone by overwhelming them with pigment.

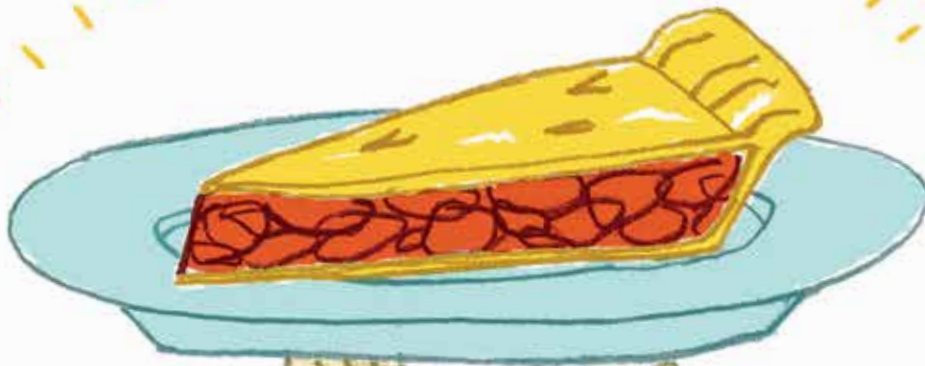
His *Leap into the Void* may best exemplify his philosophy. The photograph captures him mid-flight, soaring from the roof of a building. In reality, he fell to the ground, where he was caught by assistants. But in the picture, the street below is empty, and Klein hovers in perpetuity, timeless, weightless, limitless.

Working a shift often felt like a leap into the void. Whether I found peace or misery depended on the day, but sometimes I'd reach Klein's place of possibility. A painting would take my breath away. Or I'd find a thread of thought and follow it through the labyrinth of my head. How could color reach across the room and make you feel? How could doing nothing, our resting state, be difficult? Some days, I'd stand there, and get somewhere. But even when I didn't, when I stayed right *there*, bored out of my skull, feet screaming in my shoes, I often felt totally, unavoidably alive.

I was glad I left the Walker when I did—I still feel its floors in my legs—but I'll never forget how the job led me both deeper into and further out of myself. I wrote most of my first poems while waiting in those galleries, poems that took me elsewhere, to graduate school. Boredom, the sensation of nothingness, *can* open doors, sometimes ones you didn't even know were there. ■

BENJAMIN VOIGHT '10 is a visiting professor of English at Macalester.

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