

# Macalester

# Today

FALL 2016



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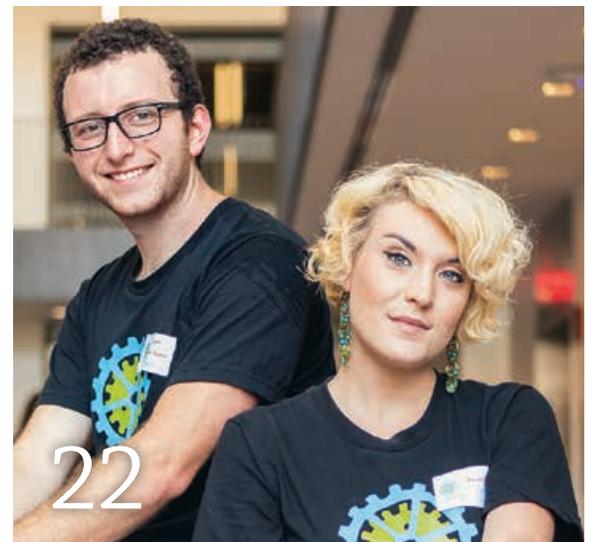
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PHOTO: DAVID J. TURNER

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## Correction

A photo of the Class of 1965 that appeared in the most recent issue (Class Notes, Summer 2016) was accompanied by the wrong caption. Below is the photo and the correct caption: Greetings from Fairbanks, Alaska! Twenty-four members and friends of the Class of 1965 spent 12 glorious days exploring Alaskan June 2016. The invitation to come north was presented at our 50th Reunion in 2015. **Judy Anderson Tolbert '65** arranged “Mac ’65’s Amazing Alaskan Adventure” through Summer Sessions of the University of Alaska–Fairbanks. The adventure began with a welcome in Judy’s backyard performed by the Red Hackle Bagpipe Band. Mt. Denali was visible as the group drove south through Denali National Park. Whales, eagles, and otters were companions during the Resurrection Bay cruise out of Seward, culminating the trip/class reunion. The Mac ’65 logo even appeared on our welcome cake!

## Miss Wood School

Thank you so much for the fine article about Miss Wood’s School (“Pioneering Preschool,” Summer 2016). I was privileged to graduate from Miss Wood’s School in 1945, so I knew her and took her classes. When the school be-

I read with great interest and nostalgia the last issue of *Macalester Today* (Summer 2016), which had the lengthy article on Miss Wood’s School, which I always knew as Miss Wood’s Kindergarten. I was one of those children who in 1945 helped the Bryant Avenue school



came a part of Macalester, I had several student teachers from Macalester who worked with me at the St. Paul Neighborhood House in 1959 and 1960. Miss Wood encouraged us to go on and get a degree; I later graduated from the University of Wisconsin–River Falls. Macalester has always included Miss Wood’s girls in its alumni events, so we have felt we were a part of Mac. Thank you for featuring this part of the school’s history.

**Joyce Engstrom Knippenberg**  
Woodville, Wis.

come “apart at the seams.” What might be even more interesting to your readers is that in 1960 I was a participant in the Minnesota SPAN trip to the Soviet Union (led by Yahya Armajani), and that a classmate of mine from Miss Wood’s School was another of the 12 participants—she was by then a student at the University of Minnesota. We chuckled over the class picture taken 14 years earlier. Small world.

**Karl von Loewe '62**  
Somerset, N.J.

### 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 [l1amb@mcalester.edu](mailto:l1amb@mcalester.edu) or to *Macalester Today*, Macalester College, 1600 Grand Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105.

# Why Macalester Matters

BY BRIAN ROSENBERG

**T**he longer I stay at Macalester, the more I find myself drawn to what one might call the “big questions.” Of course I still pay attention to the budget, the creation of new programs, and the recruitment of students. But increasingly I spend time thinking about such things as the place of higher education in American society, the relations between actual knowledge and public policy, and—maybe most often—the reason why I have always felt Macalester to be powerfully important.

My thoughts on this last subject were crystallized recently by a pair of images, kindly sent to me by **Ole Koppang '05**, a wonderful alumnus. Those images are reproduced below: the covers of the Summer 2016 issue of *Macalester Today* and the July 30, 2016, issue of *The Economist*, both of which arrived in Ole’s mailbox on the same day.

You will agree, I suspect, that both the likenesses and the differences between the two images are striking. With almost eerie similarity (we published first!), each image depicts a deep divide. *The Economist*, however, shows no crossing of that divide, and in fact includes both a wall and a sign reading “keep out.” *Macalester Today* shows a person pole-vaulting from one side of the chasm to the other. There are plenty of other differences between the magazine covers, but it is on this particular contrast—separation versus connection, walls versus bridges—that I want to focus.

For much of its history, the central work of what one might call the Macalester project has been to strengthen connections among human beings through education within a diverse and intellectually challenging environment. It has been about fostering a particular

kind of world through preparing our students to be particular kinds of people. Here is President Charles Turck, writing in August 1945:

*The vast scope of the world stage on which the present generation of students will live out their lives may suggest to some that personal qualities of character have become less significant. On the contrary, the individual is more important than ever. The more complex the social*

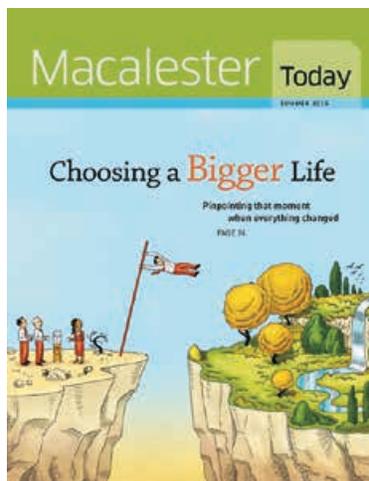
multiculturalism, and service to society.” It is the motivation that shapes Macalester today and will, I hope, shape it long into the future: the conviction that by creating a community that is diverse and honest, a curriculum that exposes students to all points of view, a set of programs that challenges students to step outside their customary sense of the world, Macalester will be doing its part to enable difference to be a source of strength and not destruction.

Can anyone doubt that this work is at least as important now as it was when Charles Turck proclaimed its centrality at Macalester more than 70 years ago? Our planet is more interconnected than he ever could have imagined. With these connections come opportunities and challenges, potential for growth and conflict, hopes and fears, all of which are driving the most consequential forces across the world today. None of us is immune from these forces, which are playing out both in distant

places and in our own cities and towns.

There have been many times in recent months when I have felt angry and worried about the dark impulses—racism, xenophobia, hatred and fear in a myriad of forms—that appear to be at large in the world. But I am fortunate in being able to abide on this campus, watch our students, faculty, and staff carrying on the work of Macalester, and realize that we are, in our small but powerful way, an antidote to those dark impulses. Macalester is *necessary*. If it did not exist, we would have to create it. But it does exist, and those of us who are part of its community, on campus and around the world, should be pleased and proud that it does. **M**

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



*machine becomes, the more important it is that every individual have the moral and spiritual qualities to do his part. A world of peace means a world of peace-loving individuals.*

One could expand at length upon that last sentence: a world of sound policy means a world of well-informed individuals; a world not driven by fear means a world of courageous individuals; a world in which all are treated fairly means a world of just individuals; a world of kindness and tolerance means a world of empathetic individuals.

This last point is particularly germane at Macalester. The motivation that led Turck to write about “the duties of world citizenship” in 1945 is identical to the one that led the Board of Trustees to approve in 1992 a mission statement that highlighted “internationalism,

## MIGHTY MUSSELS

**B**EHOLD THE UNASSUMING MUSSEL. Freshwater mussels move along in Minnesota rivers, not too fast, sometimes burrowing into the sand. They siphon in nutrients from the water around them. Their larvae attach to fish as parasites, dropping off weeks later, sinking to the bottom to begin an independent life. Mussels can live for decades, even a century.

Mussels also serve as the aquatic equivalent of the canary in the coal mine, “clamming up” if they detect contaminants in their watery homes. In fact, the City of Minneapolis places mussels near the intake for city water to provide a sort of early warning system.

**Brooke Hunter '17** (Stillwater, Minn.) and **Lea Davidson '18** (Walla Walla, Wash.) spent the summer at the University of Minnesota's St. Anthony Falls Lab on the Mississippi River studying how these critical aquatic creatures fare under conditions of flood or increased sediment load.

Although the mussels you eat are almost certainly marine mussels, freshwater mussels play an important role in the lives of fish, acting as biofilters, feeding on bacteria and algae—effectively cleaning

the rivers they inhabit.

Investigating mussels' response to environmental changes was a team that included Davidson and Hunter along with Mac professors Kelly MacGregor, a geomorphologist; Dan Hornbach, an aquatic ecologist; biology staffer Mark Hove, two National Science Foundation student grantees, and some researchers from the University of Minnesota.

A scuba diver collected the mussels from the Mississippi. After scientists painted their shells for ease of identification, the mussels were placed in a stream where they could be monitored. Hunter or Davidson often did so by lying balanced on a plank above the stream. Other measurements were made in the indoor portion of the lab, where mussels were tagged with gape sensors. Open shells generally mean a happy mussel; closed ones indicate increased stress.

What researchers learn about the stress levels of mussels has implications for river health, land use practices, buffer strips on farms, and—most important to Minnesota anglers—the lives of fish.



**Gabrielle Martinez from UCLA and Brooke Hunter '17 (right) study mussels in the Mississippi.**



## NEW MUSLIM CHAPLAIN

BECAUSE OF A GROWING population of Muslim students at Macalester and a college-wide interest in learning more about the faith, the college hired a half-time Muslim chaplain who began work this fall.

**Ailya Vajid**, who has a graduate degree from Harvard Divinity School, will mentor Muslim students and lead campus conversations about Islam, says Chaplain Kelly Stone, who adds, "It's a chance for us as a college to learn more, have our questions answered, and gain a deeper appreciation for that community."

Vajid previously served as a chaplain or multi-faith adviser at both Gustavus Adolphus and Swarthmore Colleges.

Along with Stone and Vajid, the Center for Religious and Spiritual Life staff also includes a half-time rabbi and part-time Buddhist and Catholic chaplains.



EACH SUMMER DOZENS OF MACALESTER STUDENTS pursue worthwhile internships around the globe. Here are our picks for some of the most compelling apprenticeships.

**Who:** **Ben Wasik '17 (above)**

**Major:** Biology

**Hometown:** Chicago

**Internship:** Brookfield Zoo, Chicago

**Daily tasks:** Helped care for some of the zoo's largest hoofed animals, such as camels, zebras, and antelope, including exhibit maintenance, diet preparation, and basic medical treatment. Also led zoo chats (complete with hand feeding) about Bactrian camels and did an observational project exploring why female *addax* (endangered species of Saharan antelope) were pacing in their exhibit.

**Learned:** "Caring for hoofstock is physically difficult. Much of my time was spent raking, shoveling, pushing wheelbarrows, and lugging bales of hay in hot, humid weather and full sun. I was surprised by how much collaboration and communication is required to run the zoo effectively."

**Who:** **Pietro Tardelli Canedo '19**

**Major:** Biology and Latin American studies

**Hometown:** São Paulo, Brazil

**Internship:** Aquario De Ubatuba, Brazil

**Daily tasks:** Preparing food and feeding marine animals; observing animals in rehab; assisting visitors at touch pool tank; maintaining and cleaning tanks and aquariums, developing a personal research project

**Learned:** "Working so closely with such a diverse group of organisms definitely gave me a deeper understanding of their anatomy and ecology. I was surprised how willing the staff was to trust me. I even got to feed the penguins by myself, help extract blood from a shark, and do an eel autopsy."

**Who:** **Celia Heudebourg '18**

**Major:** International studies

**Hometown:** Villennes-sur-Seine, France

**Internship:** *International New York Times*, Paris office

**Daily tasks:** Assisting the news, business, sports, and layout editors with newsroom logistics and communications; working with the research team; sitting in on news meetings

**Learned:** The work she and her peers do at *The Mac Weekly* is not substantially different from the newsroom work of the world's largest papers. "Our small news org is comparable to the real deal." A harder journalistic lesson: Living through the final days of the 125-year-old Paris operation. Soon the office will be shut down and its work taken over by the newspaper's London and Hong Kong offices.

## STUDYING ZIKA



PHOTO: DAVID J. TURNER

**I**N JUST HER SECOND WEEK OF WORK this summer with New York City's Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, **Kendra Komoto '15** joined a research effort that changed how we understand the Zika virus.

Though Komoto's work primarily focused on tick-borne diseases, her DOHMH unit also oversees other vector-borne diseases such as West Nile and Zika viruses. "We were anticipating discoveries this summer," says Komoto, a graduate student in public health at Columbia University. "So little is known about Zika virus, and this outbreak has been defying expectations."

What her team learned shaped what we do know—and changed Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations. Early in the summer, Komoto had just started conducting case interviews with New York residents who had contracted Zika virus. One of her first patient interviews led to the major discovery that the infection can be transmitted from females to males

through sexual activity.

After the team reported its findings to the CDC, Komoto helped refine DOHMH's investigation questionnaire and conducted follow-up interviews with the patient. "One of the most rewarding things was seeing how this new information was put into action," she says. The CDC changed its recommendations for people who test positive, in consideration of the possibility of a female transmitting the virus to a pregnant partner.

Back at Columbia this fall, Komoto is delving deeper into infectious disease epidemiology. She credits Macalester's Community and Global Health concentration with helping define her interests. "I can't overstate the role Macalester had in preparing me for this work," she says. "Truly understanding a disease requires a holistic approach. You have to appreciate ecology, virology, sociology, and political science to understand the dynamics of and response to Zika virus in New York City."

## MOVE-IN DAY



# Keeping Up With the Kardashians

BY ALEXANDRA MCLAUGHLIN '16

NOT MANY PEOPLE “hit the books” by tuning into E! Network, but **Selena Pruitt '16** (Durham, N.C.) did just that. As research for her American studies capstone, Pruitt watched the popular reality television show *Keeping Up with the Kardashians*. “There’s more to them than just money, fame, selfies, and beauty,” Pruitt said. Her capstone investigates how the Kardashian family empire influences and reflects American culture.

“I’m really interested in the Kardashians because they’re so controversial,” she says, arguing that the Kardashians represent the best and worst of our culture. America is centered on the family, and the Kardashian brand is “built upon them being a family,” says Pruitt. “Individually, they’re decently famous, but the six women together are unstoppable.”

The Kardashians represent success and the achievement of the American dream. “People don’t want to admit it, but money is seen as the ultimate form of success,” Pruitt says. “Money’s at the root of it and the Kardashians have taken advantage. Right now, the net worth of their empire is \$300 million, and they’ve got 11 brands. Americans are so focused on this consumerist culture and material goods that they buy into the Kardashians. They buy into their empire.”



Material wealth evokes the worst of our culture—materialism, vanity, narcissism, and greed—qualities the Kardashians symbolize. At the same time, the family calls attention to systemic issues in our society, including racism, sexism, and transphobia.

The family also draws attention to feminism. “Every time Kim posts a selfie, everyone has an opinion about whether she should take it down, or that because she’s a mother she shouldn’t be posting naked selfies. That raises important questions about feminism and women’s bodies,” Pruitt says.

While writing her capstone, Pruitt was surprised by the dearth of academic research on the Kardashians. “It’s interesting that people aren’t studying them when they’re such a huge cultural phenomenon,” Pruitt says. “They’ve been around for almost 10 years and they influence everything—from fashion to music to ideals in society. I believe people don’t study them because they have written them off as shallow and worthless.”

Pruitt finds this dismissal a mistake. “While many aspects of their lives are problematic, they also have a lot to offer us,” she says. “There’s academic value in their show and in their lives. Many people feel they shouldn’t have lasted this long, but they have. Now we need to study why.”

## CLASS OF 2020

**528**

Number in class

**69%**

Top 10 percent of high school class

**14%**

International students

Admit rate **37%**

U.S. students who are students of color **27%**

**31** ACT median

**42** Number of states

**44** Number of countries

## Making Mac Trans-friendly

AMONG MACALESTER'S DEEPLY HELD convictions are the value of diversity and the commitment to inclusive community. As part of living out those values, every building on campus now includes at least one single stall or all-gender restroom for the comfort and safety of our students, staff, and faculty who identify as transgender, gender-queer, and/or gender non-conforming.

The Leonard Center has an all-gender locker room and—taking the NCAA's position on transgender inclusion as a starting point—Macalester is committed to the rights of transgender and gender non-conforming students to participate fully and safely in all campus activities, including exercise and athletics.

When applying for housing, new students can indicate information about gender. All-gender housing options are available for first-year students in Doty, and for upper-class students in All-Gender House, language houses, the Veggie Coop, and other residential options.

Over the years, initiatives by staff and trans students have helped make trans individuals feel welcome and comfortable on campus, but responsibility for these efforts became an official part of the job description when Demetrius Colvin, assistant director of the Lealtad-Suzuki Center, was hired in 2012. "We don't make changes *just* to



benefit trans students," says Colvin. "We make changes because being inclusive is a core Macalester value."

When inviting people to introduce themselves at meetings or in classes, one of the ways Colvin and others seek to make everyone comfortable is to include this sentence: "If you use a gender pronoun, feel free to share it." People are then free to say, I use she, her, hers, he, him, his, they, them, theirs, or the less familiar ze, zim, zis.

"Sometimes people ask if everyone appears to be cisgender [i.e., their self-identity matches their biology], why bother?" says Colvin. "It's because you can't tell just by looking at someone. If you want to be multicultural or intercultural, you don't only ask for personal gender pronouns—PGPs—when it *looks like* it's needed. It's part of structuring the environment to do what's right, to be culturally competent."

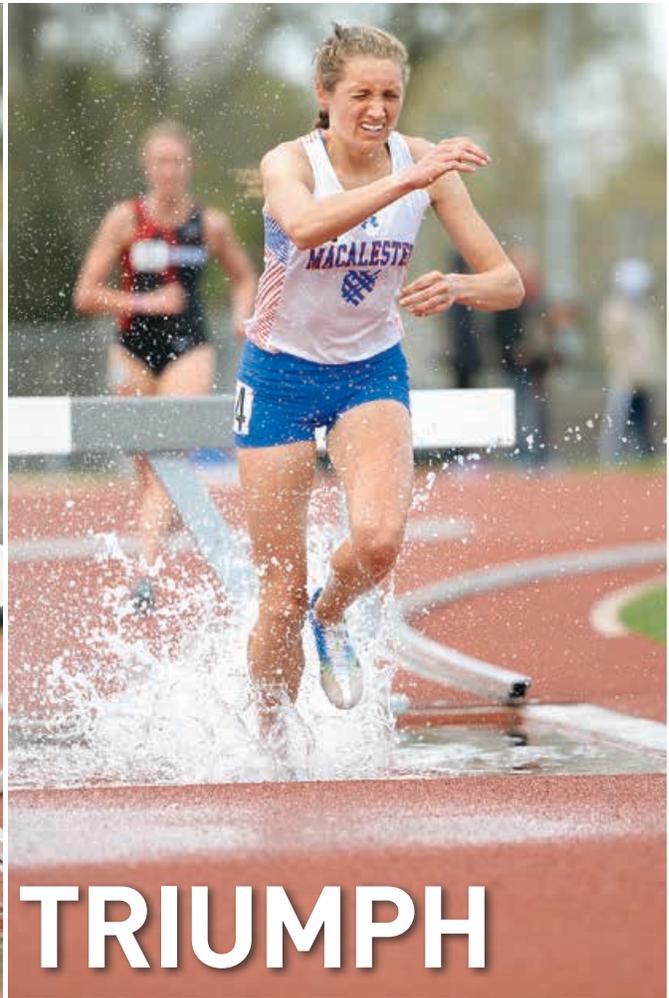


Marlon James

## OPENING CONVO

The Mac community kicked off the new academic year with First Thursday, an opening convocation featuring Macalester English professor and Man Booker Prize winner **Marlon James**. In a talk exploring life-changing literature, James referenced at least nine books that shaped his own life, from Toni Morrison's *Sula* to Franz Kafka's *The Metamorphosis*. As he told the campus community, "There's an adventure you don't know awaits you, a challenge

you don't know will strengthen you, a desire you don't know you have, a prison you need to break out of, a level you didn't know you could reach, a fear you didn't know you could face, a person you didn't know you were, or even a reason for living that you didn't know you would need. And sure, you can find these things anywhere. But maybe the thing you didn't know is that the thing you are looking for, you will find the very next time you pick up a book."



## TRACK TRIUMPH

AS SARAH JONATHAN'S PEERS in the Class of 2016 were receiving their diplomas last May—a finish line of sorts—she was toeing a different starting line. At the MIAC conference outdoor track and field championships, Jonathan was hoping to race her most memorable steeplechase—an arduous 3,000-meter run with 35 hurdles and water jumps—in the midst of a remarkable track season.

And that's exactly what transpired—although she didn't realize it immediately. The geology major from Guilford, Conn., had set a goal to run the event in under 11 minutes, and knew that shaving six seconds off her personal best time should qualify her for the Division III national championships.

With no clock running in the stadium, though, she didn't know her final time until she saw head coach Betsy Emerson afterward, who told her she had produced her fastest time ever by 14 seconds. That breakthrough performance set a new college record and qualified Jonathan for nationals. (Later that month at nationals she took 10th in the 3,000-meter steeplechase, barely missing all-American status.)

It was an incredible trajectory for an athlete who came to Macalester focused on cross-country rather than track. But Coach Emerson saw almost immediately that Jonathan's strengths—including her fine motor coordination from years of Irish step

dancing—could translate into a particular talent in the steeplechase. Unsurprisingly, the event is not for everyone. "It's hard enough to race 3,000 meters, but mixing in the barriers makes it really grueling," Emerson says. "It takes a lot of resilience and toughness. Sarah was just made for it."

Jonathan had to rely on that resilience and toughness off the track as well. Both of her parents died while she was attending college: her mother halfway through her freshman year and her father during her junior year, while she was doing research in Chile's Patagonia region.

She learned of her father's death via satellite phone while deep within Patagonia Park, and immediately began her trip back to the U.S. with a 10-hour drive to the nearest airport. She'll never forget, she says, how many people helped her get home for her father's funeral.

Support from her coaches, teammates, and professors following both deaths helped a lot, she says, with her teammates especially helping smooth her transition back to campus.

And her sport provided Jonathan with a much-needed physical outlet. "I love having time to run every day," she says. "Sometimes it's the one thing in your day that you can control. When you're upset, there's nothing better than a hard workout."

# **JOB** ACCELERATOR

*Meet MINDY DEARDURFF,  
the energetic new dean of Mac's  
Career Development Center.*



“*Strengthen the connections* between a liberal arts education and vocation by making more obvious and accessible the paths from the student experience at Macalester to eventual careers.”

BY LYNETTE LAMB → PHOTO BY DAVID J. TURNER

**T**HE ABOVE IS ONE OF 11 STRATEGIC GOALS approved by the Macalester Board of Trustees early last year. In a major move toward making that goal a reality, the college last spring hired Mindy Deardurff to be its first Dean of the Career Development Center.

Deardurff was most recently director of the Undergraduate Business Career Center at the University of Minnesota’s Carlson School of Business, where she enjoyed great success. Indeed, during her tenure the center achieved a 98 percent job placement rate for its graduates. Deardurff, who hails from the tiny town of Solen, North Dakota (population 92), has been in the Twin Cities since she arrived as a University of Minnesota freshman more than 20 years ago. She spent 13 years working in career services at the Carlson School. We caught up with her over the summer, as she was about to start her first semester at Macalester.

#### **Q: Why the switch from Big Ten to liberal arts?**

**A:** Working at a liberal arts college, with the diversity of interests among the students and a more reflective group of students, was a really exciting idea to me. Although I wasn’t looking to make a change, I did know that Mac is at a place now where the Carlson School’s career office had been when I started. My charge at the U was to grow services and fully integrate the career center into the student experience. We became integrated with academic advising, worked closely with faculty. I felt like I’d had done what I could at the U of M, and the thought of being able to grow and integrate a program and think about how it relates to the strategic plan—that was exciting to me. I look forward to helping students here think about what their passions are. I’d like them to start there rather than get into that first job and *then* ask themselves that question.

#### **Q: What are your top priorities for the CDC?**

**A:** To develop a strong integration with Alumni Relations and alumni and to grow our employer relations and outreach area. To help with the latter function, we are hiring an assistant director of employer relations. We need to engage the local community more through the classroom and better operationalize campus recruiting. Also, in the long term I would love to have a campus-wide mentorship program and career counselors tied to certain areas on campus, such as academic divisions.

#### **Q: What needs to change at Mac?**

**A:** We need to integrate career services into the student experience from day one. We will be working hard to make our office a place that serves more students, and we can only do that in partnership with others on campus.

#### **Q: How will you go about accomplishing this?**

**A:** We’ll begin by hiring additional staff to do employer relations and by evaluating our recruiting technology. After that we’ll start programs like “Resumania” and on-site career development support in the Olin-Rice Science Center. And once the new Executive Director of Alumni Engagement is hired, we’ll start working on additional alumni/career center partnerships.

#### **Q: Why has career services become so important?**

**A:** With the cost of education, its value becomes more of a question. The outcomes for students are more important after they spend so much on a degree. Alums, parents, students—all of them are putting pressure on colleges to help students find careers, and that’s especially true at liberal arts institutions that don’t have direct, obvious lines to careers. It’s our job to help students translate their liberal arts education into career opportunities. A big part of the strategic plan is about that. I’m a liberal arts major myself [Deardurff has a psychology degree], so I understand that process. A key thing will be to work closely with the academic departments. The relationships here among students and faculty are very strong. They’re the subject matter experts, so our task will be to figure out how we can best work with them.

#### **Q: Do you expect your job here to be harder?**

**A:** Not harder, just different. What I heard from employers when I worked in the business school is that those students were polished and skilled but what employers really wanted were people who were good writers, creative, could deal with ambiguity, and could argue a point. And those are the qualities that liberal arts students bring to the work world. Also, we here at Macalester have the advantage of being located in the middle of a major urban area. So while they’re at Mac, our students can volunteer and have internships—that’s a real differentiation for us.

#### **Q: What will be one of your chief challenges?**

**A:** Figuring out a way to meet the career development needs of students while they have so many other demands on their time. Becoming fully integrated into the student experience is a huge challenge. How do we translate that in a way that’s approachable and honors Macalester students? The work we do is around lifelong career self-efficacy—whether that’s grad school, Teach for America, or a job with a Fortune 500 company—it doesn’t matter to us. Our job is to get students to reflect and discern the right fit for them. We’re agnostic about their choices after graduation. Our job is to get them ready to make those choices. ■

# Her Day in COURT

The lead plaintiff in the most critical abortion rights decision in a generation, **Amy Hagstrom Miller '89** brought her case all the way to the Supreme Court—and won

BY LAURA BILLINGS COLEMAN

Few people have studied the optics of abortion as closely as Amy Hagstrom Miller '89, which is why she put on a bright purple suit the day her case went to the Supreme Court.

“When I’ve shown up to testify at the Texas legislature wearing pearls, people will do double-takes because I’m not what they’re expecting,” says Hagstrom Miller, the founder and CEO of Whole Woman’s Health, a national network of independent clinics in Texas, Minnesota, and three other states. With her friendly laugh, fringed bob, and what *Mother Jones* recently described as her “energized Patricia Arquette” demeanor, she says, “I want to shift the image associated with being an abortion provider.”

The lead plaintiff in *Whole Woman’s Health vs. Hellerstedt*, Hagstrom Miller and the *pro bono* legal team from the D.C.-based Center for Reproductive Rights arrived at the nation’s highest court on a Wednesday morning last March to challenge HB2, a 2013 Texas law mandating that physicians providing abortion services have admitting privileges at local hospitals, while requiring abortion clinics to meet the hospital-level standards of an ambulatory surgical center.

HB2 is what critics call a “TRAP” law—*targeted regulation of abortion providers*—one of 288 such laws passed by state legislatures since 2010. During the three years it took for *Whole Woman’s Health vs. Hellerstedt* to reach the highest court, more than half of that state’s abortion providers had closed their doors—including two clinics owned by Whole Woman’s Health.

“I knew what was happening in Texas wasn’t going to stay in Texas,” Hagstrom Miller says. Though her team had won a temporary injunction against the most onerous provisions of HB2, she says, taking her place in the public gallery that morning, “I really had to detach myself from the outcome of winning.”

But that began to change very soon in the oral arguments, when Justice Elena Kagan wondered why a law intended to raise the standard of care for women had effectively prevented them from accessing their legal right to abortion services: “*It’s almost like the perfect controlled experiment as to the effect of the law isn’t it? It’s like you put the law into effect, 12 clinics closed. You take the law out of effect, they reopen.*”

Soon after, Justice Stephen Breyer asked the Texas solicitor if he could point to a single woman who’d benefited from new restric-

tions—requirements that aren’t the rule for other routine health procedures. The Texas solicitor said no.

“That was when I realized we might win,” Hagstrom Miller remembers. “I knew our case chapter and verse, but to hear these brilliant legal minds hold people’s feet to the fire was just incredible.” As she left the chamber that day with Nancy Northrup, president and CEO of the Center for Reproductive Rights, nearly 3,000 supporters—many also dressed in purple—cheered from below. “We were stepping into this moment that was profound and so much bigger than me,” she says. “And my other thought was, ‘Oh my god, I have to walk down all of these steps without falling.’”

\* \* \*

Seeing his wife take center stage in a history-making women’s rights case has been thrilling, challenging, and “also just super tiring,” admits **Karl Hagstrom Miller '90**, an associate professor at the University of Virginia’s McIntire Department of Music. “We’ve learned so much about how political organizing works, how our legal system works, that we can’t see the world in the same way as we did before,” he says. “Being in the middle of such a momentous series of events—it’s like we’ve received a graduate degree in the inner workings of politics and the law.”

Over the past three years, Hagstrom Miller handed over more than 10,000 emails and seven years of clinic documents, laying bare the business model of independent community clinics like hers, which provide nearly 80 percent of abortion procedures in this country. The Whole Woman’s Health staff chose to be equally transparent with the media, allowing documentary filmmaker Dawn Porter to follow patients and providers on the front lines of the Texas fight in *Trapped*, a film that debuted at the 2016 Sundance Film Festival, where it won the Special Jury Award for Social Impact Filmmaking. Hagstrom Miller herself agreed to hundreds of interview requests from outlets as varied as *Rolling Stone* and *Refinery 29*, even changing out of her Halloween costume just before trick-or-treating with Karl and her two boys, then 8 and 10, to talk live with MSNBC’s Rachel Maddow.

Yet as her profile rose, and supporters began mobilizing national support behind her Supreme Court case, Hagstrom Miller had to make hard decisions about which battles she couldn’t win. Forced to close

Amy Hagstrom-Miller '89 and Nancy Northrup of the Center for Reproductive Rights in front of the Supreme Court building last summer.



PHOTO: COURTESY OF LORIE SHAULL

clinics in Austin and Beaumont, laying off loyal staff and physicians, Hagstrom Miller took on so much debt during her legal fight that one of her sons offered her the \$5 he'd saved just to keep her clinics open.

"Our boys have had an education in the past three years about sacrifice, about political engagement, and about doing the right thing that I think is going to be foundational for them," says Karl Hagstrom Miller. "But there was never a time when she said this is too much, I'm going to let someone else do this. That's just not in her vocabulary."

\* \* \*

Amy and Karl Hagstrom Miller met at Macalester, on a J-term trip to Nicaragua, and married in 1992. Karl (whose parents, **Barbara Lindquist Miller '60** and **Kent Miller '61**, also met at Macalester) came to Macalester as a mid-year transfer from Boston's Berklee College of Music to study history and music. Amy grew up in nearby Stillwater, the youngest of five siblings raised in "one of those Scandinavian peace-and-justice Christian families." A religious studies major, she widened her focus to include international studies and women's studies after a formative study abroad experience in India.

"Living in a culture where women don't have any status was transformational for me," says Amy, a competitive swimmer and Nordic skier who credits Title IX for "saving me from the self-esteem spiral I might have experienced as a young person." Returning to campus her senior year, she and other Women's Collective members orga-

nized Macalester students to join the 1989 National Organization of Women-led abortion rights march on Washington with money raised from "feminist bake sales" and performances by Karl's band, Toe Jam.

At the time, abortion providers were embattled by a surge of clinic protests and escalating violence, a trend that Amy found deeply troubling. "The Jesus that I was taught about would be holding the hands of women inside the clinic," she says. "He wouldn't be screaming at them." So after graduating with the S.W. Hunter Prize for commitment to peace and justice, she walked into the Planned Parenthood in St. Paul's Highland Park and asked for a job.

She learned the work from the ground up, answering phones, counseling patients, and eventually following a physician provider into private practice, work she continued when the couple moved to New York, where Karl attended graduate school at New York University. "I found unplanned pregnancy as a way to engage around a huge number of issues that really center on the status of women and human rights in our culture," she says. "Women end up grappling with some really big issues that are sort of a barometer for our society—identity, stigma, self-esteem, sexuality, family, spirituality, religion."

Serving patients in Minnesota, she found that an open-ended question like "How did you come to find yourself here today?" could elicit tears and self-recrimination from patients who were taught that "good women" don't seek abortions. But in New York City, Amy found that the multi-cultural climate and long history of abortion access in



PHOTO: PETE MAROVICH/GETTY IMAGES

**Amy Hagstrom-Miller '89 (in purple blouse) and Nancy Northrup, president of the Center for Reproductive Rights, wave to supporters as they descend the steps of the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, D.C., on June 27, 2016, after winning a decisive abortion rights case.**

the state made for a different counseling experience. “I remember asking a patient in the Bronx, ‘How did you come to find yourself here?’ and she’s like, ‘I took the A train.’” That experience taught her an important lesson, she says: “Stigma is manufactured.”

\* \* \*

By 2003 Hagstrom Miller saw her chance to challenge some of that stigma head-on, by acquiring the independent practice of a retiring provider in Austin, and Karl joined the faculty at the University of Texas. Though abortion has been legal since 1973, nearly 90 percent of U.S. counties have no provider, a trend that troubles many *Roe*-era doctors concerned they can’t retire without ending access to care in their communities. “I’ve become that next generation person you can call when you’re ready to retire,” Hagstrom Miller says about the Whole Woman’s Health business model, which has acquired a dozen such clinics from retiring providers over the last decade.

When she takes over a clinic, Hagstrom Miller typically updates facilities with new equipment, patient rooms named for inspiring women (Rosa Parks, Rachel Carson, Rosie the Riveter), and inspirational quotations on the wall. (“No one can make you feel inferior without your consent.”—Eleanor Roosevelt) She also tries to remake the patient experience, with on-site counseling, cozy fleece blankets

and tea, and a culture of open conversation that acknowledges the basic facts about abortion in America: One in three women will have an abortion during their child-bearing years. Nearly 60 percent of women seeking abortion are already mothers. Nearly half live below the federal poverty line. As her website bio explains, “No one gets pregnant hoping to have an abortion.” Even so, she’s committed to providing “fabulous abortion care.” A recent *Mashable* report from a Whole Woman’s Health site called it “The Abortion Clinic Where No One Whispers.”

That matter-of-fact messaging has sometimes unsettled others in the pro-choice movement. “There’s a tradition of people using a lot of euphemisms about family planning or reproductive health care to downplay the importance of abortion, but that’s not something I’ve ever wanted to do,” Hagstrom Miller says. “I don’t scream and yell, but I’m not going to further stigmatize abortion in the way I talk about it.”

As Texas lawmakers began passing the state’s first round of TRAP laws in the early 2000s, Hagstrom Miller became a frequent presence at the Texas State Capitol, enduring hostility and harassment from anti-abortion groups and hand-wringing from pro-choice lobbyists who wanted to review her talking points. “They worried I wasn’t strategic or I’d be too abortion-forward, so coming to the Capitol was not a friendly or comfortable place,” she says. “I was getting it from both sides.”

“ I found *unplanned pregnancy* as a way to engage around a huge number of issues that really center around the status of women and human rights in our culture, she says. Women end up grappling with some really big issues that are sort of a barometer for our society—identity, stigma, self-esteem, sexuality, family, spirituality, religion. ”

But that began to change in the legislative session of 2013, as Texas lawmakers geared up to pass HB2. “We knew it was going to be the worst session yet,” she says, but in a state with historically low voter turnout, “I wanted to find a way to make activism super easy for people.” Whole Woman’s Health and its allies printed up a few hundred bright orange T-shirts emblazoned with “My Family Values Women” and “I Stand with Texas Women.” The T-shirts turned into a powerful visual later in the session when more than 700 Texans lined up to testify about the proposed legislation, a “people’s filibuster” that preceded Sen. Wendy Davis’s historic stand against the bill.

“No one was telling anyone how to do it, or what to say, but person after person stood up and told their own abortion story or told the story about why abortion mattered to someone they loved,” Hagstrom Miller says. “So at the same time the worst law in the country was going to be passed—and you knew it was—you watched the stigma of abortion just melting off people. It was a huge victory in this long arc of culture change.”

\* \* \*

The People’s Filibuster was a pivotal moment in the fight against TRAP laws, but the most important victory came on June 27, 2016, when the Supreme Court ruled 5-3 in favor of Whole Woman’s Health, overturning the state’s burdensome abortion restrictions. That day, Hagstrom Miller chose a white pantsuit and a purple blouse to make her public remarks about standing on “the right side of history.”

“After such a tough year, with the clinic shooting in Colorado, that decision was really a source of joy,” says **Curtiss Hannum ’97**, one of several Mac alumni in the reproductive justice movement who have paid close attention to the case. The vice president of programming and center affairs at The Women’s Centers, a group of independent East Coast abortion care providers, Hannum says the Supreme Court ruling “really affirmed all that we know to be true, which is that these regulations are about politics and not about patient care.”

“There’s been a campaign of terror against people having or providing abortions,” says **Dr. Jill Meadows ’91**, Medical Director of Iowa’s Planned Parenthood of the Heartland and a board member of the national nonprofit Physicians for Reproductive Health. The 45 amicus briefs filed in support of Whole Woman’s Health, including hundreds of first-person stories from women who have sought abortions, have had a powerful effect, says Meadows. “All these affidavits from women talking about their experiences made clear that abortion is normal, and I think it can help shift the cultural needle.”

The *Whole Woman’s Health* ruling has already forced 10 states to drop similar TRAP legislation, including Wisconsin, where **Doug Laube ’66**, retired chair of the University of Wisconsin’s Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, had been expecting to testify. “It’s been quite a turning point,” says Laube. “And it’s already affected us favorably.” Attorney **Katherine Barrett Wiik ’00**, board chair of Minneapolis-based ProChoice Resources, says, “I think it is and will be a tremendously impactful legal decision, but building back the access that was lost is going to take a lot of time and hard work.”

That’s the landscape that Hagstrom Miller is confronting today, as Whole Woman’s Health and its allies attempt to rebuild the health care access that Texas women lost during HB2. According to the Texas Policy Evaluation Project, an estimated 100,000 to 240,000 Texas women between the ages of 18 and 49 have tried to end a pregnancy by themselves. Another report, released in the September 2016 issue of *Obstetrics and Gynecology*, found that the rate of women who died from complications related to pregnancy in Texas doubled from 2010 to 2014, the worst maternal mortality rate of any state, unmatched in the rest of the developed world.

Hagstrom Miller has seen these trends firsthand, recalling the day she had to close her clinic in McAllen, Texas, because of HB2 restrictions. “There was a woman there who told my vice president, ‘I can’t travel to San Antonio. I’m a working mom, I have three children, two jobs, so I’m going to tell you what’s in my medicine cabinet and what’s under my sink, and can you tell me how to do my own abortion?’ We have many stories like that.

“People say your case is going to be talked about in history books—but that’s too abstract,” she says. “This win came at a real cost.”

Now mentioned in the same breath with other kick-ass Texas women such as Molly Ivins and Ann Richards, Hagstrom Miller has been encouraged to run for political office or bring her voice to another national platform. But for now, she’s concentrating on projects closer to home: supporting staff to take vacation time, building a new fence at the Fort Worth clinic, and shoring up Shift, an Austin nonprofit she launched to start a national conversation about abortion stigma.

“Figuring out what’s next is actually a pretty important decision,” Hagstrom Miller says, but she doesn’t see herself moving too far away from providing direct care to women. “To have my foot in the door of this meaningful interaction...this is what I’m called to do.” **M**

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**LAURA BILLINGS COLEMAN** is a frequent contributor to Macalester Today.



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# AN INSIDER'S ELECTION GUIDE

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With each election cycle, political campaigns build ever more sophisticated strategies to earn your vote. In races at every level around the country, plenty of door-knocking and phone calls still take place. But today's campaign teams juggle traditional tactics with email and blogging, data collection and social media. How do campaigns connect with you, and how do they get you to the polls? Mac alumni and professors weigh in on how campaigns have changed—and how to make sense of it all.

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BY REBECCA DEJARLAIS ORTIZ '06 → ILLUSTRATIONS BY DANNY SCHWARTZ

## Why do campaign emails work?

A decade ago, campaign communications was like a fire hose: one email was sent to a million people. Now it's all about targeting, segmenting, and personalizing. You have a much better chance of engaging people that way. You have seven seconds of someone's time when they're scanning their in-box, deciding whether to open a message. It's all about reaching the right audience with the right message at the right time. Your voter file is all public information, and both the Democrats and Republicans have used that information for a long time. Email is different. An email address still feels personal—it's not the same as a phone number or address. Because of spam regulations, you have to opt in to receive emails. But campaign emails still annoy people. When I worked

at Blue State, people would say to me, "So you're the one sending all the emails." I say, "You can unsubscribe!" Online fundraisers know the sweet spot of how many emails they can send before someone unsubscribes. If they have a bucket with 100 million email addresses and they're constantly sending to that list, they're raising money even as people are unsubscribing. They can do it again and again, as long as they're still adding new subscribers and raising money.

**Zach Teicher '07** is an implementation consultant at GovDelivery, a nonpartisan agency that provides communication tools for public sector organizations from local government to federal agencies. He previously worked at Blue State Digital, an online agency that coordinates campaigns for nonprofits and other organizations.



## How can you be an informed media consumer?

On Election Day, what you have access to is very different from what you had in 2012 or even 2014. There are so many ways to learn what's happening. That night, I'll be in my basement with a big-screen TV and my iPad, iPhone, and laptop. CNN will be on the TV. I'll have a TweetDeck feed on my iPad. My laptop will go between whatever [FiveThirtyEight.com founder] Nate Silver does and something else video-centric, and I'll have my Twitter feed on my mobile device. They're all jumping-off points. Keep in mind, this is my plan right now; it could change by No-

vember 8. I've been profoundly disappointed by the quality of election coverage more often than I'd like to be.

It's so important for citizens to read stuff they don't agree with. Read things that will challenge you. There is good, thoughtful analysis and commentary on both the left and the right. Allow your opinion to be challenged—you'll do a better job making an argument if you listen to the counterargument.

**Howard Sinker '78** teaches News Reporting and Writing (see article on page 21) and is the web sports editor for [startribune.com](http://startribune.com).



## What's it like to be a field organizer?

My job is to make sure it's as easy as possible to vote—and to get as many Democrats out to vote as possible. I'm on the ground, organizing folks in southeast Iowa. I coordinate volunteers and reach out to voters through phone-banking and door-knocking. This job is seven days a week and goes from mid-morning until at least 9 p.m. I get tired, but inspiring things happen every day. I meet people who are so passionate, and I see the real faces attached to the policies we talk about. One of my favorite things is to talk with people who didn't think they could

vote because they can't get to a polling place on Election Day—they're so excited to learn they can vote from home. Elections are a big process, but there's so much that an individual can do. My volunteers are wonderful. They have busy lives, but they can reach out to large portions of their communities. On-the-ground work is so important to get out the vote. That's what keeps me going through long days. What we're doing in a small part of Iowa really matters.

**Lucy Westerfield '15** is a field organizer with the Iowa Democratic Party, based in Burlington, Iowa.

## Why did I change how I teach about campaigns?

In my class Rhetoric of Campaigns and Elections, we act as if students have been hired as political candidates' campaign managers or communications directors. In the first week of class, students choose the campaign and make a communications plan. They produce bumper stickers and yard signs, design door hangers, and write stump speeches and phone canvassing scripts. This fall my class is profoundly different: Instead of teaching students how to run a campaign in the here-and-now, I'm teaching them how to run campaigns of the future. Most of my students choose to work for candidates who are much like them in terms of race, class, gender, or religious background. But in their lifetimes, this country's demographics are going to change significantly. We are going to become a far more diverse place. Our campaigns should reflect this country's principles about political representation. People of

color need to run and be elected to public office in far greater numbers.

This year I'm asking my students to hypothetically work on behalf of a candidate of color or a recent immigrant in order to create a "more perfect union," even though they may not be able to rely on their own experience or background. I want my students to tackle one of the most complicated issues of our time—race—so that when they start taking jobs in politics, they have a fuller appreciation for the challenges and rewards of electing minority candidates. I'm advocating for a stronger attempt to have our politics represent our principles of equality and justice, and to think about what those principles look like in lived practice. I'm not interested in turning out Republicans or Democrats; I'm interested in turning out informed citizens who know how elections operate and understand their own agency in influencing them.

**Adrienne Christiansen** teaches political science at Macalester and is director of the Jan Serie Center for Scholarship and Teaching.



## How can math help us understand politics?

Learning math is about learning how to reason. You think about a problem like it's a tree—and you have to follow all the branches. That's how mathematicians think. They're generally interested in politics and pretty levelheaded. I see students get caught up in arguing why something shouldn't happen for political reasons. They might get frustrated with a candidate who presents as centrist, without thinking about why that's happening—that perhaps that candidate needs to sway voters in the middle. Some of my students were upset that Hillary Clinton didn't choose Sherrrod Brown or Elizabeth Warren for her running mate, but there are very good political reasons she didn't. We need to think about how any vice presidential candidate would be replaced in their current job. The governor gets to pick the replacement, and in Warren's case, the Republican governor of Massachusetts indicated he would pick a Republican. But Hillary needs the Senate to flip Democrat—so she needs both

Brown and Warren in the Senate. That's how mathematicians think: They think about what happens next.

**Karen Saxe** is the DeWitt Wallace Professor of Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science.

This semester she's teaching *Political Participation: Politics of Mathematics and Elections* (see article on facing page).

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## What makes a campaign successful?

It boils down to this: an appealing message from an appealing messenger. That's the core. A campaign has to be based on a set of proposals and solutions that address real problems that people are facing. If a campaign isn't doing that, it's fundamentally hollow. The rest is just mechanics: how do we get the message to people, how are we going to communicate it, which tools will we use to educate people about what the candidate believes, and how will we contrast those beliefs with the opponent's? Here are a few candidates who were effective communicators and ran on ideas: Ronald Reagan in 1980, Paul Wellstone in 1990, Bill Clinton in 1992, Paul Ryan in 1998, and Marco Rubio in 2010. Sometimes campaigns get lost in how much money they've raised. Money is a *means* to an end, not the end. Candidates have money for a reason: to communicate ideas. Do you have something to say, something compelling to tell the people you'd like to represent? You've got to address people's concerns and what they care about.

**Pat Shortridge '90** is president and founder of the political nonprofit *Conservative Solutions Project* and a former *Minnesota GOP* chair.

## How do campaigns get to know voters?

People ask me all the time how to get off campaign call lists. My recommendation is always the same: vote early, and *always* vote. Most calls happen the week before the election. If you vote early, the campaigns won't need to call you. And the more elections you vote in, the less likely they'll be to call you, because they assume you'll be voting. Political data has been around since the 1890s, when William Jennings Bryan started collecting his supporters' names and addresses. Eventually magazine subscriptions became another tool, giving campaigns a sense of voters' interests. Nielsen viewing habit information became the next wave to

hit political data. Now consumer records and purchasing habits give us data. For years, politicians had to start over during each election cycle to build their campaigns. Today, both political parties maintain supporter lists, shared by candidates from local through presidential elections. We've reached a point where consumer and public data have maximized their effectiveness—we know a lot about voters. The next step is to identify the best ways to persuade people in the middle to vote. We know how to reach them and what they want to hear, but we can't seem to make them actually vote.

**Andrew Ojeda '13** is a political analyst at the data analytics firm *i360*.

## Why do blogs matter?

There's a service element to political blogging. Too often people allow their passions and beliefs to supersede otherwise logically grounded views. Our writing at RRH Elections may come from a Republican perspective, but we work hard to ensure that our analysis is clear-headed. The question isn't, Who should win the election? but instead, Who *is* winning the election? It's not about how we feel about the candidates. Instead, we have an obligation to report things as they are, and how various data point to that conclusion. We're honest about the fact that we do not report on the issues, unless they influence who will win or lose. We report on electoral politics. We serve a niche that tells it like it is with the electoral reality, while legacy media outlets have a much greater responsibility to tell a fuller story about an election. When done right, blogs and mainstream media should complement each other. We provide half the equation and hope that other blogs with their own niches will pick up the rest.

**Danny Surman '14** is a founder of the blog *RRH Elections*.



## How has social media changed elections?

Social media makes campaigns more accessible. You can take big political ideas and esoteric problems and break them down to what they mean for one family. In the best possible world, social media can make issues more accessible to folks. The more we can distill issues into bits of content you can read while waiting in the grocery store line, the better. Also, when you see what the candidates talk about—and don't talk about—it helps you figure out which questions to ask. The candidate's social media staff members are monitoring all the accounts, and they see themes. They notice if every time they post a video about health care, people start talking about prescription drug prices. They want to be talking about the ideas that matter to people. The White House recently rolled out a program in which you can send a Facebook message to the President. A friend asked me, "Why not just write a letter?" I said, "Do you have stamps at home? Stationery?" A Facebook message takes less than five minutes, and that's something you can fit into your day. Social media allows people to have their voices heard. 

**Sara Langhinrichs '08** is social media director at Center for American Progress. She was part of the social media team for Barack Obama's 2012 presidential campaign.

**REBECCA DEJARLAIS ORTIZ '06** is a staff writer for Macalester Today.

# LEARNING FROM THE ELECTION

- **News Reporting and Writing:** In Howard Sinker's reporting class, every student must clear the first Tuesday night in November. On election night they tackle the course's biggest challenge: covering election news as it unfolds. Sometimes that means interviewing high-profile candidates; sometimes it means appearing on local TV. Says Sinker, "This is an opportunity: to be on the floor, to be close to a candidate, to ask questions of other journalists. It's what contemporary journalism is all about."
- **Rhetoric of Campaigns and Elections:** Members of the Class of 2020 will cast their first presidential vote this fall—and the 16 of them in Adrienne Christiansen's Rhetorics of Campaigns and Elections course are already immersed in campaign persuasion tactics. In addition to hearing from political candidates and campaign workers, class members have been analyzing presidential candidates' communication strategies. They're also producing their own campaign rhetoric—from press releases to fundraising scripts. By the term's end, "they'll have a whole repertoire of new skills," Christiansen says, skills previous students have later used in real political campaigns.
- **2-D Design:** Art professor Eric Carroll regularly gives students time to draw in their sketchbooks—honing a practice of thinking visually. Those visual exercises are building to a final product with a big audience: Posters using the word *vote*, which Twin Cities partners will distribute and display in early November. In addition, they are designing an even larger scale element for campus: the word *vote*—in letters 20 feet high and 3 feet wide—to be hung in their studio windows overlooking Shaw Field. Says Carroll, "They'll think about the word *vote* so much the letters will turn into shapes and forms, but they'll also think about the content and what it means in such a polarizing election season."
- **Political Participation—Politics of Mathematics and Elections:** Political science professor Julie Dolan and math professor Karen Saxe are focusing on how their fields interact, having students explore issues like redistricting and gerrymandering, weighted voting systems and voting power, and electoral outcome predictions. And they quickly put into practice what they learn: On day one, Dolan and Saxe discussed what makes a race competitive. Then the students chose a congressional race, followed its campaign strategies, and identified what kinds of voters the candidate must attract. Says Saxe, "They need to predict who will win, and by how much. Last time every class member correctly predicted the winner—and with surprising accuracy, too."

# Summer Start-ups

Seven fledgling businesses spread their wings in a remarkable student entrepreneurial incubator.

BY LYNETTE LAMB → PHOTOS BY DAVID J. TURNER

*“RSVTea is a fizzy energy tea drink that hits the pick-me-up gap of taste, health, and energy,” Sarah Nichols ’16 told the crowd. “It has the same amount of caffeine as two shots of espresso but uses stevia, a natural sweetener with antioxidants and zero calories.”*

Leading a start-up company is not for the faint of heart, Nichols and her business partner, **Liam Downs-Tepper ’16**, found out this summer. The duo were part of a group of 18 Mac students who spent the season in Mac Startups—a competitive business incubator program in its third year. They were given less than 12 hours to prepare a compelling presentation of their fizzy tea product, once known as Partea! but now sporting the more sober name RSVTea.

They came through with flying colors at the next morning’s meeting of local entrepreneurship group One Million Cups, so impressing the crowd with their sales pitch that they left with introductions to a beverage industry entrepreneur and a vice president for QuikTrip. “We’re putting the fun into tea!” Nichols told the crowd, a claim more than borne out by the duo’s fast-paced, lively pitch, complete with samples.

By summer’s end, each of the seven Mac Startup teams had the chance to practice their new company’s story, after spending 10 weeks in the Innovator Space in the basement of Markim Hall. Through the summer they developed their ideas by working with mentors, heard from other entrepreneurs, and visited workplaces, incubators, and other inspirational sites. The final display of their work—Demo Day—took place on Sept. 20 before a large crowd in Kagin Commons.

Along the way the learning curve was steep, say the participants. They soon came to realize what so many entrepreneurs before them have: As **Gloria Odoemelam ’19** put it, “It’s easy to be engulfed by a start-up!”

## The Fizzy Drink

Like each team, RSVTea’s members were given free room and board at Macalester for the summer, plus an \$1800 stipend and \$1,000 to spend on their start-up business. They used their money to buy a kegerator (a combination cooler/carbonator) and the raw ingredients to make their sweet and fizzy black tea drink.

Sarah first hatched the idea for RSVTea while spending a semester in Vienna. In that European capital’s coffee culture, she discovered a fizzy green tea drink that was very popular with young people.

Soon the notion of starting up a company to sell a similar drink in the U.S. “just absorbed all my thoughts,” says Nichols. Although she had intended to apply for law school, “Once I started thinking about this company and how fun it would be to launch it, my LSAT prep book just collected dust.”



Liam Downs-Tepper ’16  
and Sarah Nichols ’16 of  
Team RSVTea





“We appreciate the work ethic required when doing a start-up,” says **Gloria Odoemelam '19** (far left). “Nothing will happen unless you do it.”

**Team Polyglot: Gloria Odoemelam '19, Becky Githinji '18, and Lilian Vo '18**

## The Advisers



**Kate Ryan Reiling '00**, Mac’s entrepreneur-in-residence, spent the summer on maternity leave. In Reiling’s absence, Mac Startups was ably managed by entrepreneurship coordinator Jody Emmings and student program coordinator **Ashley Hung '16**.

They, in turn, received plenty of advice, support, and contacts from trustee **Seth Levine '94**, managing director of the venture capital firm Foundry Group, who has been a key champion of entrepreneurial education at Macalester. Says Emmings, “This program would not be successful without his support.”

Levine was there on September 20 when the seven teams made their final presentations. His response? “Teams, that was awesome! You rocked it!” He went on to tell the audience, “It’s amazing the energy taking place on campus around entrepreneurship, and the students are helping direct us.”

## The Summer

From June through early August, Emmings and Hung coordinated a complicated schedule of field trips—Midtown Global Market (full of retail entrepreneurs) with **Matt Kazinka '11**, Common Roots (a Minneapolis café and catering business owned by **Danny Schwartzman '04**), and Neon, a North Minneapolis business incubator—as well as guest lecturers, lunch meetings, and feedback sessions.

“The program was more active than I expected,” says **Josh Marcus '17** (Carmel, Calif.), a member of team Constellation (an artists/creatives website). “It’s been interesting to see how various small businesses work,” he continues. “As an entrepreneur you’re constantly problem-solving and meeting different challenges. It’s always: how creative can you be? How hard can you hustle?”

## The Coffee CEO Alum

*The South Minneapolis industrial site that is home to Peace Coffee is bright, new, and packed to the rafters with burlap bags of aromatic beans. The Mac Startup students’ eyes are wide as they tour the facility of this growing company—which was itself a start-up 20 years ago. The tour of Peace Coffee tour is led by its CEO, Lee Wallace '95.*

“We appreciate the work ethic required when doing a start-up,” **Gloria Odoemelam '19** (Detroit, Mich.) said after the Peace Coffee tour. “Nothing will happen unless you do it.”

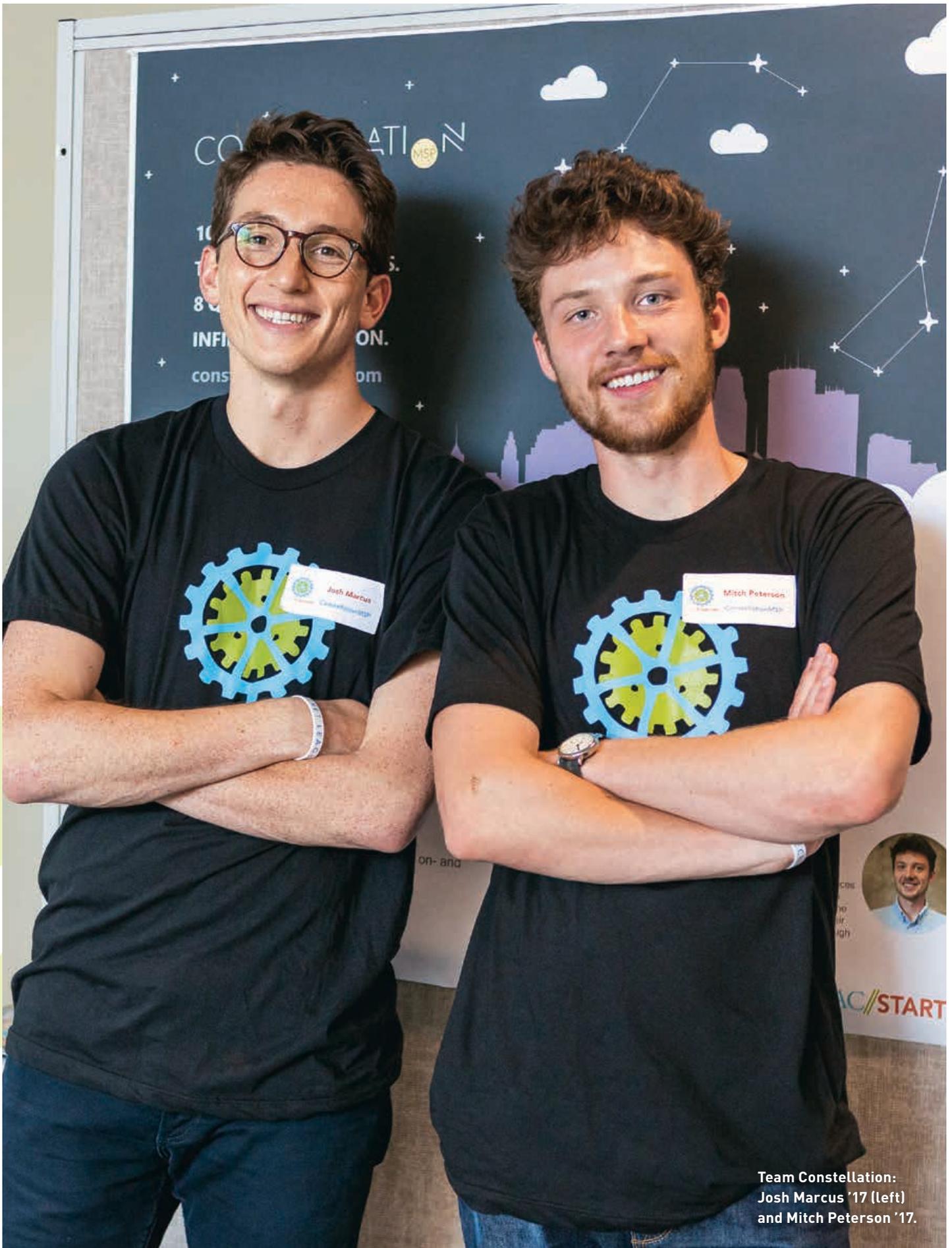
“Getting out into the community and seeing the city, interacting with people who have started other ventures has been great,” says Downs-Tepper. “Everything has synergized together. I’ve loved seeing what Mac alums are doing out there, and how they’re embodying all the values that Mac instills.”

## The Language Learners

*“With courses in tongues from Turkish to Tagalog, we aim to create fun educational spaces and contribute to greater cross-cultural understanding in a rapidly globalizing world. Polyglot will cater to people with different language experiences, from beginners to native speakers.”*

Such are the aspirations of the trio of women running Polyglot, a language-learning platform for endangered and underrepresented languages. “It’s kind of like Quizlet meets Rosetta Stone,” said team member **Becky Githinji '18** (Memphis, Tenn.). “You can look at flash cards made by other users and listen to the sounds of the languages.”

Polyglot is an open platform website, meaning that language users themselves represent their own languages and cultures rather than



Team Constellation:  
Josh Marcus '17 (left)  
and Mitch Peterson '17.



having an outside academic do it. The group hopes to eventually include such endangered languages as Ainu (from Hokkaido, Japan) and Ojibway, as well as underrepresented languages such as Swahili and Javanese, the latter of which, points out group member **Lilian Vo '18** (Seattle), is spoken by more people than French is, yet is nearly impossible to find on the web.

This group comes by their passion for languages honestly: all are second generation Americans whose families speak languages other than English at home. “We noticed a cultural and language learning gap, and our goal is to reduce that gap,” says Vo.

Although all three Polyglot team members were working other jobs over the summer, they remained fully committed to their new endeavor. They started by focusing on the Hmong language and culture, since St. Paul is an internationally recognized center of that community. Despite the need to return to their studies in the fall, they were hoping to keep the project going. Says Odoemelum, “Your passion can drive your success.”

## The Big Leagues

*On the second floor of City Center, in the heart of downtown Minneapolis, a tech incubator with far higher stakes was buzzing on a late July morning. The Mac entrepreneurs were visiting Techstars, a collection of 11 start-up teams chosen from 500 who applied from across the world. Each team got a living stipend plus a \$120,000 investment to make their company go. Asked one eager Mac student: “When’s the next round of applications due?”*

Techstars has business incubators in cities across the world; in each they partner with a local business. Here in Minneapolis the Techstars program is a retail accelerator partnering with Target Corporation. And one of the key liaisons between the two is **Audrey Kohout '14**, who has worked for Target since graduation.

Kohout, a senior innovation project manager, helped each team meet with 150 mentors—many of them Target employees—as they sought to find the best five to ten mentors to guide them through the three-month program. She also got team members out socializing in the cities, all of which took her up to 80 hours a week. “Yes, I work a lot, but it’s not investment banking hours—and it’s way more fun,” she says.

Kohout set her sights on the entrepreneurship area back when she studied the topic with economics professor Joyce Minor. She positioned herself for her current job from her first days at Target, she says, taking on roles that would lead her to this point, such as doing robotics testing with startups in San Francisco. It’s an understatement to say that she loves where she has landed. “The engagement between Target employees and the teams is amazing,” she says. “It’s really exciting to come to work every day.”

From top: Team Secret League: Vivi Gregorich '18, Joe Trier '18, and Ben Sydel '18; Team Haystak: Emily Roebuck '17, Anne McEvoy '17, and Emily Sanford '17; and Team Savery Eats: Anh Thai-Vu '18, Logan Stapleton '18, and Haihan “Angelica” Lin '18



Mac Startups students and their fans mingle at a July poster session.

*“As an entrepreneur you’re constantly problem-solving and meeting different challenges. It’s always: How creative can you be? How hard can you hustle?”*

## The Future

So what’s next for Mac Startups? Ryan Reiling will be back next summer, of course, and says she hopes to get students engaged more deeply in the Twin Cities entrepreneurial community. “There are so many events, organizations, and individuals with whom they can connect,” says Ryan Reiling, “and we always hear great feedback when people have the chance to meet our students.” She also hopes to introduce Mac Startups students to faculty and staff who have an interest in or are engaged in entrepreneurial work.

Overall, says Emmings, feedback from students and mentors told her, “We were very successful this year.” Among the triumphs: “They overcame their fears, explored their limits, and really bonded as a cohort.”

About half of last summer’s teams may actually go on to launch their start-ups, she says, although she cautions this is only one gauge of success. Says Emmings, “The process of exploring the world of entrepreneurship, trying it on, learning how to work with a team, figuring out how to deal with the ambiguity and fluidity of it—that’s where the real value is.” **M**

**LYNETTE LAMB** is the editor of Macalester Today.

## Mac Startups Teams

- **CONSTELLATION**—Searchable digital vault of Twin Cities creative professionals  
**Josh Marcus '17** (Carmel, Calif.)  
**Mitch Peterson '17** (Northfield, Minn.)  
*Mentor: Peter Pascale '94, Pearson VUE*
- **HAYSTAK**—Mobile-friendly website allowing people to find nearby syringe exchange programs  
**Anne McEvoy '17** (Greenville, S.C.)  
**Emily Roebuck '17** (Davenport, Iowa)  
**Emily Sanford '17** (Seattle, Wash.)  
*Mentor: Marek Ciolko '97, Gravie*
- **POLYGLOT**—Community-driven language learning platform for endangered, minority, and underrepresented languages  
**Becky Githinji '18** (Memphis, Tenn.)  
**Gloria Odoemelam '19** (Detroit, Mich.)  
**Lilian Vo '18** (Seattle, Wash.)  
*Mentor: Roya Ansari '83, Trendage*
- **RSVTEA**—Clean energy drinks made from fizzy black tea and natural, zero-calorie ingredients  
**Sarah Nichols '16** (Nixa, Mo.)  
**Liam Downs-Teppe '16** (Brooklyn, N.Y.)  
*Mentor: Keith Lauver, Cooksimple*
- **SAVERY EATS**—Online platform that finds healthy surplus food available at discounted prices  
**Haihan “Angelica” Lin '18** (Dalian, China)  
**Logan Stapleton '18** (Apple Valley, Minn.)  
**Anh Thai-Vu '18** (Vung Tau, Vietnam)  
*Mentors: Justin Grammens, Lab651; Sam Schroeder, Code42*
- **SECRET LEAGUE**—Online platform designed to advertise and facilitate campus pickup games  
**Ben Sydel '18** (New York City)  
**Joe Trier '18** (Madison, Wis.)  
**Vivi Gregorich '18** (Boulder, Colo.)  
*Mentor: TJ Mahony '99, Accomplice VC*
- **TUKKI**—Web application where students can share and access information about study away programs  
**Ayoub Belemlih '18** (Fez, Morocco)  
**John Mohoang '17** (Maputsoe, Lesotho)  
*Mentor: Dave Sielaff '90, Critical Hit Technologies*

# JOYFUL

**MANDELA**  
LONG WALK TO FREEDOM

# INNOVATOR

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With three jobs and plenty more to accomplish in medicine and business, **Collin Mothupi '00** is an energetic idea generator.

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BY SHEILA REGAN → PHOTO BY BROOKE STEVENS

THERE'S AN INFECTIOUS joy surrounding **Collin Mothupi '00**. The former Macalester trustee has a beaming smile and a full-body laugh that makes everyone feel like his best friend. Always ready to dance, enjoy music, and engage in conversation, Mothupi also cares deeply for the world, using his formidable smarts and boundless energy to make the earth a better place.

Given that he holds down three separate jobs, that energy is essential. Mothupi works as an associate vice president for MedeAnalytics, one of the largest health care analytics firms in the country; runs a consulting firm called SALC that helps hospitals improve their performance; and guides a start-up called Pellucidum Verum, which is seeking to bring down both the cost and speed of skin cancer diagnosis.

Born in South Africa, Mothupi spent his early life as a refugee in Kenya, where he worked as a child actor. He played the part of Morogo in the Disney film *Cheetah*, and appeared in *The Ivory Hunters* with James Earl Jones and Isabella Rossellini.

Mothupi's father wrote for a South African newspaper in the time of apartheid, and was imprisoned for supporting Nelson Mandela. Eventually smuggled out by priests, he ended up in Uganda, where he met Mothupi's mother. Together they had four children, all born in exile.

While Mothupi was growing up, his family often didn't have enough to eat. He remembers gathering sugar to fry—his food for the day—yet his family never turned anyone away. Though they were refugees themselves, the Mothupi family always had other refugees staying with them. "It was the first landing stop in the country. They would come to my Dad's house and then move on," he adds. "Those experiences have made me more appreciative of where I am today."

Mothupi's current interests were inspired by his impoverished childhood. "Acknowledging the disproportionate world we live in provides the passion behind what I do," he says. "More people than I care to count go to sleep hungry, have no home, are refugees, are sick, have no access to clean water, or even know what tomorrow might bring."

That drive to make the world a fairer place is demonstrated by Mothupi's start-up company, which he began incubating while in graduate school at Vanderbilt University. The idea behind Pellucidum Verum is to speed up the diagnosis process for detecting the deadly skin cancer melanoma, making it more affordable for people without health insur-

ance. Josh Gapp, a dermatopathologist and one of Mothupi's partners in the project, calls Mothupi a whiz at problem solving.

The high cost of detecting a cancerous mole is a function of our health care delivery, Mothupi says. "You see a provider, who says yeah, this is a problem, go to a dermatologist. By the time you see a skin doctor, that's now eight weeks out, because skin doctors are notorious for not having available appointments." From there, a dermatologist might take a biopsy, if they have that capacity, then they send the sample to another specialist, where still more time elapses.

From a cost standpoint, each of those appointments adds up. "You're looking at anywhere from \$800 to \$1,000 just to be told whether you have skin cancer, and meanwhile you've waited eight weeks," Mothupi says. "We want to cut out the middle man. If you're worried about your skin, you go directly to one of our providers, get it biopsied, find out whether it's cancerous, and it's going to cost significantly less."

"It's a race against time," Mothupi says. "Skin cancer is one of the most common and deadly types of cancer," he says. "It's also among the most treatable if caught early." The new company recently completed a pilot phase that proved, says Mothupi, that "there's a demand for the services we're offering, and the model actually works."

Mothupi's cancer-stopping ambition isn't the only professional ball he's juggling. After leaving a job as director of Value Analytics at Vanderbilt three years ago, he joined a software start-up company called OnFocus, which offered software to help hospitals improve their performance. When MedeAnalytics bought out OnFocus, Mothupi stayed on to facilitate client strategies.

Finally, Mothupi runs a consulting firm called SALC, which works on improving processes within hospitals using LEAN principles. "Toyota perfected it a couple of years ago, and now I'm bringing it to health care," he says. "How do we run facilities more efficiently and reduce error?" For example, Mothupi has helped hospitals reduce their patient waiting times in emergency rooms.

Reducing waits, reducing costs—unsurprising goals for a man raised in poverty and in a hurry to accomplish more. What can we expect from Collin Mothupi next? **M**

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**SHEILA REGAN** is a Minneapolis writer.

# All Rise

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## The inspirational life and career of **Judge Michael Davis '69**

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BY JENNIFER VOGEL

**T**HE FIRST THING YOU NOTICE about U.S. District Judge **Michael Davis '69** is his height. He's six feet five and a half inches tall. And then you notice this quality, this sense of quiet gravity. He doesn't crack jokes. His laugh, when he laughs, is more of a low rumble. He speaks deliberately, not off the cuff. In the courtroom, wearing the vaunted black robe and occasionally removing his glasses to make a point, his voice booms.

"You shouldn't be here," he told a contrite defendant during a recent sentencing.

Davis's chambers are cluttered with cultural artifacts, photos of friends and family, and mementoes of big moments. Near his desk hangs a prized photo of Thurgood Marshall at the time he argued *Brown vs. Board of Education*, before serving on the Supreme Court. Marshall stands on the courthouse steps, the words "Equal justice under law" carved into the building behind him.

The first black federal judge in Minnesota, Davis, says those who know him, is compassionate, even-tempered, and imposing. He has spent more than three decades on the bench trying to make the court system fairer to poor people and minorities and to lessen the mystique and mistrust surrounding it.

"That has been my fight and will continue to be my fight," says Davis, 69, who took senior status, or semi-retirement, in 2015, after serving as chief judge for seven years. He still handles a nearly full caseload. "Some people think you can achieve it and then move on to something else. No. We are always dealing with issues of unfairness, bias, prejudice, and so those are issues that I will always be a foot soldier fighting for."

Davis has worked to diversify the ranks of the federal court; launched the Pro Se Project with the Minnesota chapter of the Federal Bar Association (which matches poor federal civil litigants with free attorneys); served as editorial chair for the Minnesota Supreme Court's 1993 Task Force on Racial Bias report; and helped curate public presentations lauding female jurists, Asian jurists, Hispanic jurists, Jewish lawyers under the Third Reich, Native American treaty rights, Marshall's legacy, and Dred and Harriet Scott.

"He sets the standard very high," says U.S. District Judge Donovan Frank, a friend and colleague. "As a person and a judge, he has the passion and compassion to give true meaning to the words 'equal justice under law.' He has this unparalleled commitment to the advancement of civil and human rights." And, "He is willing to stand tall on those issues even if it's unpopular."



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## Known for important rulings

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In 1997, Davis made a ruling that went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, confirming hunting, fishing, and gathering rights for the Mille Lacs band of Ojibwe on land ceded by treaty in the 1800s. “That is very, very important because Native American people have had the worst history of any group in this country with how they have been subjugated,” Davis says.

More recently he presided over the cases of nine young men charged with conspiring to support ISIL. In order to sentence them fairly, Davis requested an analysis of rulings in similar cases. He also enlisted the assistance of a German de-radicalization expert, who assessed the men to determine motive, risk, and the potential for rehabilitation, launching the country’s first Terrorism Disengagement and Deradicalization Program. Davis, who served on the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court before and after the 9/11 attacks, wanted this information so he could view each defendant as an individual.

Davis has an “uncanny ability to decide,” says friend and colleague Hennepin County District Court Judge Pamela Alexander. “There are a lot of judges who have trouble deciding.” But most impressive, she says, “is his ability to listen, relate, and apply his own circumstances to how he may view a situation. He is able to listen to many sides.”

## Raised to excel

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Davis was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, but raised—along with a brother—mainly by their mother, Doris Ruth Smith Davis, in Aurora, Illinois. “The major person in my life is my mother,” says Davis, who describes her as both a hero and the love of his life. “She was an extremely strong person.” She made sure both her sons were well educated. Davis’s brother, who became a doctor of statistics, “is the smarter one,” he says.

Two of Davis’s great-grandfathers were slaves. One, Nathan

Hughes, escaped Kentucky and moved to Illinois, where he fought with the “colored troops” during the Civil War. That history loomed large in Davis’s childhood. “Neither you nor I can even imagine escaping being a slave and then joining the army when you are not even a citizen, to fight,” he says. “Here is a country that enslaved your parents, enslaved you, and then you escaped to freedom and fought to make sure it became a country that fulfilled its dream of liberty for all.”

An accomplished high school student, Davis applied to Macalester and in 1965 toured the campus with his mother. He had never visited Minnesota before, but at the time the University of Minnesota football team had a black quarterback named Sandy Stephens, “one of the few black quarterbacks who played college football,” says Davis. “For that to occur, you say, hey, that must be an enlightened place.” Macalester offered him a full scholarship.

## Influenced by Humphrey

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He studied political science and economics. Then, everything changed. Davis and another student organized an “Urban Crisis Symposium” at Macalester in 1969 and invited as its keynote speaker, Hubert Humphrey, who had just lost the presidential election to Richard Nixon.

“We were surprised that so soon after the election he would even think of it,” Davis remembers. “He is one of the brightest individuals I have ever met. He was the architect that changed this country, coming up with so many different programs. He was the majority leader that got through the 1964 civil rights bill.”

As has happened so many times in Davis’s life, Humphrey took an interest in him. “People watched me during my career, who I didn’t know were watching me, and gave me great recommendations, and allowed me to move to where I am now,” Davis says. “Because they saw my integrity, my advocacy for fairness and justice.” Humphrey suggested to Davis that he should attend law school.

Davis followed his advice, graduating from the University of Min-

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“Some people think you can achieve it and then move on to something else. No. We are always dealing with issues of unfairness, bias, prejudice, and so those are issues that I will always be a foot soldier fighting for.”

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**Judge Michael Davis in May 2010, when he was the Commencement speaker at Macalester.**

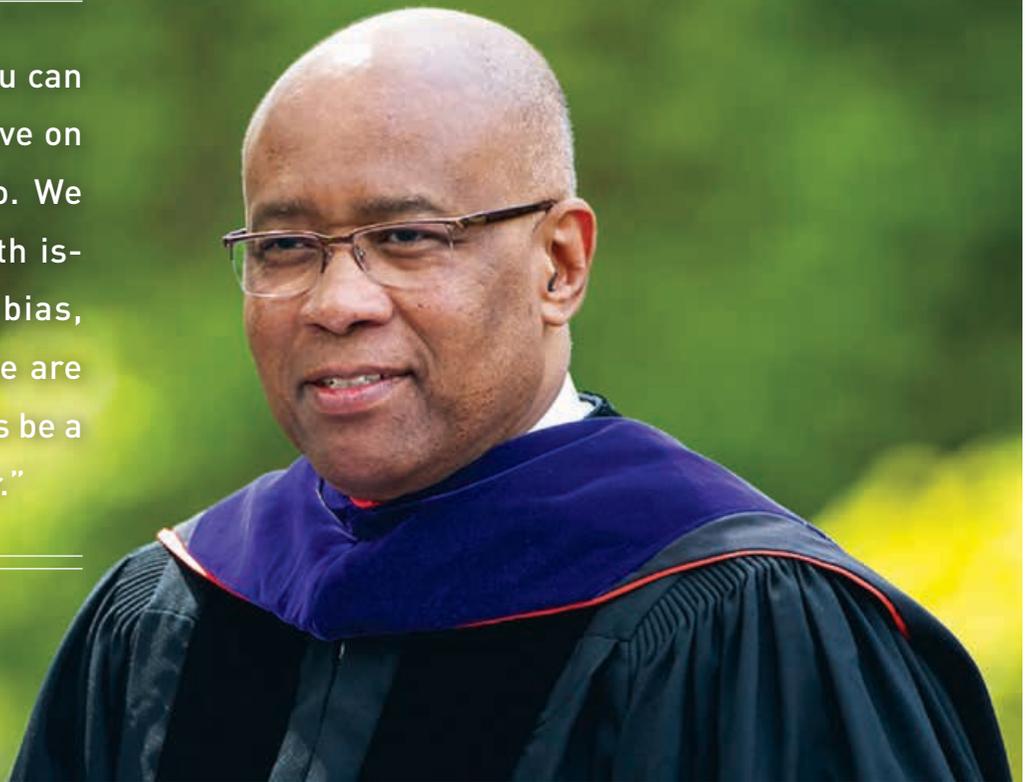


PHOTO: GREG HELGESON

nesota Law School in 1972. While there, he met his wife, attorney Sara Wahl—the daughter of Rosalie Wahl, the first woman to serve on the Minnesota Supreme Court. They were married in 1980 and have two sons—Michael, a student of public policy at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs, and Alexander, a lawyer clerking for Judge Alexander.

As an attorney, Davis was a fierce advocate, working at the Legal Rights Center in Minneapolis, the Neighborhood Justice Center in St. Paul, and the Hennepin County Public Defender’s office. Davis calls his years at the Legal Rights Center the most important of his career, “never to be surpassed.”

There he worked with Judge Alexander, who was struck by Davis’s “obvious dedication to social justice. We both grew up in the 1960s. We were very concerned about equal rights and equal representation, which I think is what motivated us to go to law school. Our interests were aligned.”

## Appointed to judiciary

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Both applied to be state court judges. “I thought all along that he would make a great judge,” Alexander says. “When you think about it, look at him—he looks like a judge. You can feel it.” In 1983 then-Governor Rudy Perpich appointed Alexander and Davis to the bench on the same day.

The transition from advocate to arbiter was challenging, Alexander says, but adds, “I was fortunate to go through it with one of my best friends.” Together they addressed equal access and justice issues in the Hennepin County District Court system and implemented bias and sexual harassment training for judges and staff.

At the urging of the late Senator Paul Wellstone, then-President Bill Clinton in 1993 nominated Davis for the federal bench. Davis remembers sitting across from the late Senator Strom Thurmond during the confirmation process. “He was anti-Hubert Humphrey and anti-civil

rights and anti-black voting rights and not a popular person to me,” Davis says. “Of course, I knew he was on the Senate Judiciary Committee, but I hoped he wouldn’t show up. It would be my nightmare, to be questioned by him.” Thurmond did make a last-minute appearance, spoke in support of a particular candidate, says Davis, “looked at the rest of us and left.”

On the federal bench, and especially while serving as chief judge, Davis has tried to rebuild community trust in the justice system through inclusion. In particular, he has reached out to kids as part of the Open Doors to Federal Courts program. “I have worked up from the community and I know exactly what’s happening,” Davis says. “And especially when I start talking to young kids, who say they don’t have the idea of being able to dream past their 18th birthdays because so many of their friends and relatives are dying. We have to change the whole fabric of what’s going on.”

Judge Frank, who also works with the program, says, “Whether you are talking to an adult or a child, with a fancy education or no education, no matter what your background is, they can tell when you care and when you are listening. [Davis] would look at them and say, ‘If I can do it, you can do it’...I think it’s hard to measure how that improves not just the lives of people, but their attitude. It gives people so much hope.”

Davis has received many awards, including an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Macalester, the Trailblazer Award from the Minneapolis Urban League, and most recently, the Sarah T. Hughes civil rights award from the Federal Bar Association.

He has no plans to fully retire. There is so much still to do. “I have been motivated by trying to make a small contribution toward making this country a better place,” he says. “So I will continue. It’s an ongoing process. There is no end to us trying to make the human condition in the United States better for all.” **M**

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**JENNIFER VOGEL** is a Minneapolis writer and public radio reporter.

# Gallery for the People

Art meets community in **Tricia Heuring's** Northeast Minneapolis space.

BY **STEPHANIE SOUCHERAY** → PHOTO BY **DAVID J. TURNER**

**I**F TRICIA HEURING '01 WALKS INTO ONE OF HER GALLERY openings and doesn't recognize every face in the crowd, she considers it a victory. "I hope to see new faces every time," says Heuring. "I always ask people if it's their first time at the gallery and if they know anyone here, and if they don't, that's a good thing. It means we have a diverse and unique audience."

Heuring is curator and director of Public Functionary, one of Minneapolis's liveliest art galleries. Located in the city's Northeast neighborhood, Public Functionary was opened by Heuring three years ago with partners Mike Bishop and Kate Iverson. The gallery is supported by individual donors, small grants, art sales, and event rentals. Their concept was to create a new kind of gallery, a space that would display art but also be open for community events.

Mostly, Heuring and her partners wanted Public Functionary to have a different vibe than the hushed white-wall/white-wine feel of traditional galleries. "Every gallery has a scene—the hipster gallery or the academic gallery—but it was all very rigid," she says. "I didn't want that for Public Functionary. I wanted to bring the community into this space."

The gallery's four annual curated exhibits are large-scale, solo shows by contemporary visual artists from both the Twin Cities and out of state. In May, Public Functionary was showing *Shape Shifter* by Minnesota painter Mark Schoening, who is influenced by technology. His paintings look like brightly colored tiles or quilt squares, meant to evoke the feeling of "scrolling down" on a screen.

Recently the gallery cohosted an event with Fresh Traditions, a group featuring Hmong fashion designers. Later in the summer it displayed *Guns in the Hands of Artists*, a traveling exhibit from a Miami gallery, brought to Minneapolis by Pillsbury United Communities to raise awareness around gun violence.

Heuring paints Public Functionary's walls a different color for each exhibit; she also hires DJs to spin music at openings. "If it's quiet at a gallery opening, you're more self-conscious when you talk about the art," she says. "The music helps people talk more freely." For Heuring, a gallery opening is a party at which she wants everyone to feel welcome. Battling people's self-consciousness—the feeling that one may not "get" art—is among her goals.

Although she has always loved the arts, Heuring, like many college students, didn't realize she could make a career in the field. She graduated with an English and communications degree, and "valued that broad liberal arts education," says Heuring. "But I had no idea you

could work in arts administration."

Macalester also gave Heuring the chance to live in a diverse community—a core value to a young woman who was born in Thailand, raised in Egypt, but identified as American, despite never having lived much in the U.S. until college. Heuring's family spent school years in Cairo and summers in the Midwest, leading her to feel "always an outsider—someone who likes settings with lots of different people; the weirder the better. And Macalester is weird."

Once at Mac, Heuring was quickly drawn to the Twin Cities art scene. By the time she graduated, she was bartending at night and spending her days promoting artists she met in the restaurant world. "Back in 2001, there was no social media, no platform where you could define what you wanted to be," she says. To promote the creative people she met—from DJs to chefs—Heuring started a magazine called *Industry Minne-zine*. It lasted three years, until she realized that her talents for organizing, trend spotting, and promoting would be better put to use in the art world.

To understand how to run a nonprofit, Heuring earned a master's degree in arts management from St. Mary's University in Minneapolis (where today she is an adjunct instructor). But she always kept in mind the idea of becoming a curator. "I wanted to be a conduit of art for the public," says Heuring. "I didn't want to just be this art historian with an encyclopedic knowledge of art."

As a curator, Heuring sees herself as part tastemaker and part educator. Young people, who can't always afford original art, are an important part of Public Functionary's core audience. Getting them into the gallery and allowing them to develop their taste in art is one of Heuring's goals. That's why she heavily promotes her shows on social media, posting behind-the-scenes pictures on Instagram and sending out exhibit information on Twitter and Facebook.

By featuring diverse artists, says Heuring, the gallery has a better chance of introducing more people to work they'll like. Says Heuring, "You don't have to be a collector to value the work here."

Heuring only expects to work at Public Functionary for another few years, leaving the gallery financially healthy and ready for new leadership. After that she may return to school for a doctorate in art history or try curating in another city. In other words, Heuring isn't certain where the future will take her, but unlike her college-aged self, she no longer considers an arts career an impossible dream. ■

**STEPHANIE SOUCHERAY** is a St. Paul freelance writer.

Tricia Heuring '01,  
curator and director  
of Northeast Min-  
neapolis's Public  
Functionary gallery



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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



**Jenny Abel '93 (left) and Camille Cauchois '13** enjoyed a two-day backpacking trip together in Alaska's Wrangell St. Elias National Park last July. Jenny and her husband, David, signed up for a trip with St. Elias Alpine Guides, and, by a stroke of luck, got Camille as their guide. They had a wonderful time crossing a glacier and camping, all the while reminiscing about Macalester.



## MAC AROUND THE WORLD



**Alicia Casati '05 (far left)**, her husband, **Martin**, and baby **Nico** live in Munich, Germany, but last summer visited their international host parents, **Adele Brown '82 (far right)** and **Curt Brown '82**, and hiked with them along the Vallecito Creek trail near the Browns' new home in Durango, Colorado.

### 1947

Last spring, **Margaret Uppgren Ely**, **Mary Ann MacDonald Huelster**, **Paul Siegler**, and **Ruth Booman** met for breakfast at a restaurant in St. Paul to celebrate reaching or passing the age of 90. Paul self published his third book of poetry in March.

### 1955

Nancy Mohn Frantz and her husband, Bill, of Altoona, Iowa, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in August. They have two children, six grandchildren, and 15 great-grandchildren.

### 1957

*The Class of 1957 will be celebrating its 60th Reunion June 2-4, 2017.*

### 1958

The International Association of Presbyterian Church Educators recognized **Lloyd Peitzman** with

its 2016 Life Achievement Award at its annual event in Chicago. Lloyd and his wife, Kathy Miller Peitzman, live in Hudson, Wis.

### 1962

*The Class of 1962 will be celebrating its 55th Reunion June 2-4, 2017*

Two years ago, at age 79, **Ronald Aldorfer** of Grantsburg, Wis., returned to long-distance running after a 20-year hiatus. In August he took second place in the men's 75-and-up category in the 2016 Minnesota State Fair 5K Milk Run, placing 470th overall out of a field of more than 1,500.

### 1965

The 23rd annual Class of 1965 and friends **Holiday Tea** will be held on Sunday, Dec. 4, 2016, from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Briggs House (the former Alumni House). Come at 1 p.m. to help set up! Hope to see you there.

**1969**

**Jane Reister Conard** has been elected a fellow of the American Health Lawyers Association in recognition of her achievements and contributions to the organization. She is a health law consultant and a principal of Jane Reister Conard LLC and EADR Solutions in Sun Valley, Idaho. Jane also serves as a mediator and arbitrator in health law disputes and as a member of the Sun Valley City Council.

**Glenn Olsen** retired three years ago after teaching at the University of North Dakota for 22 years (including six years as chair of the Teaching and Learning Department). Glenn and his wife, Barbara, live in St. Paul and care for their twin grandsons weekly. Glenn is a board member of the Midway Lions and secretary and treasurer of the Hallie Q. Brown Retired Men's Club.

**1972**

*The Class of 1972 will be celebrating its 45th Reunion June 2-4, 2017.*

After retirement, **Wyndy Knox Carr** has found her dream job—writing book reviews for the *Berkeley Times*—and her dream internship doing marketing and publicity for North Atlantic Books.

**1973**

**Frank Schweigert** has been appointed inaugural dean of Metropolitan State University's College of Community Studies and Public Affairs. The college's areas of study include criminal justice, law enforcement, human services, psychology, social work, political advocacy, public administration, and nonprofit leadership.

**1975**

**Chuck Pruitt** wrote an opinion piece for the *Washington Post* last summer opposing moves by



## MAC AROUND THE WORLD



In July, Ben Patrick '89 (left), John Shepard '88 (center), and Paul Santomena '89 (right) got together in Port Clyde, Maine. The former roommates and band mates were celebrating the 27th anniversary of their post-graduation road trip.



## MAC AROUND THE WORLD



Ellen Sherby '95 (left) and Kiva Liljequist '95 spent a day together in Portland, Ore., last summer when Ellen visited Portland for work. They hadn't seen each other in 19 years.

state governments to cut funding and roll back the tenure system at "public Ivies" such as the University of Wisconsin. Chuck is a board member and vice chairman of the Association of Governing Boards of Colleges and Universities and recently completed 13 years of service on the University of Wisconsin Board of Regents.

**Mark Stodghill** of Duluth, Minn., has been inducted into the Hall of Fame of the Marathon Maniacs, a worldwide club of more than 13,000 runners striving to finish as many marathons and ultramarathons as possible. Mark has completed 370 races in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and seven continents, including a marathon on the Great Wall of China.

**1976**

PlanPhilly.com reported recently on the efforts of architects **Laura**

**Blau** and Paul Thompson to secure permission from the Philadelphia Historical Commission to perform a "radical energy-efficiency retrofit" on a mid-19th century brick row house so that it will meet passive building standards.

**Bernie Niemeier** received a national first-place award for editorial writing from the Alliance of Area Business Publications. He was recognized for his June 2015 column in *Virginia Business* magazine, "Diversity Is Good Business." Bernie is the president and publisher of *Virginia Business*.

**1978**

**Kevin Niemi** has been elected chair of the Academic Staff Executive Committee at the University of Wisconsin-Madison for the 2016-17 academic year. ASEC represents 8,000 academic staff professionals in the campus's shared governance system.

# ▶ Class Notes

After working in economic development programs in conflict countries for 30 years, **Greg Olson** has retired from full-time work. He spends summers in his hometown of Spooner, Wis., and winters in Cairo, Egypt.



## MAC AROUND THE WORLD



**Emily Beekman '99 and her husband, John Beekman, traveled to London and Paris last summer for their anniversary. In Paris they met up with Wytze Schouten, a study abroad student at Mac during the '95-'96 school year, and his husband, Arno Harpe.**

### 1980

Four compositions for harp by **Saul Davis** were scheduled to premiere last July at the American Harp Society's national conference at Emory University.

### 1981

**Bill Kelly**, in his ninth year of coaching women's soccer at Bard College, was named the 2015-16 Liberty League Coach of the Year. He also works in Bard's admissions office. Bill's book of poetry *Water Tiger* was published by WordTech Communications. Bill's wife, **Vera Eccarius-Kelly '89**, is a professor of political science at Siena College. She received the college's Raymond Kennedy Excellence in Scholarship Award for 2016.

with his wife, **Adele Oppenheimer Brown**.

### 1982

**Curt Brown** spoke this fall at the Minnesota History Center about his Minnesota history weekly series for the Minneapolis *Star Tribune*. Curt lives in Colorado

### 1983

**Allen Smart** co-authored the chapter "Philanthropy, Health Systems, and Community Health Improvement" in *Stakeholder*

*Health: Insights from New Systems of Health*, a book published with the support of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

### 1985

**Jon Western** has been named vice president for academic affairs and dean of faculty at Mount Holyoke College. He was previously professor of international studies and international relations at Mount Holyoke, as well as director of the Five College International Relations Program.

### 1993

In August, **Susan Franck** joined the faculty of American University Washington College of Law, where she will pursue work on international economic law and dispute resolution. She was previously a professor at Washington & Lee University for eight years. Susan presented some of her empirical research on international law to various classes and student groups at Macalester in February 2014.

### 1994

**Tim Good** and his wife have opened Last Chair Kitchen and Bar, a restaurant in Whitefish, Mont., to accompany their existing catering company, the Cuisine Machine.

### 1996

**Christopher Berger** was named director of communications of GHR Foundation in July. He was previously director of social global impact at Weber Shandwick and principal of Berger Brands. GHR Foundation pursues transformational change in health, education, and global development.

### 1987

*The Class of 1987 will be celebrating its 30th Reunion June 2-4, 2017.*

### 1989

**James Colliander** has been appointed director of the Pacific Institute for the Mathematical Sciences. He is a former postdoctoral fellow with the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute.

**Mark Green** was named president of the Life and Health Division of Kemper Corporation in May. He will be based in Chicago. Before joining Kemper, Mark was a senior executive with Allstate Corporation.



## MAC AROUND THE WORLD



**Mac alumni (and a few friends) met last summer in Belgrade, Serbia (from left): Donovan Kavish '13, Ilija Prachkovski '14, Evan Myers '14, Petar Petrovic '14, Jennifer Lundblad '88, Eric Emmette '87, Ekaterina Efimenko, and Ljubica Kavish.**

**1997**

**The Class of 1997 will be celebrating its 20th Reunion June 2-4, 2017.**

It has been a year since **Ardis Burr** launched the upcycling business Up & Undies. "I'm dismayed by the difficulty of struggle for success in entrepreneurship," she wrote, "but I still unabashedly enjoy making underwear out of tees."

**1999**

**Martha Hauser Hage** received an MFA in writing for children and young adults from Hamline

University last July. In 2015 she received Hamline's Herman W. Block Memorial Scholarship for the most promising incoming writer.

**2001**

**Melita Kyriakou** received an MBA from Lenoir-Rhyne University in May. She is chief executive officer of Blue Wing Business Strategies, a consulting firm in Asheville, N.C.

**2002**

**Gretchen Wolf Burgess** and her husband, Chris, welcomed a daughter, Madison Ann Burgess,

on July 27, 2016. Madison joins big brother Mason.

**2003**

Composer, producer, and educator **Christopher Marianetti** of New York City received Albuquerque Academy's 2016 Young Alumni Service Award. He is cofounder and artistic director of Found Sound Nation, a collective that organizes socially engaged music projects, and co-director of OneBeat, a music diplomacy initiative associated with the State Department. Chris's composing work includes *Rose*, a musical

artificial intelligence embedded in a coffee table.

**2005**

*Minnesota Lawyer* magazine named **Diana Marianetti Ringuette** a 2016 Up and Coming Attorney. Diana specializes in estate planning, probate, and trust administration, and teaches at Mitchell Hamline School of Law.

**Kristina Fenn Silver** and her husband, Nate Silver, welcomed their first child, Gwendolyn Huntington Silver, on Feb. 15, 2016.

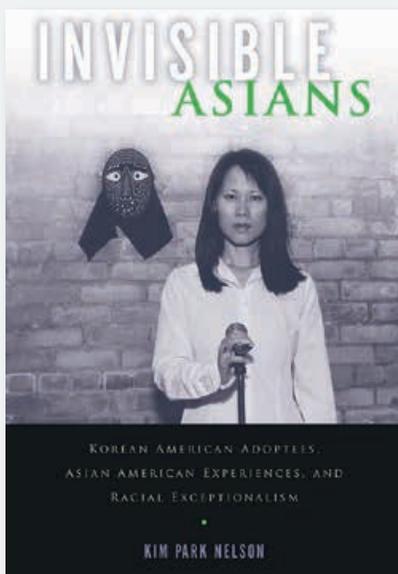
*Continued on page 44 →*

## Books

*From Invisible Asians: Korean American Adoptees, Asian American Experiences, and Racial Exceptionalism* by **Kim Park Nelson '93**

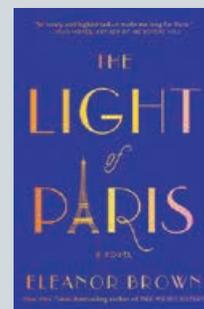
(RUTGERS UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2016)

I felt my experience had been overlooked and that the experience of thousands of transracial adoptees was being disregarded and subsumed into a middle-American experience even though, I strongly believed, the life experience of transracial adoptees was generally distinct from that of most White Americans....I saw transracial adoption as a lens through which to understand intersections of race, culture, class, gender, and sexuality. Particularly in regard to race and

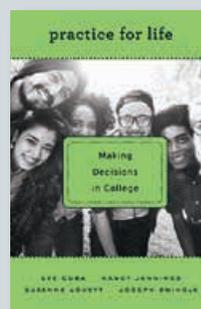


culture, transracial adoptees are in the unusual position of developing our racial identities separately from our cultural identities. Further, transracial adoption, which today is often transnational adoption, complicates projects of imperialism and nationalist as transnational adoptees become visible markers of differences between the global West and East, North and South, rich and poor, imperial and colonized, and White and non-White.

**Eleanor Brown '95**, *The Light of Paris* (G.P. PUTNAM'S SONS, 2016)



**Nancy Jennings '71** with Lee Cuba, Suzanne Lovett and Joseph Swingle, *Practice for Life: Making Decisions in College* (HARVARD UNIVERSITY, 2016)



**Jon Lurie**, former visiting professor of English, *The Thunder Before the Storm: The Autobiography of Clyde Bellecourt* (UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, 2016) and *Canoeing with Jose* (MILKWEED, 2016)

**Anthony Nadler '01**, *Making the News Popular: Mobilizing U.S. News Audiences* (UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS, 2016)

**Sun Yung Schwaller Shin '95**, *Unbearable Splendor* (COFFEE HOUSE PRESS, 2016)

**Katya Tylevich '06 and Ben Eastham**, *My Life As a Work of Art: The Art World from Start to Finish* (LAURENCE KING PUBLISHING, 2016)

**Kathleen Osborne Vellenga '59**, *In the Midst of Bounty* (FORTY PRESS, 2016)

**Jack Weatherford**, professor emeritus of anthropology, *Genghis Khan and the Quest for God: How the World's Greatest Conqueror Gave Us Religious Freedom* (VIKING, 2016)

**Alexander Wendt '82**, *Quantum Mind and Social Science* (CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY, 2015)

# ▶ Mac Weddings



1. **Majra Mucic Gibbons '11** and Aaron Gibbons were married on June 6, 2015, in Minneapolis. Joining them were Mucic Gibbons's volleyball teammates **Lindsay (Mattie) Hill '13**, **Danielle Dweck '12**, **Glasha Marcon '13**, and **Kiera Coulter '11**.
2. **Will Clarke '07** and Alison LaChac were married June 20, 2015, in New York City, joined by **Joe Parilla '08**, **Adam Kent '08**, **Ross Wallen '07**, and **Tom Kutsch '07**.



3



4



5

3. **Cyrus Butler '09** and **Anna Waugh '08** were married on Aug. 1, 2015, in St. Paul.
4. **Emil Mellgren '10** and **Laura O'Connor** were married on June 11, 2016, in County Cork, Ireland.
5. **Robin Canavan '08** and **Tom Dawson** were married in Oak Park, Ill., on July, 17, 2016. Present were Mac alums (from left): **Jo Trigg '08**, **Robin Canavan '08**, **Lauren Morse '08**, and **Cora Polsgrove '08**.

# ▶ Mac Weddings



6



**6.** Jerry Darko '05 and Maria Loy were married in Eygalieres, France, on June 25, 2016.

**7.** Jessica Vaughan '12 and Eli Reynolds were married Aug. 27, 2016, in Minocqua, Wis.

**8.** Evan Williams '03 and Chad Lantow were married on June 4, 2016, in Waukesha, Wis. Joining them were **Josh Gatling '03, Clare Daniel '04, Nell McNamara '03, Cameron McLaughlin '02, and James Hamilton '03.**



- 9. **Kate Agnew '11** and **Joe Busch Agnew '11** were married on Aug. 20, 2016, in Minneapolis.
- 10. **Elizabeth Severance '05** and **John Sarik** were married in San Antonio, Texas, on March 11, 2016.
- 11. **Evan Moorman '14** and **Rebecca Boylan '14** were married on July 16, 2016, in Madison, Wis.

# Class Notes



## MAC AROUND THE WORLD



Mariah Blegen '13 (left) and Yule Lee '94 met while taking an advocacy and community health course at the University of Rochester.

**Chris Schodt** was a co-winner of the 2016 Student Edward R. Murrow Award for Overall Excellence in the digital category for “Wiped, Flashed, and Rekitted: The International Black Market of Stolen Cell Phones.” Chris and two University of California–Berkeley classmates wrote the piece for their master’s project. They have also been nominated for an Emmy Award in the news and documentary category.

## 2011

Last June, **Bimbola Akinbola** launched Venus in Leo Bodycare, a business specializing in “nontoxic luxurious cosmetics at accessible prices.” She is pursuing a PhD in American studies.

**Emily Schorr Lesnick** and **Jamila Humphrie** are the creators of *How We G.L.O.W.*, an “ethnodrama” that explores LGBTQ+ youth identity. The play is touring schools and community spaces in New York and beyond.



## MAC AROUND THE WORLD



Six Macites completed the 192-mile Pan Mass Challenge, a two-day cycling fundraiser supporting the Dana Farber Cancer Center. The Mac grads are part of a team called the “Fat Boys and Slim Sisters,” which has raised more than \$600,000 since founding member Linc Cornell '79 first rode 27 years ago. Pictured (from left) are: Susan Amerson Hartnett '78, Linc Cornell '79, Lois Dehls Cornell '79, Steve Wiggins '78, Andrew Bloom '78, Maddy McKeown '18 (a summer intern for the Pan Mass Challenge), and Mike Hartnett '77.

Continued from page 39 →

## 2006

**Anna Everett Beek** has released the book *Princeps Felix et Aliae Fabulae*, a Latin translation of fairy tales by Oscar Wilde.

## 2007

The Class of 2007 will be celebrating its 10th Reunion June 2–4, 2017.

**Julia Stanfield Norman** and **Paul Norman** announce the birth of their first child, David Stanfield Norman, on May 23, 2016, in Knoxville, Tenn.

## 2008

**Rachel Bunkers-Harmes Katsuura** welcomed her first son, Iwao, in April.

## 2009

**Allison Wegren Metzger** and **Catherine Reinhart** presented *Common Threads*, a collaborative, interactive art exhibition at the Design on Main Gallery in Ames, Iowa, in October. The work was inspired by Grant Wood’s murals *When Tillage Begins*, *Other Arts Follow* and supported by an Indiegogo campaign and a grant from the Iowa Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts.

## Class Agent

**Rich Melin '58** found out about Macalester from a campus recruiter who drove out to see him at his Buffalo, Minn., home. Melin was struck by the recruiter’s effort and care—and that lesson stayed with him. “A person-to-person approach is always the way to go,” Melin says.

He’s brought that philosophy to his work as an Annual Fund Class Agent. Melin reaches out to his

classmates twice a year by mail. Between letters he tries to connect with them through phone calls. Melin recently wrapped up six years on Macalester’s Alumni Board, in addition to serving on planning committees for several Reunion celebrations.

Nearly 60 years after graduation, he continues volunteering, in part to honor how much his time on campus shaped his life. “Those four years did what they’re supposed to do: They broadened my scope of the world and gave me direction,” says Melin, now writing his second novel after a long career in journalism and public relations. “I grew up at Mac.”



**Stephanie Spitzer** is enrolled in Mitchell Hamline School of Law and plans to work in social justice law.

## 2012

*The Class of 2012 will be celebrating its 5th Reunion June 2-4, 2017.*

**Abigail Rankin** graduated from Mitchell Hamline School of Law last May and began a judicial clerkship at the Minnesota Court of Appeals in August. After clerking, she hopes to pursue a career in public defense.

**Hilary Schroeder** looked forward to serving as the 2016-17 Semmes Foundation Intern in Museum Studies at the McNay Art Museum in San Antonio, Texas. She will work with the institution's contemporary and theater arts collections, traveling exhibitions, publications, and programs.

## 2015

**Abaki Beck** was among the 25

young Montanans who received this year's Forward Montana Foundation's 25 Under 25 Award. She was recognized for her research regarding food sovereignty and traditional ecological knowledge of the Blackfeet Reservation, as well as for her previous work on health care and Native American issues for the U.S. House of Representatives.

**Elsa Goossen** wrote a recent article for the *Memmonite World Review* about participating in El Camino del Inmigrante, a 150-mile solidarity walk from Tijuana to Los Angeles undertaken to advocate for a humane immigration policy. She works at the San Luis Valley Immigrant Resource Center in rural southern Colorado.

After working in Karachi, Pakistan, for a year, **Asad Zaidi** has moved to Dubai, United Arab Emirates, to work as a research assistant at the Harvard Medical School Center for Global Health Delivery-Dubai. He later plans to pursue a master's in public health. **M**



## MAC AROUND THE WORLD



**Ben Barry '99 and Christina Fitzsimmons '11** ran into each other at a UCB family camp in the Sierras. While there they represented Macalester in the backgammon tournament, with Ben placing second and Christina placing fourth.



## MAC AROUND THE WORLD



Macalester alumni and friends traveled to Alaska in August. Reports tour participant and retired Executive Director of Alumni Engagement Gabrielle Lawrence '73: "It was glorious. Humpback whales breaching simultaneously, eagles, bears, sea otters, puffins...old rainforests, glaciers, icebergs!"

# In Memoriam

**1938**

**Lannea Spink Mezian**, 100, of Alhambra, Calif., died Aug. 3, 2016. She taught elementary school, worked as a decorator at Hinshaw's Department Store, and was active in the Creative Arts Group of Sierra Madre. Mrs. Mezian also assisted Thomas S. Fiske in the writing of *Ploughshares into Swords: How Civilians and Caltech Helped Win WWII*. She is survived by two grandchildren and a great-granddaughter.

**1941**

**Betty Dunkelberger Mason**, 96, died June 15, 2016, in Wayzata, Minn. She is survived by a daughter, two sons (including **Monte Mason '71**), and four grandchildren.

**1943**

**Curtis M. Johnson**, 93, of Winona, Minn., and Virginia Beach, Va., died June 13, 2016. He practiced pediatric medicine for more than 30 years at the Winona Clinic and seven years at Portsmouth Naval Hospital. He also chaired the Winona Area Public School Board and represented the region for numerous initiatives of the Minnesota State Board of Health. Dr. Johnson is survived by six children and five grandchildren.

**Virginia Perry Strauch**, 94, died July 30, 2016. She is survived by a daughter, two granddaughters, and five great-grandchildren.

**1944**

**Mary K. Beyrer**, 94, of Dublin, Ohio, died May 22, 2016. She was a professor of health education and director of the School of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation at Ohio State University. She later became president of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance.

**Iver F. Yeager**, 94, died July 21, 2016, in Englewood, Colo. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and taught religion at the College of Wooster and Missouri Valley College. He was named dean of the college and professor of religion and philosophy at Illinois College in 1958. After stepping down as dean, Mr. Yeager continued teaching until 1988. In recognition of his

efforts to preserve Illinois College's academic records and historical documents, the school named its archival storage facility after him. Mr. Yeager is survived by his wife, **Natalee Carlander Yeager '46**, daughter **Ruth Yeager '73**, two sons, three grandchildren, and two great-granddaughters.

**1946**

**Kenneth L. Frederickson**, 90, of Redwood Falls, Minn., died Sept. 8, 2014. He is survived by three sisters and a brother.

**1947**

**Darell F. Apitz**, 95, of New Ulm, Minn., died June 18, 2016. He served in the U.S. Army Engineering Corps during World War II in Europe. Mr. Apitz taught geography at Mankato State University, retiring as assistant professor in 1984. He is survived by his wife, Lucy, two sons, and two grandsons.

**Dorothy Oas Hilsen**, 90, died Dec. 11, 2015.

**Mary Ann MacDonald Huelster**, 91, of St. Paul died Aug. 12, 2016. She taught English to new immigrants through the International Institute of Minnesota and worked in adult basic education and special education in the St. Paul Public Schools. Mrs. Huelster is survived by sons **Hugh Huelster '74**, **Ross Huelster '79**, and **Daniel Huelster '82**, eight grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, and brother **Roderick MacDonald '53**.

**1949**

**Robert A. Stark**, 90, died July 30, 2016. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps in the Pacific during World War II. After graduating from Macalester, Mr. Stark coached wrestling and football at the college. He later helped operate the first television station in Fairbanks, Alaska, and was involved in the emerging U.S. space program at Edwards Air Force Base. Mr. Stark worked as an electrical engineer for several large electronics companies in the Chicago area as well as his own company and coached in youth football and baseball programs. He is survived by a daughter, two sons, and three grandchildren.

**1950**

**Lawrence C. Dewey**, 88, died June 5, 2016. He served in the U.S. Navy and was director of research and development and a partner for more than 35 years with his family's business, SYCOM, in Madison, Wis. Mr. Dewey is survived by his wife, Nancy, two daughters, a son, and four grandchildren.

**Gordon W. Kinney**, 89, of Aurora, Colo., died June 4, 2016. He served in the U.S. Navy and, as a building contractor, built many homes in the Denver area. Mr. Kinney is survived by his wife, Joanne, a daughter, a son, two grandchildren, and a brother.

**Donald D. Metz**, 88, died Feb. 7, 2016. He served in the U.S. Navy and practiced as a physician at Robbinsdale Clinic for 35 years. Dr. Metz is survived by five daughters, 10 grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

**Neal W. Sedgwick**, 87, of Minnetonka, Minn., died July 30, 2016. He was an accountant with Great Northern Railroad until his retirement in 1968. An avid mountaineer, Mr. Sedgwick climbed to the summit of Mt. Rainier. He is survived by a brother.

**1951**

**Patricia Bourret Bryant**, 87, died Dec. 22, 2014, in La Jolla, Calif. She retired as an elementary school teacher at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton.

**Donna "Dusty" Cowan Kreisberg**, 86, of Washington, D.C., died June 28, 2016. She is survived by two children.

**Muriel Rohwer Lawrence**, 87, of Paso Robles, Calif., died July 5, 2016. She was a homemaker and substitute teacher who also did mission work in Nicaragua and New Orleans. Mrs. Lawrence is survived by three sons, five grandchildren, sister **Ardis Rohwer '54**, and a brother.

**George P. Miller**, 86, died Feb. 24, 2016. He is survived by his wife, Judy, a daughter, a son, and three grandchildren.

**Dorothy Henry Taylor**, 87, died July 7, 2016, in Fort Collins, Colo.

She worked as an elementary school teacher and as a bookkeeper for Farrall Instruments. Mrs. Taylor is survived by her husband, Jim, a daughter, a son, nine grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

**1952**

**Robert W. Christensen**, 86, died May 20, 2016, in Burnsville, Minn. A U.S. Air Force veteran and accountant in the public and private sectors, Mr. Christensen formed the accounting and tax firm R.W. Christensen Associates (later Enestvedt & Christensen, C.P.A.). He is survived by his wife, **Jeanne Kiefer Christensen '52**, a daughter, two sons, three grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, a sister, and two brothers.

**Jean Linner Franz** died Aug. 28, 2016. She taught in schools in Minnesota and California and was active in the Professional Educators Organization and the Republican Party. Mrs. Franz is survived by her husband, Hilmar, three sons, and a brother.

**1955**

**Rachel Otto Wagner**, 83, of Boca Raton, Fla., died May 29, 2016. She is survived by her husband, Michael, two sons, and two sisters (including **Wendy Otto Carey '46**).

**1956**

**Dorothy Sylling Richards**, 81, died May 29, 2016. She is survived by a daughter, three sons, 10 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

**1957**

**John B. Wenger**, 85, died Feb. 10, 2016.

**Robert P. Yeo**, 80, of Calumet, Mich., died July 16, 2016. He served in the U.S. Army and Army Reserve. He is survived by former wife **Dale Gripp Yeo '65**, a son, and a grandson.

**1959**

**Gary H. Hickok**, 79, died Aug. 6, 2016. He received the Sister Kenny Stroke Survivor of the Year Award in 2007 for his perseverance. Mr. Hickok is survived by his wife, **Marijo Hunt Hickok '59**, daughter **Sharon Hickok Walsh Thompson**

'87, two sons (including **Thomas Hickok '84**), five grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

## 1961

**Charles E. Simonson**, 85, of Brainerd, Minn., died July 25, 2016. He served in the U.S. Army for two years, taught for 34 years in St. Anthony Village and Wayzata, Minn., and owned a lawn mowing business. Mr. Simonson is survived by his wife, Sharyn, three sons, and four grandchildren.

## 1965

**Donald I. Kuster**, 75, died July 25, 2016, in Albuquerque, N.M. He worked in research and development at West Publishing Company for many years. Mr. Kuster is survived by his wife, **Victoria Yarger Kuster '64**, a daughter, a son, four grandchildren, a sister, and a brother.

**Suelin Lopez Werner**, 72, died May 28, 2016. After retiring as a social worker with Dakota County, Minn., in 2001, she opened a private practice. Mrs. Werner is survived by her husband, **Jay Werner '65**, a daughter, a son, five grandchildren, and two brothers.

## 1966

**Marlene Hemmingsen Forstrom**, 71, died Nov. 6, 2015, in Rancho Mirage, Calif. She was a grade school teacher and therapist, and served as a coach and commissioner with the American Youth Soccer Organization. Mrs. Forstrom is survived by her husband, Larry Clark, three daughters, a son, seven grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, two sisters (including **Janet Hemmingsen Kamis '64**), and a brother.

**Larry O. Kleven**, 72, of Albany, Ore., and Mission, Texas, died June 6, 2016. He served as a first lieutenant with the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. After working as an internal auditor for General Mills and cost accountant for Eddie Bauer, Mr. Kleven joined Oregon Freeze Dry in 1975. He retired in 1993 as vice president of manufacturing. Mr. Kleven is survived by his wife, Linda, a daughter, a son, a granddaughter, a sister, and two brothers.

## 1967

**Nancy Hannahan Clark**, 71, of Virginia Beach, Va., died

July 9, 2016. She is survived by her husband, John Hodas, two daughters, a son, nine grandchildren, and a sister.

## 1970

**Rheba Brumberg Carlson**, 92, died June 16, 2016, in Ridgway, Pa. She taught at the elementary through college levels in Minnesota, New York, and Ohio. She was also a reading specialist at the University of St. Francis and an instructor at Canterbury School in Fort Wayne, Ind. Mrs. Carlson is survived by a son and five grandchildren.

## 1971

**Muriel Goldfine Saltzman**, 93, of Los Angeles died Dec. 27, 2012. She cofounded the Education Learning Disabilities Association and tutored students of all ages. Mrs. Saltzman is survived by two daughters (including **Juliana Saltzman Satie '72**), a son, 11 grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

## 1972

**Daniel B. Musick**, 65, of Morgantown, W.V., died July 4, 2016. He served as a delegate to

the Unitarian Universalist General Assembly and was active with the Society for Creative Anachronism. Mr. Musick is survived by his wife, Susan, and a sister.

## 1976

**Terry L. Conley**, 67, died March 14, 2016, in Dallas. He is survived by three daughters, seven grandchildren, a great-grandson, three sisters, and three brothers.

## 1989

**Brad A. Buschette**, 49, died June 24, 2016, in River Falls, Wis. He won the Great American Think-Off at the New York Mills, Minn., Regional Cultural Center in 2003. Mr. Buschette is survived by his wife, Karen, and a daughter.

## 1990

**Julie C. Lamb**, 48, of St. Paul died June 14, 2016. She worked in federal bankruptcy court and taught math at Johnson High School in St. Paul. Ms. Lamb is survived by her mother, sister **Suzanne Lamb Steinhauer '87**, and a brother.



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# Movie Making

BY PETER BOGNANNI '01

"ROLL SOUND!"

The command rings out from the back of the moving train car.

"Rolling,"

My pulse quickens and I wonder if I have time to fix my posture.

"Roll Camera!"

I don't. The camera assistant snaps the slate, the director calls "Action," and I immediately begin to scratch a large, unsightly rash on my left forearm.

"Slower," says the director. "Slower! Tilt your head. No, don't make a face. Okay. That's fine. Keep doing that."

I scratch slowly. Artfully. I am both the rash and my nails on the rash. *I am a professional actor*, I think.

It is four in the morning, and I am playing "The Guy With The Rash," a featured extra role in the movie version of my 2010 novel, *The House of Tomorrow*. If I'm lucky I will earn five seconds of screen time. Most likely they'll chop it down to two or three. They might even lose my face entirely and settle for a close-up of the skin condition a makeup artist took an hour to create. My wife, Junita, is asleep next to me. That's her role: to be asleep on me. She went method hours ago and actually passed out.

Even though we've just begun, all the filming will be over soon. This is an indie movie and they're packing the shoot into 18 frantic days. It has taken six years for this project to finally come together, and in less than a week, everything will already be shifting gears to post-production. When it actually happens, and the magic movie people are gone, I will tell Junita, with no hint of irony, "I feel like the circus just left town."

And not because I got to meet celebrities and can now name-drop them shamelessly (*cough, cough* Nick Offerman) or because I got to hang around with my best friend, producer **Tarik Karam '01**, and the amazing director Pete Livolsi. And not even because I got free Pop Tarts and mini Ritz Crackers from Craft Services anytime I wanted. What I'll miss more than I would have imagined is being back in the world of my book again.

When a book is first released, it seems to appear and disappear from shelves in the blink of an eye. You work for years perfecting every sentence, every turn of the plot, and then the launch goes blurring past in a matter of months. And if you're like me, you spend most of



that time worrying no one likes it while staring at your Amazon ranking as if it were an exact measure of your self-worth.

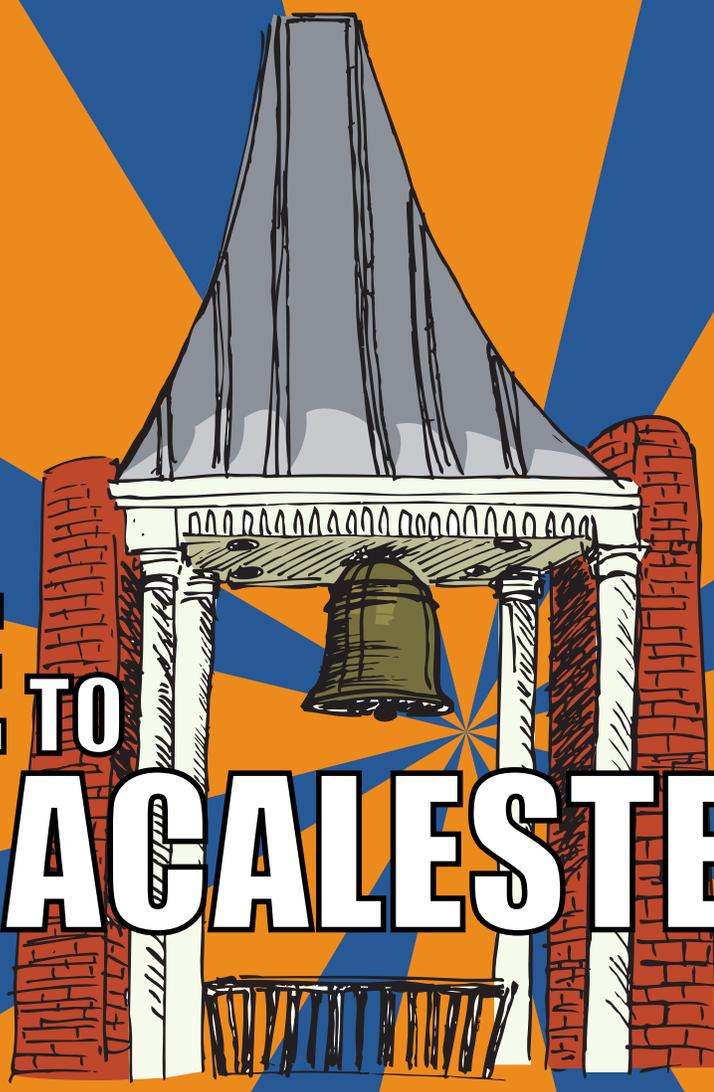
So this time, when the circus comes to town, I vow to enjoy it. And in the course of 18 days this summer, I see my story created from scratch again. Sometimes, this means watching as the teenage boys at the heart of my book rehearse a song for their band in a small hotel room in Dinkytown, and feeling—for a moment—like I've stepped into a cozy room in my own brain. Sometimes, it means watching an Oscar-winning actress perform a scene in the Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center where I took my first-year theater course 15 years ago. Sometimes it means standing below as a camera crane hovers over a geodesic dome in North Branch, Minnesota, and realizing, maybe for the first time, that this is a real movie.

And sometimes it means becoming an extra in my own fictional world. Which, in the end, isn't the worst metaphor for what this whole process is like. Once you put a work of art in the world, it doesn't really belong to you anymore. If you're lucky, readers take over and become creators themselves, imagining the book in their own way. Reviewers find meanings you never dreamed of. And if you're really lucky, a director takes over to create a new vision altogether. The author's role is a small one. Once the writing is done, we become extras.

Which reminds me: back on the train, my scene is over. I'm told I can wash off my rash if I want to, but I leave it on for a little while. All around me, a car full of extras dozes and reads. One of the teenage boys plays with his character's signature Zippo. The crew packs up their equipment. Outside, I watch the pre-dawn scenery whip past. The train is on a closed loop, moving in a listless circle. Morning is almost here. I'm a little motion sick and more than a little tired, but I'm learning to enjoy the ride. **M**

**PETER BOGNANNI '01** is an assistant professor of English at Macalester. The film of his first novel, *The House of Tomorrow*, is due out next year. It stars Ellen Burstyn, Nick Offerman, Asa Butterfield, Alex Wolff, and Maude Apatow.

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