

# Macalester

## Today

SPRING 2015



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(Photo by David J. Turner)







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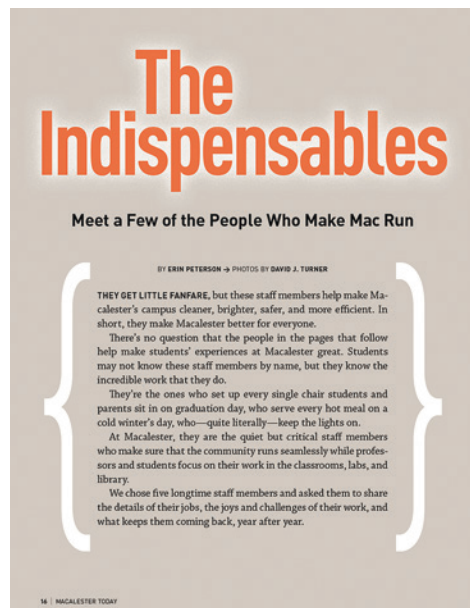
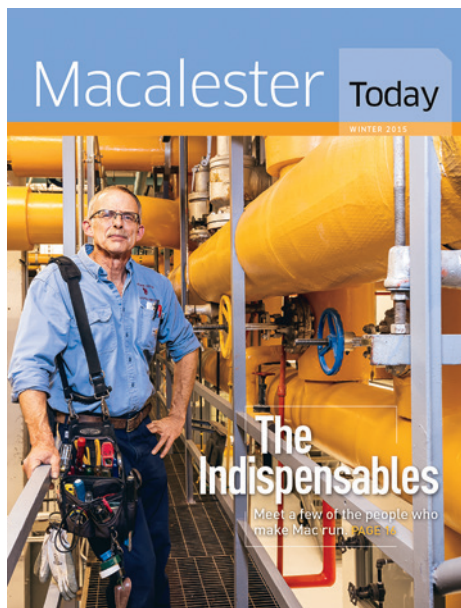
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## Making Mac Run

The cover of the Winter 2015 issue ("The Indispensables") brought back a flood of memories for me. I spent several summers and part of a school year working in the boiler room and on the maintenance crews in the basement of Janet Wallace. That work-study job gave me a crucial foundation for many of my future endeavors, and bolstered my skills for my other job working in the scene shop with Dan Keyser. It was in the boiler room machine shop that I learned to weld and picked up basic skills in electricity, plumbing, and HVAC that came in very handy during my subsequent careers as both a metal sculptor and as a scene designer and technical director in professional theatre. Plus, when it came time to renovate my house, which I have done several times, the skills I gained working in the boiler room probably saved me a small fortune in labor costs. It was a sort of an "old school" apprenticeship—the crew, most of them Navy veterans, took me under their collective wing and considered it their responsibility to train me in the safe and proper fundamentals of "how things work." I use those skills to this day in my work as a public school art teacher. I owe them all (especially Jim Krek) an invaluable debt. And yes, they usually went unrecognized, but they were the ones who really kept things running, and kept us all warm on those frigid January Minnesota nights.

**Paul Gralen '82**  
Redwood City, Calif.

I am moved to donate this small amount by the wisdom of the *Macalester Today* staff in featuring Elmira Marshall in their pages ("The Indispensables," Winter 2015). Elmira is one of the warmest and friendliest people it has ever been my privilege to encounter. I enjoyed reading her comments and applaud you on acknowledging her and the other "indispensables"—aptly named!—in the most recent issue of *Macalester Today*.

**David McGinnis '97**  
Urbandale, Iowa

## Household Words

President Brian Rosenberg's recent column ("Seeing Mental Illness," Winter 2015) is one I am recommending to a wide circle of friends. It is extremely well written and on a very important topic.

**Judy Mahle Lutter**  
St. Paul, Minn.

## More Rumors

Regarding your article "Rumor Has It" (Fall 2014): When in the fall of 1970 I moved into 37 Macalester, which we named The Poughkeepsie Institute, we found a room in the basement that contained an unusual piece of furniture. It was a counter with a wooden top and a board across the front of it, which was painted green and emblazoned in large letters with the name "The Coal Bin." Someone told us it had been a kind of hangout at some earlier point in the college's history, and that perhaps even drinks had been served there once.

Perhaps an earlier alumnus can illuminate us?  
**Peggy Davis '72**  
Colrain, Mass.

## Corrections

- The name of author Erin Luhmann, who wrote the profile of aid worker **Megan Garrity '08** ("Refugee Responder," Winter 2015), was misspelled. We sincerely regret the error. She may be reached at [erinluhmann.wordpress.com](mailto:erinluhmann.wordpress.com).

- Samuel Baez '57**, mentioned in the most recent issue of *Macalester Today* ("Class Notes," Winter 2015), should have had this full notice published: Samuel Baez '57 was inducted into the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame for his 28 years of military service [enlisted Marine and Navy Captain (Chaplain)]. Connecticut also honored Sam, of Waterford, Conn., for his various contributions domestically and internationally over the past 34 years since he retired from the military in 1981.

## LETTERS POLICY

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



# Failing at Failure

BY BRIAN ROSENBERG

Recently I was asked to speak to a group of Macalester sophomores about the lessons one learns from failure. Since this was the second time I was asked to address this particular topic, I must assume that I am perceived as something of an expert—sort of the go-to guy on failing.

Problem is, I'm a bad example and therefore, on this subject, probably a bad teacher. The "failure" part I've pretty much mastered; it's the "learning from" part with which I continue to struggle. About the only quality I might share with Michael Jordan is an aversion to failure that borders on the pathological—and I am burdened by a lower shooting percentage.

I did try looking up inspirational quotations, in the hope that others had discovered a degree of acceptance and general peppiness that has thus far eluded me. When I came across, in several sources, a quotation from James Joyce—"Mistakes are the portals of discovery"—I was delighted if a bit surprised, since Joyce is one of my favorite authors but not one I associate with a hearty pat on the back. Turns out I was right to be surprised, since the actual quotation from Joyce's *Ulysses*—"Bosh! Stephen said rudely. A man of genius makes no mistakes. His errors are volitional and are the portals of discovery"—is spoken by the highly unreliable and generally immature Stephen Dedalus and is more about arrogance than acceptance. For what it's worth, the quotations attributed at BrainyQuote.com to Donald Trump and Coco Chanel appear to be more accurately reported.

Suggesting to students that failure is commonly uplifting feels to me deeply false, as does suggesting that most failure is part of a long journey toward deeper understanding. Sometimes failure is a precursor to great discovery, but sometimes failure is just failure, and more often than not there is nothing uplifting about it. And yet it is a part of every life, something with which all of us must learn to cope and

from which all of us must learn to recover.

The important lesson to teach, in my view, is not as much about the benefits of failure as about the necessity of resilience, and this may be a lesson we actually obscure by minimizing the extent to which failure can be painful and pointless. In other words, if all failure is understood as serving a larger purpose—if it is just another step on the stairway to success—it

port, and success, can we teach students what it feels like to be (metaphorically, of course) knocked down? If we take our jobs as educators seriously, this is a question with which we should wrestle.

Here is one suggestion: create as part of the educational experience situations in which students are incentivized to succeed but likely to fail. Make the failure, and the reasons for failure, clear, but the consequences minor. Think of this as failure with a net: the tumble is real and unpleasant but does no lasting damage. Getting back on the tightrope becomes just a little bit scarier—and that is the point.

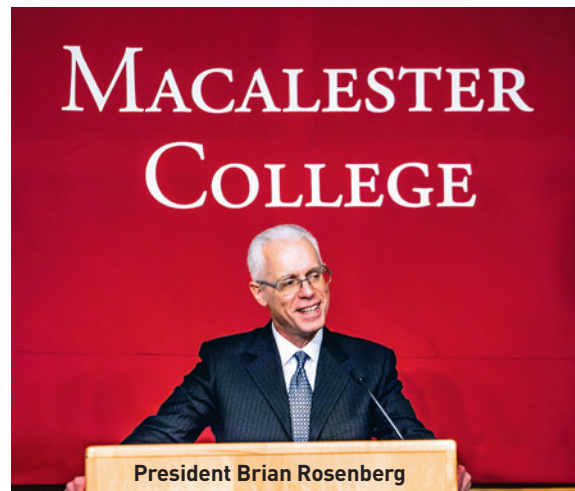
Such situations can be created in classrooms, laboratories, and studios, and I'm betting that they sometimes are. (I had several such experiences in chemistry laboratories, though these appear to have been unplanned.) But since there is, always, that tricky detail of grades, experiences outside traditional academic settings merit thoughtful consideration.

One reason why the growing interest in entrepreneurship at Macalester intrigues me is that it seems like a wonderful opportunity to provide students with real but not deeply consequential experiences with failure. Even the most successful entrepreneurs tend to have an intimate familiarity with failure. Student entrepreneurs in particular can build successful businesses or alleviate social problems, but the odds are small that they will do so on a first or second or third try. Mostly, driven by great passion and intelligence, they will try, and they will not succeed, and that will be an invaluable part of their education in the nature of life.

Done well, such experiences can help develop resilience.

Maybe they can even be portals of discovery. ■

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



should not be deeply difficult to handle. But it is difficult. It does not always fit neatly into a personal moral fable. Overcoming it takes effort of a kind that should never be minimized.

Here, I think, is where we do not do an especially good job at Macalester or at most colleges—and more broadly as a generation of parents—at educating our students or our children. We are so focused on assuring them that everything will be all right that we leave them ill prepared for those moments when everything is not. Sometimes they will not achieve their goals; sometimes they will not measure up; sometimes they will be rejected. Then what?

The interesting question for colleges is how best to build resilience in students without subjecting them to the needlessly painful, or to things, like poor grades, that could have lasting, negative consequences for their lives. In environments that so prioritize safety, sup-

# ▶ Summit to St. Clair

## CAMPUS NEWS SUMMARY



PHOTOS: DAVID J. TURNER

## THE TENURE TWELVE

Macalester enjoyed a bumper crop of honorees this spring, when a dozen faculty members were granted tenure status. Shown here are (clockwise from top left): Alicia Johnson, Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science; Alicia Muñoz, Hispanic and Latin American Studies; Andrew Billing, French and Francophone Studies; Louisa Bradtmiller, Environmental Studies; Susanna Drake, Religious Studies; Marlon James, English; Erik Davis, Religious Studies; John Kim, Media and Cultural Studies; Corie Hammers, Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; Amy Damon, Economics and Latin American Studies; Randall Bauer, Music; and Victoria Malawey, Music.

## Dale Warland Returns



ALMOST 50 YEARS AGO, a young choral director took a job in Macalester's Music Department. The Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center was still new when the professor first walked through its doors in 1967.

Earlier this month, that same musician, Dale Warland—now a world-famous choral conductor and composer—returned to the department for the first time since leaving Mac 30 years ago.

He was invited back by director of choral activities Michael McGaghie, who asked him to lead workshops for the Concert Choir and Highland Camerata. "It is my great privilege to introduce to you Dr. Dale Warland," McGaghie began the first rehearsal.

After complimenting the Concert Choir's musicality, Warland encouraged them to project their voices, keep their phrases *legato*, and work on their choir's balance. The students, none of whom were born when Warland last taught at Mac, hung on every word.



# WINTER WORK

ADDRESSING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE in Bangalore, India; researching the funding of HIV/AIDS programs; and helping Twin Cities immigrant Latina mothers share their stories—these were the projects supported by this year's Winter Mann-Hill Fellowships.

The Winter Mann-Hill Fellowship fund, designed to support Mac students' research or work in medicine, health care, and public, global, or community health, was established in 2010 by **Carter Hill '71** and **Winnie Mann '71**.

• **Pia Mingkwan '17** (Albany, Calif.) and **Margaret Nemetz '15** (Ann Arbor, Mich.) worked in Bangalore, India, with the Soukhyia Project to address domestic violence. Soukhyia trains primary health care workers to screen for and prevent domestic violence. The Mac duo helped plan and facilitate a workshop in which primary health care workers brainstormed about how Soukhyia's urban domestic violence prevention program could be used to reach underserved rural communities.

• Economics major **Siyabonga Ndwandwe '15** (Hluti, Swaziland) brought his database development skills to the Curatio International Foundation in Tbilisi, Georgia. Combing through reports from various organizations—some of them in Spanish and Russian—he developed a database to research how changes in funding sources can affect a country's success in addressing HIV/AIDS.

For example, says Ndwandwe, it can be problematic when HIV/AIDS programs are increasingly funded by international donors rather than by governments "because donor funding can be cut off at any time."

Ndwandwe's fellowship cemented his interests in a career at the nexus of health economics, international public health, and international development.

• **Sofia Halperin-Goldstein '15** (Lexington, Mass.) developed a project that drew on her interest in Hispanic studies, anthropology, and community and global health.



She conducted an oral history project with eight immigrant Latina mothers that harnessed storytelling as a form of *sanación* (healing), specifically as it related to being a parent outside their native countries.

Halperin-Goldstein made video stories of women connected with Casa de Esperanza—a Twin Cities Latina organization dedicated to ending domestic violence—where she was already a volunteer. At a gathering at Macalester's Spanish House, participants celebrated the holidays and the project, and a photographer shot family portraits.

"Storytelling is a powerful approach to healing among immigrant Latina mothers with histories of family violence," says Halperin-Goldstein. She hopes that her work, which will become her honors project, might help medical professionals better serve the state's Latina immigrant population.

# ARCHITECTURAL WINNER

Just as its music building neighbor did, Macalester's Joan Adams Mondale Hall of Studio Art has won a top regional architectural award. The remodeled and expanded studio arts building, completed in 2014 and designed by Minneapolis-based architectural firm HGA, was one of eight Minnesota projects to win an AIA Minnesota Honor Award last month. The project was featured in the March/April 2015 issue of the Minnesota AIA's magazine, *Architecture Minnesota*. Of the award-winning space, longtime [Minneapolis] *Star Tribune* architecture critic Linda Mack wrote: "With a few deft moves, HGA created light and space."



# ▶ Summit to St. Clair

## CAMPUS NEWS SUMMARY

### THE LOST ART

THIS SPRING, MACALESTER STUDENTS more familiar with Instagram and Snapchat will revisit a 19th century mode of communication: the handwritten letter.

More than 100 students have already joined Letters at Mac, an on-campus pen pal program started by **Asad Zaidi '15** (Karachi, Pakistan) and **Lizzie Hutchins '16** (Rockledge, Fla.). The idea came to Zaidi four years ago, when he received from a mentor a handwritten letter of encouragement that he has kept ever since. Hutchins has her own story about the power of letters. In her first year, after commiserating with another student about their empty campus mailboxes, they began exchanging cards and grew to be close friends.

After recognizing their common interest, Hutchins and Zaidi collaborated on Letters at Mac. "I think a lot about how to build community using tools already at Macalester," Zaidi says. "I've always been fascinated by the student post office—that infrastructure already allows for anonymous contact."

Indeed, anonymity was a key part of the duo's plan. In Mac's daily e-newsletter, Zaidi and Hutchins posted a notice announcing the initiative and asking for each interested student's name, campus post office (SPO) number, and class year. Then the matchmaking began: they paired students with different majors or class years to avoid connecting people who were already acquainted. Zaidi sent each student an email with the letter-writing partner's SPO number only. After that, the rest was up to the pair. "Some people are communicating anonymously; others have disclosed their identities," he says. "For some, anonymity breaks down barriers."

Zaidi is not among the 55 pen-pal pairs, but Hutchins—who plans to continue the program next fall—is. "My pen pal has been honest and vulnerable," she says. "Each week we ask each other more questions, and it truly feels like a conversation. Letters at Mac has been a huge success, more than we ever anticipated."



Karine S. Moe



Kathleen Murray

## Moe Named Provost

LONGTIME MACALESTER ECONOMICS PROFESSOR **Karine S. Moe** was named the college's Provost and Dean of the Faculty in late March. Moe, the F.R. Bigelow Professor of Economics, has taught in the department for 20 years and is currently its chair. She will begin her new role July 1.

A labor economist, Moe graduated from St. Olaf College, received a master's degree in public policy from Harvard's Kennedy School, and a master's degree and PhD in economics from the University of Minnesota. She has published widely, most notably the book *Glass Ceilings and 100-hour Couples: What the Opt-Out Phenomenon Can Teach Us about Work and Family*, with anthropology professor Dianna Shandy.

Moe will replace current Provost **Kathleen Murray**, who has been named president of Whitman College in Walla Walla, Wash.



# WOMEN ARTISTS EXHIBITION

A GROUP EXHIBITION OF WOMEN ARTISTS spanning a wide range of media, materials, and visual languages graced the Law Warschaw Gallery in Macalester's Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center this past winter.

The exhibit, titled "The Soul Selects Her Own Society: Women Artists from the Miller Meigs Collection," included artworks from the Oregon-based collection designed to "reveal the nuances of the female self—as process, space, affect, and cultural condition, as a selected society that is palpably greater than any individual object," as curator Stephanie Snyder (far right) put it.



**Sarah Miller Meigs '84** (above, left), who made the exhibition possible, is a patron of the arts and collector based in Oregon, as well as founder of *lumber room*, an exhibition and artist-in-residence space in Portland. Stephanie Snyder is curator and director of the art gallery at Portland's Reed College. She is a regular contributor to *Artforum* and the recipient of two Getty Foundation Fellowships.

## MIGHTY MICROSCOPE

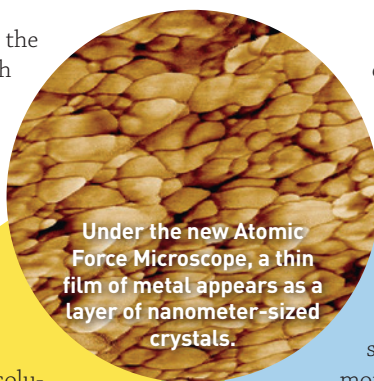
A NEW ATOMIC FORCE MICROSCOPE (AFM) in the Olin-Rice Science Center provides researchers with amazing images at near-atomic scale. An AFM provides extremely high-resolution images on the order of fractions of a nanometer, more than a thousand times better than an optical microscope. (A nanometer is equal to a billionth of a meter.)

The AFM was developed by German physicist Gerd Binnig, who, along with colleague Heinrich Rohrer, won the Nobel Prize in physics for the invention of the precursor to the AFM.

"This extraordinary instrument provides high resolution—near atomic scale—imaging of the surfaces of materials," says physics professor and chair Tonnis ter Veldhuis. "The acquisition of a state-of-the-art atomic force microscope is the result of successful collaboration between science division faculty and the college administration."

Macalester was able to acquire the AFM thanks to a substantial four-year grant for scientific equipment from a private foundation.

The AFM resides in the college's Keck Laboratory and is available for use by every science department. Ter Veldhuis believes that Macalester's grant application was successful in part because of this interdisciplinary collaboration among departments, all focused on providing meaningful research and practical learning experiences to Macalester students.



Under the new Atomic Force Microscope, a thin film of metal appears as a layer of nanometer-sized crystals.

Explaining how the AFM may be valuable in her field, chemistry professor Kathryn Splan says, "One facet of my research focuses on the synthesis of porphyrin dyes that, when subjected to suitable conditions, may form interesting self-assembled structures. Characterization with the AFM will help us to understand and control how molecules organize on a molecular level."

The new instrument will enhance research at Macalester in other ways as well. Being able to view solar films at this level may help scientists develop more efficient and less expensive semiconductors for solar energy. Looking at graphene and other nano-materials with near-atomic resolution has implications for the future development of technology, from ultrafast computers to thermoelectric generators.

Physics professors James Heyman and Jim Doyle have already received training in its operation. By summer, students doing research also will be able to use this remarkable instrument. Courses that may employ the AFM include Modern Physics, Nanoscience, and Quantum Mechanics and Spectroscopy.

Other imaging instruments included in the grant proposal—a micro X-ray fluorescence system for the existing scanning electron microscope and a confocal microscope—are expected to arrive during the next two years.

# Summit to St. Clair

## CAMPUS NEWS SUMMARY

### SCAVENGER HUNT!

THE BRAINCHILD OF AN ANNUAL FUND student worker turned into a crazy campus-wide scavenger hunt in March, with more than 200 students taking part and sending out more than 800 Instagram posts.

After noticing that other colleges often held orientation scavenger hunts, **Iris Micklavzina '15** (Eugene, Ore.) pitched a Founders Day version at Mac.

She brainstormed a long list of tasks, narrowed it down to 35, and opened registration. A last-minute deadline rush boosted the total number of teams to 44—and left Micklavzina “excited, shocked, and a little overwhelmed.”

By midmorning on the first day of the hunt, Mac Social ([macalester.edu/macsocial](http://macalester.edu/macsocial)) was filling up with images submitted by teams documenting their tasks on Instagram with the hashtag #wefoundmac. Teams had two days to meet such disparate challenges as seeking out weight room tutorials and shooting video footage of themselves ringing the campus bell. Micklavzina’s favorite task invited students to find 342 Olin-Rice—a room that doesn’t exist.

Although its inventor intended that the final task would involve the Friday afternoon Founders Day pushball game, a 20-team tie sent Annual Fund staffers scrambling to design three tiebreaker tasks, including singing “Dear Old Macalester” and sharing the results on Instagram.

For Micklavzina, “The best part was seeing how much teams got into it,” she says. “People were having fun running around campus, taking goofy pictures with friends. The creativity and enthusiasm were impressive.”



PHOTO: CRAIG BARES

## Veteran Scots Say Farewell

AT FOUNDERS DAY ON MARCH 6, the Mac community celebrated **Terry Gorman** and **Laurie Hamre**’s careers by crowning the longtime staff members king and queen of the evening’s festivities. Both will retire this spring—Hamre, the vice president for student affairs, after 23 years at the college; Gorman, the director of environmental health, safety, and security, after 37 years.





## FROM **FIELDING** TO **DELIVERING**

EACH SPRING FOR MANY YEARS, **Anna Munson '15** (La Crosse, Wis.) has stepped onto the softball field with her teammates. But after graduation, this third baseman is poised to join a different kind of team—a medical one, as a nurse-midwife.

Perhaps unexpectedly, Munson believes that the skills she has honed in softball will translate well to her chosen career. After all, she points out, both roles require her to communicate effectively, understand other people's motivations and needs, and think on her feet. "I can practice my swing all I want," Munson says. "But I don't know what the pitcher is going to bring when I step into the batter's box. Similarly, when a new patient comes in or labor begins, I will have to be ready to react and adapt."

Initially drawn to a pre-med track, Munson quickly grew more interested in holistic health practices and decided to shadow a midwife. "It's all about empowering women to know and believe that their bodies are strong and capable," she says. "All my interests and passions amalgamated into this one profession."

Instead of transferring to a nursing school after she'd identified that career path, however, Munson stayed at Macal-

ester to continue a broader academic exploration. She majored in psychology, minored in biology, and conducted neuroscience research on an herbal formula used by pregnant women.

She interned at the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women and at the University of Minnesota Community-University Health Care Center. Munson also shadowed OB-GYNs and a dozen nursing professionals to confirm that midwifery was the right path for her. "Being at Mac was the best way to explore everything," she says. "I wanted to develop critical thinking skills and understand the role of psychology in women's health. I'm coming away with a great foundation."

Before Munson finds out where she'll land next year—her top choices are master's of nursing programs that offer direct entry into doctorate of nursing practice-midwifery programs—she'll play her final season of Mac softball. It's a bittersweet time for Munson and the six other seniors, all of whom joined the program in a rebuilding year and are now leading a team that includes nine first-year students. After graduation, Munson—also president of the Student Athletic Advisory Council—won't abandon her first love. She hopes to coach or keep playing softball in recreational leagues.



# On the Wall

PHOTO BY DAVID J. TURNER

Despite the advent of social media, the good old-fashioned bulletin board remains a major method of communication at most colleges—and Macalester is no different. Shown here is a typical one, found in the Olin-Rice Science Center on March 11, 2015.

MAKE MORE THAN A LIVING. MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Argosy University

AUDITIONS SCHOLARSHIPS CONSERVATORY TRAINING NEW YORK CITY LOS ANGELES

Acting for Stage Film & Television

Musical Theatre Dance

AMTA

media internships in NEW YORK CITY

TELEVISION JOURNALISM PUBLIC RELATIONS RADIO FILM

University of Medicine and Health Sciences

Avalon University School of Medicine

Experience A Higher Degree of Learning

SEA SEMESTER

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF ANTIGUA

Why NORTHWESTERN HEALTH SCIENCES UNIVERSITY?

TAKE THE NEXT STEP

STUDENT DISCOUNTS

Semester at Sea

Sports Rehab

STUDY ABROAD

Logan College of Chiropractic

Teach English Abroad

NO STAPLES

http://www.GradSchools.com

http://www.StudyAbroad.com

sum NORTHWESTERN

Registration opens

Classes begin Jun

View 2011 summer

10 | MACALESTER TODAY



A drama school ad in the science building? Why not?

Fabulous but pricey way to learn, plus see the world

Med school continues to be a popular option for Mac grads

Teaching English abroad—a popular stop for recent grads

Close to 60 percent of Macites attend graduate school within three years of Commencement.

The ever-popular study-for-money: got asthma?

Student loans: an inevitable part of college for most

The collage features a variety of advertisements, including:

- New York University:** Ad for a Master of Science in Fundraising, featuring a photo of a man and the text "EARN A MASTER OF SCIENCE IN FUNDRAISING".
- AMDA:** Ad for auditions, featuring a photo of a group of people and the text "auditions AMDA".
- Asthma?** Ad for a clinical research study, featuring a photo of a person and the text "ASTHMA? VOLUNTEERS NEEDED".
- GMAT Prep:** Ad for GRE, LSAT, and PCAT prep, featuring a photo of a person and the text "GMAT Prep GRE Prep LSAT Prep PCAT Prep".
- Argosy University:** Ad for a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, featuring a photo of a man and the text "Argosy University".
- Minnesota Student Loan:** Ad for a student loan program, featuring a photo of a family and the text "Educate yourSELF. A MINNESOTA STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM".
- Chiropractic:** Ad for a chiropractic program, featuring a photo of a woman and the text "Chiropractic The Choice For Me".
- Logan:** Ad for a college program, featuring a photo of a woman and the text "Logan College of Health Sciences".
- Hey, Need a Ride?:** Ad for a car program, featuring a photo of a car and the text "HEY, NEED A RIDE?".
- What Does Your MCAT, GRE or GPA Actually Predict?:** Ad for a program, featuring a photo of a person and the text "What Does Your MCAT, GRE or GPA Actually Predict?".
- Deliver Your Future:** Ad for a program, featuring a photo of a group of people and the text "Deliver Your Future".
- Summer in Washington:** Ad for a summer session, featuring a photo of a group of people and the text "Summer in Washington".
- The Chicago School of Professional Psychology:** Ad for a psychology program, featuring a photo of a person and the text "The Chicago School of Professional Psychology".
- semestera sea:** Ad for a summer session, featuring a photo of a person and the text "semestera sea".
- campusdoor.com:** Ad for a website, featuring a photo of a person and the text "campusdoor.com".
- ROSS UNIVERSITY:** Ad for a program, featuring a photo of a person and the text "ROSS UNIVERSITY".



# Su



Paul Huttner '85  
never tires of  
Minnesota  
weather.



# nny with a Chance of Snowballs

Meteorologist Paul Huttner '85 enjoys predicting Minnesota's unpredictable weather.

BY ANDY STEINER → PHOTO BY TRAVIS ANDERSON

The defining moment of Paul Huttner's career came early, when he was just a few years out of college. Like his career break, the event **Huttner '85** was covering—Minnesota's record-busting Halloween blizzard of 1991—came early, and no one was prepared for it.

Huttner was then working as a meteorologist at WCCO-TV in Minneapolis. He was on morning duty, and when he got up well before dawn on November 1, 1991, to drive to the station, 15 inches of snow were already on the ground, and the white stuff was still coming down hard (the storm ultimately dumped 28.4 inches on the Twin Cities in two days). Earlier forecasts had predicted a foot of snow for this late-fall storm, but clearly something bigger was happening.

Huttner drove in from the western suburb of Minnetonka, "sending up 15-inch rooster tails of snow on the freeway," he says. "There were no plows, no other cars—it was eerily quiet. I didn't dare stop until I had skidded into a snowbank a block from the station." He found the building—and most of downtown—nearly empty. "I was the only one to make it into the station that day," Huttner recalls. "There were no reporters, no anchors. One technical person and a news director had stayed overnight. My director said, 'I want you to go on the air, stay on the air, and turn this station into the Weather Channel.'"

As the snow piled up and road conditions worsened, Huttner was the only person on the air for five hours, scrambling to fill the time. He detailed the forecast (snow, snow, and more snow) and called home-bound anchors for live updates ("What does it look like out your window?" "Well, Paul, there's a lot of snow.")

The young Huttner's antic performance won him praise from his bosses, along with an impressive viewership. "We did a 40-plus share," he says, "which was unheard of in those days."

Meteorologists live for storms like that, and reporting nonstop on a big weather event was a dream come true for the climate-obsessed Huttner, a geography major who'd grown up in the Twin Cities' western suburbs.

"My first memory is of the Minnetonka tornado of 1965," Huttner recalls. "I was four years old, and my siblings and I went out to the driveway to watch the green sky. My mom yelled, 'Go in the basement.' We did, the storm passed, and our house wasn't damaged. Later, though, we drove through a nearby neighborhood that was devastated. I thought, 'I need to know what did this.' From that moment on, I had the weather bug."

But while Huttner was sold on learning about weather, he wasn't quite sure how to do it. The first person in his family to attend college, he applied to Macalester on a friend's advice. He decided to major in geography, reasoning that would get him closest to his career goal.

He lucked out in being assigned as an advisor **Howard Mielke '63**, "a climate guy with a good amount of experience in meteorology." Mielke,

now at Tulane University, remembers Huttner as "an enthusiastic and interesting student. Right from the beginning, he had an interest in the weather and the environment."

Huttner structured his major to meet his unique needs. Mac didn't have atmospheric science or meteorology degrees, so he took all the climate classes he could, interned at WCCO, and structured his credits to match American Meteorological Society criteria.

After graduation, Huttner worked at a private consulting firm doing operational forecasting such as flood-and-ice predictions. That was followed by a string of weatherman jobs at radio and television stations around the country.

Eventually, he says, like a "typical Minnesota homing pigeon," he returned to the state, ultimately landing a job as chief meteorologist for Minnesota Public Radio. For Huttner, the MPR job is ideal. Distanced from the distractions of live Doppler feeds and tornado touchdown videos, his listeners are a cerebral bunch, more interested in the *whys* of weather patterns than in the *what* is happening now. "It's a perfect fit for me," says Huttner. "Our listeners crave that science and the deeper context of why weather systems operate the way they do. And that's what I love to talk about."

Huttner, who has been married for 30 years to **Amber Damitz Huttner '85**, also enjoys being the celebrity voice that gets noticed in line at the grocery store. Even more, he appreciates the opportunity to focus on a topic that's been central in his mind since his Macalester days.

Back when he was studying with Mielke, Huttner read Reid Bryson's global warming primer *The Climates of Hunger*. "Way back then, I was already studying climate change," he says, "and today I head up Climate Cast at MPR, a feature about global warming." Huttner—who believes climate change will significantly impact our lives for years to come—hopes his reporting will raise people's awareness of the problem and lead them to change damaging behaviors.

In the past, meteorologists were often dismissed as fluffy additions to newscasts, but today, says Huttner, that attitude is shifting to better reflect the impact weather has on all our lives. "The days of the weathergirl and the weather goofball are gone," he says. "Weather is serious business. Weather forecasting provides at least a \$4 billion annual economic benefit to the U.S. economy, and our interest in it reflects that."

Serious business aside, Huttner still likes to remember the sheer fun of that fateful fall morning when the snow kept piling up and he was the only person at WCCO-TV warning people to stay home. "Big storms in Minnesota are a big deal," Huttner says. "All you have to do is listen to people talk at the grocery store about the coming storm to know how plugged in we are to the weather. I'm just happy to be part of that conversation." ■

ANDY STEINER '90 is a regular contributor to Macalester Today.

# HOW TO BE A BETTER SCOT

**LET'S FACE IT:** Mac alumni are anything but average. They're just a little bit smarter, a little bit more curious, and a little bit more likely to take action instead of sitting on the sidelines. But there's always room for improvement. And who better to help you take your life to the next level than someone else with a Macalester mindset? That's why we asked Mac students, faculty, alumni, and staff experts to share their expertise on a variety of topics, from bicycle commuting to persuasive arguments to rocking that Macalester tartan.

BY ERIN PETERSON → PHOTOS BY DAVID J. TURNER

## How to pack your luggage efficiently

Macites learn the value of global citizenship early, but traveling to all those far-flung locations can sometimes be a hassle. We asked one of our most well-traveled staff members, associate director of major gifts **Stephen Sporer**, to share some tips on packing the perfect carry-on bag—plus a few other suggestions to make your journeys more pleasant.

- **Good packing is about prioritizing.** It's okay to wear the same pair of pants two days in a row. You can often wear the same shirt two days in a row if you have two different ties, or a different scarf. Instead of packing bulky items, try to have layers.
- **Don't remove your dry-cleaning bags.** Fold your dry-cleaned items, with the hanger, in your bag. It prevents wrinkling. As soon as you get to your hotel room, hang up those things.
- **Lay a scented dryer sheet on top of your clothes before you fasten your bag.** When you get to your final destination, everything smells like fresh laundry.
- **Don't worry about packing your phone charger.** If you're staying in a hotel, the front desk will have a whole box of chargers that other guests have left behind, and they'll generally be happy to let you use one during your stay.
- **Don't be a jerk.** Flight delayed? Hotel room not ready? Stop taking it out on the front desk clerk and the flight attendants. Ask nicely. Stay calm. If you do, you're likely to get even more than you asked for.





*“It takes a couple years to feel comfortable wearing a kilt into a gas station.”*

—Mike Breidenbach '96

## How to look sharp in a kilt

**Mike Breidenbach '96** is director of piping at Macalester. Every year about 45 students take individual lessons or participate in the Macalester College Pipe Band. Though most of them enjoy wearing kilts, says Breidenbach, it does take some getting used to. “If you’re around Macalester and wearing it, people don’t really think twice,” he says. “That said, it usually takes a couple years to feel comfortable wearing a kilt into a gas station.”

But when you look this good, what’s to be ashamed of? Below, a user’s guide:

- The glengarry cap is a wedge-shaped hat with a lengthwise crease across the top.
- In addition to a button-down shirt and tie, pipers often wear a waistcoat and a Prince Charlie Jacket.
- The kilt should hit right at the middle of the knee, or slightly above it.
- The leather-and-metal *sporrán* (Gaelic for pouch) is suspended from a narrow belt on the kilt.
- Hose should reach just the bottom of the knee.
- *Flashes* are decorative straps that hold the hose in place and complement the kilt.
- *Ghillie* brogues have no tongue; the laces go over the foot and wrap around the ankle.







## How to be a vegan

**Nola Pastor '14**, a longtime vegetarian, became a vegan—meaning she eats no animal products—more than a year ago. An edited version of a longer conversation with her appears below.

It's easy to think of veganism as “lots of food rules,” but I like to think of it in terms of abundance and thoughtfulness. I want to be eating the things that make me feel good and that fit with my values.

There are so many interesting options out there: nuts and fruit, greens, legumes, veggies. Coconut butter and coconut milk are great. There's almond milk and soymilk, cheesy spreads you can make out of nuts, and a whole world of different sweeteners.

I understand the idea that veganism is a privileged thing in a lot of ways. Meat and dairy substitutes can get expensive. And not every place is as easy to eat vegan as the Twin Cities.

But you can experiment. Last year, for example, I was just playing around with the idea of what I liked to eat: what felt good when I ate it, what didn't feel so good. I listened to my body and stopped cooking and eating dairy at home, but still ate it when I went out. It's easy to explore diet in smaller ways. Maybe you don't eat meat every day, but just a couple times a week. Change things up, just for a meal.

The point is that flexibility and exploration are great. Like any behavior change, it takes time and it's not right for everyone. It can be exciting to open up and think of all the different ways to eat.

*“I like to think of veganism in terms of abundance and thoughtfulness.”*

—Nola Pastor '14



*“Our environmental challenges are so big, we need everyone to play their part.”*

—Suzanne Savanick Hansen,  
Sustainability Manager

## How to live an environmentally friendly life—the lazy way

You recycle your cans. You haul your cloth tote bags to the grocery store. But are you really doing your part to lead a sustainable lifestyle? We asked Mac’s sustainability manager **Suzanne Savanick Hansen** to suggest a few “big wins”: changes you can make once that will allow you to reap environmental benefits for years to come. She was happy to help. “Frankly,” says Hansen, “our sustainability changes are so big that we need everybody to play their part.”

- **Get an energy audit of your home.** These inspections often cost less than \$100 and may be subsidized by your energy company. Auditors typically will make some low-cost, high-impact improvements for you, from swapping incandescent bulbs for high-efficiency CFLs to installing low-flow showerheads and sink faucets. And even if you need something expensive, like new windows, they’ll show you how inexpensive solutions, such as caulking, can help save energy.
- **Live closer to work.** When you move, make proximity to work a major criterion, or at least consider alternatives to a car-based commute, such as public transit, cycling, or car-pooling. Biking to work is not just healthier for the environment, it’s healthier for you, as well.
- **Buy an energy-efficient car.** You may not be interested in flaunting your environmental bona fides with a Prius, but there are plenty of gas-sipping alternatives that will save gas and cash. Any upfront price differential will typically be returned over the life of the car.







## How to be generous

**Paul Odegaard '04**, a planned giving officer at Minnesota Public Radio and a former staffer for Mac's Annual Fund, has spent years working with donors eager to make a difference. Here, in an edited version of a longer conversation, he shares what he's learned about financial generosity from these men and women—and what you can, too.

We talk a lot in development about the three things you can give: your time, your talent, and your treasure. We all have varying degrees of each of these. For someone who just graduated from college, a \$20 gift to an organization might be incredibly meaningful.

And meaning is important. Give to the places you love, not to the places you only like. There's too much competition out there, too many worthy organizations. Give, and give generously, to those organizations you have a relationship with, because the most important gifts you make are about feelings. They're a way of expressing what you value.

But giving out of love for an organization doesn't mean you shouldn't be rational about your giving. I find, for example, that the biggest donors tend to have three to six organizations that they really care about and support, even though they get requests from many more than that. Selectivity allows people to pay attention to what the organizations they're supporting are actually doing. And you *should* pay attention. Read the president's newsletter or emails. Look at the organization's annual report. You can learn a lot by understanding how they spend their money. Even if you're a true believer in an organization's cause, you'll still want to spend time making sure they're up to the task they've set out to do.

*“Give, and give generously,  
to those organizations you have  
a relationship with.”*

—Paul Odegaard '04



## How to be a bike commuter

**Scott Schaffer '08** is a volunteer with the Minneapolis Bicycle Coalition. He has been bicycle commuting since 2008.

**Problem:** Ugh, I don't have thousands of dollars to buy a new bike with fancy tires, a better seat, and a high-tech speedometer.

**Solution:** The only thing you have to buy are the things that make you safer. You probably already have a helmet. And yes, reflective gear is smart, especially if you travel when it's dark. But finding safer routes with bike paths and less traffic is free.

**Problem:** Are you kidding? In *this* weather?

**Solution:** Yes, in the winter you'll need a good pair of gloves, and ski goggles can make your ride more comfortable. But because you're moving and staying active, you don't need as heavy a jacket as you think. Fenders can prevent slush and water from getting on your clothes. In warmer weather, bring along deodorant and a change of clothes in a water-proof bag. A lot of workplaces have

showers you can use. Beyond that, you don't need much—just an adventuresome spirit.

**Problem:** My commute is too long. And what if I need to get somewhere fast unexpectedly during the day?

**Solution:** Become multi-modal. Maybe you can bike to a bus stop. Or look into Metro Transit's "commuter connect" program, where they'll pick up the tab for an emergency cab ride home.

**Problem:** I can't fix a flat tire.

**Solution:** All you really need is a tire lever and a patch kit. Most bike shops teach free or low-cost classes on bike maintenance.

**Problem:** I love my car! And my radio stations! And my cup holders! It's a perfect cocoon from the world.

**Solution:** Biking will change your relationship to your environment in a really good way. You'll smell the food people are cooking, notice the skyline differently, truly see artwork and graffiti. And if you find something interesting, just hop off your bike and check it out.





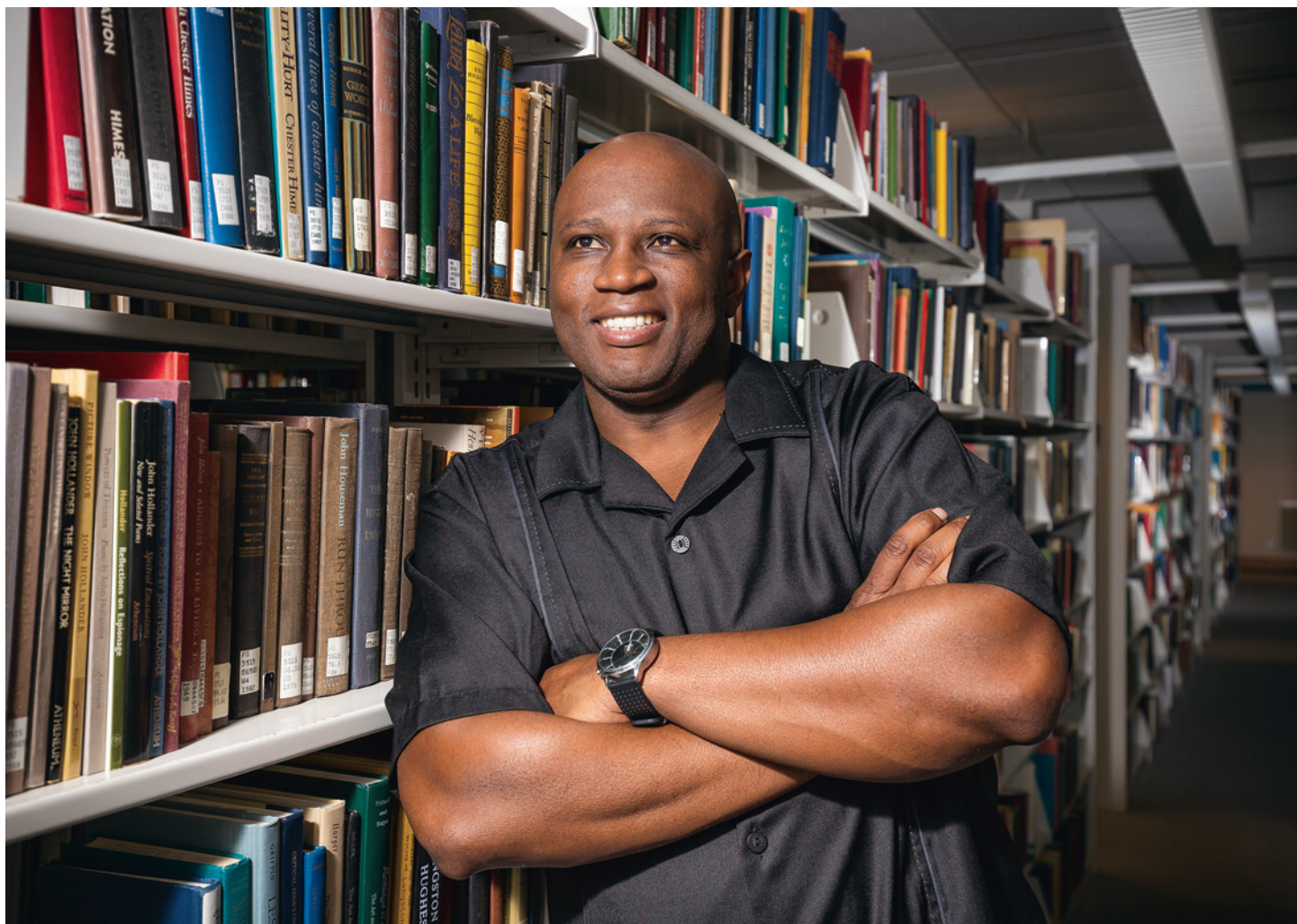


## How to have a civil argument

We've all got that one crazy "friend" on Facebook who posts views of the world that we just can't stand. And we believe that if they would just listen for us for one minute about the crazy buffoons whose ideas they parrot, we could show them the error of their ways. If those thoughts have ever crossed your mind, says associate professor of political science **Adrienne Christiansen**, you've already lost. Instead, use these four principles to have more thoughtful discussions with those with whom you disagree.

- **Be open to being proven wrong.** "The philosopher Henry Johnstone once wrote that to be truly engaged in argument and discourse, you must make yourself as open to being changed as you are to trying to change another person's perspective," says Christiansen. "Both parties take the risk of having themselves changed, and that can be uncomfortable."
- **Eliminate ad hominem attacks.** Sure, that politician you loathe may not be the sharpest tool in the shed, but stop attacking the person—that misses the point. "You need to be engaging with the idea," says Christiansen.
- **Consider other points of view with a debater's mindset.** Competitive debaters must deeply study multiple sides of an issue, and be ready to make arguments they may not believe in. "If you think about how you might argue a position that's the opposite of your own, it can force you to take on a stance of humility."
- **Have empathy.** We're all human. Respect the sincerity your friends bring to their beliefs. "We can never really know all the experiences of another human being. We can't know all of the influences that led them to adopt viewpoints we don't share," says Christiansen. Look for that humanity, even as you disagree with someone else's ideas.





*“If you’re not reading strictly for pleasure, have an agenda in mind.”*

—Sedric McClure, Max Center director

## How to remember what you read

Maybe your boss asked you to get through a pile of reports. Perhaps you’ve got to plow through all 750 pages of *The Goldfinch* before leading your book club’s discussion. Whatever the case, if you’ve got pages to go before you sleep, use the advice of the Max Center’s **Sedric McClure** to make the most of your time.

- **Read like an investigator.** If you’re not reading strictly for pleasure, have an agenda in mind, says McClure, even if it’s a fairly broad one. “You should know what you’re looking for before you even begin the task,” he says.
- **Draw a concept map.** Does the novel you’re reading have more names than a phone book? Does that think piece have many inter-related big ideas? Map them out. “It can be a flower, a flow chart, or a family tree, whatever helps the text come alive for you,” says McClure.
- **Plot out the work by task, not by time.** Instead of planning to read for two hours, decide to read a certain number of chapters or a specific number of reports. “Break it up into manageable pieces,” says McClure. Be sure to add in little breaks for dense reading, but don’t let a five-minute Facebook reward turn into an hour’s worth of BuzzFeed quizzes.





*“What’s driving you? If you can’t answer that question, don’t run for office.”*

—Rebecca Otto

## How to run a campaign

Minnesota State Auditor **Rebecca Otto '85** has won several close elections in her political career, and she was happy to share what it takes to earn a victory. Whether you want to win political office, launch a grassroots initiative, or earn a spot on your company’s board, these tips can help.

- **Start with a vision.** And no, “there’s an empty seat” isn’t a compelling vision. “What’s driving you?” says Otto. “If you can’t answer that question, don’t run.” That vision isn’t just what’s going to persuade voters: it’s what’s going to keep you on track, even when the going gets tough.
- **Develop your plan.** Plot out your moves between now and voting day. How will you find and effectively manage the time, the money, and the volunteers you need to be successful? What will it take to earn the votes? “Do your research. Think critically. Be prepared. That’s what this stage is about, and these are skills I learned at Macalester,” says Otto.
- **Follow through.** Once you’ve built your bulletproof plan, it’s time to execute it. Avoid the distractions to focus on your goal. “People will always try to throw spaghetti at the wall to see what sticks, but there’s so much value in having the discipline to just follow the plan,” she says.

## How to transform a team

When **Tony Jennison** became Macalester’s head football coach in 2008, the team was in rough shape. The squad had won just a handful of games over the previous several seasons, and fewer than 40 team members were on the roster—including some who hadn’t even played the sport in high school. Since then, Jennison has engineered a masterful turnaround, capped off last season with a conference championship (the program’s first since 1947). For his efforts, Jennison was named regional coach of the year.

The transformation started with a vision he shared with all his young recruits, says the winning coach. “Macalester is a top-25 liberal arts institution in America,” he says. “Our vision was to create a football program consistent with those top-tier academics. We wanted to be nationally reputable.”

Although Jennison couldn’t help his players improve overnight, he could change the team’s approach to football. “Greatness doesn’t happen by flipping a switch,” he says. “Greatness comes from doing your very best over a long period of time.”

He encouraged his players to concentrate on the present, making the most of every minute on the practice field, and every rep in the weight room. Instead of focusing on the things they couldn’t control, such as wins against top-flight teams, he urged them to instead focus on their effort and attitude. Over time, Jennison’s coaching strategy has helped build a culture that values discipline, preparation, and hard work.

These principles don’t just apply to the gridiron, he adds. “There’s no sense in sulking about something that happened yesterday. Be aware of what you’re doing right now and what you can do to get better, whether that’s your football life, your personal life, or your academic life.”

For Macalester, Jennison’s approach is paying off: Last year, for the first time, the college received votes from the American Football Coaches Association in two weekly “Top 25” polls for national Division III football rankings. [M](#)

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





*"We wanted to create a football program consistent with Macalester's top tier academics."*

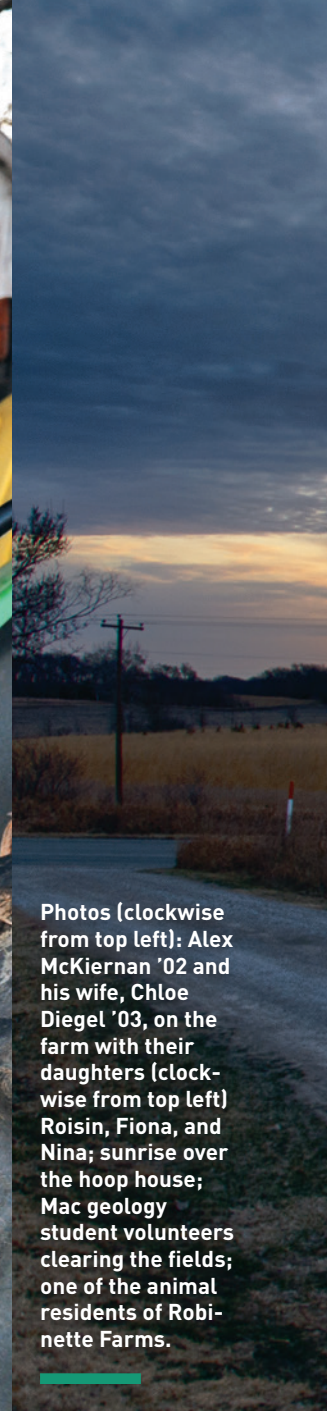
—Tony Jennison, head football coach





PHOTO: COURTESY OF TAMI RUDDER, MADONNA REHABILITATION HOSPITAL

Photos (clockwise from top left): Alex McKiernan '02 and his wife, Chloe Diegel '03, on the farm with their daughters (clockwise from top left) Roisin, Fiona, and Nina; sunrise over the hoop house; Mac geology student volunteers clearing the fields; one of the animal residents of Robi-nette Farms.





# FARM STRONG

A Mac couple strives to keep their rural dream alive  
after a husband's debilitating injury.

BY REBECCA DEJARLAIS ORTIZ '06 → PHOTOS BY JEFF THOLE

For nearly a decade after graduation,

**Alex McKiernan '02** rarely stayed in the same place for more than a year. **Chloe Diegel '03** followed a similar path: the duo counted residences in Wyoming, Pennsylvania, California, Colorado, and Vermont. But when they married in 2008, they sought a permanent home where they could forge deep community ties.

They found that place in 2010 on a Nebraska farm, and in the four years that followed, grew Robinette Farms (named after Diegel's mother) and produced three daughters (a 5-year old and 2-year-old twins). They attended town events and had a consistent presence at the local farmers market, and McKiernan became a volunteer firefighter. Simply put, says McKiernan, "The main theme of our life has been community, for a long time."

Last year, they learned the power of that community.

On the morning of January 7, 2014, just after they'd drafted their farm's projected profit and loss statement for the year, McKiernan load-

ed up the car with produce and set out to deliver it. While his car was stopped at a red light on a two-lane highway, it was hit from behind at 60 miles an hour by a driver who failed to notice the stoplight.

At the hospital, McKiernan learned he had broken his T11 vertebra and badly stretched—though not severed—his spinal cord. Externally, the injury appeared as only a centimeter-sized bruise, but its severity was far more significant: McKiernan was temporarily paralyzed from the waist down and would spend the next two months at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Right away, Diegel and McKiernan determined that they would keep their farm going, though they knew they'd need to scale back for at least a year. Within a week they had revisited their profit and loss statement.

Their goal was to maintain the farm's identity, one they'd carefully forged over the previous several years. The two had started out as fellow geology majors, but by the time they began dating in 2006, Diegel had



several years of farming experience and McKiernan had finished a master's degree in geology.

"I married into farming," McKiernan says. "I love what we do, but it wasn't the path I was on until we got together. Then I fell in love with that dream as well." Determined to live closer to their Midwestern families, Diegel and McKiernan moved from Vermont to Colorado to Nebraska. They started Robinette Farms five years ago on rented land, but soon found a 113-acre spread in Martell, Nebraska, near Lincoln, and signed a three-year lease with option to buy. It had become theirs just months before the accident.

Meanwhile, Robinette's Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA) program—"the heart of what we do," says Diegel—had grown from 64 shares in 2010 to 225 in 2013. They gradually added chickens, sheep, a llama, honeybees, and pigs.

Using organic growing practices, Diegel and McKiernan strove to minimize their fossil fuel use. They even converted a 65-year-old tractor to run on electricity and brought in two draft horses so they could rely less on vehicle power. Each year they've had several apprentices, teaching them through both the daily workload and structured classes.

The first years at Robinette taught the couple firsthand about the unknowns of starting a farm—from crop production to weather. "There's a lot of uncertainty in this business," says McKiernan. "I like to know what's going to happen, and that's hard to do here. Farming and parenthood have taught me to let go of that."

After McKiernan's accident, the couple had to agree on a "new normal," says Diegel. They downsized the business by 40 percent, maintaining a presence at the local farmers market while reducing their CSA program and selling their livestock. Diegel, they decided would run the farm full time, allowing McKiernan to focus on therapy. They hired a nanny to watch their girls.

Meanwhile, support poured in from their various communities, both near and far. A month after the accident, Mac friends **Kris Herwig '02** and **Martin Oppenheimer '02** set up an online fundraiser to support the family. The response—from McKiernan's former soccer teammates, the couple's geology classmates, other Mac friends, and many people they didn't know—was tremendous: Within a week, donors had raised nearly \$20,000. Then in March, geology professor Ray Rogers (Diegel's advisor) and lab supervisor Jeff Thole brought a van full of Mac geology students to Nebraska to help out over spring break.

The Martell community, meanwhile, was responding in amazing ways as well. McKiernan's fellow volunteer firefighters—the same friends who'd had to cut him out of his car at the accident scene—helped with farm chores. One day, 30 firefighters showed up to build a wheelchair ramp and deck onto the family home. They hosted fundraising events and donated money. "The volunteer firefighter community stepped up big time," McKiernan says. (And so did McKiernan and Diegel's own CSA customers: "We had someone coming to help with dinner and bedtime every night," says Diegel.)

That support meant so much to the couple. "My progress is due entirely to our communities," McKiernan says, explaining that he



**Above: The geology student-farmer crew; left: the drying barn, where storage vegetables are cured**

has about a two-year window to reach maximum recovery. "The key is to work your butt off, which is physically, mentally, and emotionally

demanding. If I'd had to take on an office job or care for our girls all day, there wouldn't be much left in the tank for rehab. The support has allowed me to focus full time on therapy."

McKiernan spends 20 hours each week on physical therapy and exercise, driving into Lincoln in a car equipped with hand controls. In those sessions he works on standing, moving, and strengthening his legs, takes part in aquatherapy and works out in a bionic suit, which attaches motorized legs to his own limbs to allow him to practice walking.

Despite Diegel's long days in the fields last year, she and McKiernan realized by mid-summer that they'd need to scale back even further if they were going to process all the change in their lives. That led them to take the winter off from farming. "We've had a lot of physical therapy; now the whole family needs time together—emotional therapy," McKiernan says. "Our goal last winter was to spend time with friends and family and reconnect after a stressful year; to get re-centered to take another leap in 2015."

Through last fall and winter, McKiernan's intensive therapy meant he was doing chores standing up and taking longer walks—up to half a mile—using two canes. But because he can't cook or parent on his feet, he is still mostly using a wheelchair. By late January, though, he had walked 700 feet without canes or other support, another breakthrough in his progress.

This season Diegel will once again operate the farm at a reduced level, thus allowing her husband to continue with his full-time physical therapy. "At some point, my recovery will stop, and we don't know when that will be or how far I'll get," says McKiernan. "I hope I can improve well beyond where I am now."

For now, they are grateful for all the help they got from Mac people and others. Says McKiernan, "I soaked up that energy and absorbed it. This is about the success of community. We needed a lot of help to get back on our feet—literally and figuratively—and that's what we got." **M**

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



# DEAN OF GEOGRAPHERS

It's the end of an era at Macalester as longtime geography professor **David Lanegran '63** hangs up his maps.

BY JAN SHAW-FLAMM '76 → PHOTO BY DAVID J. TURNER

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**I**n 1969, newly minted PhD **David Lanegran '63** needed a job and the only nibble he got was in Toronto. "Job offers were not exactly hanging on trees," he recalls. "But my father was ill and I didn't want to leave the Twin Cities area, so I was preparing to join my father-in-law in the garment industry when Hildegard hired me to teach summer school."

Hildegard Binder Johnson was the Berlin-educated founder of Macalester's Geography Department. Lanegran had studied under her and knew her to be brilliant, disciplined, and demanding. When a short time later a full-time geography position opened up in the department, a colleague advised Lanegran, "It's a good job, but no one can stand to work for Hildegard for more than a couple of years."

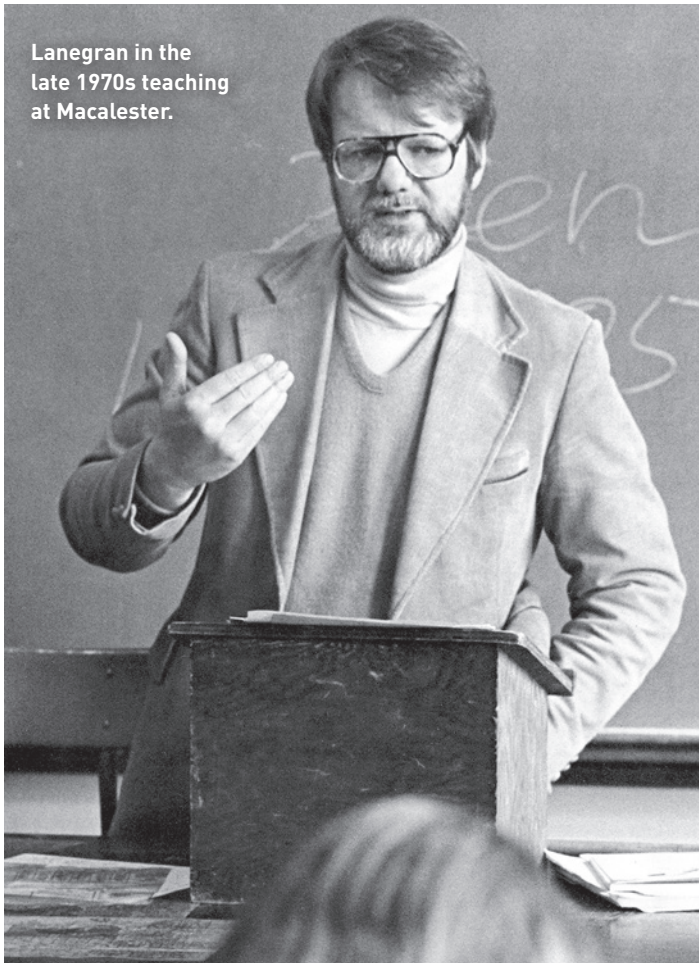
Lanegran decided he was equal to the challenge. "I had four older sisters, so I was used to taking orders from women," he laughs. Soon Lanegran had joined the department as its expert on urban geography, which he describes as the study of cities, how they're organized, and why they're located where they are. He proceeded to develop one of the nation's most respected geography programs and, in 1999 was named the John S. Holl Endowed Professor of Geography.

Originally intending to be a lawyer, Lanegran had followed several family members to Macalester, commuting from home, playing football, and working his way through





Lanegran in the late 1970s teaching at Macalester.



## A storied career

*A list of David Lanegran's many awards*

- Macalester's Distinguished Citizen Award, 2014
- Association of American Geographers Grosvenor Honors for Geography Education, 2010
- National Council for Geographic Education's Award for Distinguished Service to Geographic Education, 2008
- Macalester's Alumni Service Award, 2008
- John S. Holl Endowed Professor of Geography, 1999
- WCCO Radio Good Neighbor Award, 1997
- Thomas Jefferson Award from Macalester, 1996
- South St. Paul Hall of Excellence, 1989
- Burlington-Northern Award for Teaching Excellence, 1988
- *Educational Change* magazine's Ten Outstanding College or University Teachers of Geography, 1977

PHOTO: MACALESTER ARCHIVES

school at the South St. Paul airport and other places. He was already a student at Macalester when a social science teacher recommended he take a course from Johnson. He did, and the rest, as they say, is, well, geography.

"This was exactly what I liked; I didn't even have to study," remembers Lanegran. "I liked maps and Hildegard was tying academics to experiential things." There was no geography major at that time, so he took whatever courses he could and majored in political science.

Having graduated during the Vietnam era and lost his deferment, Lanegran went to work in a hospital and waited to be drafted. Much to his surprise, he failed his physical, allowing him to head off to graduate school in geography at the University of Minnesota.

A South St. Paul boy, Lanegran was impressed by early experiences with his dad, who worked for the stockyards that then lined that town. When his father visited farmers whose animals would soon be sent to the stockyards, the younger Lanegran would ride along. Using maps to find rural Minnesota farms and hearing the farmers' tales instilled in him a curiosity about place and story that has led to a life extolling the joys and insights of geography, teaching students, and advising communities on how to save the neighborhood gems in their midst.

As a new professor, Lanegran's first advisee was **David Hodge '70**, now president of Miami University of Ohio. "I was drawn quickly to urban geography through his courses," says Hodge. "He has an uncanny ability to connect the bigger, more theoretical issues with the immediate place. Dave has always been a terrific advocate for his students, too. He was instrumental in my getting a summer grant to do research. So instead of working in the meatpacking plant in Austin, I was surveying people on Nicollet Mall for the summer.

"He cared about each of his students personally. In my case, he claimed—and I have no reason to doubt him—that he encouraged **Valerie [Leach Hodge '76]**, to attend the University of Washington graduate school because he thought we might be a good fit for each other. Or at least that's what he told us when we announced our marriage some 33 years ago."

**Matt Jackson '92** was a bit lost when he arrived in St. Paul from New Zealand, but Lanegran wouldn't allow him to stay lost. "Dave took a lot of interest in getting me on track," says Jackson. "He invested in me and through his courses he introduced me to the career I have now."

Jackson is now a global business management consultant with the firm JLL in Washington, D.C., where he helps organizations determine where they should locate functions such as manufacturing, research and development, and call centers. "I help companies understand global geography and how to be competitive and effective," he says.

As a professor, says Jackson, Lanegran was skilled at "identifying where people's talents lay, whether in academics or in commercial practice. And he has a true passion for his work."

Though a longtime classroom favorite, it was probably Lanegran's service to the community that led former Minnesota governor Rudy Perpich to declare a "David Lanegran Day" in 1989, followed by a similar pronouncement in 2003 by then-St. Paul mayor Randy Kelly.

One example of that community work was when Lanegran organized a student-led study of Grand Avenue, once considered a dangerous example of urban blight. The negative perception of that street started to change when Macalester geography students, organized and mentored by Lanegran, presented their study to the Grand Avenue Business Association.



Lanegran hosting a first-year student dinner at his home in 2010.



PHOTO: SHER STONEMAN

"Maps let you see things you can't see otherwise," says Lanegran. "Businesses wanted franchises; Crocus Hill [the neighborhood surrounding Grand Avenue] didn't want any businesses at all. But these talented kids, wonderful students, blew them away with their presentation and their study became the basis for the revitalization of Grand Avenue," now a beautiful and popular street full of restaurants, shopping, and apartments.

Another significant civic contribution was his work in the early '80s serving as managing director of Minnesota Landmarks, Inc. He helped raise \$8 million to save the former Federal Courts Building and supervised its design and renovation. Now known as the Landmark Center, this Richardsonian Romanesque treasure is today a multipurpose arts facility. For four years he served as CEO of the organization that manages Landmark Center—this in addition to his teaching responsibilities.

"Key to Dave's tremendous influence on students is his belief in fieldwork and commitment to civic engagement," says **Laura Smith '94**, now his colleague in the Geography Department. "His Urban Geography field assignment is legendary, requiring that students leave the confines of campus to observe and interpret the landscape of the Twin Cities. *What contributes to successful redevelopment of an urban commercial corridor?* To inform this discussion, students can draw upon their firsthand experience comparing Grand, Selby, and University Avenues."

Smith contends that though Lanegran's legacy is felt locally, regionally, and nationally, his most impressive accomplishment lies in "the foundation he laid for Macalester's Geography Department, which is considered one of the premier undergraduate geography programs in the U.S."

A writer as well as a teacher, Lanegran's list of publications is long. He has written or co-written many academic articles and 16 books, the best known of which are probably *Minnesota on the Map: A Historical Atlas* (Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2008) and *Grand Avenue: The Renaissance of an Urban Street* (with Biloine W. Young, North Star Press of St. Cloud, 1996), both Minnesota Book Award finalists.

Although he is retiring from the undergraduate classroom, Lanegran is emphatically *not* retiring from geography. Long active in the Minnesota Alliance for Geographic Education, he is committed to the teaching of geography. He will continue to lead a summer program for K-12 instructors, a program supported by the National Geographic Society. And he has long been a favorite of alumni, often leading a busload of eager participants on Reunion field trips. Last year he took an alumni group on a tour of Wisconsin's Driftless Area, where they learned some geography and earned a reputation as enthusiastic singers at a local tavern.

Other retirement possibilities include working with organizations such as the Minnesota Preservation Alliance and Road Scholars (formerly Elderhostel). An avid collector of maps, he anticipates working with the Minnesota Historical Society on its map collection and doing some writing in the area of historical geography.

Lanegran's contributions to the college are well known, but the gratitude, it seems, goes both ways. "Education is so important," he says. "To be a part of it and to be in a place where you can really leverage yourself is a privilege. Fortune has smiled on me. I've worked with so many fabulous people, so many good-hearted and cheerful people." ■

**JAN SHAW-FLAMM '76** is a Macalester Today staff writer.





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Dyslexia

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Abstraktion mit der Arbeit  
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# Overcoming Obstacles

Classroom accommodations help level the playing field  
for Macalester students with disabilities.

BY LAURA BILLINGS COLEMAN → ILLUSTRATIONS BY MARTIN HAAKE / LINDGRENSMITH.COM

**T**aking good notes during a fast-paced lecture can be tough for many new college students, but when **Jordan Sherr Breslau '17** (Chicago) shows up for class, she confronts an even steeper learning curve than many of her classmates.

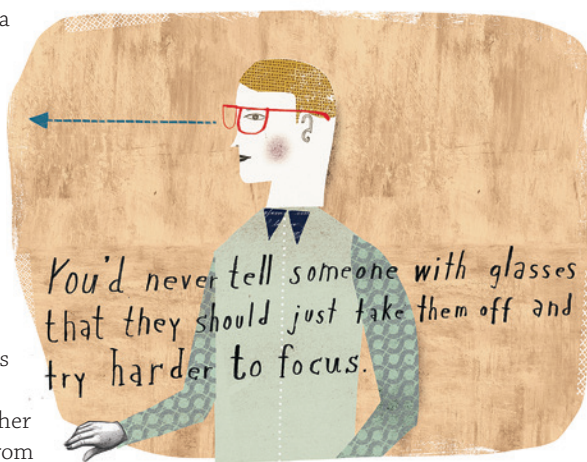
Diagnosed with dyslexia at five, Breslau is also challenged by an auditory processing disorder that can effectively scramble a day's lesson plan. "It's like having a little computer glitch in my brain that sometimes makes me mishear what's being said," explains Breslau, an art history major with an urban studies concentration. "If someone says 'look at that cat,' I might hear 'look at that hat.' It might be just a small amount of information I miss at first, but over time it starts to pile up."

As a first-year student, Breslau knew her learning disabilities could hold her back from fulfilling Macalester's foreign language requirement, but she was eager to try Spanish anyway. "The first semester actually went pretty well," she says. "But the second semester was a hot mess." Though she worked with a tutor and met with her professor

to master the increasingly complicated vocabulary and grammar, she eventually had to drop the subject, learning another valuable lesson in the process: "Trying to get through college without acknowledging my learning disabilities would be like denying reality for me."

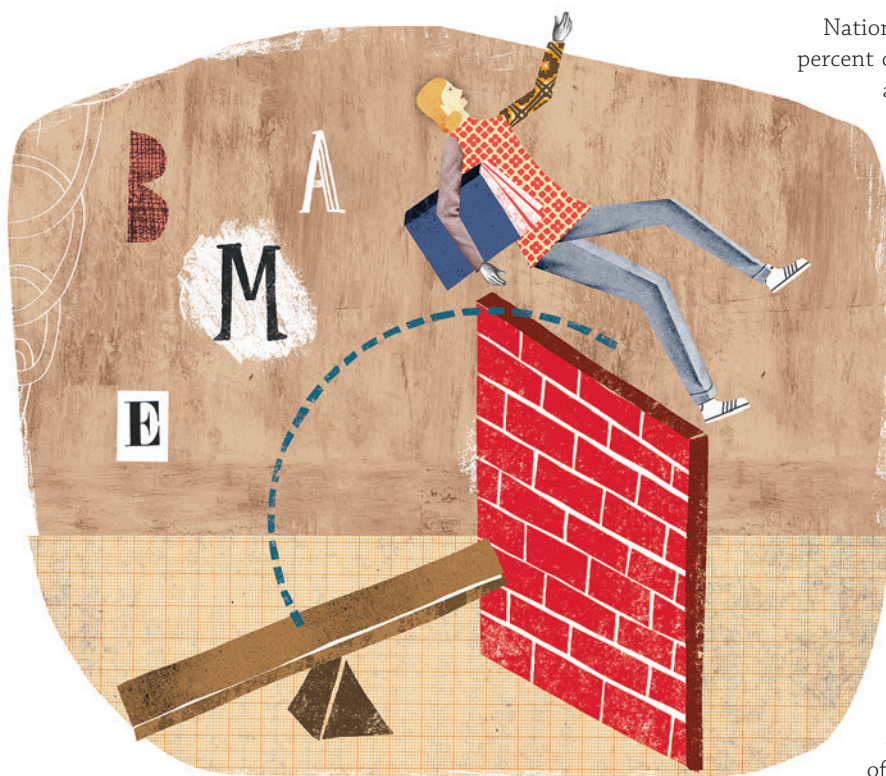
Studies show that students with learning disabilities are half as likely to pursue a four-year college degree as is the general population, and they face higher than average drop-out rates while they're on campus. But Breslau is one of many Macalester students beating those odds, thanks to an accommodation plan that allows her to use assistive technology to capture and keep up with classroom discussions, take extra time to complete exams and assignments, and access audio books that allow her to process course materials in a way that suits her learning style.

"Knowing that I needed some of these resources was one of the reasons I decided to come to Macalester," says Breslau. "In the orientation sessions I went to and in everything I read, I could see Mac was committed to supporting students in all the ways I was looking for."



**ABOUT THIS HEADLINE FONT:** Dyslexie is a revolutionary typeface font, designed to simplify life for people who have dyslexia. With a heavy base line, alternating stick/tail lengths, larger-than-normal openings, and a semi-cursive slant, the dyslexia font ensures that each character has a unique form. Traditional fonts are designed solely from an aesthetic point of view, which means their characters can be difficult to recognize for people with dyslexia. The dyslexie font is designed for optimal reading comfort. For more information, go to [dyslexiefont.com](http://dyslexiefont.com).





Nationwide, more than two million college students—about 11 percent of the country’s undergraduates—have some form of disability. At Macalester last fall, approximately 5 percent of the student body requested accommodations through the college’s disability services programs. “When people hear the word *disabilities*, they often think of students with physical challenges, but those are the issues we see least,” says Associate Dean of Students Lisa Landreman, who works with juniors and seniors seeking accommodation plans. “Psychological disabilities such as anxiety, depression, or PTSD tend to be the most common issues for college students, followed by general learning disabilities.”

In fact, nearly three quarters of students who receive disability services do so because of psychological challenges—numbers that reflect the high rates of mental distress among adults aged 18 to 25. “A recent University of Minnesota study showed that more than 25 percent of students had received a mental health diagnosis at some point before entering college—and that’s a large number,” says Ted Rueff, associate director of the college’s Health & Wellness Center. But thanks to a new wave of medications, a reduction in the stigma once associated with seeking mental health treatment, and a generation of parents who have supported their children’s access to care, says Rueff, “we’re seeing a whole group of students succeeding now who might not have made it to college a generation ago.”

## Removing Barriers

Designing accommodation plans for qualified students who contend with disabilities such as anxiety, ADHD, or autism spectrum disorders has become a growing trend at Macalester and other colleges across the country. The Americans with Disabilities Act requires post-secondary institutions to make “reasonable efforts” to provide qualified students equal access to all the courses, services, programs, jobs, and facilities on campus—a process Mac students must initiate through the Office of Student Affairs.

“The transition to college can be a challenge because the K–12 model is about success, while in higher education, the goal is access,” say Robin Hart Ruthenbeck, assistant dean of students. She is the first point of contact for first- and second-year students seeking accommodations. By law, elementary and high schools are obligated to identify students with disabilities and document their classroom needs, but in college, the responsibility for informing institutions and requesting services shifts to the student. To start the process, incoming students with disabilities might share their course schedules and academic plans with Ruthenbeck, and “together we look at the ways our systems, our structure, and the way we approach education here might create barriers. Then we look for ways to mitigate those barriers.”

For instance, a student in a wheelchair might need a classroom in a building with an accessible ramp, while a student with dysgraphia may be approved to use a laptop for lab assignments. The goal with any accommodation, says Ruthenbeck, is to avoid making one that compromises the integrity of the course. “The core of what needs to be accomplished in a classroom is still intact.”

## Signing Up for Support

Even so, not every student who qualifies for accommodations seeks them. “Many students are tempted to make a fresh start, to try it without medication, counseling, or accommodations,” says Rueff. “A change of scenery can do you good, but wherever you go, you bring yourself. That’s why we advise students to stick with what worked in the past, and to seek out the support they need.”





The same go-it-alone impulse is often seen among students with learning disabilities, less than a quarter of whom inform post-secondary schools of their need for services, according to research from the National Center for Learning Disabilities. The same report found that just 17 percent of students with learning disabilities received accommodations and supports in college, compared to 94 percent who did so in high school.

Since students with disabilities must self-identify when they arrive on campus, it's hard to know how many don't pursue the services they're entitled to. That's why Ruthenbeck and others from the Office of Student Affairs reach out early and often to incoming students, encouraging them to get the support they need to succeed. "Our goal is to give students the tools they need, and I see accommodations as a tool," says Ruthenbeck. "You'd never tell someone with glasses that they should just take them off and try harder to focus."

Macalester offers a variety of tools that students—both with and without disabilities—are encouraged to tap. The Macalester Academic Excellence Center provides tutoring services and study tips, and arranges for proctors and approved testing spaces for students requiring accommodations. For instance, students with ADHD—who may need to move around while taking exams—can ask for a separate test-taking space that will allow them to avoid distracting their classmates.

Students may also access audio books and assistive technology, such as Kurzweil text-to-speech software, which makes classroom PDFs or recommended websites accessible to students with visual impairments or dyslexia. Students with hearing problems can use recording devices that cancel out white noise and amplify their professor's voice. Through the ITS office, Breslau is experimenting with Livescribe, a "smartpen" that transfers her handwritten notes and recorded classroom audio into a digital format. The software even allows her to mark when she lost the thread of a classroom discussion, so she might later return to what she missed and make sense of it.

Although Breslau believes assistive technology helps her get more out of school, ITS liaison Brad Belbas notes that many students continue to resist it. "The idea of needing something to support their learning is not always a comfortable thought," says Belbas, adding that "a surprising number of students arrive at Mac with severe learning disabilities that had gone undiagnosed until late in high school, students who have been so capable at adapting to their environment that they've been able to get by. It's a great testament to their resilience."

But the more intense demands of college coursework can often push struggling students to seek help for the first time. Not long ago, Belbas helped a student with an auditory processing problem set up a software service that provides real-time closed captioning of class lectures. "Just missing a cluster of 10 words in a graph meant that he'd have a lot of work to make up, trying to figure out what he was miss-

ing," Belbas says, adding that trying the software was a revelation to the student. "He said it was the first time he'd ever walked out of a class and not felt instantly behind."

## Universal Access

To Macalester alumni who came of age in the '60s, '70s, and '80s, this learning landscape probably looks very different from the college they remember. "A generation ago, there was an expectation that students with disabilities just had to suck it up and do things the way everyone else does," says Joan Ostrove, chair of the Psychology Department. Although colleges were early advocates for access by disabled students, she says, "The passage of the American Disabilities Act [in 1990] really helped to raise the visibility of people with disabilities, and their right, as one observer put it, to boldly go where everyone else has gone before."

In recent years, college campuses have also become important proving grounds in the Universal Design for Learning movement, a set of principles for curriculum development that asks educators to consider more flexible ways of presenting information and engaging students—for instance, setting hand-outs in type fonts large enough to be read by students with visual impairments, or providing lecture outlines before class, thus allowing students with dyslexia and other processing challenges to get the head start they need to participate in classroom debates. Simple shifts like these often benefit all learners—not just those with disabilities, says Ostrove.

"We are seeing students in college whom we would not have seen a generation ago, and that's a good thing," she says. "It gives us opportunities to think differently about how we do our work, how people learn, and how to maximize the flourishing of brilliance, which is really important."

Ostrove covers some of this territory in *Minding the Body*, a course that **Kate Gallagher '16** (Tucson, Ariz.) credits with her decision to advocate for her own needs as a student with disabilities. Gallagher suffers from Ehlers-Danlos syndrome, a genetic connective tissue disorder that causes chronic joint pain and occasional flare-ups that force her to attend class in a wheelchair. "That class was my introduction to disability as a social identity, and the first time I realized that not everyone else is in constant pain," says Gallagher, who is now facilitator for Macalester's Disability, Chronic Pain & Chronic Illness Collective.

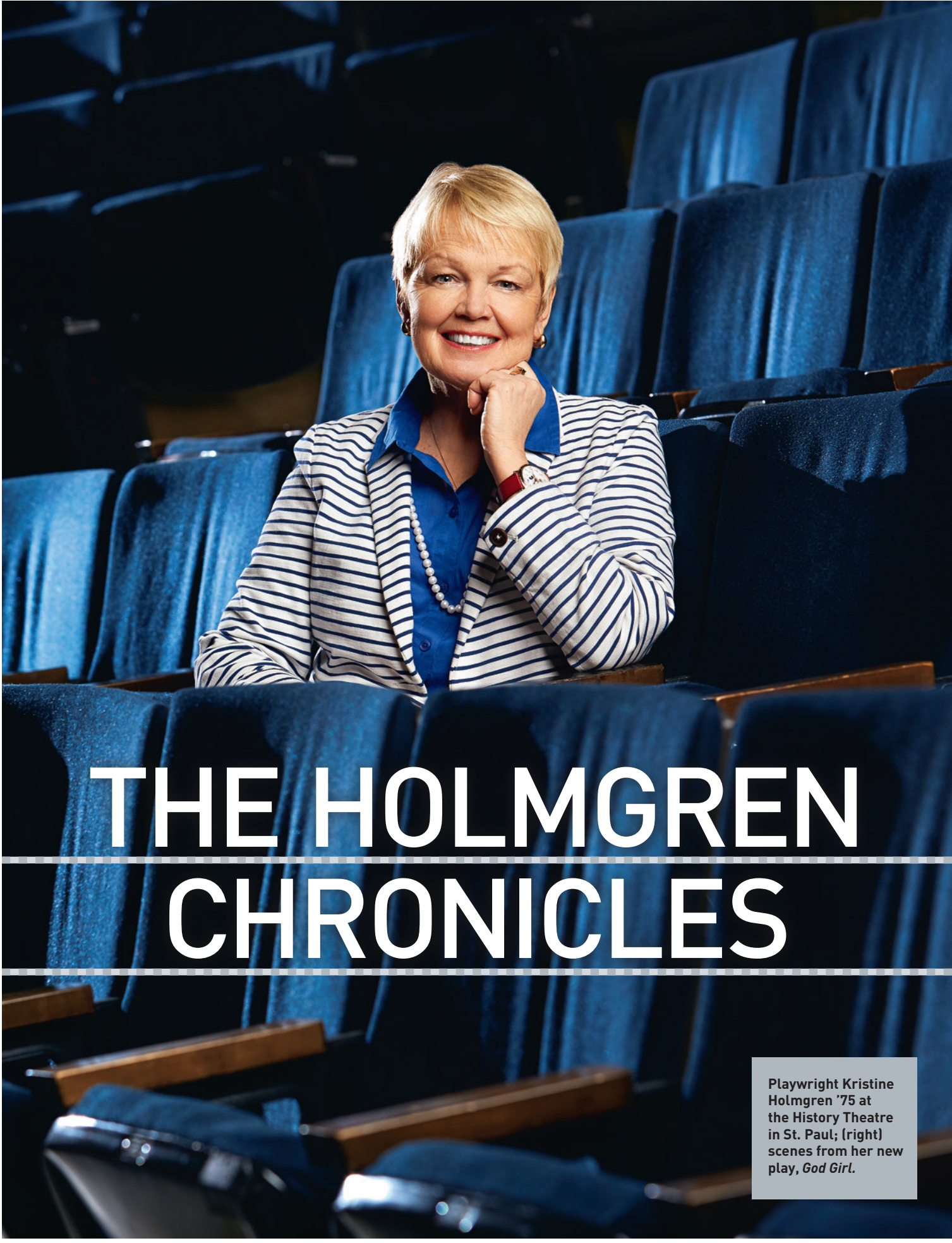
"At first, identifying as disabled was kind of hard for me, but it ended up being a necessary resource," she says. "Nobody has an easy time getting through college, but my disability puts me farther away from the starting line and therefore farther from the finish line." Now Gallagher has an accommodation plan in place that allows her some flexibility on class attendance and deadlines during flare-ups, and the freedom to fulfill her campus work-study job tasks in a ground-floor office on those days when climbing stairs is out of the question.

While all these efforts have enabled her to stay enrolled at Macalester during some stressful times, says Gallagher, the accommodation that has helped her the most is simply being allowed to sit down during choir practice. "You never see a singer sitting—it's not the optimal way to do it. But the fact that we've created this accommodation that allows me to participate in something I love to do has meant the world to me," says Gallagher. "It's not always easy to advocate for yourself, but if it helps you learn, it can be life-changing." ■

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







# THE HOLMGREN CHRONICLES

Playwright Kristine Holmgren '75 at the History Theatre in St. Paul; (right) scenes from her new play, *God Girl*.



With the autobiographical play *God Girl*, former minister **Kristine Holmgren '75** kicks off a new career as a playwright.



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF THE HISTORY THEATRE

BY JULIE KENDRICK → PHOTO BY THOMAS STRAND

When Minnesota playwright, ordained Presbyterian pastor, and social critic **Kristine Holmgren '75** arrived at Macalester in 1967, the campus was still ruled by a “formality of daily life,” she remembers, with many men wearing ties and most women wearing skirts “with knee socks to match,” she laughs. “Back then, both chapel and convocation were mandatory, and we handed over a computer punch-card to record our attendance.” Then, at the end of her sophomore year, Holmgren left college to live in California.

When she returned to Macalester four years later to complete her degree, campus culture had utterly changed. “By 1973 we were the original hippies,” she says. “The dorms were co-ed and so were the bathrooms.”

Holmgren, who later became Macalester’s first female chaplain, has been through some major lifestyle shifts herself along the way. Her life, and the stories she tells about it, serve as testament to the tumultuous times she’s experienced.

*God Girl*, Holmgren’s first professionally produced play, had its premiere last February at St. Paul’s History Theatre. The autobiographical work is a look back at Holmgren’s mid-’70s experience as part of the first generation of women admitted to Princeton Theological Seminary.

“I worked on that play for three years,” she says. “I endured a lot of pain stirring up old recollections.” She describes the male domination of the Presbyterian-affiliated seminary, where she and other feminist theologians identified the source of discrimination in the patriarchal language of the times: “It started with ‘God the father,’ and went right on from there,” she says. She graduated from Princeton with a Master of Divinity degree in 1979.

Though her years at Princeton were challenging, Holmgren took delight in seeing her script come to life: “It’s thrilling to experience something that wouldn’t have existed if I hadn’t told the tale,” she says.

She’s now hard at work on a new play called *The Giving House*, commissioned by the Minnesota Historical Society and based on their popular exhibit about a Minnesota house that had been home to many different immigrant families.

Holmgren wanted to be a pastor from the time she was seven. She sees the unity of service and writing, and believes in the deep connection between ministry and art. Her first play was a Thanksgiving pageant written for her first-grade class. Before she could write, she dictated stories to her mother, who wrote them down for her. Her writing is anthologized in two volumes, *The Magic of Christmas Miracles* (William Morrow, 1998) and *Sacred Strands: Sermons by Minnesota Women* (Lone Oak Press, 1991).

Holmgren was only able to attend Macalester because her single mother took a job as a maid at Doty Hall [then an all-women’s residence hall]. Because children of campus workers were eligible for free tuition, Holmgren’s mother saw the job as a way to provide her daughter with an otherwise unattainable college degree.

“Back then, Macalester maids did everything for the students,” Holmgren recalls. “My mother made beds every day and did laundry for her Doty Hall women. She vacuumed their dorm rooms and cleaned their bathrooms every morning. She was in her late 50s when she started, and it was hard work.” Holmgren’s mother finally retired after her daughter graduated.

Many Minnesotans best know Holmgren for her provocative commentary pieces on the editorial pages of the [Minneapolis] *Star Tribune*, where she was a columnist from 1993 to 2006. The lifelong advocate for women and children’s issues saw the column as a chance to “write whatever I wanted,” she says. Still, that freedom came at a price. “I received death threats and threats against my children. But you can’t make a difference if you don’t stand in the fire.”

Holmgren says she “walked away” from being a congregational pastor in 2001. “My writing life was becoming so big, and I needed to make more money.” These days, she spends her Sunday mornings at home. Of the Presbyterian faith in which she participated for so many years, she says, “It’s not my church anymore. I visit congregations sometimes, and as soon as someone says ‘men of God’ or asks us to sing ‘Faith of our Fathers,’ I leave.”

Holmgren has no plans to stop writing. “At this stage in life, I’ve learned it’s important to find your art form. Writing gives my life richness, and now that I have the time and freedom to choose what I want to do, my first choice is to write. It has always fed me and has never let me down.”

Holmgren’s daughters are also Mac graduates: **Grace Deason '04**, a professor of social psychology at the University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire, and Houston-based corporate attorney **Claire Deason '06**.

Earlier this year, Grace gave birth to Holmgren’s first grandchild, Rose. The proud grandmother is already hoping for a third generation at her alma mater. “I hope Rose gets to dip her toe in the waters of Macalester, and receive at least a fraction of the great opportunities her great-grandmother’s sacrifices made possible for us,” she says.

“Macalester is a place to receive the grander vision of what it means to be human,” Holmgren says. “It’s not just an education; it’s a change of spirit and an opening of the heart. I admire the college’s courage and willingness to change course, to balance itself and go forward.” ■

**JULIE KENDRICK** is a Minneapolis writer.



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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



**Toby Query '97, Ellen Palmquist '14, and Christa VonBehren '07 met up in Portland, Ore., to reminisce about their favorite Mac prof, biology professor Mark Davis. All three ecologists work in the Portland area.**

### 1950

The Ahwatukee, N.M., *Foothills News* profiled **Robert "Grandpa Dan" Danielson** and his wife, Barbara, last September. Dan, a former professional baseball player and radio sports announcer, as well as a veteran of more than 80 television commercials, now volunteers as a public speaking coach for local students.

### 1952

**Bill Buhler** of Truth or Consequences, N.M., has retired after 50 years as an attorney. He organized a bank and a museum featuring one of the largest collections of Mimbres Indian pottery in the Southwest. He also served as district governor of Rotary for New Mexico and West Texas from 1986 to 1987. Bill encourages his classmates to join him in contributing to a scholarship named for the late

Macalester professor Theodore Mitau.

### 1955

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

### 1960

Four years ago, retired veterinarian **Milton Bauer** moved to Timber Hills in Inver Grove Heights, Minn., and found "lots of Macites there." He reported that he is in good health and has three sons and four grandchildren. Milton and his wife celebrated their 51st wedding anniversary last year.

### 1961

**Karen Matlock Johnson** and **Joel Johnson '63** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary last June. In 2013, Karen and Joel retired from the New Hampshire Music Festival in Plymouth after 50 summer seasons. Joel originally joined the

NHMF as a tenor soloist at the invitation of Macalester music professor Thomas Nee and began conducting the 120-voice NHMF Symphonic Chorus in 1970. Over the years, Karen served as orchestra librarian and rehearsal accompanist, and also played harpsichord, celeste, piano, and organ in the orchestra.

### 1963

**Andru Peters** was elected vice chair of the Minnesota High-Speed Rail Commission for 2015, chair of the Hiawathaland Public Transit Advisory Committee for 2015, and president of the Lake City Kiwanis Club for 2014 to 2015.

### 1964

**Virginia "Ginger" Vogel Simek** spent eight days in Berlin last October as part of the Road Scholar program "Berlin: Two Pasts, One Present." She recalled working with five classmates in the

Berlin Hilton 50 years ago while participating in Macalester's SWAP program.

### 1965

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

**Betty Kiger Johnson** was honored in January by Ski for Light in Silver Creek, Colo., for her 26 years of service to the organization, **Janet Lunder Hanafin '66** reported. Ski for Light is a nonprofit, all-volunteer cross-country ski program that provides sighted guides for visually impaired and mobility-impaired people.

After completing Spanish immersion programs in Mexico in 2010, **Newell Searle** volunteered in 2011, 2012, and 2014 in Guadalajara, Puebla, and Oaxaca, Mexico. He also led a religious group to Cuba in 2013. Newell retired from Second Harvest Heartland in 2012 after leading



a national coalition to increase federal food assistance. He is now volunteering with the Immigrant Law Center, completing a memoir on the transformation he underwent upon learning a second language after age 60, and writing the blogs "Adventures in Midlife Spanish" and "Loose-Leaf Binders, Reflections on Thoughts, Words, and Deeds." He looks forward to a summer stay at his Lake Superior cabin.

## 1969

**Jackie Schwabke Schmidt** received John Carroll University's 2014–15 Distinguished Faculty Award. She is a professor of communication in the Tim Russert Department of Communication and Theatre and the director of an interdisciplinary entrepreneurship minor.

## 1970

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

Last year, **Joan Jarvis Ellison** published two books about life on a sheep farm, *Tangled Web: A Novel* (her first book of fiction) and *How to Paint a Sheep* (her first children's picture book).

**Michael Schwinden** has worked as an elementary school principal in Great Falls, Mont., for 13 years and in Needham, Mass., for 14 years.

Last spring, **Paula Wolfe** bought a condominium in Bradenton, Fla., after a chance encounter with **Kathy Arkinson Johnson**, whose brother lives there. "It's been a great winter to be away from the Boston area," Paula wrote.

## 1971

**Sara Church** retired in June after a career in banknote security. She now lives in River Falls, Wis.

**Barbara Phillips** and her son Charles traveled in Israel and Palestine with a delegation from the Social Justice Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago.

**Phil Platt** has been named executive director of the Minnesota Craft Brewers Guild. The organization, founded in 2000, has more than 70 member breweries.

*This Wild Country*, a poetry chapbook by **Dorothy Schlesselman**, is forthcoming from Finishing Line Press.

## 1972

**Will Mahler** was named 2014 Attorney of the Year by Minnesota's official legal news publisher, *Minnesota Lawyer*, on Feb. 19. During his 40 years in solo practice, Will has represented Midwestern dairy farmers in matters regarding nutrition, defective equipment, and stray voltage.

**Carol Wolf Runyan** received the 2014 Distinguished Career Award from the Injury Control and Emergency Health Services Section of the American Public Health Association. Carol is professor of epidemiology and community and behavioral health at the Colorado School of Public Health and founder and director of the school's Pediatric Injury Prevention, Education, and Research program.

## ► BOOKS

Excerpted from *The Patron Saint of Lost Comfort Lake* by **Rachel L. Coyne '98** (NEW RIVERS PRESS, 2015)

**U**nderneath, in the ground where we're buried, I assumed the three lakes around my home, Big Comfort, Little Comfort, and Lost Comfort, were all really connected—all one pool of black, subterranean cool. Above, they were as separate from each other as the moon from its reflection in their waters.

I always associated Big Comfort with the town where I went to school and where I worked at the Red Owl until I was sixteen. Little Comfort reminded me of my mother. I was baptized there with a placard around my neck announcing my sins—disrespectful to parents. But Lost Comfort always called to mind my father, Pitch, and his regular bar nestled on its far bank, the only thing that remained of a duck-hunting lodge and estate, once grand.



**Curt Brown '82**, *The William Marvy Company of St. Paul: Keeping Barber Shops Classic* (THE HISTORY PRESS, 2015)

**Kalie Caetano '14**, contributor to *A Wizard of Their Age: Critical Essays from the Harry Potter Generation* (SUNY PRESS, 2015).

**Merle Drown '65**, *Lighting the World* (WHITEPOINT PRESS, 2015)

**Evelyn A. Early '68**, Donna Lee Bowen, Becky Schulthies,

editors, *Everyday Life in the Muslim Middle East* (INDIANA UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2014)

**James Laine**, professor of religious studies, *Meta-Religion: Religion and Power in World History* (UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA PRESS, 2015)

**Willis Merriman '56**, *ALS: The Gift of a Designer Disease* (AVAILABLE AT BARNES & NOBLE AND AMAZON, 2015)

**Matthew Mulcahy**, *Hubs of Empire: The Southeastern Low Countries and British Caribbean* (JOHN HOPKINS UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2014)

**David Secor '83**, *Migration Ecology of Marine Fishes* (JOHN HOPKINS UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2015)

**Erin Twamley '09** with Joshua Sneiderman and Mike Crosier, *Climate Change: Discover How it Impacts Spaceship Earth—Build It Yourself* (NOMAD PRESS, 2015)

**Jodi Vandenberg-Daves '88**, *Modern Motherhood: An American History* (RUTGERS UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2015)

**M. Brett Wilson**, assistant professor of religious studies, *Translating the Qur'an in an Age of Nationalism: Print Culture and Modern Islam in Turkey* (OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2014)



# Class Notes



## MAC AROUND THE WORLD



Macalester folks working at the Minnesota Department of Health got together in January 2015: (front row, from left): Abigail Read Mosher '03, Mickey Scullard '87, Toby McAdams '89, Joy Ladu '15, Elizabeth Parilla '05, Sudha Setty '05; (back row, from left): Chris Kartheiser '14, Martha Roberts '86, Merry Jo Figenshaw Thoele '72 and '88, Kathy Wederspahn Chinn '88, Pati Maier '75, Karen Green Martin '98, Kristin Sweet '03, and Buddy Ferguson '69.

### 1975

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

Janie Armstrong spent 20 years with the YMCA in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., first as a program director and then as community resource director. She also worked as a driver license examiner for the State of Florida. Janie is now “retired and loving it.” She has volunteered for numerous community organizations and enjoys arts and crafts, fishing, sports, occasional shopping, and spending time with her grandchildren.

### 1977

Margo Wylie Dickinson teaches art part time with the Young Rembrandts program and works part time as the department

manager of Macalester’s Anthropology Department.

### 1978

**Bethany Ulrey Krom** retired at the end of 2014 after nearly 36 years with the Mayo Clinic, where she worked in research laboratories and served as director of purchasing and as assistant dean for the Mayo School of Health Sciences. She now babysits, serves as board vice president of Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center, and sits on the Lanesboro, Minn., Chamber of Commerce. Last October, Bethany took part in the 10-mile “Swim the Suck” on the Tennessee River.

### 1980

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



## MAC AROUND THE WORLD



Macalester alums recently met up in Jamaica: (from left): Claire Hipkens '09, Brandon Nam '09, and Emma Mondadori '09.





## MAC AROUND THE WORLD



Macalester alumni shared an unforgettable February journey to Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands.



## MAC AROUND THE WORLD

**1981**

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

**1986**

**Kevin Rees** planned to return to university teaching in January 2015.

**1990**

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

**1991**

**Anna Coskran** has been named a principal at the Twin Cities real estate and project management firm NTH. She has worked for NTH since 1998 with such clients as the Minneapolis *Star Tribune*, Xcel Energy, and The Minneapolis Foundation.

**Adrian Moran** has launched the food blog [heartypegancooking.com](http://heartypegancooking.com).

**1995**

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

**Allison Gibson Chapman**, founder and owner of Igloo Letterpress in Columbus, Ohio, has launched a Kickstarter campaign to help her business expand and offer more opportunities for classes and community projects.

**1996**

**Zoe Kardasis Sturtz** and her husband own Edit Design Build Studio. Last November, the Minneapolis-based residential design/build remodeling firm won four Contractor of the Year Awards, including Best in Show, at the National Association of the Remodeling Industry-Minnesota Gala Event. Zoe and her husband live in south Minneapolis with their two sons.



Jess McNab '06 (left) and Angela Wright Newhouse '87 met through their work as distributors for Young Living Essential Oils. They're shown here at a festival in Naples, Idaho.



# Class Notes



## MAC AROUND THE WORLD



The 20th Annual Class of 1965 holiday tea was held at the Alumni House this year.

**1998**

**Rachel Coyne Carlson** celebrated the release of her book *The Patron Saint of Lost Comfort Lake* with several readings in the Twin Cities area in February (see page 37).

**1999**

Siblings **Josh Collins**, **Anna Collins '03**, and **J. Judah Collins '92** have launched Northwood Way Productions, a record label dedicated to reissuing the recordings of their late father, singer-songwriter John Collins. The releases will include recordings from Podipto, a band that achieved regional popularity in the 1970s and appeared with such acts as Elton John, James Taylor, The Guess Who, and Linda Ronstadt.

**Naomi Cytron** is senior editor of *What Counts: Harnessing Data for America's Communities*, a book from the Federal Reserve and the Urban Institute about the use of data in

addressing economic, health, and educational challenges.

**Rebekah Wineburg** has presented the first vintage of a new wine, Post & Vine, produced in her Napa Valley vineyard.

**2001**

**Betsy Head Helmuth** appeared on the *Today* show to promote *Big Design, Small Budget*, the interior design book she published late last year. Betsy works as an actress, owns an interior design firm, and lives in Brooklyn, N.Y., with her husband, Jack Helmuth III, and son, Jack IV (born in 2011).

*Come Again*, **Erica Veldey Rivera's** new novel about dating in the digital age, is available from Thought Catalog Books. Her previous books include *Insatiable: A Young Mother's Struggle with Anorexia* and *Man Eater*.



## MAC AROUND THE WORLD



Seven Mac grads living in Charlottesville, Va., have happy-hour reunions once a semester (from left): Emily Gadek '08, Lily Radkoff '10, Luke Harris '10, Amy Coddington '08, Amanda Coen '08, Jenna Harris '08, and Dillon Teske '09.





## MAC AROUND THE WORLD



A Macalester team made it to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro last winter and raised \$11,138 for Anza, a social entrepreneurship program in Tanzania. Shown here are Hannah Rasmussen '14, Clementina Sanchez '14, Margaret Abeles '17, Sierra Pancoast '17, and Emily Brinkman '17.

**2002**

Beloit College awarded **Diep Phan** tenure in February. Diep, an associate professor of economics, teaches the economics of globalization, economic

development, international business, trade and finance, and Southeast Asian economies. Her scholarly research examines the impact of distortions in factor markets on human capital returns and investments.



## MAC AROUND THE WORLD



A group of mothers from the Class of 2003 met up in Minneapolis in February. From left: Hanna Stirling Palm with Annika and Marina, Christina Gray Wilkie with Bridget, Sarah Raser with Jane, and Carmen O'Halloran with Alvin.



## MAC AROUND THE WORLD



**Andrew Borene '98**, federal chief strategist for IBM's i2 Division and an adjunct professor of national security policy at Mac in 2012-13, got to play a senior White House National Security official on the popular Netflix series *House of Cards*, season 3. He is shown here in a screen capture from one of his episodes, with Kevin Spacey as U.S. President Frank Underwood.

**2005**

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

**Katie Pastorius Benziger** and **Seth Benziger '99** announce the birth of a daughter, Marit Marjorie Benziger, on Dec. 12, 2014, in Seattle. Marit joins big brother, Theo.

**Braham Ketcham** and his wife, Anna Timmerman, welcomed daughter Cora Jane on May 10, 2014.

**Natalie Ross** became a licensed landscape architect in Washington in January. She practices with the Seattle firm Site Workshop.

**2006**

**Caroline Barnes** announces the birth of daughter Samantha Lael Paredes on Nov. 15, 2014, in Paris. Samantha was sworn in as a U.S. citizen by a Macalester alumnus working at the U.S. Embassy in Paris.

**Anna Everett Beek** completed a PhD in classics at the University of Minnesota. She has taken a position teaching Latin at the University of St. Thomas.

**Kat Sachs** and her husband, Rick Weismiller, announce the birth of their first child, Cody Vilas Weismiller, on Jan. 4, 2015.

**2008**

**Jonathan Smucker** has been promoted to portfolio manager at Marietta Investment Partners in Milwaukee. He is enrolled in the weekend MBA program at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business.

**2010**

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

**2011**

**Candace Groth** joined the Brooklyn Park, Minn., firm of Virtus Law as an associate attorney last November.

**2012**

**Hayley Berra** is pursuing a master's degree in social work at the University of Washington while continuing to work for a local nonprofit.



# Mac Weddings



**1.** Fidel Mendy and **Charlotte Lunde '12** were married in Senegal recently. Mac friends Esther Biesse '13 and Christian Pederson Behrends '13 attended the ceremony.

**2.** **Tim Stendahl '05** and Tanja Steiner were married in Catskill, N.Y., on Sept. 6, 2014.

**3.** **Scott Shaffer '08** and **Catherine Biringer '08** were married June 21, 2014, in Minneapolis.

**4.** **Maggie Hutchison '12** and Brandon Chenevert were married on Sept. 13, 2014, in Minneapolis.





**5. Jack Malone-Povolny '06 and Nicole Arne '06** were married Oct. 4, 2014, in Minneapolis.

**6. Liz Connors '00 and Reni Keane-Dengel** were married Sept. 20, 2014, in Minneapolis.

**7. Sarah Baumann '06 and Jeffrey Rogers '07** were married on June 28, 2014, in Minneapolis.





# Mac Weddings



**1. Mark Vander Ploeg '74** and Lorna Boich were married Dec. 29, 2014, in Woodside, Calif.

**2. Audrey Peer '07** married Wyatt Partridge on Sept. 5, 2014, in Minneapolis. In attendance were Lydia Devine '06, Diana Marianetti Ringuette '05, Danielle Boucher '06, and Maren Gregersen '07.

**3. Abby Tofte '09** married Sam Hedstrom, on Aug. 23, 2013, in Tofte, Minn.

**4. Michael Ferut '12** and **Jisoo Hong '12** were married on March 7, 2015, in New York City.





**5. Reginald Doku '12** married Maria Ward on Sept. 20, 2014, in Minneapolis. More than 30 Mac alumni attended, with more than 20 countries represented.

**6. Hannah Kinney '09** and **Charlie Ballard '09** were married Aug. 16, 2014, in St. Paul.

**7. Maya Suzuki Daniels '12** and **Elijah Chiland '12** were married in Hawaii, on Dec. 29, 2014. Maria Rothenberg '12 was bridesmaid and Oleh Zaychenko '12 was best man.





# Mac Weddings



**1. Matthew Patton '06** and John Goetter were married on Nov. 15, 2014, in Chicago.

**2. Brienne Callahan '03** and **Jeremy Karpen '03** were married in Chicago on May 10, 2014. In attendance were Taavo Smith '03, Lindsay Weinberg '04, Chris Kelly '02, Meara Borgen Madison '04, Jenny Godar Graham '03, Dan Schwartz '03, Lily Chapin '03, Jessica Wineberg Binder '03, and Eric Scheufler '03.

**3. Allison Wegren Metzger '09** and Jonathan Metzger were married June 14, 2014, in northern Minnesota.





**4.** Colin Westcott Zestcott '12 and Aurora Zosel Zestcott were married Dec. 21, 2013, in Minneapolis.

**5.** James Kelly '69 (left) and his life partner of 16½ years, Bruce Broerman, were married Aug. 3, 2014, in Oak Park, Ill. Their five grandchildren and James's partner's two children celebrated with them.

**6.** Hannah Adams '08 married Michael Ryan on June 28, 2014, in Stillwater, Minn.



## ► Class Notes



### REUNION ROAD TRIP

In an era when connections happen more often on Facebook than face to face, **David Bloom '65** did his best to break that trend—all in the name of his 50th Reunion. Over the past 15 months, the Class of 1965 Reunion co-chair drove more than 10,000 miles around the U.S. to encourage his former classmates to attend this year's Reunion (June 5–7). Reports the intrepid Bloom, who lives in Seattle: "I saw the Macalester spirit in the lives of the classmates I visited."

ILLUSTRATION: ERIN HOLT '13

## COME ON HOME

BY **GABRIELLE LAWRENCE '73**, DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS


Macalester Reunion is an inclusive, all-class festival with special events for the milestone classes and a joyful mash-up of bagpipes, interesting people, lectures, conversations, rekindled friendships, and dancing in the party tent. And it's all for you. I hope you're planning to come back this year and rejoin the Macalester community for a glorious weekend in June.

Yes, Macalester is different than it was: beloved professors have passed away, the students are impossibly young, and there are new buildings you won't recognize. The curriculum has evolved ("Screens" and "Science of Renewable Energy," anyone?), English majors hang out at the athletic center, and the cafeteria food is delicious. But the tour guides still name the same core values—internationalism, service to society, academic excellence, and multiculturalism, *The Mac Weekly* still comes out every Friday, and the rock still gets painted. It remains your school.

Still on the fence about Reunion? Consider our top 10 reasons for coming back to Mac:

1. People want to see you. Really. They've told us.
2. There will be classes on interesting topics—without quizzes.
3. Bagpipes
4. You'll fit right in with the other interesting Mac alums.
5. Summertime in Minnesota is beautiful. (It won't rain.)
6. You can show your ex-boy/girlfriend how happy you are now.
7. Real hugs, real people (you can't hug on Facebook!)
8. Reunion is the closest thing to time travel you'll ever do.
9. Golf cart rides (no, you cannot drive)
10. It's practically free!

As I write this, snow is still covering the ground, but we are already preparing for June. You need to prepare as well. Call, text, write, or Facebook message your friends. Make a plan to reunite, then go online to register—for free.

Don't worry about what to wear, don't fret about those extra pounds, those smile lines, or that receding hairline—nobody cares. Life is short and loss too frequent along the way. Our time together is precious, so don't pass up this chance to reconnect with old friends. Come back with an open heart and an open mind. Just come home. 



# In Memoriam

**1937**

**Audrey Rude Kroning**, 98, of Naples, Fla., died Feb. 2, 2015. She is survived by two daughters, two grandchildren, and a great-grandchild.

**1938**

**Ruth Fritz Amdahl**, 99, died Jan. 23, 2015. She was a medical librarian at Park Nicollet Medical Center for 13 years. Mrs. Amdahl is survived by two daughters, a son, and three grandchildren.

**1940**

**Mary Tripp Chenoweth**, 96, died Jan. 5, 2015. She was an X-ray and laboratory technician and taught X-ray technology at Prince George's Community College for 20 years. Mrs. Chenoweth also volunteered with such organizations as the Camp Fire Girls, Head Start, and Meals on Wheels. She is survived by two daughters, a son, seven grandchildren, and sister **Francis Tripp Bell '39**.

**1941**

**Dorothy K. Clark**, 95, died Nov. 22, 2014, in Lakewood, Colo. She was a youth director for the YWCA. Mrs. Clark is survived by two sons.

**1942**

**Carol Strane Cross**, 94, of St. Paul died Feb. 12, 2015. She was a kindergarten and special education teacher and a foster mother to 30 infants. Mrs. Cross is survived by daughters **Nancy Cross Paxson '70** and **Marilyn Cross Shepard '70**, a son, four grandchildren, a great-grandson, and a sister.

**Mary Crum Smith**, 93, died Oct. 19, 2014, in Ketchikan, Alaska. She was a reporter for the *Alaska Daily Fishing News*, worked with *Alaska Sportsman* magazine, and troll-fished commercially. After 27 years with the Ketchikan City Library, Mrs. Smith retired in 1987 as head librarian. She is survived by a daughter, two sons, eight grandchildren, and numerous great-grandchildren.

**1943**

**Donna Becker Johnson**, 93, of Roseville, Minn., died Feb. 4, 2015. She worked as a medical technologist at Miller Hospital. Mrs. Johnson is survived by two daughters, a son, four grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

**1945**

**James V. Jensen**, 91, died Jan. 31, 2015, in St. Paul. A U.S. Army veteran, Mr. Jensen served during World War II and the Korean War. He worked for many years as a manufacturing manager for Honeywell at several locations in the U.S. and Europe, retiring as vice president of manufacturing in 1989. He also competed in the sport of curling in the U.S., Canada, and Scotland. Mr. Jensen is survived by two daughters, three grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and two brothers.

**1946**

**Elizabeth Espeland Abdella**, 91, of Roseville, Minn., died March

5, 2015. She was a private voice instructor, a vocal coach for local theater productions, a singer with the Dale Warland Chorale, an organist and choir director, and a substitute teacher for the Mounds View, Minn., School District. Mrs. Abdella is survived by a daughter, two sons, two grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and a sister.

**Joanne Smith Odasz**, 89, of Casper, Wyo., died Nov. 11, 2014. She worked as a medical technologist at Cody Hospital and organized the laboratory at the Family Practice Center in Casper. She painted watercolors inspired by her international travels and climbed Mount Whitney and Mount Sinai. Mrs. Odasz was the wife of Frank, the mother of five, grandmother of eight, and great-grandmother of one.

**1947**

**Gale W. Allen**, 91, of McLean, Va., died Jan. 5, 2015. He served as a lieutenant in the Navy during World War II and worked as an analyst with the CIA for 32 years. After retiring from the CIA in



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**AT A REUNION EVERYONE SHOWS UP OLDER  
AND GROWS YOUNG AGAIN**

**JUNE 5-7, 2015**



# In Memoriam

1980, Mr. Allen embarked on a second career as a wildfowl art and stamp dealer. He is survived by a daughter, two sons (including **Russell Allen '74**), five grandchildren, and a sister.

## 1948

**Lorrayne F. Anderson**, 90, of Minneapolis died Nov. 21, 2014. She worked in nutrition and dietetics at hospitals in St. Louis and Minnesota. She was also an elected officer in the Minnesota Dietetic Association and the Minneapolis branch of the American Association of University Women.

**Marvin C. Helling**, 91, of Englewood, Fla., died Nov. 30, 2014. During World War II, he served in the Navy as the commanding officer of a combat ship in the South Pacific. After teaching and coaching football at various schools in Minnesota, Mr. Helling was named head football coach at the University of North Dakota in 1957. During the next 10 years, he led the team to two bowl games and three North Central Conference championships. As associate director of the Minnesota High School League from 1972 to 1985, he helped develop a high school football playoff system and institute the Prep Bowl at the Metrodome. Mr. Helling is survived by his wife, **Marcia Hanson Helling '49**, a daughter, two sons, seven grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and a sister.

**Forrest J. "Jim" Near**, 87, of Wailea, Hawaii, died Oct. 12, 2014. He served as a Navy corpsman from 1945 to 1946. After moving to San Jose, Calif., in the 1950s, Mr. Near entered the real estate business and became president of Pyramid Homes in 1970. He also served as president of the Home Builders Association. Mr. Near is survived by his wife, Patricia, four children, 11 grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

## 1949

**Stephen B. Conger**, 91, of Naples, Fla., died May 27, 2014. He was a Navy pilot during World War II and taught art in the St. Paul Schools for 33 years. He retired in 1980 as art supervisor. Mr. Conger is survived by his wife, Claire, and sister **Betty Conger Summa '45**.

**Elroy J. Flaten**, 85, of Atwater, Minn., died July 24, 2014. He served in the Army at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal and worked for the 3M Company for 32 years, retiring in 1988. Mr. Flaten is survived by his wife, Marge, four daughters, four grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, a sister, and brother **Leo Flaten '50**.

**Fern Olson Merrill**, 87, of Mankato, Minn., died Dec. 18, 2014. After teaching classes in accounting, typing, and shorthand at Westbrook High School, she became a full-time homemaker. Mrs. Merrill is survived by two daughters, six grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and a brother.

## 1950

**Walter P. Keller**, 88, died Jan. 22, 2015, in Kyle, Texas. He served in the Navy during World War II and was a mechanical engineer with Amoco Corporation. Mr. Keller is survived by a son and four grandchildren.

**L. Gerald Rafferty**, 91, of Fargo, N.D., died Feb. 9, 2015. He served in the Navy during World War II and worked as a sportswriter, outdoor writer, wire editor, and Sunday editor for the *Fargo Forum* for many years, retiring in 1986. Mr. Rafferty was inducted into the North Dakota Fishing Hall of Fame in 1983. He is survived by two daughters, a son, eight grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

## 1951

**Margaret Frese De Osuna**, 85, died recently. She was a real-estate broker and cofounder of De Osuna Realty. Mrs. De Osuna is survived by five children and 11 grandchildren.

**William P. Gerberding**, 85, died Dec. 27, 2014. He was an officer in the Navy during the Korean War. After serving as a Congressional Fellow with the American Political Science Association and working for Colgate University and a House of Representatives committee, Mr. Gerberding joined the political science faculty at the University of California and eventually became chair of the department. He then served as dean of faculty at Occidental College, executive vice chancellor at UCLA, and chancellor at the University of Illinois at

Urbana-Champaign. He retired in 1995 after 16 years as president of the University of Washington. Mr. Gerberding is survived by his wife, **Ruth Albrecht Gerberding '53**, a daughter, three sons, and four grandchildren.

**Arthur S. Nichols**, 85, died April 14, 2014. He taught art history and social studies at Los Alamos High School in the 1950s and 1960s. Mr. Nichols then earned a PhD in education at the University of Washington and became a professor of elementary education at the University of California-Northridge. He retired from Los Alamos National Laboratory as a technical writer and group leader. Mr. Nichols is survived by three daughters, two sons, seven grandchildren, and a sister.

**Dorothy Mackey Pyle**, 85, of Grand Rapids, Mich., died Nov. 15, 2014. She worked as a secretary at Old Kent Bank for 25 years. Mrs. Pyle is survived by two daughters, a son, three granddaughters, and a sister.

## 1952

**William Driver**, 86, of Plymouth, Minn., died Dec. 16, 2014. He taught in Kenyon, Minn., for four years and in Robbinsdale, Minn., for 34 years. Mr. Driver is survived by his wife, Louise, five sons, 13 grandchildren, two sisters, and a brother.

**Donna Squires Etchart**, 85, died Jan. 23, 2015, in Glasgow, Mont. She is survived by her husband, Mitchel, three daughters, a son, 12 grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

## 1953

**G. William Blankley**, 81, of Auburn, Ala., died July 11, 2012. He taught Osher Lifelong Learning Institute classes for senior citizens. Mr. Blankley is survived by his wife, Joy Bowden, a daughter, a son, two grandchildren, a great-grandchild, and a brother.

**William E. Boyd**, 82, of Cincinnati died Jan. 25, 2015. After serving in the U.S. Army in Korea, he spent a year teaching in Macalester's department of speech and theater. In 1960 he started a career with the State Department, serving in U.S. embassies throughout Europe.

Mr. Boyd is survived by his wife, Carol, and a daughter.

**John R. Flynn**, 83, died recently. He was an administrator with the Minneapolis Public Schools and an ESL volunteer. He is survived by his wife, Hilde, a daughter, a son, and sister **Shirley Flynn Johnson '51**.

**Judith Black Jacobs**, 84, died Jan. 2, 2015. She worked in Christian education, early childhood education, and music sales. Mrs. Jacobs is survived by a daughter, two sons, and three granddaughters.

**Clinton C. Johnson**, 87, died Dec. 7, 2014. He served for 32 years with the U.S. Air Force Reserve as a dentist, oral pathologist, and consultant to the Air Force Surgeon General. He was also a pathologist with the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology and chief of Veterans Administration Dental Services in Buffalo, N.Y., Lubbock, Texas, and Dallas. Mr. Johnson is survived by his wife, Julia, three daughters, two sons, 11 grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

## 1954

**Patricia Hallett Benson**, 82, died Jan. 22, 2015. She was the bookkeeper for her husband's dental practice and a medical secretary for the Mayo Clinic Department of Family Medicine from 1982 to 1994. Mrs. Benson is survived by a daughter, a son, four grandchildren, a sister, and a brother.

**Dennis P. Bolstad**, 89, died Feb. 13, 2015, in Northfield, Minn. He served in the Navy in the South Pacific during World War II. He taught high school English and history in Mahtomedi, Minn., and served as a high school principal in Lake Benton, Minn. He later taught psychology, philosophy, and education courses at the University of Wisconsin-Stout. Mr. Bolstad is survived by his wife, Marie, a daughter, four sons (including **Rolf Bolstad '76**), seven grandchildren, and a sister.

**Stanley G. West**, 82, of the Twin Cities died Jan. 21, 2015. He served as a Lutheran pastor at parishes in Minnesota, Illinois, and Montana. Mr. West also served as director of Christikon Youth Camp for seven years. He was the



author of seven books, including *Amos*, which was made into a film in 1985, and *Until They Bring the Streetcars Back*, which is currently being adapted as a film. Mr. West is survived by five daughters, 12 grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

## 1955

**Alton B. "Tom" Tomlinson**, 83, died Dec. 16, 2014. He served as a Navy pilot during the Korean War. During his 36 years with IBM, Mr. Tomlinson rose from typewriter sales to the executive ranks in Princeton, N.J. He was also Walter Matthau's stand-in on the film *IQ* and worked as a motivational speaker for various companies and industry associations, as well as the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Mr. Tomlinson is survived by two daughters, a son, six grandchildren, a great-grandson, a sister, and brother **Leon Tomlinson '50**.

## 1956

**Charles D. Jesten**, 80, of Coatesville, Pa., died Jan. 7, 2015. He taught Spanish for the Coatesville Area School District for 39 years and served 25 years as head of the district's foreign language department. Mr. Jesten is survived by his wife, Gail, a daughter, a son, three grandchildren, and sister **Barbara Jesten Hope '52**.

## 1959

**Evalyn Vigil McCoy**, 78, of Oak Park, Ill., died March 7, 2015. She is survived by her husband, Jim, a daughter, a son, two grandchildren, and sister **Marilyn Vigil '64**.

**David C. Smith**, 81, of St. Paul died Dec. 4, 2014. He was an administrator at Honeywell for 33 years. Mr. Smith is survived by his wife, **Sandra Heaseman Smith '59**, a daughter, five grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, two sisters, and a brother.

**Allan H. Taylor**, 83, died Dec. 3, 2014. He worked for the U.S. Forest Service in Minnesota, Alaska, and Louisiana. Mr. Taylor is survived by his wife, **Emily Clark Taylor '60**, a daughter, two sons (including **Trenton Osborne '92**), and two grandsons.

## 1960

**Loren F. Seeley**, 80, of Victoria, Minn., died Nov. 24, 2014. He served in the Army from 1951 to 1953, invested in the stock market, and worked in real estate and home construction remodeling. Mr. Seeley is survived by his wife, Frayne, a daughter, a son, two grandchildren, and a sister.

## 1961

**Katherine Dennis Camp**, 74, died Oct. 5, 2012. She is survived by two daughters, a son, five grandchildren, two great-grandsons, and a sister.

**Robert L. Eggerichs**, 74, of New Richmond, Wis., died June 25, 2014. He is survived by two daughters, two sons, 13 grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

## 1963

**Thorkell Valdimarsson** died Jan. 27, 2014, in Reykjavik, Iceland. Survivors include a son.

## 1965

**Lloyd A. Heroff**, 71, of Pelican Rapids, Minn., died Jan. 3, 2015. He was drafted into the Navy in 1965 and served off the coast of Vietnam and in Spain. After working as an adolescent counselor and a junior high English teacher and coach, Mr. Heroff earned a master of divinity degree from Luther Seminary in 1976. He then served as a pastor for churches in Minnesota, North Dakota, and Illinois. Mr. Heroff is survived by his wife, **Doris Pyle Heroff '67**, and a son.

## 1968

**Lisa T. Lake**, 66, of Minneapolis died April 20, 2012. She was a published author and poet. Ms. Lake is survived by a son, two grandchildren, and four siblings.

## 1969

**Janis Shepard McCleery**, 68, died Dec. 13, 2014. She is survived by her husband, David, two daughters, a granddaughter, two sisters, and a brother.

**Charles P. Mickelson**, 67, of Athens, Ohio, died Feb. 17, 2015. He served for two years with the Peace Corps in the Philippines. Mr.

Mickelson joined the faculty of Ohio University as a lecturer in the Ohio Program of Intensive English in 1973 and served as director of the program for 22 years. He pioneered the use of technology in the teaching of English as a second language and established ESL programs in Japan. Mr. Mickelson is survived by his wife, Joan, two daughters, a son, seven grandchildren, sisters **Joyce Mickelson Nelson '60** and **Karen Mickelson Caine '63**, and brother **Peter Mickelson '67**.

**John Gunderson Skogmo**, 67, of Minneapolis, died April 4, 2015. John, who was an emeritus trustee of Macalester, earned a law degree from the University of Minnesota in 1972. He spent his entire career at Wells Fargo, previously Norwest and Northwestern National Bank, for most of those years working in the wealth management department. Besides helping reinvigorate Macalester's Annual Fund, he also volunteered for Artspace, Friends of the Minneapolis Public Library, and Westminster Presbyterian Church, and was a member of the Minneapolis Community Development Agency. He is survived by his husband, Tom Morin, a sister, a niece, a nephew, and two half brothers.

## 1970

**Bruce A. Madsen**, 66, of Mendota Heights, Minn., died Feb. 1, 2015. He was a graduate of the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry. Mr. Madsen is survived by his wife, Mary, three children, two granddaughters, his father, and a sister.

**Margaret Folendorf Penn**, 66, of Bismarck, N.D., died Dec. 6, 2014. She worked for 10 years at the Red Schoolhouse, an alternative Native American school in St. Paul. She later worked at United Tribes as a program management specialist for a federal and technical assistance program. After graduating from law school at the University of Colorado in Boulder, Mrs. Penn joined Leventhal and Associates, a St. Paul firm specializing in Indian law. She is survived by a sister and two brothers.

## 1972

**David F. Dreis**, 64, of Seattle died Jan. 26, 2015. He practiced as a physician for nearly 35 years at Virginia Mason Hospital and Medical Center, where he served as associate director of respiratory care and chief of medicine. Dr. Dreis also served as president of the American Lung Association's Washington state chapter. He is survived by his wife, Ann, a daughter, a son, and a sister.

## 1973

**David M. Herron**, 63, of Vadnais Heights, Minn., died Nov. 26, 2014. He worked in the information technology industry in the Twin Cities for many years. Mr. Herron is survived by his wife, **Deirdre Vaughan Herron '72**, two daughters, a sister, and a brother.

## 1974

**Barbara R. Candy**, 63, died Jan. 9, 2015. She worked in fundraising for politicians of both parties and helped nonprofit organizations advance causes she cared about. Mrs. Candy is survived by her husband, **Chuck Pruitt '75**, daughter **Reilly Pruitt '08**, a son, and two grandsons.

**Albert L. "Larry" Latimer**, 63, of Woodbury, Minn., died Jan. 4, 2015. He is survived by his wife, **Vivian Tanniehill '74**, two daughters, four grandchildren, and five siblings.

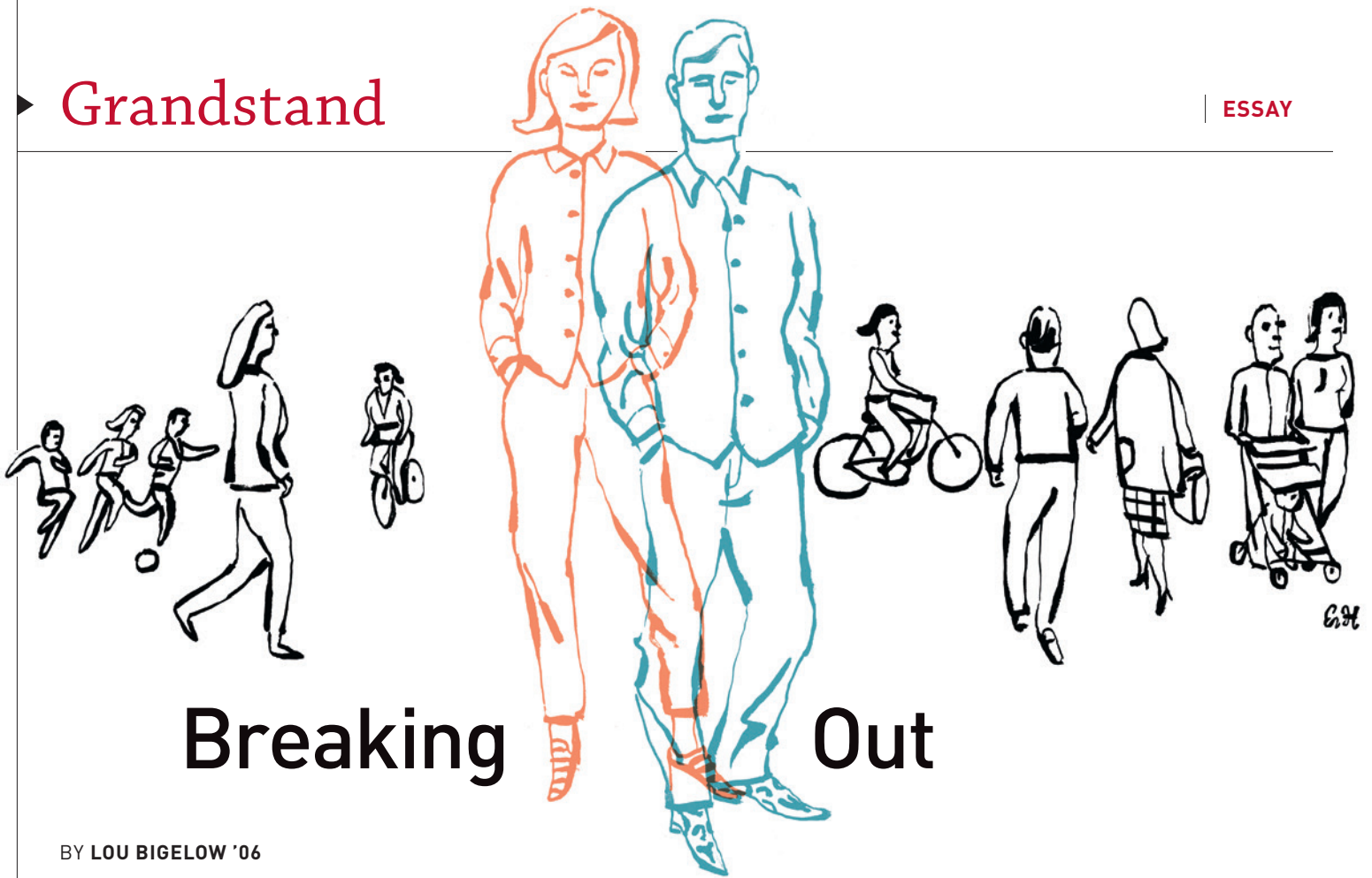
## 1982

**Bradley R. Becker**, 54, of Minneapolis died Jan. 18, 2015. He is survived by his parents, two brothers, and special friend Liz Richards.

## 1984

**Robert J. Bunger**, 54, of Milaca, Minn., died Dec. 20, 2014. He worked for Bob Bunger's Better Bunnies, the University of Minnesota Foundation, First National Bank of Milaca, and Princeton Bank. He also held political staff positions. He was a cofounder of HBH Consultants and a principal with the firm for 17 years. Mr. Bunger is survived by his wife, Marsha, a daughter, a son, his parents, and a brother.





## Breaking Out

BY LOU BIGELOW '06

**I**t's prom night, spring of 2002. I shave my legs for the third time ever and wear a decent black dress I found that's not too frilly. Hair's out of the ponytail and cascading down my neck. We had a soccer game this afternoon, so all my teammates are getting ready together. Someone puts a little makeup on me, and I say, "Not too much." My boyfriend shows up all sweet and nice, even though I'm about to spend the whole night trying to avoid him. I take the prom pictures along with everyone else, playing a part in someone else's movie. I've got a second skin on that dulls the void between the part I'm playing and what's genuinely inside me. I'm trying my best to make it work, but it's only a matter of time before this box shatters and my infinite light shines through the cracks.

Afraid of the unknown, of what people will think, of our infinite greatness, we spend huge chunks of our lives in small boxes, hiding from that piece of truth buried deep inside. But what happens if we find the courage to listen to that inner voice and break out? If that voice tells us to tear down the walls, and helps us see the light outside? Sometimes we can let go of these boxes with grace, often they crash or smash open, with tears and explosions. Sometimes we have to dive right into the fire to clear out space for our deeper Self to rise up.

I wore the female box for most of my life, but a few years ago, those walls started falling down. In moments of stillness, I could hear a deeper voice inside me shouting to me, getting louder and louder, screaming for me to listen until I couldn't avoid it any more. It told me to question my body, to question my clothes, to question how I was relating to my then-partner, my family, my coworkers. It told me to question my gender and the whole idea of gender. That voice grew until its painful sound took over my whole stomach, like lightning coming to destroy the walls around me. It struck down my box with flames and burned up my nice little world of order and familiarity. It challenged me to rise up, break out, and join with that powerful force that created me. It was the voice of truth.

I see scars on my chest now. Two upside down T's across my chest. I take my testosterone shots and listen to my voice change. Watch my muscles slowly grow—I can now do seven pull-ups instead of just one. Watch the hair slowly grow on my face. Two, four, six, hairs now on my chest. Watch my emotions stabilize slightly, watch the tears come more slowly. Watch the calm spread.

I can feel the calm coming from deep within. Having removed some of the layers between, my connection to Self is stronger. I can feel the connection as an airy sensation inside my chest, expanding slowly through breath. Breathe in, breathe out, feel the air inside connecting me to everything outside.

These changes to my body are symbols of a deeper shift within. They prove to me that my soul has the power to change this physical world we see as all-powerful. But our souls are bigger than these boxes would have us believe. We're bigger than our bodies, bigger than any role we play. Deep down, each one of us carries the power of nature and the universe beyond.

As these walls drop, the barriers between me and other people disappear, too. The closer I get to my genuine nature, the more I can feel it in everyone else. That space outside the roles we play is where we all come together as one, with the same needs, the same desires, the same potential.

I believe that breaking out of our boxes gives us a taste of the infinite. When I faced the fear and finally let go, I found the universe holding me, carrying me through every moment. No matter what boxes we're breaking out of or what unknown we're entering, that space outside is the same for all of us. In this courageous vulnerability, we touch the infinite. **M**

**LOU BIGELOW '06** has spent the last few years living at a yoga and meditation center. He does his best to be open to the wildness of the present moment.



# Count me in!



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