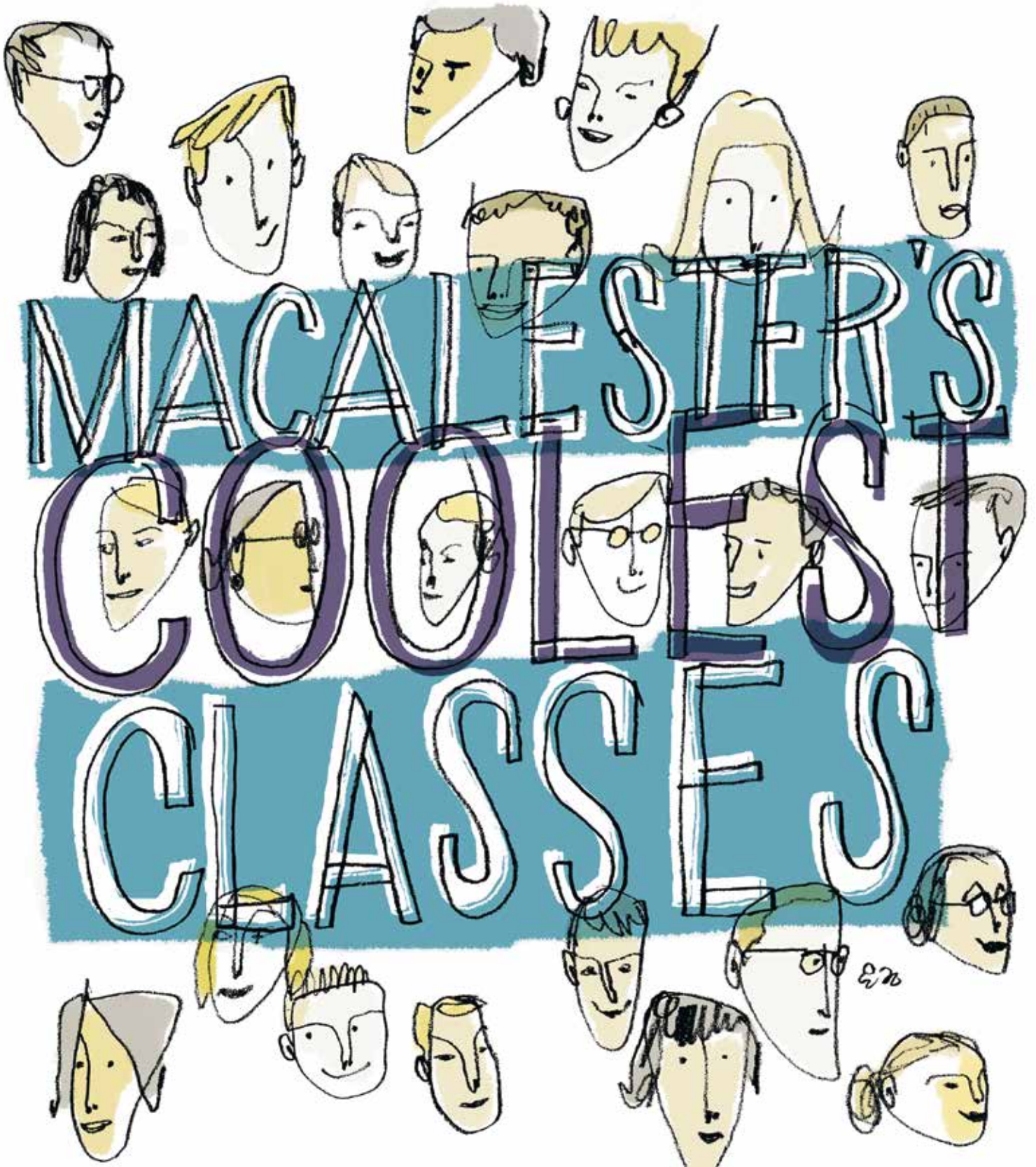


# Macalester Today

SUMMER 2015



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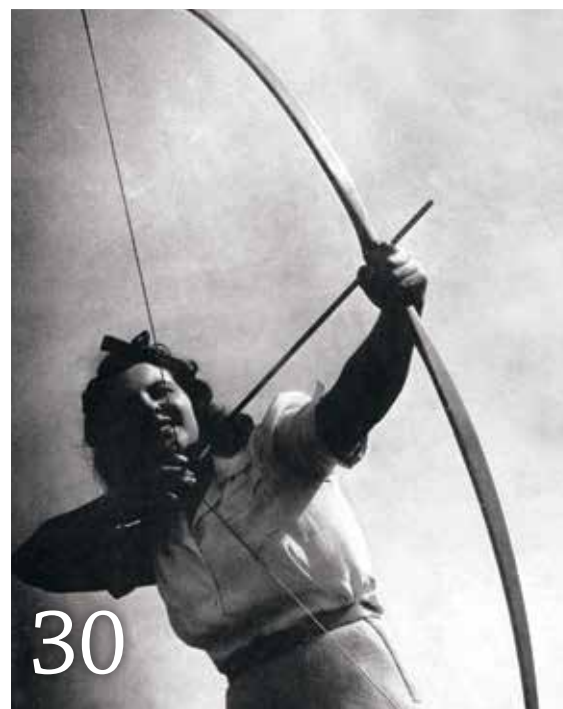
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# Letters

## Farm Strong

I read about **Alex McKiernan '02** in *Macalester Today* and he looks to me like “a hell of a guy.”

About a million years ago, I grew up in a small town in southwestern Minnesota. For two summers in the mid-forties, I rented myself to a local farmer for \$1 a day, with a boost in compensation, my second year, to \$1.50 a day.

I learned about and loved the life on the farm—did everything. Although it was not a new conclusion for

me, it reinforced the notion that if this country had more self-sufficient “small” farmers, thousands of people would be well served. The values, the work habits, the friendship support, the neighborliness, and the thrill of the harvest helped to build my life’s platform.

**Charlie Herrmann '50**  
Owatonna, Minn.

## Kudos for ‘Consent is Mac’

Thank you for running an article on the issue of sexual violence that is plaguing our campuses (“Consent is Mac,” Winter 2015). I am heartened to know that Macalester is taking a proactive approach. We didn’t have healthy sexuality as part of a mandatory discussion. It’s good to see the progress taking place since I went to school there!

**Heather Crawford '00**  
Forest Knolls, Calif.

## No More “Christian Soldiers”

I am not going to take the time to list ALL of the things I loved about *Macalester Today*, Spring 2015. I will mention my absolute favorite was the article about **Kristine Holmgren, '75** (“The Holmgren Chronicles”).

I loved it that she won’t sing sexist hymns because it reminds me that back in 1962, I decided that I could no longer attend my childhood Presbyterian church when they wanted me to sing “Onward Christian Soldiers.” I just thought that I could not reconcile being a soldier and a Christian. While at Macalester, I attended the University Friends Meeting in Minneapolis, with the Mulford Q. Sibley family, and was deeply influenced by the

Friends’ teaching on war and its effects on human beings.

**Cheryl Gustafson Banks '59**  
Seattle, Wash.

## The Power of Pen Pals

The story about the new “Letters at Mac” program (“The Lost Art,” Spring 2015) made me smile! A recent remark on Facebook (fie, you bane of letter-writing!) led to my mentioning that my 4th-grade grandson had a pen pal who is a college freshman and I had a pen pal who is also a college freshman, a young woman who for years has been my “mother’s little helper” for outings with my grandchildren. That led me to think about two Facebook friends, both recent widows. And lap dog lovers. And both had lived in Minnesota at one time (one being a dorm mate of mine in Turck Hall when I briefly attended Macalester). I pondered if they might appreciate a pen pal relationship themselves. Yes! They are now finding out more things they have in common—and looking forward to what the traditional mail delivery might bring.

**Victoria Johns Bartlett '68**  
Houston, Texas

## A Few Comments

Permit me to offer a few comments on the Spring 2015 issue. Regarding “Failing at Failure” (Household Words), “Incentivized”? Seriously?

Regarding reviving “The Lost Art” of 19th century letter writing? As distinct from the letter writing of earlier centuries? Or that of the 20th, which some people (GASP!!) still carry on in the 21st?

And, regarding “Breaking Out” by **Lou Bigelow '06** (Grandstand): *Exquisite*, Mr. Bigelow—whatever the box.

**Brooke Manley '71**  
St. Paul, Minn.

### 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.

# Sweet TWEETS

**Today at Mac:** The Turck Formal Lounge will be renamed in honor of @SoundsOfBlackness #heymac

**Congratulations** @MarlonJames5! He’s our 2015 @AnisfieldWolf fiction winner for “A Brief History of Seven Killings.”

.@wbezworldview interviewed Macalester professor **Ahmed Samatar** regarding the #GarissaAttack in Kenya

**Last week snow**, this week outdoor studying. #heymac #notcomplaining @Macalester College

Congratulations, **Logan Hovie '16!** Repost from mactrackandfield: Logan’s 2.07m (6 feet 9.5 inches)

**Elissa Harbert** @KyrieElissa  
My students @Macalester helped me (and each other) gain a real appreciation for Tupac last semester. Happy birthday Tupac! #youareappreciated

**Betty McCollum** @BettyMcCollum04  
It was great to run into some @Macalester students last night at the Congressional Baseball Game here in Washington.

**Macalester Alumni** @macalumni  
Check out our Reunion Picnic Photobooth pics thanks to @snapyourself!

**Courtney Jones** @DktrJones  
Thanks #macreunion for the good times & the chance to see much missed friends. See you all again soon! #heymac

**Josh Ortiz** @joshortiz  
Read @Twins star @TPlouffe24 loves @commonroots. W/ @surlybrewing, 2 of his fav spots are @Macalester grad owned. Great taste Trevor #heymacff

**For more tweets and photos visit Mac Social at [macalester.edu/macsocial](http://macalester.edu/macsocial)**



# Moats and Bridges

BY BRIAN ROSENBERG

*President Brian Rosenberg delivered the following remarks to the members of the Class of 2015 at their May 16th Commencement.*

To the Class of 2015: your generation doesn't yet have a name.

Before you, there were the Baby Boomers and the Post-Boomers, Generation X and the Millennials. Whoever decides these things seems to have concluded that you are no longer the Millennials, but has not yet settled on precisely who you are.

A term that seems to be gaining some popularity is the "Moat Generation," which, I think you'll agree, doesn't sound very good—unless you're an alternative rock band, in which case it's a pretty cool name. The earliest reference to the term that I have been able to find is in an essay by an author named Donald Asher, though its use is becoming more widespread, and it is surely only a matter of time before it becomes a hand-wringing cover story in the Education Life section of *The New York Times*.

The logic goes like this: Thanks in part to having grown up in an era of intense partisanship, and thanks in part to having been immersed for years in the echo-chamber of social media, you have been able to live in, to create, a world in which you are surrounded only by the like-minded, and to lock out or silence voices and views that challenge your own. Thanks to having come of age in the years following the Great Recession, you are more worried about economic security and less concerned with service to others than was the previous generation. You aspire to create a barrier, a moat, behind which you can live in ideological purity and physical comfort.

I don't accept this characterization, but neither do I think it should be casually dismissed. Social media in particular, in my admittedly old-fashioned view, have made it dangerously easy to find confirmation for any point of view, to create virtual communities that are frighteningly homogeneous, and to vilify, often anonymously, those with whom one disagrees. Documentary filmmaker Adam Curtis has written that the Internet, rather counter-intuitively, "locks people off in the world they started with and prevents them from finding out anything different. They [get]

further and declare myself PBR, the Lord of Winterfell, but I will resist.). Your Macalester years should have been the means through which you have crossed your moat and connected intellectually and emotionally with the rest of our diverse, vexed, and infinitely complex planet. They should have taught you the dangers of walling oneself off from perspectives unlike your own and the deep challenge, and rich joy, of seeing the world through the eyes of another. They should have taught you the stubborn pervasiveness of ambiguity and the wisdom that can be born out of the sharp, passionate clash of conflicting ideas.

I could say that I *hope* you carry these lessons with you for the rest of your lives, but that would be something of a misstatement. I am convinced that you will do so, not because I am an optimist, but because I have seen firsthand, through interaction with generation after generation of Macalester graduates, that this is the case. They live lives, you will live lives, of service and exploration, of curiosity and connection. They realize that individual success is most likely and most meaningful when communities are most equitable and caring. They don't build moats. They build bridges. They tear down walls.

So the next time someone tries to tell you that you are a Millennial or a Post-Millennial or a Moat Person, disagree, politely, and tell them no, *I am a graduate of Macalester College*—I am a graduate of Macalester College—and that defines me more profoundly than any superficial generational label.

Best wishes to you all, and thank you for the many ways in which you have contributed to this community during the past four years. ■

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

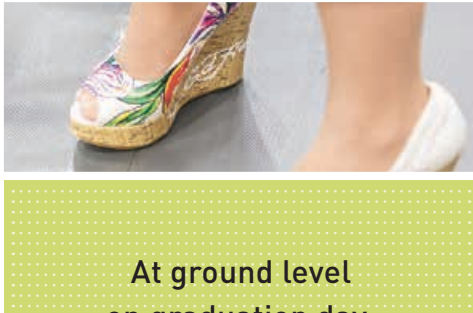


**President Brian Rosenberg offered congratulations to members of the Class of 2015 in May.**

trapped in [a] system of feedback reinforcement. The idea that there is another world of other people who have other ideas is marginalized in our lives." Blogs, Facebook pages, and Twitter feeds sometimes strike me as the contemporary equivalent of the castles that dotted the medieval European landscape, each perched on its own hill, battlements raised against any invasion by some alien army of dissenters.

Yet if you are in fact the Moat Generation, I choose to think of Macalester as the drawbridge. (I could carry this metaphor even

## PUMPS AND CIRCUMSTANCE



At ground level  
on graduation day,  
**FASHION FORWARD  
FOOTWEAR**  
was trending  
for the Class of '15.



### PARTING WORDS

A decade of Macalester  
Commencement speakers....

- Walter Mondale, 2015
- Paul Farmer, 2014
- Jeffrey Toobin, 2013
- Jack Weatherford, 2012
- Lois Quam '83, 2011
- Michael J. Davis '69, 2010
- Tonderai Chikuhwa '96, 2009
- Peter Berg '84, 2008
- Marian Wright Edelman, 2007
- Aaron Brown, 2006







## DONNA LEE, MAC'S NEW VP FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS

**Donna A. Lee** is about to begin her new role as vice president for Student Affairs at Macalester College, a position held for the last 14 years by Laurie Hamre, who retired in June. Lee is the former vice president for Student Life and dean of students at Agnes Scott College, a private liberal arts college for women in metropolitan Atlanta. She started her career in student affairs in 1996 at Florida's Rollins College, after serving nine years in the military, earning the rank of captain.

"I joined the military as a means to an end—to pay for college," says Lee, a native New Yorker who received a BA from the University of Tampa and an MEd in counseling from Boston University. "But it also allowed me to experiment with a style of leadership that I still have now, which is about empowering people to use their gifts and ending up with a stronger product. I think my role is in creating spaces where people can bring their best selves, creating structures where they can flourish, and even breaking down structures so they can flourish."

At Macalester, Lee will serve on the President's senior leadership team and oversee the division of Student Affairs including the Dean's Office, Athletics and Recreational Sports, the Campus Center and Conferences, Campus Activities and Operations, Residential Life, Career Development, the Center for Religious and Spiritual Life, Disability Services, Forensics, the Health and Wellness Center, International Student Programs, and the Department of Multicultural Life.

"One thing that drew me to Macalester is there's a clear sense that Student Affairs needs to be at the table in any of those strategic conversations about what it takes to help students thrive," says Lee, who met with a group of student leaders last spring as the college began its search process for a new VP. "It was a diverse group, but you could tell there was a real community here of students who wanted to go out in the world and make a difference. You could feel the energy."

## What Now, Class of 2015?

WITHOUT NAMING NAMES, here's where some of this year's graduates are off to make their mark in the world.

Many grads will head back to the classroom, this time at the front of the room. At least three will be teaching domestically with Teach for America, and others will be Fulbright English teaching assistants in Senegal, Malaysia, Germany, and Brazil. Other Fulbrighters will conduct research in Kuwait and, with a Fulbright-Schuman European Union grant, in Malta, Italy and Greece.

New grads are also headed to graduate school at Brown University, the American Museum of Natural History, Miami University of Ohio, the universities of Chicago, Washington, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania. Their areas of study span veterinary medicine, dentistry,

student affairs, medicinal chemistry, earth science education, nursing, human development counseling, public health, and physical therapy. One grad is going to London to study dance; another is headed to the Disney College Program; many more expect to spend a gap year working before heading back to the books.

Grads from 2015 will serve in the Peace Corps in Peru and Ethiopia, with Lutheran Volunteer Corps, with Jesuit Volunteer Corps, and as Humanity in Action Fellows.

Still other grads will be working for 3M, Bank of Japan, Children's Hospital, Dow, Ernst & Young, First Universalist Church, Metropolitan Council, National Geographic, Proctor & Gamble, Target, Thomson Reuters, and an array of prominent consulting firms.



# BIG FINNISH

BY ELIZA RAMSEY '17

**H**IS CAREER as a Scot may have come to a close, but the football career of former Mac quarterback **Samson Bialostok '15** recently took an international turn. Two days after graduating from Macalester in May, the Long Island native caught a flight to Finland to play for the Tampere Saints this summer.

The city is a two-hour drive north of the capital, Helsinki, where hockey and soccer

are the dominant sports. “Part of my job there is coaching a men’s junior team and a women’s junior team,” says Bialostok, who majored in economics and Chinese. “We’re just trying to spread the word about American football. Right now, it’s in the development stage for sure, but it’s growing and they have a lot of youth leagues.”

During his senior season as quarterback for the Scots, Bialostok racked up 1,948 passing yards with 12 touchdowns, gaining another 882 yards and 13 touchdowns on the ground. His efforts and leadership were key in the team’s historic run to the NCAA playoffs and the first conference championship in 67 years. A November win against St. Norbert College, in which Bialostok ran for 113 yards and two touchdowns with another touchdown and 122 yards through the air, caught the attention of St. Norbert’s coach, who has ties to the American Football Association of Finland.

“It’s his ability and reputation as a football player that got him this opportunity,” says Macalester head football coach Tony Jennison. “You can see [in him] a really high-level athlete who makes dominating plays and wills his team to victory.”

Intrigued by the possibility of playing football overseas, Bialostok pursued Tampere’s coach to learn more. “I like experiencing new cultures and it was a chance to play,” he says. “I figured Finland is a place that I would never, ever, ever think of going to, so it worked out that it caught my interest.”

Since his Finnish coaches had only seen him on film, Bialostok relied on his Macalester coaches to build a workout and conditioning regimen to keep him in shape until he joined the Tampere team at mid-season. Though he expected a steep learning curve when he landed in Scandinavia, Bialostok was also looking forward to exploring Finland in his free time: “I hear the food is great, the environment is beautiful, and we can see the Northern lights at night.”

In between games, Bialostok also plans to continue his Chinese studies and line up job interviews for his return to the United States in the fall. One accomplishment he’d love to add to his resume: “It would be cool to win a Finnish championship. Those are two words I would never have put together normally in football.”



PHOTO: CHRISTOPHER MITCHELL



CLASS OF 2019\*

602 Members

Admit rate 39%

66% Top 10 percent of high school class

States represented 45

Top 5 states represented: MN, CA, IL, WI, MA

54 Countries Represented 18% International students

24% of U.S. students are students of color

\* As of June 9, 2015

## A New Role for Karla Benson Rutten



KARLA BENSON RUTTEN has been named Title IX coordinator and director of equity, a new position developed to respond to increasing awareness and concern about the prevention and response to sexual violence and other civil rights issues on college campuses. Benson Rutten, who has served Macalester as the director of the Lealtad-Suzuki Center in the Department of Multicultural Life since 2002, will oversee and implement policies and initiatives associated with Title IX. She will also provide leadership and work with Macalester community members on education and concerns related to discrimination, educational equity, affirmative action, and the promotion of diversity and inclusion.

sponse to sexual violence and other civil rights issues on college campuses. Benson Rutten, who has served Macalester as the director of the Lealtad-Suzuki Center in the Department of Multicultural Life since 2002, will oversee and implement policies and initiatives associated with Title IX. She will also provide leadership and work with Macalester community members on education and concerns related to discrimination, educational equity, affirmative action, and the promotion of diversity and inclusion.



## SENIOR ART SHOW

"CLICKBAIT" was the theme of the thesis exhibition of the 2015 senior art majors that opened May 1 at Macalester's Law Warschaw Gallery. The exhibition featured the work of **Avielle Suria Trenche '15** (Bayamon, Puerto Rico), **Cynthia Scott '15** (Kansas City, Mo.), **Joey Portanova '15** (Niles, Ill.), **Marlys Mandaville '15** (Seattle), and **Sam Landsberg '15** (Los Angeles).

# Summit to St. Clair

## CAMPUS NEWS SUMMARY

### ARCHIVAL OBJECT

## MEDIEVAL TEXTS

AT HER WORK STUDY JOB in the archives of the DeWitt Wallace Library, **Francesca Vescia '18** came across an unmarked portfolio that seemed out of place in a cabinet full of old ledgers and scrapbooks. She opened it to find more than 20 manuscript pages from the 12th through the 15th centuries—a discovery that tripled the archive's known collection of medieval documents. "I'd seen this kind of thing in a museum but never up close like this," Vescia says about the collection, which included this page from a 15th century German psalter. "All the librarians came up to see them. We were all nerding out."

Though no one knew the works were in Mac's collection, they definitely won't be disappearing again. Archivist **Ellen Holt-Werle '97** hopes to use them with classes that come to the Rare Books Room, or find a faculty member who might have students interested in researching them. She says, "We don't have any information about when or why these came to the library, or what they exactly are. If any alums out there know about these, we'd love to hear more."



Francesca Vescia '18



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF ELLEN HOLT-WERLE / MACALESTER ARCHIVES

## Award Winners at Mac

**Fulbright Awards:** Macalester graduating seniors **Eura Chang '15**, **Maggie Joyce '15**, **Cameron Kesinger '15**, and **Jordan Lim '15** received Fulbright English Teaching Assistant awards to work in Senegal, Germany, Brazil, and Malaysia respectively. **Anne Gavin '15** received a Schuman European Union research grant to spend three months each in Malta, Italy and Greece and **Irene Gibson '15** won a research grant to Kuwait. Alumna **Brittany Landorf '14** received an English Teaching Assistant award to work in Turkey.

**American Humanity in Action Fellows:** **Sarah Dillard '15**, **Emily Lawson '15**, **Luke Allen '14**, and **Camille Erickson '14** were four of the 43 American recipients of the 2015 American Humanity in Action Fellowship, joining students and recent graduates from universities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, the Netherlands, Poland, and Ukraine to participate in the Humanity in Action Fellowship in Amsterdam, Berlin, Copenhagen, Paris, and Warsaw from May 25 to June 28, 2015.

**Critical Language Scholars:** **Alysha Alloway '17**, **Fabian**

**Bean '17**, **Britta Dornfeld '15**, **Abigail Massell '18**, and **Jake Speirs '16** were awarded U.S. State Department Critical Language Scholarships (CLS) to study Arabic in Meknes, Morocco; Russian in Vladimir, Russia; Arabic in Madaba, Jordan; Arabic in Amman, Jordan; and Chinese in Beijing, China; respectively. They are five of 550 U.S. undergraduate and graduate students who received the scholarship in support of eight to ten weeks of intensive language institutes study of 13 CLS languages: Arabic, Azerbaijani, Bangla, Chinese, Hindi, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Persian, Punjabi, Russian, Turkish, and Urdu.

**The Native American Congressional Internship Program:** Graduating senior **Abaki Beck '15** was selected by the Udall Foundation as one of 12 Native American Congressional Interns for 2015. She will be interning in the office of Representative Betty McCollum, D-Minn. An American Studies major and Magna Cum Laude graduate, Beck is a citizen of the Blackfeet nation from Missoula, Montana.





## FROM THE **RED CARPET** TO THE **CRETACEOUS** PERIOD

HOLLYWOOD'S PORTRAYAL of female scientists leaves a lot to be desired—an opinion Kristi Curry Rogers, associate professor of vertebrate paleobiology, shared a few years ago at a celebration honoring her mentor Jack Horner, the world famous paleontologist. “I think the female characters should kick more butt,” she told a fellow party-goer, whom she later learned was Frank Marshall, part of the production team behind *Jurassic World*, the series’ latest dino disaster epic. When the movie wrapped, Marshall invited her and three of her geology students to see how it all turned out.

“I’m still trying to process that this whole experience actually happened,” says **Patrick Sullivan ’16**, who spent two action-packed days in Los Angeles with fellow geology majors **Zoe Kulik ’16**, **Anik Regan ’17**, and Curry Rogers. (Her husband, fellow Macalester paleontologist Ray Rogers, had to miss the opening to do research in Madagascar.) At the June 9 premiere, the

group watched the red carpet unfurl from Hollywood Boulevard into The Dolby Theater and Ballroom, and even met actor Chris Pratt, who jumped on stage to sing “Margaritaville” with Jimmy Buffett at the after party they attended. “I kept telling my students, this is like living someone else’s life. It was crazy,” says Curry Rogers, who was pleased to see that Bryce Dallas Howard’s character, though not a paleontologist, “kicked butt anyway.”

While in L.A., the Mac students also stopped at the La Brea Tar Pits, a preview of the two-week expedition they took in July to a dig site near the Upper Missouri Breaks National Monument in Montana, nearly 50 miles from the nearest paved road. “They’ll get to see both sides of the glamorous life of paleontology—camping outdoors, traveling by canoe, and not showering,” Curry Rogers says. Sullivan, for his part, was looking forward to the more spartan conditions. “If the choice is between red carpets and tar pits, I pick tar pits.”



# MAC REUNION 2015



PHOTOS BY DAVID J. TURNER





# BY THE NUMBERS

- 1,504 people attended 70 events in 72 hours
- 265 dorm rooms rented
- 50 student workers drove 16 golf carts and managed logistics on 62 radios
- 1,009 chicken breast dinners were consumed
- 163 volunteers planned events and helped raise the Reunion gift
- 121 Golden Scots medallions awarded
- 68 Silver Scots lapel pins awarded
- 43 water balloons launched at Mac the Scot, 1 was almost successful
- 1 Band-Aid distributed at the first aid tent
- 1 lightning strike within 10 miles at 11:30 p.m. and .5 inches of rain Saturday night
- 40% of the Class of 2010 came back to celebrate
- 75% of the Class of 1965 participated in their Reunion gift







## LOOKING AHEAD TO REUNION 2016 JUNE 3-5, 2016

### Milestone Years

1966  
1971  
1976  
1986  
1991  
1996  
2006  
2011

### Golden Scots

1951  
1956  
1961



WEB CONNECT:  
[macalester.edu/reunion](http://macalester.edu/reunion)







## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AWARDS

### 2015 Distinguished Citizens

Bob Kreischer '65  
Steve Marquardt '65  
Skye K. Richendrfer '80

### Young Alumni Award

Zachary Axelrod '06

### Charles J. Turck Global Citizen Award

James and Susan Graham '65

### Catharine Lealtad Service to Society Award

Shelley Carthen Watson '82

### Alumni Service Award

David Bloom '65

### M Club Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees

Liz Connors '00, cross country,  
track & field

Jennie Haire Johnson '96, soccer

Timothy Hultquist '72, golf

Blaine Kunze '87, football, baseball,  
track & field





# Made for

# TV

How **Sonia Kharkar '08** turned a childhood passion for sitcoms into a Hollywood career.



A devotee of '90s TV, Kharkar is working on a pilot of her own, inspired by relationships she's had and "insecurities I've felt along the way."



**Sonia Kharkar's passionate post-interview thank you note to Mindy Kaling (left) helped land her the job as showrunner's assistant.**



BY ELIZABETH FOY LARSEN

**A**ny parent who has ever worried that too much screen time will cripple a child's ambition should probably consider the career trajectory of **Sonia Kharkar '08**. At 29, the Shoreview, Minn., native is the showrunner's assistant—Hollywood speak for the boss's right hand—at *The Mindy Project*, a sitcom about a romantically frustrated OB-GYN and her eccentric coworkers created by and starring Mindy Kaling, the Emmy-nominated writer, actress, and producer who reached household name status when she starred in *The Office*.

Growing up, Kharkar was devoted to TV, although she probably couldn't tell you much about the plotlines of *SpongeBob SquarePants* or *Scooby-Doo*. "I watched everything my dad watched," says Kharkar, who lights up when describing evenings sitting on the floor in front of NBC's "Must See TV"—the Thursday lineup of 1990s megahits, including *Mad About You*, *Friends*, and *Seinfeld*. Her enthusiasm for Ross, Rachel, Chandler, and Phoebe was so heartfelt that she perfected her HTML and Photoshop skills to create an online *Friends* fan page.

In addition to providing family bonding time, Kharkar says those sitcoms showed her how to navigate the world she was growing up in. "Comedy and storytelling help you practice emotions that you don't always express," she says. "I was a shy kid and an only child. Watching those shows was like having a friend and living alongside those people."

At Macalester, Kharkar was an English major who also minored in media and cultural studies and psychology. She was on the staff of *Chanter*, the college's literary magazine, and took as many creative writing courses as she could fit into her schedule, studying with writers Alex Lemon, Steven Polansky, Stephen Burt, and Peter Bognanni, with whom she did an independent screenwriting study. "Macalester cemented my interest in creative writing and being around other writers," she says. "I loved those classes and the people who worked on *Chanter*. I wanted to soak up everything."

Graduating at the height of the recession, Kharkar used her experience from—wait for it—her *Friends* fan page to land a job as a web designer at Treefort, a Twin Cities website and app developer. She enjoyed the work, but missed writing. When Bognanni suggested she consider an MFA program, she applied and was accepted to the University of Southern California, where she started two years of full-time study in film and television writing in 2009.

Kharkar's parents, who emigrated from India before she was born, were extremely supportive of their daughter's decision to move to California. But they had their concerns, which Kharkar shared. "It was daunting," she says of her decision to enroll at USC and pursue a television writing career. "You are taking a big gamble on something that's fulfilling to you, but you aren't going to a school that has a practical application in the world, like becoming a doctor."

Still, Kharkar had talent, not to mention a knack for working hard and networking. After graduating from USC, she used connections from

an internship to secure a position in the iconic mailroom at William Morris Endeavor, one of the world's largest and most prestigious talent agencies. That experience led to her first jobs as a showrunner's assistant on *The Blacklist* and a pilot created by Robert Padnick, who had been a writer for *The Office*. The pilot didn't get picked up, but eventually turned into a made-for-TV opportunity when Padnick recommended her to his *Office* colleague Mindy Kaling, who was looking for an assistant.

The two clicked. "In the interview, Sonia struck me as quiet, but very bright," says Kaling. "She had great taste in television and I felt like I could talk to her for hours. She also had a poise that I didn't see in a lot of other girls in their mid-twenties." After the interview, Kharkar sent Kaling a thank you email, which showed so much passion for the position that Kaling decided she was the right person for the job. "I liked knowing how much she cared," she says.

A year into the job, Kharkar is working 60-hour weeks as the gateway between Kaling and *The Mindy Project*'s writers, publicists, producers, and everyone else who brings the show to life. She's organized a writers' retreat in Las Vegas, taken in the swirl of the Sundance Film Festival, attended movie previews, and even filled in as an assistant in the writers' room.

She's also gotten a behind-the-scenes immersion into star-making on the Universal Studios lot, where *The Mindy Project* is taped. "The best part is seeing fans respond to Mindy," she says. "We'll be shooting and she'll come out of her trailer and a tour bus will drive by and she'll wave and people will recognize her. I remember myself as a kid, and how much that would mean to me."

While Kharkar isn't interested in acting, she definitely looks to Kaling as a mentor. "Mindy has such a strong, distinct voice, and every project she works on is infused with it," says Kharkar. "She's funny with a lot of heart and is relatable. And she's also a true businesswoman who is always thinking about how people will react and how she can use her fame for good things."

It's a level of creative fulfillment that Kharkar hopes she'll enjoy one day. In her spare time, she is writing her own pilot—a half-hour romantic comedy inspired by relationships she's had and "insecurities I've felt along the way."

And now that *The Mindy Project* has been picked up for a fourth season by Hulu (the first three seasons were on Fox), she also hopes to make it into the writers' room as an assistant and find a sliver of balance in an industry that's notorious for demanding a workaholic level of commitment.

"It's exhilarating and exhausting," Kharkar says of the TV life. "I think what's hard is that there is no path to becoming a writer. It's a lot about timing and luck and hard work and talent." So far, for Kharkar, those stars seem to be aligning. **M**

**ELIZABETH FOY LARSEN** is the author of *Unbored: The Essential Field Guide to Serious Fun and Unbored Games: Serious Fun for Everyone*. She lives in Minneapolis.

Constructions of a Female Killer

Pirates, Translators,  
Missionaries  
Between Atlantic  
Empires

# Macalester's C



MARTIN & MALCOM



Music & Freedom

Bodies & Minds  
AI Robotics



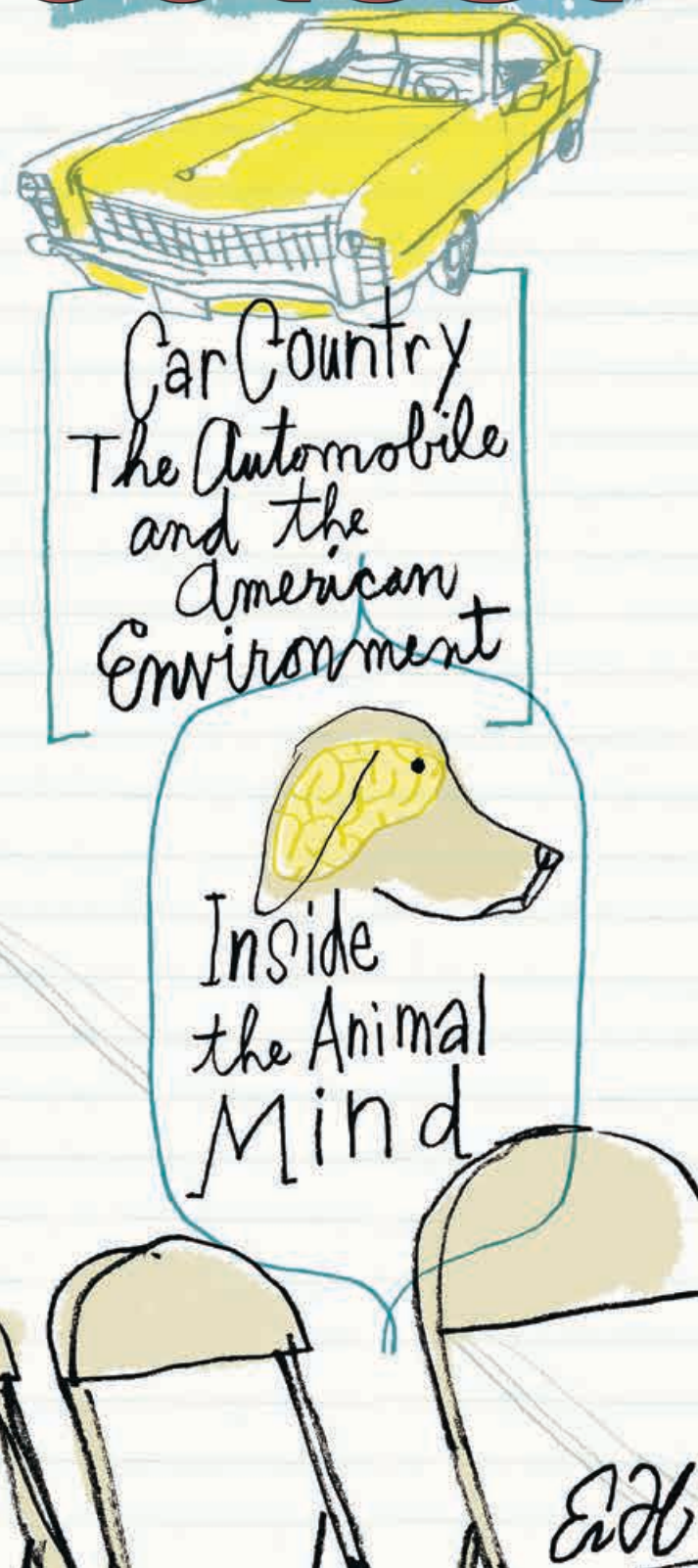
Angels & Demons  
of the American  
Renaissance





100 Words for Snow:  
Language & Nature

# Coolest Classes



From artificial intelligence to the animal mind, these cutting-edge courses will make you wish you were back in college again.

BY ERIN PETERSON → ILLUSTRATION BY ERIC HANSON

EVERY YEAR, Macalester professors dream up new courses that examine important ideas from new perspectives, build on the latest research and technology, and bring unexpected subjects together in ways that shed light on today's most pressing problems.

We scoured the course catalog to find some of the most amazing classes that students can take today, then asked the professors who teach them to share some of the insights they offer in the courses. You may just wish you had one more semester on campus to sit in on their classes.

## Inside the Animal Mind

**Julia Manor**, visiting assistant professor, neuroscience studies, Psychology Department

You come home from a long day at work to find your dog—loveable Rover!—staring sheepishly at the floor. He's tipped over the kitchen trash can while you were away, leaving a mess that he's clearly feeling guilty about.

Or is he?

"People tend to anthropomorphize their animals way too much," says Julia Manor. "You can show that the dog doesn't feel guilt by knocking over the trash can yourself, leaving the house, and then coming back in. Your dog will respond exactly the same way. What they actually know is that 'human plus stuff on the floor' leads to bad things."

Over the course of Manor's class, students study the diversity of cognitive processes among animals, which are both simpler and more complex than many of us imagine. Bees, for example, can count to at least four. Prairie dogs can communicate both adjectives and nouns to describe the shape, color, and size of predators in their environment.

In the end, Manor says, she hopes students will appreciate the animal mind in ways that will help them create environments and enrichments for animals in our homes, zoos, research facilities, and rehab centers.

Even so, Manor admits she falls into the same traps as everyone else when it comes to her collie at home. Does he love her? She hesitates. "Well, it seems like love."





## Science Fiction: From *Matrix* Baby Cannibals to Brave New Worlds

**James Dawes**, DeWitt Wallace Professor, English Department

Science fiction explores interstellar travel and future worlds. For James Dawes, the genre also asks timeless questions about what it means to be human.

How do we know that anything around us is real? The existential question that drove Descartes in the 17th century also fuels the action in the three-part *Matrix* series—in a decidedly more audience-pleasing way. “You can answer the same question by having complex discussions about monism and dualism, and that’s great—but some people respond better by exploring that question in a more experiential way,” Dawes says, adding that there’s real value in contemplating philosophical conundrums in unique ways—as students do when they read works from such authors as Margaret Atwood, Philip K. Dick, and Kazuo Ishiguro. “If you approach problems from a single discipline, you’re likely to ask questions in one way,” he says. “That changes when you study problems from multiple perspectives in neuroscience, biology, literature, and art.”

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## Car Country: The Automobile and the American Environment

**Chris Wells**, associate professor, Environmental Studies Department

There are few symbols of American freedom quite like the automobile. Cars offer tantalizing independence to teenagers. And the lure of the open road has inspired authors from Steinbeck to Kerouac.

But in some ways, we are shackled to our cars, not freed by them, says Chris Wells. Suburban landscapes, for example, are nearly impossible to navigate without a car, thanks to a common street layout that relies on residential streets, collector roads, and arterials that demand that residents travel miles just to get to the nearest convenience store. “Everything in the suburbs is arranged around the premise that people have cars,” says Wells. “If you don’t, you have to go to almost heroic lengths to get anywhere.”

For environmentalists, that structure is a troubling problem. “It’s not a problem that simply buying a Prius can solve,” Wells says. “Even if every car was an electric car, there would still be all the environmental problems of sprawl, and the problems of mass-producing hugely expensive, privately owned machines.”

It’s these larger questions about how we design our environments, and the unintended consequences that result from these choices, that Wells hopes students will think about deeply in the course. “[Environmentalism] requires us to really think through, and understand, the problems we need to address.”

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## Music and Freedom

**Mark Mazullo**, professor, Music Department

The American Civil Rights movement has countless iconic images, speeches, and moments. But how does the music of that era—Berry Gordy’s Motown, for example—define, evoke, and influence that world?

“I want students to think about what music means to people—Is it just window dressing to the actual political, cultural, and social movement?” asks Mazullo. “Is there something more real there?”

Mazullo and his students examine ideas of freedom and music through time. They study Mozart’s *Don Giovanni*, written around the time of the French Revolution, and music created as European countries including Italy, Finland, and Norway emerged as nations and developed national identities. “As nations begin to articulate what was special and different about themselves, they used music to serve as a symbol of that spirit,” says Mazullo. “This music was part of a larger movement that explored how people can be free by being members of a larger group.”

While students may ultimately disagree about the exact role that music plays during important historical moments, Mazullo wants students to understand the importance of listening to it deeply. “Music can oftentimes seem invisible, but I hope that they learn not to take it for granted,” he says. “I want them to see how it connects to the world.”

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## Constructions of a Female Killer

**Alicia Muñoz**, associate professor, Hispanic and Latin American Studies Department

When it comes to issues of gender and violence, we typically imagine women as victims in the equation. But Alicia Muñoz wanted to invert the stereotype: how do we view women when they are *perpetrators* of violence, and what does that tell us about who they—and we—are?

In the course, Muñoz and her students study cases of women who kill as contract-assassins, those who kill their children or abusive partners, and even those who’ve used violence as a means to political power. Nicaraguan guerilla fighter Nora Astorga, for example, was a key player in the murder of General Reynaldo Pérez Vega, and later became an ambassador to the United Nations.

The U.S. media in particular didn’t know what to do with Astorga, says Muñoz. “They play with her image as a sexy female killer—you don’t want to get too close, because you might get burned.”

Women who are violent, says Muñoz, are often portrayed as monsters or myths, stock characters instead of actual human beings with power and agency. Muñoz says that she hopes the course serves as a launching pad for students’ examination of our culture. “I want them to see the complexity of these women and this topic, but I also want them to use the tools they learn in this class to illuminate and interrogate society.”

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## Martin and Malcolm

**Bill Hart**, professor, Religious Studies Department

As iconic leaders in the Black Freedom Movement, Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X are inevitably compared and contrasted for their approaches to addressing some of our nation’s most pressing injustices.

For Bill Hart, understanding how religion shaped each man is a critical piece of that history. King was a Baptist preacher, the son and grandson of clergy. Malcolm X, meanwhile, was reared as a Christian and converted to Islam twice as an adult. “Everything that King did



came out of the basic convictions he had as a black Baptist Christian. And it's impossible to understand what Malcolm X's motivations were and what he did as an adult without understanding the role that Islam played in his self-understanding," Hart says. "Their religious convictions were not sideshows: they are central to who they were."

It's this intersection of religion, ethics, and politics that Hart—and his students—find irresistible. "I'm interested in the way that both of these figures understand and pursue their respective notions of justice, especially within the context of the black freedom struggle."

## 100 Words for Snow: Language and Nature

**Marianne Milligan**, visiting assistant professor, Linguistics Department

No matter what side you fall on in the debate about the rising temperature of the planet, there's one thing that everyone can agree on, says Marianne Milligan: "The words we use to talk about it really suck."

Nearly every term is a mouthful: *environmental*, *sustainable*, *climate change*, *global warming*. Compare that to other words and ideas that have entered our lexicon in relatively recent years: *app*, *AIDS*, *SIDS*. They're short, sweet, and easy to pronounce.

So who cares? "We come up with short words for things that matter," explains Milligan.

Language may be an exceptional tool for communicating, but it can also cleverly obscure meaning: in the pork industry for example, journals might refer to "damaged meat," which is a euphemism for injured animals; "herd health" is about profit margins, not about the vigor of individual animals.

Ultimately, Milligan hopes her students understand that the words we use are about more than just dictionary definitions. "I had a student talk to me about the language she saw people using on Facebook for Earth Day," she recalls. "That's huge. I want them to be aware of the language we use every day and the impact it can have."

## Bodies and Minds: AI Robotics

**Susan Fox**, professor, Computer Science Department

For anyone who has ever wanted to bring a robot to life, there are few things as beguiling—or inaccurate—as the precision of a virtual world.

Susan Fox has watched students craft elegant programs to guide a virtual robot around a simulated world—only to despair when they shift their work to a physical robot in the real world. "Simulated robots have perfect sensors and motors," explains Fox. "Real robots don't. Students have to throw out all of their original notions and write programs that are responsive to the world."

Fox's class is a crash course on theory meeting practice, and it demands that students rethink many of the things they once thought they knew.

Getting a robot to walk, for example, is no easy feat. While walking may seem like a simple process, that's only because the process is almost invisible to us. We adjust to rocky terrain, ramps, and stairs without a second thought, but to program the same in a robot is maddeningly complex. "Human walking is really controlled falling," Fox says. "We're constantly adjusting and responding, and that's really what you need if you have a robot moving around in the world as well."

The goal, she says, is to help students appreciate the many challenges that exist as we try to bring more useful robots into the world. "It's not just high-level thinking that's hard [in the realm of artificial intelligence]," she says. "It's also many of the things—walking, seeing, interpreting—that we take for granted in ourselves."

## Pirates, Translators, Missionaries: Between Atlantic Empires

**Karin Vélez**, assistant professor, History Department

When cultures bump up against each other, there are always intermediaries who bridge the gap, for good or bad. There are translators who help groups communicate, missionaries who bring religion and culture from one place to another, and pirates who plunder one group and sell and trade their loot to another.

While we're familiar with these categories—who can't conjure up an image of a swaggering Johnny Depp as Captain Jack?—Karin Vélez wants her students to see that these categories are malleable, and that the more we know about people as individuals, the less easily we can drop them into a single, rigid category.

For example, Malintzin, a female translator who played a key role in the Spanish conquest of the Aztec empire, has been categorized as a temptress and a traitor, a victim and a symbolic mother. Missionaries, too, span the spectrum of good and evil. "Historians have so much power as storytellers to shape the way people think about subjects," Vélez says. "How do we define people who mess with a category?"

The real question she wants students to ask is why, and how, we construct these categories. "How do we fit raw data into a category?" she asks. "Should we?"

## Angels and Demons of the American Renaissance (1835-1880)

**James Dawes**, DeWitt Wallace Professor, English Department

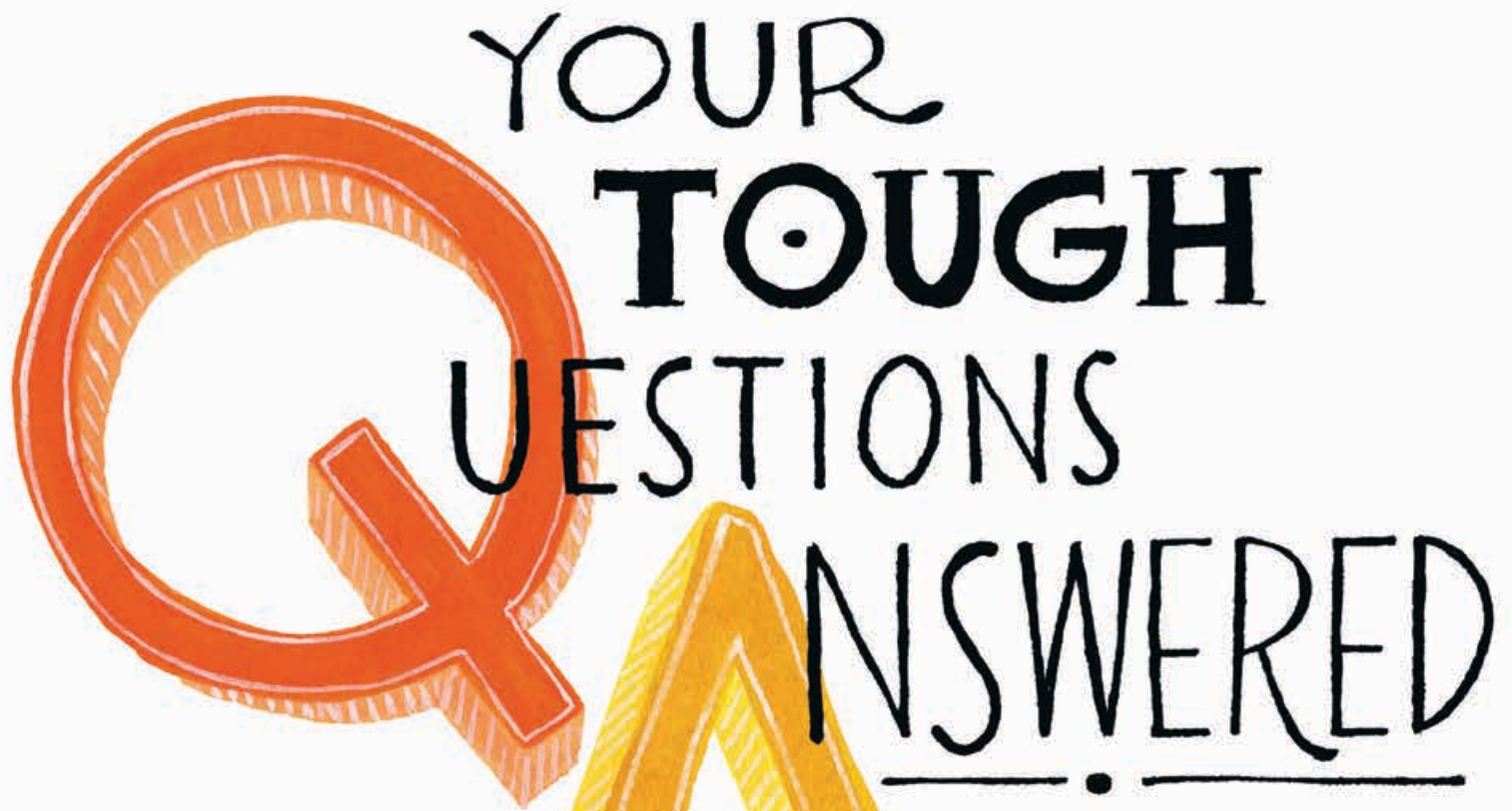
James Dawes knows that most students would rather pick up a contemporary novel than work their way through Dickinson, Hawthorne, Thoreau, or Douglass. But he also knows that when students dig into the works of these early American authors, they may find a sense of energy and purpose that resonates with them, even from a distance of nearly two centuries.

"These authors were rejecting what they'd inherited and trying to start everything—the notion of the nation, of spirituality, of sexuality—anew," he says. Dickinson explored questions of existential despair even in our humdrum routines; Thoreau's *Walden* examined how our everyday choices are of grave consequence.

But even more than that, Dawes wants his students to see the connections among these writers, who knew each other, and fed off each other's ever-higher ambitions. "There was this revolutionary cultural moment, and the writers' belief in each other is part of what made that happen," he says. "Every time I teach this class, I think in my head: the kids in this room—they could be that group. If they could be sufficiently inspired, they could make a difference like that in the world." ■

**ERIN PETERSON** is a regular contributor to Macalester Today.



A large, stylized graphic featuring a thick orange 'Q' and a thick yellow 'A' in a hand-drawn, sketchy style. The 'Q' is on the left, and the 'A' is on the right, partially overlapping the 'Q'. The text 'YOUR TOUGH QUESTIONS ANSWERED' is written in a mix of black, hand-drawn and bold, sans-serif fonts across the top and right side of the graphic.

# YOUR TOUGH QUESTIONS ANSWERED

We asked Macalester's campus experts for their take on some of today's greatest challenges, from the frozen conflict in Ukraine, to saving water in the Southwest, to holding down the cost of higher ed.

BY LAURA BILLINGS COLEMAN → ILLUSTRATIONS BY BRIANNE FARLEY '06

## What's most important to understand about the current situation in Ukraine?

Keeping track of the major players and competing claims in the current conflict over Ukraine can be as challenging as any Russian novel, says **James von Geldern**, professor of Russian and international studies, and chair of Macalester's Russian Studies Department. "There are so many nationalities in the region, each one with its own history, culture and political desires, and you have to know each one of them to get any sense of what's going on," he says. "U.S. and western media coverage often makes it sound as though Russia is aggressively biting off a chunk of a neighboring country, inspired by their hyper-masculine president Vladimir Putin—which is not entirely wrong. But what people should understand is that this is a conflict that began long before Putin, and history is being used by both sides to legitimate their political power."

In spite of a September 2014 ceasefire, and a February peace proposal put forth by Angela Merkel and Francois Hollande, eastern Ukraine has seen continued fighting—the worst in Europe in the last 20 years. "Still, it's a frozen conflict for now, not a living one," von Geldern says, adding that civilians in the region must cope with "being cut off from the international community. They're going to have to find a way to rebuild their economy without any outside support, and export what they have through whatever illegal means they can."

"This is worth paying attention to because we've had a map of Europe since 1945 that has been relatively stable. When things have fallen apart, with the exception of Yugoslavia, they've fallen apart amicably," says von Geldern, who encourages his students to read news sources from *Al-Jazeera* to the *Moscow Times* for a more comprehensive sense of what's at stake. "For the first time you have the forcible moving of a border by military might. People in Europe are understandably very concerned, and Americans should be too, because there's no question that this will wash up on our shores."



## With impending water shortages, what can average people do to make a difference?

“What’s happening in California right now will affect the whole country,” says **Roopali Phadke**, associate professor of Environmental Studies. “We might not be connected hydrologically, but we’re definitely connected to it economically. The rising prices we’ll see in the grocery stores are just a reminder that we can’t be complacent.”

What can each of us do to slow the flow of the estimated 2,000 gallons of water the average American soaks up every day? Phadke recommends going online to calculate your personal “water footprint,” a deep dive that students in her Water and Power class take to learn why Americans consume nearly twice the global average of water. “What’s surprising for most people to learn is that water use hasn’t gone up per capita that much in the U.S. in recent years. In fact we use less water than we did in the 1970s because of efficiencies, but water consumption is often invisible or embodied in many of the things you wear and the things you eat that you might not be aware of,” she says. For instance, it takes a gallon of water to grow a single almond, 13 to produce a single gallon of gas, and more than 600 gallons to bring a hamburger to your plate.

“While we associate extravagant water use with swimming pools and verdant lawns, most of our water is used by the energy and agricultural sectors,” Phadke says. “Making some changes as a consumer, dietary changes in particular, can make a huge change in your water footprint. But it doesn’t mean that that water savings is going to be felt in your backyard.”

While water-rich regions like the Northeast and the Midwest are less likely to feel the pain of drought, Phadke says we should all pay



close attention to the policy changes, ground water regulations, and new technologies likely to grow from California’s crisis. “Out of necessity, they’re being forced to innovate policies and technologies, and we’re all going to benefit from that.”



## Will we ever have national health care in the U.S.?

With the highest per capita health care spending in the world, and some of the worst outcomes, visiting political science instructor **Michael Zis** says it’s no surprise that a “strong majority of Americans believe our system of health care is broken and needs a major overhaul.” But don’t expect a universal system like Sweden’s or Great Britain’s will ever take the place of America’s complex patchwork of private insurers and government programs, says Zis, who explores the topic in a popular class called Politics and Policymaking: Government and Medicine.

“One of the major hurdles to a comprehensive program like that is that nearly two-thirds of Americans access health care through their employer,” Zis says, “an accident of history” created in the 1940s when a combination of wage freezes and tax incentives made health benefits an employee perk. While Medicare and other programs that provide coverage for elderly, disabled, and impoverished Americans have been popular with voters, “Culturally, Americans tend to distrust government and bureaucracies, so the idea of ‘centralized’ care still turns people off,” he says. “As a country, we’ve never really accepted the notion that health care is a right, in the way we have a bedrock belief in the value of public education. And the longer we didn’t have national health insurance, the more difficult it became to do something.”

While Congress continues to challenge “Obamacare,” polls show that most Americans would rather fix the program than repeal it. So while Sweden’s system may be out of reach, an affordable, free market system like Singapore’s, which spends just 3 percent of GDP on health care, compared to the 17 percent spent every year in the U.S., could be a better model for transparent pricing and good preventive care. “I’m not a complete pessimist,” Zis says. “I think it’s possible to look forward to a series of incremental fixes that may streamline a really complex system.”



## How can we hold down the cost of higher education?

“Costs tend to rise steadily in an industry where there’s not a lot of opportunity for what you might call ‘productivity savings,’” says **David Wheaton**, vice president for administration and finance at Macalester. While other sectors can put technology to work to make more widgets with fewer resources, that model doesn’t translate as well to First-Year English. “The 12-student seminar you took at Macalester 30 years ago is still a 12-person seminar today, but the cost of the faculty, health care, and everything else has risen.”

Those rising costs are one reason why college tuition has outpaced inflation for decades, but Wheaton points out that that upward trending graph rarely reflects the bottom line costs for most families with college students. “Since the recession, we’re seeing families further up the income chain recognizing that applying for financial aid is something they can put in the mix to make college more affordable,” says Wheaton. Last year at Macalester, for instance, 70 percent of students received financial aid, with an average award of \$40,694—a calculation that doesn’t always come through in the annual sticker shock headlines.

While so-called Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) “have not been the magic wand” for cutting costs that many in higher ed hoped they would be, Wheaton sees solutions coming from other directions. “Like most nonprofits, colleges have traditionally been good at adding new services, and not as good at sunseting them, and that’s something that I think is starting to change,” he says. Students themselves are also exploring more cost-effective paths into higher ed, for instance, taking advantage of Minnesota’s Postsecondary Enrollment Option, which allows high school students to earn college credit, reducing the time it takes to earn a degree. “The pressure on families is real, but I’m hopeful because these institutions tend to be populated by smart people who have resources and the leadership to take this on.”



## Africa feels hopeless. Where do we start?

After a year of catastrophic headlines about the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, the rise of Boko Haram in Nigeria, and the al-Shabaab massacre of college students in Kenya, geography professor **Bill Moseley** admits, “Africa can sometimes look like a lost cause.”

But as the chair of Macalester’s geography department, and a former Peace Corps volunteer in Mali, often tells his students, “News, by definition, is unusual events. There’s a lot of good happening in Africa, but you don’t always hear about it.”

One bright spot on the map that Moseley points his students toward is Botswana, a former British protectorate, “that may be the last country on the African continent that anyone thought would be successful,” he says. “But through grit, determination, and frugality, they mobilized their resources” to create one of the world’s longest-running economic booms, built in part on the “One Man, One Beast” capital campaign that helped build the country’s first national university. “There’s a wonderful story of how in the early independence years in Botswana, they asked every household in the country to contribute a cow, and they drove the herd down to South Africa, sold it at market, and it’s with that money that they built the initial University of Botswana. There are certainly stories of development failure to study, but I think it’s important for students to learn from the successes, too.”

Moseley believes Botswana’s generation-long march toward a middle-class economy can be especially instructive now that social entrepreneurship has become the trending solution to many of Africa’s problems. “Social entrepreneurship is very hot right now, but it tends to celebrate individuals who are creative thinkers, or technical fixes as a way of solving the problems of humanity,” Moseley says.

“I think it’s important to be a bit more humble and realize that most forms of progress come about through collective action—many different people with good ideas, working together to bring about change.”

## Is campaign finance reform possible? Is it necessary?

“The Supreme Court has consistently and specifically ruled that spending money on a campaign is a form of free speech, and I think they’re quite right on that account,” says Macalester political science associate professor **Adrienne Christiansen**, director of the Jan Serie Center for Scholarship and Teaching. “But if you think about the electoral campaigns as a national conversation, then it’s also true that moneyed interests are shaping the conversation. The idea of campaign finance reform really ties us up in knots because it puts two strongly held principals against each other—free speech and fairness.”

After a \$2.6 billion race to the White House in 2012—a record sure to be broken again in 2016—is it possible to rein in the outsized influence of corporate interests, PACs, and other big money contribu-



tors? “I’m not sure you can have meaningful campaign finance reform without changing the Bill of Rights,” Christiansen says, “but from my perspective, the fragmentation of the media market,” including the rise of social media, video campaigns on YouTube, Internet radio, and other new platforms means candidates may no longer need the millions (or billions) once needed to get their messages to the right constituents.

“It’s not the case that big money will win every time,” she says, noting that Mitt Romney’s war chest outspent Obama’s in 2012. “People of modest means can also pull together to fight fire with fire,” as Minnesotans against a proposed ban on same-sex marriage did in 2012, outspending the opposition by nearly two to one. “I never once dreamed that in my lifetime I’d see gay people be able to marry,” Christiansen says. “It proves that good ideas and concerted effort from people of good will, over time, can bring about positive political change—absolutely.”



## How can we move closer to ending distrust and violence between law enforcement and Black men?

Associate psychology professor **Kendrick Brown** has always relied on current headlines and news coverage to fuel discussions in his class Understanding and Confronting Racism, but recent stand-offs between police and protestors from Ferguson, Missouri, to Baltimore, Maryland, have brought a new focus to those conversations. “No one’s happy with this stuff going on but there is a sense that finally folks are starting to see how deep this is,” says Brown, who also serves as associate dean of the faculty. “People of color often look at these issues in terms of equity and how things should be, while many white Americans look at the same situation and talk about where we used to be. One group sees it as progress, and the other group groups sees it as not far enough, and that divide has definitely come through in discussions about Ferguson.”

One hypothesis students in Brown’s class study is “intergroup contact theory,” a strategy for reducing conflict and prejudice, “where one of the main premises is that it’s really difficult for people to communicate effectively if they don’t have equal status.” That’s why he sees some

promise in policing efforts that are “building a sense of cooperation and interdependence with their constituents, so everybody feels like we’re in this together,” he says. “What it comes down to is people in the community need to feel that their humanity is being recognized, and that they’re not being seen as a stereotype. At the same time, folks looking at the police need to recognize that they’re human, too, and errors are going to happen.”

“You also need the endorsement of a mayor or a governor who actually oversees the police and interacts with constituents,” Brown says. “It’s not enough to just bring people together—you need folks in power saying this needs to happen.”

## Scientists are watching glaciers very closely. Should the rest of us be doing the same?

“Definitely,” says **Kelly MacGregor**, associate professor and chair of the Macalester’s geology department. “Glaciers are a sort of canary in the coal mine and as they shrink it’s telling us something about the earth’s climate.”

“As water that was once held in storage in glaciers and continental ice enters the atmosphere, it becomes an important greenhouse gas. So the warmer it gets, the more water you have in the atmosphere, and the warmer it gets,” MacGregor explains. That cycle contributes to a sea level rise of about two to three millimeters every year—about 75 percent of it due to melting glaciers and ice sheets. “That may not sound like a lot, but in a decade, that’s two to three centimeters,” a rising tide that could affect “a huge percentage of our population living close to the coastline.” As the world’s glaciers and ice sheets retreat, so, too, do the cooling effects provided by their reflective white surfaces. “That’s why there is, in the earth’s history, a series of large extinction events related to climate.”



So is there any good news about glaciers? “Yes, the reality is our planet has seen many glacial and interglacial cycles through millions and billions of years of earth history, and the planet does seem to have a way of tipping back when we reach extremes,” she says, noting that individuals can help out by “not driving as much, supporting companies that utilize renewable energy resources, writing letters to lawmakers about the importance of reducing CO2 levels, and buying locally. We sometimes underestimate the collective power of people in making those decisions.” ■

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



# Ready for Launch

On May 16, 477 Macalester seniors moved their tassels from right to left, a small gesture that senior speaker **Lisa Hu** noted would “proclaim their entrance into the 7 percent of people worldwide” with a college degree.

**What should these new college grads do now?** Here’s a sampling of the advice they got from Macalester faculty, staff, and Commencement speakers during their last hours as undergraduates.



*You should never hesitate to pull the plug if you're really sure you made the wrong decision.*

—MARIO SOLIS GARCIA, assistant professor, Economics Department

*Stick with a job for a little while, even if you don't like it, because having a job that you don't like, doing things that you don't like, help you understand yourself better and help you appreciate jobs you do like.*

—KELLY MACGREGOR, associate professor and chair, Geology Department

*There are some people that you're leaving here at Macalester who would probably like to hear from you, so come back and share your story.*

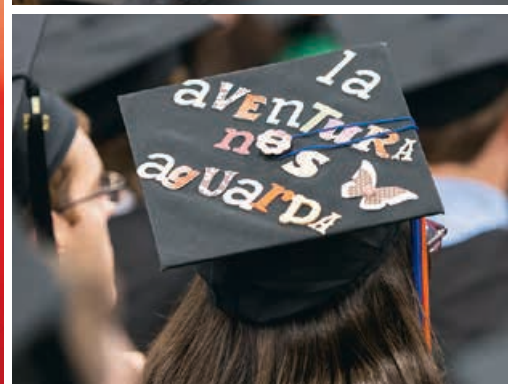
—HARRY WATERS JR., associate professor, Theatre and Dance Department

*Sometime in your lifetime, be sure to get a dog, because you'll always have at least one fan.*

—CHERYL DOUCETTE, editor, *The Daily Piper*

*Here's the deal. Life is short. And there are deeds of courage and compassion that will never be done unless you do them, and words of hope and healing that will never be said unless you say them.*

—GABRIELLE LAWRENCE, Director, Alumni Relations





*I urge you strongly to take action. To get involved in the great issues, step across that line and make a difference.*

—WALTER MONDALE, Commencement speaker, former Vice President of the United States, and husband of the late Joan Adams Mondale '52

*Don't take yourself so seriously. Take the scenic route instead of the direct red eye.*

—LAURIE HAMRE, recently retired Vice President of Student Affairs



*“Have a lot of fun at your job. Start a retirement account.*

—TERRY GORMAN, recently retired Director of Environmental Health, Safety, and Security

*Travel as much as you can now, before you have any dependents!*

—KARLA BENSON RUTTEN, Title IX coordinator and Director of Equity

*Send thank you notes.*

—REBECCA DEJARLAIS ORTIZ, writer and client manager

*When you write an email, proof it before you hit send.*

—RIVI HANDLER-SPITZ, assistant professor, Asian Languages and Cultures Department







Ambassador Eric Schultz (top right) with Kenneth Kaunda, the first President of the Republic of Zambia; (below) Schultz shakes hands with Dr. Guy Scott, who served as Acting President of Zambia last year following the October 2014 death of President Michael Sata.



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF ERIC SCHULTZ



# OUR MAN IN ZAMBIA

**Eric Schultz '82, America's new ambassador to Zambia, has been winning hearts and minds through nearly three decades of foreign service.**

BY JENNIFER VOGEL → PHOTOS COURTESY OF ERIC SCHULTZ

**E**ric Schultz '82 was on the hot seat. The newly confirmed ambassador to Zambia, a landlocked country in southern Africa, Schultz was in the middle of a long televised interview when the host lobbed a zinger. The United States, he said, espouses the virtues of good governance, yet “often you have been accused as a nation of meddling in internal politics... and in some instances accused of forcing governments out.”

Because the U.S. plays an outsized role in the world, people who find themselves with a representative in their midst often want to hold them accountable. With superpower status come diplomatic challenges. “We get access,” Schultz said, “but our motives are sometimes questioned.”

With cameras rolling, Schultz, 55, clasped his hands casually over a crossed knee and responded with an honest answer. “The United States is not a perfect country,” he said. “There is no such thing. Our values and our interests don’t always align.”

“Yet,” he continued, “the United States is actually a very different country now than it was 10 years ago, 20 years ago, 30 years ago. When I was growing up, it would have been inconceivable to imagine the United States electing an African American as its president. It would have been inconceivable that same-sex partners could marry... Democracy is always a work in progress and the United States as a country is a work in progress. I would like to think that we are getting better.”

His mission is delicate: to forward American economic and democratic interests in Zambia, perceived to be ripe for increased investment, while also supporting the will of the local people. “You are trying to do good without drawing attention to yourself,” Schultz said. “We are not sent overseas to preach to people, to say, ‘You have to be like us.’ My argument is democracy is not an American principle, it is a universal principle.”

Schultz was born in Michigan, one of six kids, but moved a lot due to his father’s service in the Navy as a flight engineer. The family landed in Bloomington, Minn., where Schultz finished high school, when his dad went to work for Northwest Airlines.

He was drawn to Macalester because of its lauded international studies program. “I was always curious about other cultures and other languages,” says Schultz, who speaks French, Russian, Ukrainian, and a little Polish. He also picked up a less-tangible skill. “I got not just a good education out of Macalester, but also good socialization. I learned how to get along with other people. I think it’s the structure of the school. It’s small so you get to know everybody.”

“I never wanted to leave Macalester,” he says. “I was a reluctant graduate.”

Schultz earned his master’s at the University of Denver and while there, almost on a whim, he took the foreign service exam. Only a small fraction of those who complete the exam ever land a diplomatic post. But Schultz breezed through and soon received a letter offering him a position.

Over a 27-year diplomatic career, Schultz has served in various roles in a wide array of countries, including Madagascar, France, Georgia, Turkmenistan, Zimbabwe, Russia, and, most recently, Ukraine. Confirmed by the U.S. Senate in September, Zambia is his first post as ambassador. He describes the country as beautiful—it shares one of the world’s largest waterfalls with Zimbabwe—and fairly stable. Even so, Schultz works from a new, highly secure U.S. embassy in Lusaka that sits on a hill overlooking the city. “It’s set back to protect against a bomb attack,” Schultz says, adding that he considers that unlikely. “Zambia is a pretty peaceful country. I don’t feel much at risk here.” His biggest complaint about his office, in fact, is that the windows don’t open.

“It would be very difficult to work in a country where you couldn’t travel freely and get to know people on a personal basis,” says Schultz, who considers openness an attribute necessary to the job. “Some of the posts in the Middle East, you can’t go anywhere without armed body guards. I would find that strange.”

Frequent moves are part of life in the foreign service, which has required the regular uprooting of his wife, Klaudia, whom he met at a conference in Poland, and two sons, Alek, 13, and Adam, 10. The boys are enamored of American culture, despite living more than 7,000 miles away. “I can’t decide whether to feel proud or guilty about that,” Schultz says. “They have had a great opportunity to see the world and experience things other kids don’t get to see.”

Recently, Schultz asked his sons what he should bring back from a stateside conference. Adam requested Legos, while Alek asked for a Chipotle burrito. “I carried two in my carry-on all the way from Washington to Lusaka,” Schultz says. “He was in seventh heaven for a couple of days.”

“You have to want to live overseas,” Schultz says about his life as a career diplomat. “It’s called the foreign service for a reason. You have to enjoy making friends with people. You try to win hearts and minds by getting to know people... The most interesting aspect of it is just being at the heart of things.” ■

JENNIFER VOGEL is a Minneapolis reporter and writer.



Clockwise from left:  
Grace Bremer in  
the 1944 Macalester  
yearbook; Front-page  
newspaper story an-  
nouncing the kidnap-  
ing of Ed Bremer;  
Grace Bremer and her  
uncle Otto Bremer in  
1937; Grace Bremer  
Lester and her hus-  
band Jack prepare  
their boat for a trip  
down the Mississippi  
River from St. Paul to  
New Orleans in 1951;  
Adolf Bremer and his  
son Edward



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF GRACE BREMER LESTER, MACALESTER ARCHIVES, AND MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



# Living History

**Grace Bremer Lester '45** came of age during St. Paul's gangster era.

BY JAN SHAW-FLAMM '76

**Grace Bremer Lester '45** attended St. Paul's Convent of the Visitation School not because she was Catholic—she wasn't—but because the walled school offered some protection against kidnappers. As a member of the city's prominent Bremer family, Grace had already narrowly escaped not one, but two kidnapping attempts.

It was the wild and woolly 1930s, era of St. Paul's O'Connor system, named for Police Chief John O'Connor and developed by him and other community leaders, including, reportedly, Grace's uncle Otto Bremer. "The chief of police let it be known to criminals that they could live in St. Paul as long as they didn't commit any crimes here," says Grace.

As a result, things were relatively peaceful in St. Paul until Prohibition was repealed in 1933. Suddenly, organized crime, previously involved in providing illegal alcohol, needed a new source of income and turned to kidnapping. When Grace was 11, her cousin Edward Bremer was kidnapped by the Barker-Karpis gang, making the danger to the Bremer family very real.

There were three Bremer brothers in St. Paul, Grace explained in an interview held in her home in North Naples, Florida: Adolph, who owned the Jacob Schmidt Brewery; Otto, who started the American National Bank; and her father, Paul, who served as attorney for both of his brothers' businesses. Edward Bremer, the son of Adolph, was returned relatively unharmed after his father paid a \$200,000 ransom.

Despite security measures taken by her parents, Grace was nearly kidnapped twice, both times at the family's summer house on Forest Lake, north of St. Paul.

"I was swimming alone, and these three ominous men in suits and fedoras were rowing a boat toward me—badly, they obviously didn't know how to row. Just in time, my mother realized I was gone and came rushing down with a gun and she's popping away at the men. She couldn't hit anything, but they rowed away as fast as they could!"

Her mother and her .38 also saved the day during the second attempt, which took place while Grace and a friend were playing on a teeter-totter. "My friend was down and I was up, then she screamed and jumped off, pulling me by the neck. A man had come through the fence and was ready to grab me. Once again my mother came out with her gun and was popping away at him.

"It was a scary time. We hired a local farm boy, a big guy, to walk around the house at night, and late one night he banged on the door. He was shaking and had a bullet hole through his hat and said, 'I quit!'" Grace's beloved collie was found the next morning, shot to death.

Fortunately, the kidnapping "industry" attracted the concerted ef-

forts of the FBI, and soon the O'Connor system was dismantled. Alvin "Creepy" Karpis and "Doc" Barker were sent to Alcatraz and John Dillinger and Fred and "Ma" Barker were killed in shoot-outs.

Anyone else who lived through such threats might have become timid, but not Grace Bremer Lester. With her family home just a few blocks from Macalester, she and her sister, Marie, had grown up skating on the college's ice rink and playing in its woods. Grace followed Marie to Macalester, where she majored in biology.

At Mac, Grace took part in the aquatics show and passed a water safety instructor test, both of which proved good preparation for canoeing trips she and her classmates made to the lakes of northern Minnesota and Ontario. On one such trip, Grace was chased by an angry mother bear and nearly arrested for catching a fish in Canadian waters without a license.

Attending Macalester during World War II "was exciting because the army officers were there training and going to college and many marriages resulted. We could get out of class if we donated blood, so we donated a lot of blood."

In 1947 Grace married Jack Lester, the brother of a high school friend. Together they moved to Fargo, North Dakota, where Jack worked in radio and television. After years of living with fear, "I was so happy to marry Jack and move to Fargo. Nobody knew me, my name was Lester, and there was no crime at all." Grace and Jack were married for 61 years and raised three children of their own, plus Jack's nephew.

Throughout their lives, Grace and Jack enjoyed adventures. In 1951 they traveled the Mississippi from St. Paul to New Orleans in a fishing boat and later, after the children were grown, rode a motorcycle from Nova Scotia to Mexico and Alaska.

Now 92, Grace lives in North Naples, Florida, where she began writing her memoirs with the help of her daughter Lynda Lester. Titled *I Can't Believe I Did It*, Grace's first book was self-published in 2014 and is available on Amazon.com. She is planning for her second memoir, *They Said it Couldn't Be Done*, due out later this summer. **M**

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



**Grace Bremer** portaging a canoe in the Boundary Waters during her Mac years in the early 1940s.

## St. Paul's Gangster Era

Read more about 1930s-era St. Paul in *John Dillinger Slept Here: A Crooks' Tour of Crime and Corruption in St. Paul, 1920-1936* by Paul Maccabee '77 (Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1995) or *Saint Mudd: A Novel of Gangsters and Saints* by Steve Thayer (Viking, 1992).

# THE REEL DEAL

**Brian Miller '02** has followed his passion for Irish traditional music around the world and all the way back home.

BY **ANDY STEINER '90** → PHOTO BY **DARIN BACK**



In his first night in Ireland during his junior year abroad, **Brian Miller '02** walked into a pub with a guitar on his back and took a seat near a group of traditional session musicians. Like the centuries-old reels, jigs, and airs that are passed down in this aural tradition from one player to the next, an Irish pub session has many unwritten rules. Among them: “Any 20-year-old American who walks in with a guitar is probably just going to ruin everything,” Miller says, laughing.

But to his session mates’ surprise, Miller, a music and math double major from Bemidji, Minnesota, had been studying for this moment. Since arriving at Macalester for a first-year music theory residency with a tin whistle he carried around campus, Miller had been playing gigs with a band of hometown friends *The Gaels*, and diving deep into the traditional Irish music scene with fellow Mac alum and fiddler **Django Amerson '98**. With the urging of advisor Carleton Macy, professor emeritus of music theory and composition, Miller had come to the college town of Cork with far more than a “Riverdance” repertoire of traditional Irish tunes.

“By the end of the night, I even got paid because the guy they’d been expecting never showed up,” Miller recalls. “Being fluent in this music is like a passport that opens some amazing doors.”

Miller’s fluency has only grown since then, earning him great reviews as a traditional guitar performer and accompanist, a loyal following of students at St. Paul’s bustling Center for Irish Music, and even a Parsons Award from the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress for his ongoing scholarly work tracing the migration of Irish music to the logging camps of the Great Lakes. “I wanted so desperately to be a professional musician,” Miller says. “I suppressed that impulse in high school because it seemed irrational, but being at Macalester gave me the confidence to see how long I could survive being a professional musician. The money just kept not running out, so I just kept on doing it.”

As a teenager “completely obsessed with music,” Miller was an acoustic singer-songwriter before a fateful trip to the Winnipeg Folk Festival. “All I knew about the festival was that someone told me there would probably be crazy naked hippies running around in a field in Manitoba. That sounded exciting to a 14-year-old,” he says. “Then I heard the Irish band Cherish the Ladies, and I don’t know if it was the virtuosity of the instrumentalists, or the fact that it got everyone

dancing, or that it was from a faraway place, but I just knew Irish music was ‘the one.’”

The passion for traditional music now permeates nearly every part of Miller’s life, including his marriage to Norah Rendell, a Canadian-born singer and flute player who is the executive director of the Center for Irish Music. While they’re both captivated by Irish music, neither has any Irish ancestry, a fact that confounded Miller until he heard a traditional singer from the East Coast share an Irish song first collected from a logging camp near Bemidji. “It was one of those *aha* moments that nearly made me fall out of my chair,” Miller says. “To find out that there was this connection between Irish music and my hometown, even if it was tenuous, or in the distant past, was just so energizing to me. It made me think maybe it’s not insane that someone from Minnesota would be so interested in this.”


Since then, Miller has earned two Artist Initiative grants from the Minnesota State Arts Board to unearth and record the Upper Midwest’s musical connections to Ireland in two CDs, *Minnesota Lumberjack Songs* and *The Falling of the Pines*. Like an Alan Lomax for the lumberjack set, he also completed a master’s degree in library & information studies (MLIS) through the University of Wisconsin–Madison, with plans to create a digital library focused on the traditional music of the Upper Midwest.

In June, Miller shared the stage of St. Paul’s Celtic Junction with several master Irish artists visiting for the Center for Irish Music’s Minnesota Irish Musicians Weekend, a group that included flute player Joanie Madden, the founder of Cherish the Ladies. “She asked me how I got interested in the music, and I got to say, ‘Well, I heard your band in Winnipeg...’” Miller says, adding that one of the advantages of being a gifted accompanist “is that you get to ‘play up’ with artists who are in a whole different echelon than you.”

Watching Miller’s own upward trajectory in traditional music has been just as entertaining, says Dáithí Sproule, an Irish guitarist with the Celtic supergroup Altan, who remembers Miller when he was still a student at Macalester, sitting in on sessions at O’Gara’s and Kieran’s Irish pubs. “He’s gone from being on the edge of things to being just essential,” says Sproule, who teaches with him at the Center for Irish Music. “Seeing what Brian and Norah are doing for Irish music, I’d say the tradition is in very good hands.” ■

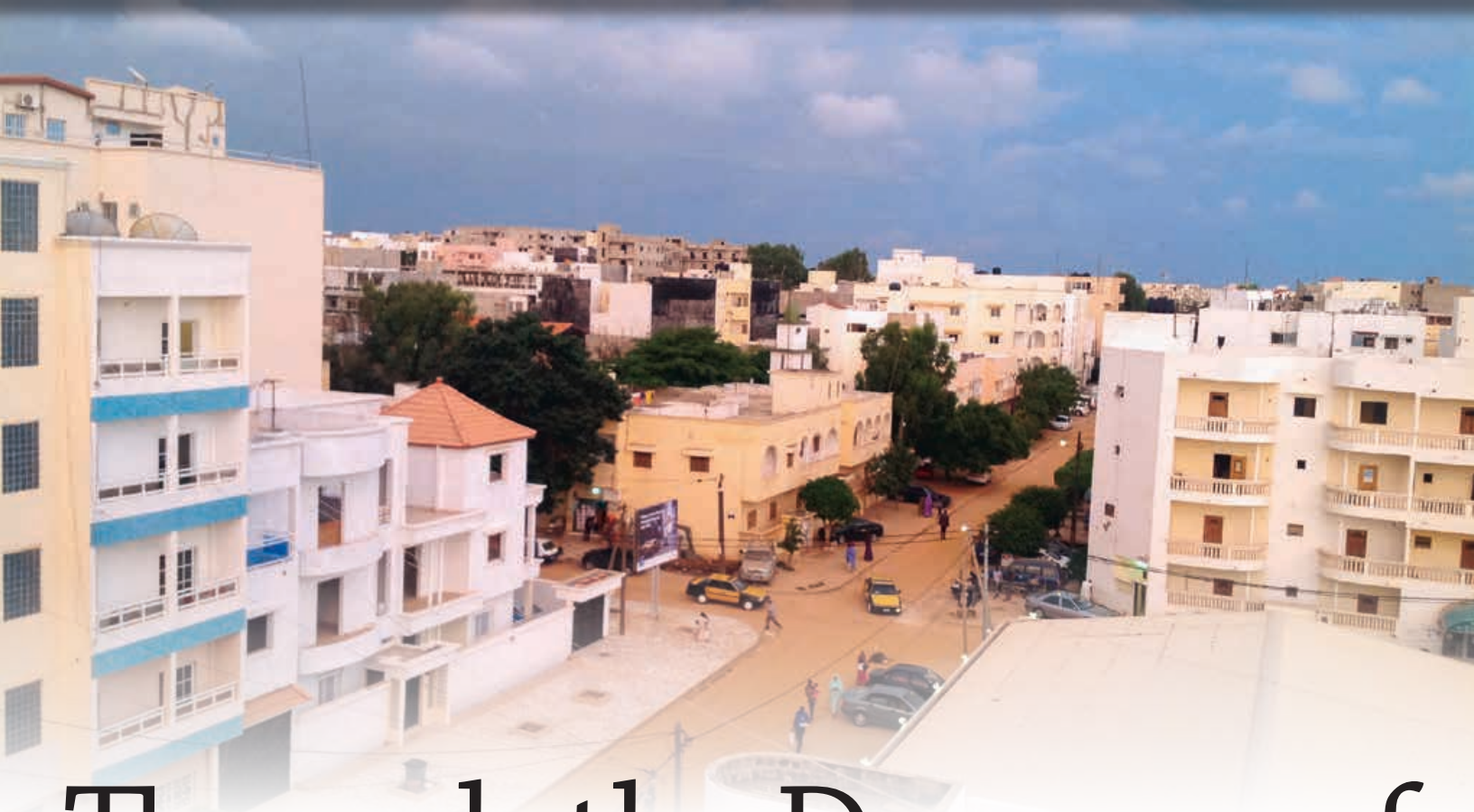
**ANDY STEINER '90** is a regular contributor to Macalester Today.





On the trail of Irish traditional music, Brian Miller has tracked the music's migration to the lumber camps of Minnesota's north woods.





# Through the Doorway of

BY ELIZABETH FOY LARSEN

**W**hen you embark on a career in international development, you expect your future will involve intermittent power outages, intestinal parasites and the inevitable social faux pas that occur when you are working in a new culture. What you don't plan on is a production team from a hit TV show following your housing search.

But that's exactly what happened when **Jedediah Fix '05** and **Cara Haberman '06** relocated from New York City to Dakar, Senegal, and agreed to appear on *House Hunters International*, the HGTV series where English-speaking expats find a place to live in their new country. "We didn't have the kinds of jobs where our employers found our housing," says Haberman. "So I sent *House Hunters International* an email, thinking being on the show would help us get a nice apartment."

The exhausting four-day shoot turned out to be not quite so straightforward. A "scripted reality show," *House Hunters International* has been known to take creative license with the facts of the home searches they depict. For Fix and Haberman's episode, "Walking Through the Doorway of Africa," which first aired in February, a Senegalese actor flew in from New York City to play the role of the real estate agent. And the city

apartment Haberman and Fix "chose" was the sunny yet modest rental they'd found on their own and had been living in for months. To create a storyline, the crew filmed the "after" scenes first—showing the apartment as it was decorated by Fix and Haberman—and then emptied it and filmed the couple touring it and two more upscale options.

Haberman and Fix moved to Dakar in 2013 for Fix's job as a field coordinator for the World Bank, specializing in health initiatives. He'd already worked in Senegal as a Peace Corps volunteer and lived in the Philippines as a Fulbright fellow. Haberman, a Canadian citizen, left her job as the manager of institutional giving for the New York-based Tanenbaum Center and is now an institutional funding officer for Oxfam Novib, an affiliate of the global development nonprofit.

Both Haberman and Fix credit Macalester with nurturing their passion for global issues and single out Geography professor Bill Moseley and economics professor Vasant Sukhatme as mentors and role models. "I went to Mac because I already had an interest in international affairs," says Haberman, who majored in political science and international studies and served as the vice president of the student government. Mac's financial commitment to international students made it possible for her to afford a U.S. college degree. After graduation, she taught in Honduras and did a research internship in Bolivia





Left to right: Scenes from the appearance of Jedediah Fix '05 and Cara Habermen '06 on *House Hunters International* and from their travels around the globe.



# Africa

**A Macalester couple's international jobs lead to an adventure in reality TV.**

before moving to New York City, where she and Fix, who knew each other at Mac, started dating.


Fix majored in economics and was active in the college's Community Service Office's off-campus student employment program. "I hadn't been to many places before college," he says. "But studying with people from all over the world made me curious about going to different countries." That curiosity led to a semester in Mongolia. He's been on the move ever since.

While the couple initially thought they'd be in Senegal for a year, the Ebola crisis in West Africa forced both the World Bank and Oxfam to shift their resources into managing the crisis, thus delaying the timetable for other initiatives. Their work is rewarding but life has the predictable challenges of the developing world, including water shortages and air conditioning that breaks down.

Still, the couple has soaked up all the benefits of Dakar, enjoying the tropical climate, afternoons at the beach, colleagues whose life experiences and perspectives have broadened theirs, and a more leisurely pace of life that includes lunches in restaurants instead of at their desks. "There isn't the same emphasis on efficiency here," says Haberman. "The first half hour and last half hour of each work day are spent socializing and asking how everyone's families are doing."

In fact, showcasing what's positive about Dakar, which is one of the safest cities in Sub-Saharan Africa, was what Haberman and Fix say *House Hunters International* got right. "We wanted to do the show to help sell Senegal," says Fix, who notes that while it's not on the radar of most North Americans, there are 17,000 French expats who have relocated to the colonial city to work and retire. "The show did a great job delving into the daily life in Dakar."

Fix and Haberman estimate that they'll be in Senegal for another six months before returning to North America to regroup and get married. They say they will need to think carefully about their next move abroad. The Euro crisis has had a deep impact on funding for international development and assistance, and Fix says it's better for the countries if the work can be done by locals.

In the meantime, they are part of a network of Macalester alumni in Dakar and host regular Mac in the City gatherings. "We are products of Macalester," says Haberman. "We believe in it." 

**ELIZABETH FOY LARSEN** is the author of *Unbored: The Essential Field Guide to Serious Fun and Unbored Games: Serious Fun for Everyone*. She lives in Minneapolis.

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

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**DEADLINES FOR CLASS NOTES:**

Feb. 15 for the Spring issue;  
May 15 for the Summer issue;  
Aug. 15 for the Fall issue; and  
Nov. 15 for the Winter issue.

**PHOTO POLICY FOR CLASS NOTES:**

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

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



## MAC AROUND THE WORLD



**Bassam Khawaja '11, Gabe Feingold '12, Nolin Deloison Baum '12, and Emily Crenner '13** were invited for a special meal by the chefs at New York's Gramercy Tavern Restaurant before Nolin goes to work at the American Academy in Rome.

## 1963

**Howard Mielke** was invited by Blacksmith, Inc., to give a presentation to the Vietnamese government last November. He shared his research on a soil contamination intervention technique he developed to alleviate lead pollution in playgrounds in New Orleans. After Howard worked with a craft village engaged in the recycling of lead-acid batteries, the levels of lead in the children's blood declined by 25 percent over four months. He looked forward to presenting a seminar on "getting the lead out of gasoline and more" at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Howard's choir, the Symphony Chorus of New Orleans, was invited to perform at Carnegie Hall in New York City in May.

## 1965

**Merle Drown's** third novel, *Lighting the World*, was published in March.

**Virginia A. Mattson-Schultz** and her husband, David, have retired and live in Aurora, Colo., with their daughter, granddaughters, and dogs.

**Ralph Olson** retired in April 2012. He served in the U.S. Air Force as a medical corpsman during the Vietnam War era, taught at Anoka-Ramsey Community College, worked as a businessman in personnel, production scheduling, and customer service, and worked as a cardiac sonographer.

## 1966

*The Class of 1966 will be celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion June 3-5, 2016.*

## 1969

**Karen Windland Anderson** loves the Pacific Northwest.

**Gregg Larson** retired from the University of Minnesota School of Public Health in 2013.

Last November, he traveled to Monrovia, Liberia, where he spent six months leading operations for an Ebola vaccine trial conducted by the National Institutes of Health and the University of Minnesota.

## 1970

**Kjell Bergh** owns Borton Volvo and Borton Overseas, an international tour operator specializing in Scandinavia and eastern and southern Africa. He was a major shareholder for 20 years in Tarangire Safari Lodge and Serengeti Select Safaris in Tanzania, and was an honorary consul in that country for more than 15 years. He served for seven years as a regent of Augsburg College and 12 years as a trustee of Macalester College, and currently serves on the advisory boards of the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota and the International Leadership Program at the University of St. Thomas. Kjell is

married to Donna and has two daughters and a son.

## 1971

*The Class of 1971 will be celebrating its 45<sup>th</sup> Reunion June 3-5, 2016.*

## 1975

**Gayle Winegar** joined her daughter **Zosha Winegar-Schultz '16** on a spring break trip to Florence, Italy, where Gayle had spent a semester abroad 41 years earlier. "I dazzled my daughter and [her] art-major housemate as I could still name almost every artist and the works," Gayle wrote.

## 1976

*The Class of 1976 will be celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> Reunion June 3-5, 2016.*

## 1977

**Paula Goodman Maccabee**, an environmental attorney based in



St. Paul, received the Minnesota Public Health Association's 2015 Harvey G. Rogers Environmental Health Leadership Award. As advocacy director and legal counsel for the nonprofit Water Legacy, Paula fought a legal case that prevented the mining industry from striking down pollution and health risk standards.

## 1984

**Jennifer Sheridan** has worked as a field sales representative for HarperCollins Publishers since 2006. Her territory includes the East Coast and Midwest (including the Twin Cities). Jennifer was recently awarded the 2015 Sales Rep of the Year award by *Publishers Weekly*, which also featured an interview with her in its May 4 issue. She lives in New York City with her husband and two children.

## 1988

**Jodi Vandenberg-Daves's** book *Modern Motherhood: An American History* (Rutgers University Press) is the first synthesis of the history of motherhood in the United States. She is a professor at University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. Jodi and her husband, **John Vandenberg-Daves '87**, have three children, including recent Macalester graduate **Allison Vandenberg-Daves '15**.

## 1991

**David E. Miller** was profiled in the *Chicago Daily Law Bulletin* in May. After practicing internationally with the law firm of Hogan & Hartson and in house at a major financial institution, David left the corporate world to open a solo law practice in Maplewood, N.J., and spend more time with his wife and two children.

In April, **Margaret Storey** was named to the board of directors of the Danny Did Foundation, a Chicago nonprofit that seeks to increase awareness of epilepsy and sudden unexpected death in epilepsy. She has a daughter with Aicardi syndrome, a rare condition that causes intractable seizures. Margaret is an associate professor of history at DePaul University.

## 1993

**Martin Curley** has completed an MSc in international management at Royal Holloway, University of London. He lives in Amsterdam and is senior communications officer at Fair Wear Foundation, which focuses on human rights compliance in garment supply chains.

**Elee Wood** has received the Thomas Ehrlich Award for Excellence in Service Learning from Indiana University and the John Cotton Dana Award for Leadership in Museums from the American Alliance of Museums.



## MAC AROUND THE WORLD



Three Macalester alumni recently met in Vilnius, Lithuania, to discuss placement opportunities for American high school students who will be studying in Lithuania on the ExCEL program. From left: Kevin Reiling '98, regional coordinator for American Councils in Vilnius; Rebecca Toth-Juras '92, director of the Vilnius International School; and retired U.S. Ambassador Anne Derse '76.

## 1995

**Arturo Garcia Martinez-Garcia** planned to start a new position this July as day school principal of The Next Step PCS, a school in Washington, D.C. for disconnected youth who have not succeeded in traditional schools.

**Amanda Martin** has moved to Lausanne, Switzerland, with her husband and 2½-year-old daughter. She would like to meet other alumni in the Vaud and Geneva area.

## 1998

**Sean Palmer** and his wife welcomed Zachary Kai Hasker Palmer into the world on Sept. 13, 2014.

## 2002

**Mary Robert Nahm Garrett** received the Paul C. Hager Award for Excellence in Advising at Berea College's graduation ceremony in May.

## 2001

**Elissa Anderson Cedarleaf-Dahl**, a teacher at Ramsey Middle School in Minneapolis, was named a regional honoree in the Teacher Achievement category of the WEM Foundation's 2015 Outstanding Educator Awards.

**Jesse Hagopian** gave a public presentation based on his essay "The Testocracy Versus the Educational Spring" at Macalester in March. Jesse, who was named 2013 Secondary School Teacher of the Year by the Academy of Education Arts and Sciences, led a boycott of standardizing testing in Seattle's public schools. He serves as associate editor of *Rethinking Schools* and posts to the blog "I Am an Educator."

## 2003

**Sonya Clarkson** completed her PhD in biochemistry and molecular biology at the University of Georgia in 2011. Since 2012, she has conducted postdoctoral research at the Department of Energy's Oak Ridge National Laboratory, focusing on the metabolic engineering of microorganisms to generate renewable bioenergy products. Sonya plans to become a traditional Scottish dance instructor this year.

## 2005

**Laura McLam** is finishing a feature-length documentary on Costa Rican immigrant, peace activist, and Boston Marathon bombing hero Carlos Arredondo.



## MAC AROUND THE WORLD



**Anna Everett Beek '06** (left) received her PhD in classics, and **Aaron Beek '06** (right) received his in Latin, from the University of Minnesota. One of Anna and Aaron's professors, **Philip Sellw '75** (center), conferred their hoods at the commencement ceremony. Anna has accepted a position teaching Latin at the University of St. Thomas.

# Class Notes



## MAC AROUND THE WORLD



Dameun Strange '95 (left) and Lee Kesselman '74 (right) both premiered works with the Twin Cities-based Alternative Motion Project AMP IV concerts in March 2015 at the LAB Theatre in Minneapolis. Strange created the music for the world premiere of HeartBeatRed, choreographed by Kristin Howe. Kesselman collaborated with choreographer Joanna Lees (center) in JOLERE, a work inspired by Chicago painter René Romero Schuler. Kesselman's music was written for solo soprano and string quartet in six movements. The recorded soprano was Kesselman's daughter, Lindsay Kesselman, who is the daughter of Kesselman and Emily Ellsworth '74.

It was only after reading the concert programs that Kesselman and Strange realized they were both Mac grads.

**2006**

**Başak Çandar** received her PhD in comparative literature from the University of Michigan last December. She spent 10 months in Berlin as a postdoctoral fellow at Forum Transregionale Studien and plans to join the faculty of

Appalachian State University in August as assistant professor of world literature.

**2007**

As the workplace policy and legislative analyst for the San Francisco Department

on the Status of Women, **Elizabeth Newman** is working on a women's human rights campaign and on policies and programs to advance gender equity in the workplace.

**2008**

**Talha Kahn** planned to run a 100 kilometer ultra-marathon from London to Brighton, England, in May to raise funds for The Citizens Foundation, a leading education charity in Pakistan.

**2009**

**Zoe Campbell** received a PhD fellowship through the Gates Foundation to study in Tanzania.

**Luke Franklin** has completed an MA in Slavic languages and literatures at the University of Kansas and passed his PhD qualifying exam with honors. He plans to teach intensive first-year Russian this summer and begin PhD coursework in Slavic literature in the fall.

**Rebecca Sheff** graduated from the New York University School of Law in May. She plans to do a one-year fellowship at Human Rights First in Washington, D.C., working on programs to counter extremism in Europe and promote the independence of civil society in

the Middle East and elsewhere.

**2012**

**Caitlin Baker** received a 2015 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship. She is studying biology at Harvard University. Macalester alumni who received honorable mentions for the fellowship included **Allison Einolf '13** (physics, Oregon State University), **Leif Johnson '11** (geography, University of Kentucky), **Steven Larson '13** (chemistry, University of Wisconsin-Madison), **Madison Mack '12** (biology, Washington University), **Joseph Rand '07** (environmental studies, University of California-Berkeley), and **Kacper Skakuj '14** (chemistry, Northwestern University).

**Kristen Ross** is pursuing an MPH in epidemiology and global health at the University of South Florida-Tampa.

**Hilary Schroeder** received an MA in art history from the University of Georgia in May. Her thesis research focused on the intersection of dance and the museum. She plans to spend 11 days this summer dancing with French choreographer Xavier Le Roy as part of the 2015 Venice Biennale College Danza.



## MAC AROUND THE WORLD



**Jesse Hagopian '01** (center) spoke at Macalester on March 20 about standardized testing in the public schools. He is pictured with **Clay Steinman** (left), professor of media and cultural studies at Macalester, and **Leola Johnson** (right), associate professor and chair of media and cultural studies.



**Doris Zhao** co-curated “a curious blindness,” an exhibition of the work of 18 early- to mid-career artists responding to the current climate of race and identity politics. The show opened in April at the Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Art Gallery. Doris is completing her master’s degree in modern art: critical and curatorial studies at Columbia University. As the curatorial fellow at the Studio Museum in Harlem, she recently helped organize exhibitions by such artists as Trenton Doyle Hancock and Samuel Levi Jones.

**2013**

**Margaret Worman** of Moorhead, Minn., planned to serve as a health extension volunteer with the Peace Corps in Zambia for two years starting in June 2015.



## MAC AROUND THE WORLD



Macalester geography professor Bill Moseley (left) on a recent research trip to Botswana with Macalester student Rachel Fehr '16 (right), a geography and economics double major from Iowa City, Iowa, and local research assistant Thabo Setso (center).

## ► BOOKS

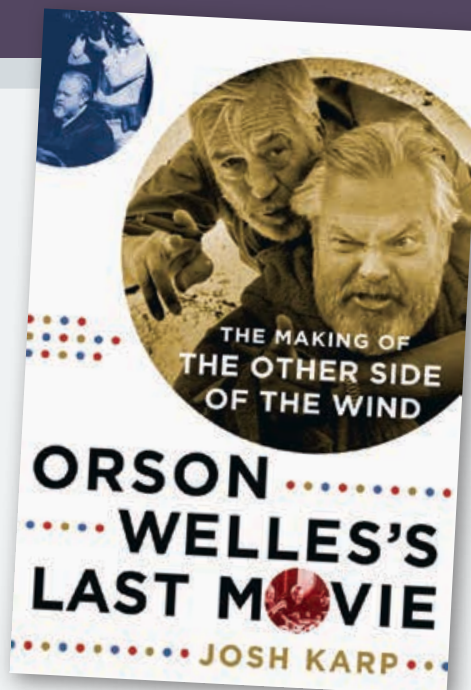
Excerpted from *Orson Welles's Last Movie: The Making of The Other Side of the Wind* by **Josh Karp '88**

(ST. MARTIN'S PRESS, 2015)

With Orson, one friend said, timing was everything. If you came into his life a few minutes early, you might be gruffly dismissed. Arrive five minutes later, however, and you could be swept into his orbit for an evening as his dinner guest, an experience that you'd talk about for the rest of your life and one he'd forget by the next afternoon.

But if you arrived right on time, not a minute early or five minutes late, you could be more. Meeting Welles at the right moment meant you could become his business partner or his personal assistant; his trusted friend or future enemy; Sancho to his Don Quixote; or Hal to his Falstaff. Even more, when Orson needed you, you became indispensable—until, of course, you weren't. You might remain in his grasp for the rest of his life or even yours. That choice was his, and resistance was futile.

The impact of falling under Orson's spell was summed up best by actress Geraldine Fitzgerald, who said he was “like a lighthouse. When you were caught in the beam, it was utterly dazzling. When the beam moved on, you were plunged into darkness.”



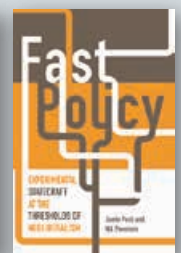
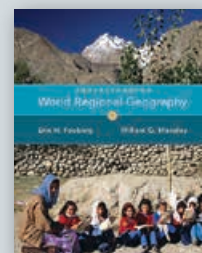
**Fitih Cinnor '03**, publishing as F. C. Blake, *Immigrating Tears* (AMAZON, 2015)

**W.G. Moseley**, geography professor (with E. Fouberg), *Understanding World Regional Geography* (WILEY/BLACKWELL, 2015)

**Samuel Hanson Willis '96**, *Guide to Betterness* (EPUB, 2015)

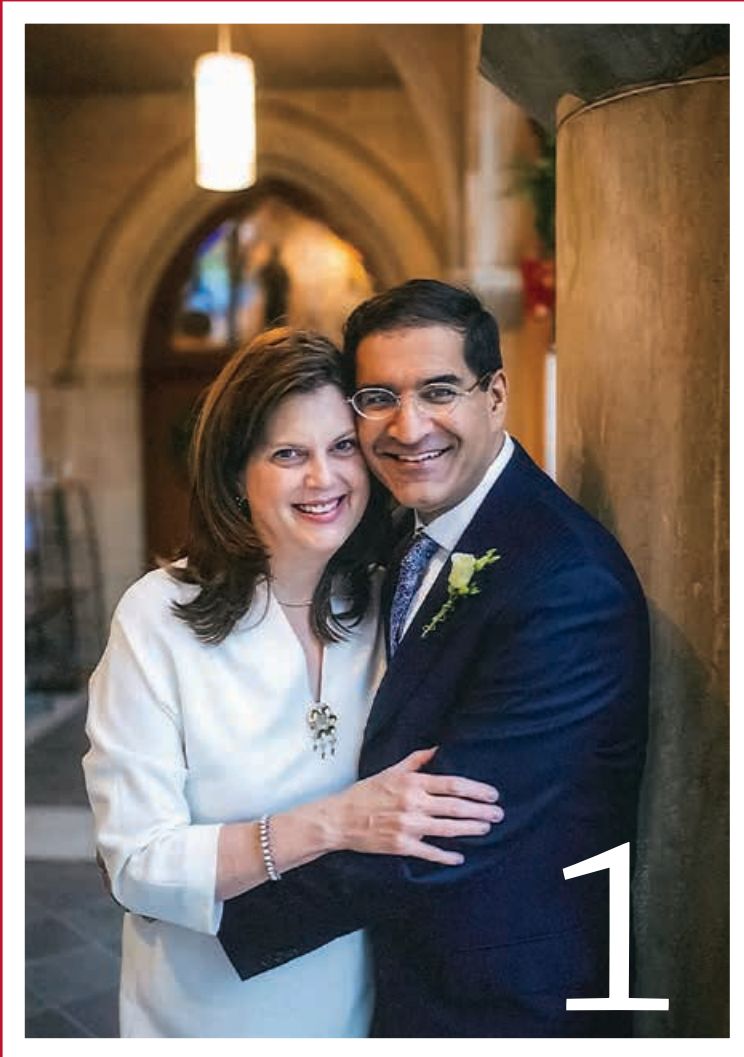
**Nik Theodore '86** and Jamie Peck, *Fast Policy: Experimental Statecraft at the Thresholds of Neoliberalism* (UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA PRESS, 2015)

**Alexander Wendt '82**, *Quantum Mind and Social Science: Unifying Physical and Social Ontology* (CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2015)





## Mac Weddings







**1. Lois Quam '83** and Arshad Mohammed were married Dec. 6, 2014, in Washington, D.C.

**2. Andrea Specht '92** and **Joseph Ford '92** were married Jan. 31, 2015, in St. Paul. The officiant was retired Minnesota Supreme Court Justice **Paul Anderson '65**, for whom Andrea clerked from 2005 to 2006.

**3. Elenora Connors '02** and Ankit Desai were married April 26, 2014, in Napa, Calif. Nora's father officiated, and Virginia Sen. Mark Warner did a reading. Alumni present included (from left): **Abigail Gurney Stephenson '02**, **Brendan Bell '02**, **Sebastian Sanchez de Lozada '01**, **Pam Montbach '02**, **Morgan Little '02**, **Ariel Jacobs '02**, **Shaina Aber-Hanson '02**, **Steffany Stern '02**, **Nevena Pasajlic Toaso '02**, **Mia Simpson '02**, and **Greta Ball '02**.

**4. Jessie Taggart '09** and **Tim Lehman Taggart '09** were married Oct. 4, 2014, in the San Francisco Bay area.

**5. Tricia Gonwa '05** and Alex Koroknay-Palicz were married in October 2014, in Milwaukee, Wis. From left to right, **Marc Rodgowin '05**, **Kristina Krohn '05**, bride and groom, **Elisa Kari Berry Fonseca '05**, and **Anna Cavallo '05**.



# 2015 Alumni Awards

## DISTINGUISHED CITIZENS

**Bob Kreischer '65** graduated with a BA in psychology, but little idea how to turn it into a career. Then he went on to San Francisco Theological Seminary, where an education course led him to an unanticipated, but extraordinary career.

"Children are born with the joy of learning and they continue to be curious—until they get to school," says Kreischer, who aimed to change that trend by founding, along with his then-wife Sandy '66, what became the highly regarded Mounds Park Academy in Maplewood, Minn.

It was challenging, but with the philosophy that "If doors keep opening, we'll keep marching through them," Kreischer, who served as director for 20 years, saw the school grow from 104 students to 650 in K–12 classes, with a budget of \$9.5 million. From the beginning, MPA was committed to the liberal arts, including art, drama, music, physical education and foreign language study.

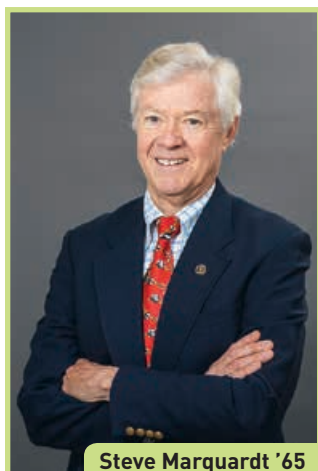


**Bob Kreischer '65**

Kreischer was nominated by classmate Bonnie Koch, who taught at MPA for almost 20 years. She recalls that the U.S. Department of Education commended the school for its "challenging academic program balanced by a sense of global responsibility," adding that "Bob's recognition as a gifted educator has extended beyond Mounds Park Academy."

For 33 years, **Steve Marquardt '65**, South Dakota State University's Dean of Libraries Emeritus, served as a university librarian, expanding and improving access to knowledge. Academic libraries have undergone tremendous technological change, for which Marquardt provided valued leadership to the university administration, library colleagues, faculty, and students.

He also enjoyed a parallel career as a volunteer human rights advocate, lobbying to abolish the death penalty for juveniles in South Dakota, and earning a Butler Human Rights Award in 2006 for his work persuading the Brookings City Council to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.



**Steve Marquardt '65**

Since 1982, Marquardt has been active in Amnesty International, serving as legislative coordinator for South Dakota, then Minnesota, where he now resides with his wife Judy '66. His work on human rights issues included violence and discrimination against women, the closing of the Guantanamo Bay detention facility, prisoners of conscience, and many more. His careers converged in his work with "Freedom," an organization that worked toward the 2010 release of persons imprisoned for operating independent libraries in Cuba.

Rhoda Goodrich Moeller and Justice Paul Anderson jointly nominated their classmate, with Anderson noting, "I have frequently referred to Steve as my cultural and moral compass."

**Skye K. Richendrfer '80** is truly a Scot among Scots. Having started playing the bagpipes at age 7, he naturally gravitated to Macalester, where, already an accomplished piper, he joined and then led the then student-run pipe band.



**Skye K. Richendrfer '80**

After graduating from Macalester with a degree in history, Richendrfer played for several years with the world championship Simon Fraser University Pipe Band from British Columbia. But his biggest post-college accomplishment was founding the Skagit Valley Highland Games & Celtic Festival in Mount Vernon, Wash., which is still thriving today.

Even while working as mayor of Mount Vernon for eight years, Richendrfer's passion for all things Celtic continued to flourish, as he obtained nonprofit status for the Celtic Arts Foundation and became its full-time executive director in 2004. Richendrfer's latest accomplishment is the completion of a \$2 million Celtic event center in Mount Vernon, for which he did the fundraising. The Littlefield Celtic Center will host music and dance performances and workshops, academic presentations, and a host of other celebratory events and activities.

"This is a legacy project for me," says Richendrfer.

## YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD

Nine years after he graduated from Macalester, **Zach Axelrod '06** is the founder and CEO of the country's largest solar hot water provider. His rapidly growing business, writes his nominator, is a "clean energy success story"—and his work is changing the field of renewable energy.

Axelrod's passion for that field formed well before he arrived at Macalester. "I thought renewable energy would make sense during my lifetime," he says, "and whenever that happened, I knew I wanted to be part of it." After majoring in economics, Axelrod worked in the U.S. Trade Representatives Office in Washington, D.C., then at an energy consulting firm before joining an energy start-up. The start-up failed, but working with colleagues who believed they could change the world defined his next step: starting his own company.

Axelrod founded Skyline Innovations in 2009 and began installing solar hot water systems in low-income and affordable housing, in the process reducing utility bills, recycling old systems, and creating hundreds of green jobs. Skyline—recently renamed Nextility—expanded its offerings recently, and the company's growth accelerated: Axelrod expects customer accounts to grow from 800 to 5,000 by the end of the year.

An active alum, Annual Fund class agent and Reunion committee member, Axelrod returns to campus regularly to speak to economics classes. He's also hired eight Mac alumni at Nextility and



**Zachary Axelrod '06**



helped more than a dozen land employment. Throughout his company's rapid growth, writes the classmate who nominated him, "Zach has remained humble, kind, and of service to his fellow alumni and community."

## ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD

If you haven't already met **David Bloom '65**, chances are good that he's at least been in your neck of the woods. In the last 16 months, the Class of 1965's 50th Reunion co-chair has driven more than 10,000 miles around the United States to meet face-to-face with his classmates—all in the spirit of encouraging them to attend Reunion.

The Mac-themed travel all started with a nudge from Bloom's classmate Ruth Lippin. While visiting the Twin Cities last winter, he considered taking a roundabout route back to his Seattle home. Lippin suggested that he visit classmates along the way.

With a Class of 1965 National Alumni Tour magnet on his car, Bloom embarked on a seven-



David Bloom '65

week road trip—first to Florida, then west through Texas and southern California. Mac's Alumni Relations Office connected him with classmates along the route, and he compiled a narrative about each alum he visited. By the time he finished a second road trip later in the year, he'd visited more than 40 classmates.

"We were all on this little campus in St. Paul in the 1960s,

and now we're all over the country, contributing to communities in our own ways," says Bloom, whose passion for social justice led him to a career in ministry, community organizing, and teaching. "I saw the Macalester spirit in the lives of the classmates I visited."

## CHARLES J. TURCK GLOBAL CITIZEN AWARD

**Susan and James Graham '65** arrived at Macalester in the early 1960s eager to see the world. They married two days before graduation and then spent more than 20 years in Africa, exemplifying the spirit of global citizenship in their work.



Susan Graham '65

After earning her teacher's certification, Susan joined Jim in Uganda, where he was already in graduate school thanks to a Mac scholarship. A few years later, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) offered him a job. The first assignment of Jim's 35-year USAID career sent the family to Congo when the couple's two daughters were just four weeks and 18 months old.

Over the next three decades, they lived in Mali, Sudan, Kenya, Rwanda, and Tunisia. Jim developed, implemented, and analyzed projects in collaboration with local officials, including research in Rwanda that prompted the president to dramatically change the country's family planning recommendations. Susan loved teaching English as a Second



James Graham '65

Language, especially at a teacher training college in Mali. In Rwanda, she worked on an AIDS research project; in Kenya, she revitalized a blood bank's system.

Back in the U.S. in the 1990s, Jim managed USAID's Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment, a 20-year project to preserve the Congo River basin's ecosystem. For Jim, taking it from start to finish—a rare opportunity in development work—was a special way to wrap up his career.

Today, Jim and Susan volunteer near their Arlington, Virginia, home. Susan earned a master's degree in linguistics and continues to teach ESL. They learned how to sail in Khartoum and now race on the Potomac River. They're working on their Spanish proficiency and recently stayed with a host family in Guatemala—the latest chapter in their international travel, but far from a surprising development for the lifelong learners with a passion for global citizenship.

## CATHARINE LEALTAD SERVICE TO SOCIETY AWARD

**Shelley Carthen Watson '82** had actually committed to attending another school when a well-timed packet of admissions materials from Macalester changed her mind—and, she now says, her life.

Once on campus, the San Bernardino, Calif., native threw herself into forensics, residential

life (as RA and hall director), student government, minority programs, and, of course, into her triple major of sociology, political science, and law and society.

After graduation, she earned a law degree from Northwestern University and then spent several years at the Minneapolis law firm of Robins Kaplan Miller and Ciresi, ultimately earning a partnership. Fifteen years ago she moved to the University of Minnesota's Office of the General Counsel, where she has worked ever since, providing counsel and training in labor relations and employment issues, representing the university in collective bargaining and other matters.

Despite her busy professional schedule, Carthen Watson has never stinted on giving back to her alma mater. Through the years she has served on the Board of Trustees, a presidential search committee, and the Alumni Board. She regularly serves as a host parent for the Alumni of Color Host Family Program and provided what nominator Daymond Dean '91 called "invaluable service" to 2013's Alumni of Color Reunion.

She's happy to volunteer for Mac, says Carthen Watson, because her experience there was "transforming," turning her into a top-notch speaker, writer, thinker, and global citizen, and giving her lifelong friends. Her dream is that others will share that experience. As she puts it, "I want other students of color to have the gift of a Macalester education, to help produce the next generation" of outstanding African American alumni.



Shelley Carthen Watson '82

# In Memoriam

## 1939

**Robert C. Nelson**, 96, died March 27, 2015, in Hallock, Minn. He served as a Navy Seabee in the Aleutian Islands during World War II. Mr. Nelson began working at Northwestern State Bank in Hallock in 1949, eventually becoming principal stockholder of the bank before selling it in 1969. He is survived by three sons, seven grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

## 1940

**Margaret Mark King**, 96, of Roseville, Minn., died March 8, 2015. She is survived by three daughters, a son, nine grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

**Helen Thoen Simpson**, 96, of Washington, D.C., died Dec. 28, 2014. She served as an ensign with a Navy intelligence unit in San Francisco during World War II. A series of 18 sketches by Mrs. Simpson of Depression-era movie stars was featured in an exhibit at Iona Wellness and Arts Center in Washington, D.C. She is survived by two daughters, a son, a grandson, two great-grandchildren, and a sister.

## 1942

**Alice Godfrey Wimer**, 94, died Feb. 23, 2015, in North Andover, Mass. She was executive director of Girl Scout councils in Harrisburg, Pa., Bergen County, N.J., and San Francisco, and executive director of the greater New York City YWCA. As director of international affairs with the National Council of Churches from 1973 to 1980, Mrs. Wimer worked with church dignitaries behind the Iron Curtain. She also served on the steering committee for the World Council of Churches and focused on human rights as vice president of the Christian Peace Conference. Mrs. Wimer is survived by a daughter, two sons (including **Allan Wimer '67**), two grandchildren, and a great-grandchild.

## 1943

**Dorothy Muir Mullen**, 93, of Chapel Hill, N.C., died Jan. 28, 2015. She served as executive secretary and board member of the Inter-Faith Council for Social Service in Chapel Hill and was active in

numerous volunteer organizations. Later in life, she taught English as a second language to both children and adults. Mrs. Mullen is survived by a daughter, three sons, five grandchildren, and a great-grandchild.

## 1944

**Jane Crichton Leiper**, 92, of Windsor, Calif., died May 11, 2015. After attending Yale Divinity School, Mrs. Leiper was assigned by the Presbyterian Missionary Board to serve in northern China along with her new husband, Henry. Mrs. Leiper later worked for the National Council of Churches, the New Jersey Job Corps Center, and the International House at the University of California-Berkeley. As associate director of the National Council of Churches' Washington, D.C., office, she organized conferences, seminars, and newsletters on foreign policy issues, and returned to China as part of a national leadership delegation invited by that country's government. In 1982, Mrs. Leiper was named executive director of the U.S.-China People's Friendship Association. After her retirement in 1984, she taught English in China, Thailand, and Cambodia. Mrs. Leiper received Macalester's Distinguished Citizen Award in 1986. She is survived by two daughters (including **Margaret Leiper DeMonchy '69**), two sons, eight grandchildren, and three great-granddaughters.

## 1946

**Janet Linderholm Hoiseth**, 90, of Paynesville, Minn., died Feb. 17, 2015. She taught high school English in Hutchinson, Minn., worked as a substitute teacher in Paynesville, took leading roles in local productions of musicals, and recorded an album in the 1960s. Mrs. Hoiseth is survived by two daughters, a son, and six grandchildren.

**Jane Strigel Locke**, 91, of Shoreview, Minn., died March 3, 2015. She worked for Ramsey County. Mrs. Locke is survived by two daughters, two sons, nine grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren.

## 1947

**Delores Rauschnot Loegering**, 89, of Woodbury, Minn., died April

27, 2015. She is survived by a daughter and a son.

## 1948

**Elaine Wenzel Gladitsch**, 88, died April 22, 2015, in Colfax, Wis. She worked as the office manager of the veterinary practice of her husband, the late **William Gladitsch '47**. Mrs. Gladitsch is survived by three daughters (including **Teri Gladitsch Mills '71**), two sons, 12 grandchildren, a great-granddaughter, a sister, and brother **James Wenzel '49**.

**Joanola Talles Rose**, 88, of San Rafael, Calif., died Feb. 28, 2015. She worked for Hamilton Standard, a women's prison, Aerojet, the Glendora YWCA, and San Rafael High School. Mrs. Rose is survived by her husband, William, two daughters, and a grandson.

**Jean Peterson Stark**, 88, died recently. She was a schoolteacher in Minnesota, pre-statehood Alaska, and Illinois, and principal of a school for at-risk girls in Park Ridge, Ill. As an educational tour leader, she escorted high school students on summer trips to Europe, Russia, Australia, and New Zealand. She is survived by her husband, **Robert Stark '49**, a daughter, two sons, three grandchildren, and a sister.

**Irene C. Ulmer**, 88, died Feb. 27, 2015, in Fairbanks, Alaska. She was a junior-high schoolteacher and worked as a counselor at McLaughlin Youth Center in Anchorage, Alaska. She also served as a counselor for high school students and for young military personnel in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Mrs. Ulmer is survived by two sons, two granddaughters, five great-grandchildren, and former husband **Brian Cleworth '49**.

## 1949

**Dorothy Dyson Bolton**, 88, of Northfield, Minn., died Jan. 13, 2015. She worked as a legal secretary for future Supreme Court Justice Warren Burger and was a secretary in St. Olaf College's philosophy department for more than 20 years. Mrs. Bolton is survived by two daughters, a son, seven grandchildren, and two great-granddaughters.

**Howard F. Huelster**, 90, of St. Paul died April 1, 2015. He

was a professor of English at Macalester and served as assistant dean of students in the mid-1960s. He retired after 41 years with the college and received a Distinguished Alumni Award in 2004. Mr. Huelster was a founder of the St. Paul Association of Retarded Children and president of the organization's Minnesota chapter, as well as a member of a mental health advisory board for the Ramsey County Human Services Department. Mr. Huelster is survived by his wife, **Mary MacDonald Huelster '47**, sons **Hugh Huelster '74**, **Ross Huelster '79**, and **Dan Huelster '82**, eight grandchildren (including **Joshua Huelster '95** and **Nicholas Huelster '12**), 12 great-grandchildren, two sisters, and a brother.

**Robert G. Lampe**, 91, of Northfield, Minn., died May 2, 2015. He was a decorated World War II U.S. Army veteran who fought in the Battle of the Bulge. He practiced as a small-town lawyer for 50 years at the Lampe Law Firm, one of the oldest continuously operating law firms in Minnesota. Mr. Lampe is survived by four sons, four grandchildren, and two sisters.

## 1950

**Joyce McElwaine Falstad**, 85, of Ladysmith, Wis., died March 5, 2015. She was a schoolteacher in Wisconsin for 15 years, retiring in 1982. Mrs. Falstad is survived by her husband, Edward.

**Leslie W. Kallsen**, 87, died March 1, 2015, in Pipestone, Minn. During his career with the U.S. Navy, he served as an aviator during the Korean War, a flight instructor in Florida and Japan, and commander of naval air activities in Chicago and the Twin Cities. After achieving the rank of commander, Mr. Kallsen retired in 1975 to Meadow Sweet Farm near Ihlen, Minn. There he hosted several University of Minnesota Opera Theater "Opera on the Farm" performances, including a production of Aaron Copland's *The Tender Land* that was featured on Charles Kuralt's Sunday television program. Mr. Kallsen is survived by daughters **Lorraine Kallsen Knefelkamp '67** and **Kristin Kallsen '76**, a granddaughter, three great-grandchildren, and a brother.



**Jean Beyer Weinberg**, 86, of Red Lake Falls, Minn., died April 7, 2015. She worked in Macalester's personnel office from 1950 to 1951, and also worked at Boston Store and in various secretarial positions in the Milwaukee, Wis., area. Ms. Weinberg is survived by two daughters, two sons, and nine grandchildren (including **Lindsay Weinberg '04**).

## 1951

**George Capetz**, 91, of Minneapolis, died May 30, 2015. He served as a teacher and media specialist in the Minneapolis public school for 30 years. Capetz is survived by his wife of 62 years, **Harriet Carr Capetz '53**, two daughters, and four grandchildren.

**Richard L. Schall**, 85, died April 18, 2015. He was vice president of finance and development at General Mills, executive vice president and board director at MGM Motion Pictures, vice president of finance at Donaldson, Lufkin, Jenrette, and chief executive officer and director of Josten's. Mr. Schall retired in 1985 as chief administrative officer and vice chairman of the Dayton Hudson Corporation. He served on the boards of numerous corporations, nonprofit organizations, and educational institutions, and was a generous philanthropist. He served two terms as chair of Macalester's Board of Trustees and received the college's Award for Meritorious and Distinguished Service in 2012. Mr. Schall is survived by his wife, Maryan, three daughters, a son, eight grandchildren (including **Meg Schall '09**), and a sister.

**David C. Sheldon**, 86, died April 26, 2015. He served as a minister at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Joliet, Ill., and worked for the YMCA before serving from 1978 to 1987 as executive director of Hildene, Robert Todd Lincoln's summer home in Manchester, Vt. Mr. Sheldon then co-founded LightBulbs, Etc., in Overland Park, Kan., with his son-in-law. He is survived by his wife, Lois, four daughters, two sons, 15 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren, two sisters, and a brother.

**Allen M. Smith**, 85, of Shoreview, Minn., died March 3, 2015. He is survived by his

wife, Janet, a daughter, three sons, 12 grandchildren, and a great-grandson.

## 1954

**John A. Williamson**, 82, of Boulder, Colo., died March 30, 2015. After teaching stints at a Minnesota high school, in Northern Rhodesia, and at Cornell University, Mr. Williamson joined the faculty of the University of Colorado at Boulder in 1967. He retired from CU as professor of applied mathematics in 2005. Mr. Williamson received the International Genetic Epidemiology Society's Best Paper Award in 1996 and Macalester's Distinguished Citizen Award in 1999. He is survived by two daughters, a son, five grandchildren, and a sister.

## 1955

**Lois Osterberg Brown**, 81, of Cedar Park, Texas, died Dec. 19, 2013. She worked for the state departments of health in Wisconsin and Texas. Mrs. Brown is survived by her partner, Jack Graham, two daughters, four grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and two sisters.

**Henry G. Dryer**, 87, died Dec. 26, 2014. He is survived by his wife, Arlyss.

## 1956

**Joan Schulte Mowers**, 84, of Little Canada, Minn., died April 2, 2015. She is survived by a sister.

## 1957

**Teymoor Gedayloo** died April 7, 2015. He was professor emeritus at California Polytechnic State University. Mr. Gedayloo is survived by his wife, Helen, and three daughters.

**Grant O. Judd**, 79, of Howard Lake, Minn., died May 5, 2015. He performed as an organist at numerous recitals, concerts, community events, and other functions. Mr. Judd is survived by two sons, five grandchildren, a great-grandson, and two sisters (including **Judy Judd von Loewe '62**).

**Douglas A. Nelson**, 80, of Cottage Grove, Minn., died March 7, 2015. After serving in the U.S. Army

and working for Sperry Univac, he began farming full time. Mr. Nelson is survived by a brother.

## 1958

**Calvin R. Colvin**, 78, of Edina, Minn., died Feb. 11, 2015. He managed the Cal Colvin Insurance Agency. Mr. Colvin is survived by his wife, Dorothy, a daughter, a son, six grandchildren, and three brothers.

## 1959

**Lowell J. McCarthy**, 85, of Edina, Minn., died April 13, 2015. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps, taught art and art history for 30 years at Edina and Edina East High Schools, and served as parks and recreation director for the City of Edina. Mr. McCarthy is survived by his wife, Joan, three sons (including **John McCarthy '86**), a grandson, and a sister.

## 1960

**Jack Kosoy**, 82, of Granada Hills, Calif., died April 13, 2015. He is survived by his wife, Ina, two sons, four grandchildren, and a twin brother.

## 1962

**David L. Kleimola** of Mendota Heights, Minn., died March 2, 2015. He is survived by his wife, Sue, a daughter, four grandchildren, and a sister.

**Mary Johnson Rosen**, 74, died April 25, 2015, in Las Cruces, N.M. She taught high school Spanish and English. Mrs. Rosen is survived by her husband, Jim, two daughters, three grandchildren, and brother **Richard Johnson '69**.

## 1963

**Russell A. Peterson**, 72, of Minneapolis died May 30, 2014. He worked for a long time in computer software development and marketing. Mr. Peterson is survived by his wife, Ann, a daughter, a son, and a sister.

## 1964

**David A. Dahlquist**, 72, of Lyle, Minn., died March 18, 2015.

## 1966

**Eleanor Topic Trnka**, 95, of Grand Rapids, Minn., died Jan. 17, 2014. She began her teaching career in 1937 in a one-room schoolhouse west of Faribault, Minn., and retired from the Minneapolis school system at the age of 70.

## 1967

**Wendy S. Sparrow**, 70, of New Hope, Minn., died April 27, 2015. She worked in education and was a real estate appraiser in Chicago. Ms. Sparrow is survived by a sister.

## 1972

**David J. O'Connell**, 64, died Feb. 23, 2015. He retired in January 2015 as human resources director for Rock County, Wis. Mr. O'Connell is survived by his wife, Mary, a daughter, a son, and a brother.

**Bruce E. Williams**, 65, of Woodbury, Minn., died May 10, 2015. He worked in the pharmaceutical division of 3M. Mr. Williams is survived by his wife, **Jane Johnson Williams '72**, two daughters, four grandchildren, and sister **Sandra Williams Boler '66**.

## 1975

**Helen G. Cropper** of Oak Park, Ill., died May 26, 2015. She served as a federal administrative law judge for 20 years. She was previously a staff and managing attorney with the Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago and director of litigation at the Cook County Legal Assistance Foundation. Mrs. Cropper is survived by her husband, **David Montgomery '74**, a daughter, a son, her mother, and a sister.

## 1976

**Thomas S. Holman**, 62, died March 16, 2015, in New York City. During a 40-year career as an art historian, author, and private art advisor, he served as chief curator at the Norton Museum of Art, curator of collections at the Minnesota Museum of American Art, associate director at Forum Gallery, and executive director of the Hudson River Museum, the Albany Museum of Art, and the Marietta/Cobb Museum of Art. Mr. Holman is survived by his mother and a brother.

# In Memoriam

1979

**Greg J. Adamich**, 57, of Minnetonka, Minn., died May 10, 2015. He was service director at Dodge of Burnsville. Mr. Adamich is survived by his wife, Michele, a daughter, a son, his parents, and a sister.

1991

**Timothy S. Pfeifer**, 45, of New York City died Feb. 12, 2015. During his career as an attorney, he was an associate at White & Case and a partner at BakerHostetler. Mr. Pfeifer is survived by his parents and a sister.

1994

**Eric M. Brown**, 44, of Minneapolis died March 12, 2015. After completing a residency in psychiatry, he practiced in a Veterans Affairs Medical Center posttraumatic stress disorder clinic for more than 10 years, including six years as the clinic's medical director. From 2011 to 2012, Dr.

## Other Losses

**Jed H. Davis**, of Lawrence, Kan., who taught theater and creative dramatics at Macalester, died May 25, 2015. He was 93. He served in the Army during World War II and retired as a professor of theater at the University of Kansas in 1986. Mr. Davis co-authored two textbooks on theater for children and was a charter inductee into the Kansas Theater Hall of Fame. He is survived by a daughter, a son, three grandchildren, and a great-granddaughter.

Brown served as president of the Minnesota Psychiatric Society, which named him Psychiatrist of the Year in 2013. He also received the VA Undersecretary's Hearts and Hands Award in 2014. Dr. Brown is survived by his wife, **Lisa Cowley '95**, two daughters, a twin sister, and his mother.

## Correction:

The obituary for **Dorothy Koch Clark '41** in the Spring 2015 issue neglected to mention that four of her siblings also attended Macalester: **Edna Koch '29**, **Bertha Koch Fisher '29**, **Fred Koch '33** (a past alumni president), and **Karl Koch '38**. Dorothy Koch Clark is survived by niece **Marilyn Koch Straka '68**. We regret the error.

## Explore the bird life of Cambodia

January 5–January 17, 2016



Milky Stork. Photograph by Lip Kee

*Spend 12 days exploring the bird life of Cambodia with Macalester professors Erik Davis and Arjun Guneratne. We will look for Milky Storks and Painted Storks, Neglected Nuthatches, Changeable Hawk-Eagles and Blue-bearded Bee-eaters, and the over 550 other species that make Cambodia their home.*

12 days for \$2,600 (excluding airfare to Siem Reap)  
Limited to 9 alumni and friends of Macalester College  
Deposit of \$500 by August 1, balance of \$2,100 due October 15

Find out more information and register online here:  
[macalester.edu/alumni/eventsandtravel](http://macalester.edu/alumni/eventsandtravel)

Contact the Alumni Office, [alumnioffice@macalester.edu](mailto:alumnioffice@macalester.edu) or  
651-696-6295, for more information.



Blue-bearded Bee-eater  
Photograph by C. S. Raja Shekhar



(Below): A few more scenes from Reunion 2015



PHOTOS: DAVID J. TURNER

# Join us for **MAC** in the City

## October 1, 2015

Lincoln, NE • Miami • Madison • New York City • Boston • Indianapolis • Milwaukee • Seattle • Denver • Portland • Dakar • London

Celebrate **MAC in the City**, Macalester's annual worldwide alumni celebration, on Thursday, October 1. Alumni of all ages will gather to connect and share what they love about where they live. It's an opportunity for long-time and brand-new alumni from a city or region to raise a toast to the place that brought them together in the first place—Dear Old Macalester.

Events are planned for cities around the world! Check out our list of locations and register online at:  
[macalester.edu/macinthecity](http://macalester.edu/macinthecity)





## Location, Location, Location

BY LAURA BILLINGS COLEMAN

TEN YEARS AGO, my husband and I made an offer on a fixer-upper within bagpipe range of Macalester's campus, a house with so little curb appeal that we drove by twice before daring ourselves to go inside. This was the very height of the housing boom, so in spite of its lopsided appearance, the listing inspired many suitors. We put everything we had into the bid and won the battle, but soon realized our victory was 100 percent Pyrrhic.

Much of the plumbing drained uphill, and occasionally, straight through the dining room ceiling. The beam holding up the first floor was rotten, and the garage was uninsurable. Squirrels argued in the attic, and a family of ducks landed on the roofline, like they owned the place. It turned out they had. Within days of closing, we learned there was an undisclosed swimming pool filled with construction debris in the backyard. After a week of rain, the dirty porridge flowed over the rim, oozing slime through the walls of the basement, dissolving the sheet rock and drenching our unpacked boxes.

Good times, I'm telling you. Good times...

As we awakened to the reality of our 30-year mortgage—and the inevitable housing collapse that followed—we often talked about walking out on the whole mess. But every time we made it out the door—three small boys and rescue dogs in tow—we could only get as far as Macalester. On campus, watching the kids ride trikes around the United Nations flagpole, talking to yet another homesick student from Taiwan, or meeting a knowledgeable professor who knew the name of a good basement guy, we could take a deep breath and gather the courage it took to go home.

Over the last decade of major home improvements (did I mention the porch actually *fell off*?), these daily walks through Mac's campus have been the silver lining, providing my family with a long list of amenities that have made our lives richer, easier, and more interesting than we would ever have expected: A beautifully stocked library. A never-ending supply of multilingual babysitters. Free lectures, readings, and celebrity sightings. (Michelle Obama! The Dalai Lama!) The pounding beat of Sowah Mensah's African Music Ensemble. The starting gun of spring track meets. Wednesday night bagpipe practice. The unmistak-

able hum of a coffee shop study group on Grand Avenue. (Words to listen for: *hegemony, binary, ineluctable...*)

Our academic calendar is full of invitations from Mac, teams to cheer on, free concerts to attend, but my favorite season is summer, when the pace slows. Once the students pack up in May, the campus morphs into a public park for reunion cocktail parties, free-range kids taking off their training wheels, and urban tennis camps. As we stroll with the dogs, we've run into many fascinating groups taking up short residencies at Macalester. One week, we find crowds of Japanese volleyball players, eager to snap photos of a typical American family. Next, the campus is overrun with teenage zombies, shooting homemade movies on digital cameras. One evening, a dozen young men from hometowns across Pakistan, India, and Bangladesh recruit my sons to fill in for a game of cricket. This summer, the whole crew from *Prairie Home Companion* showed up, bringing with them an astonishing number of port-a-potties.

Against these continual scene changes, we neighbors are the constant, getting older and grayer every season, while the students working out on the next elliptical machine at the Leonard Center are forever 21. I'm wiser now than when we bought this house, and a little smarter, too, just from living in proximity to a place that values learning.

The other day the dog and I came across two confused parents and a mortified high school junior, trying to find their way to a campus tour. I was heading that direction, so we chatted on the way over, answering as many questions as I could manage about the culture and the character of the college.

*Yes, the new performance hall in Janet Wallace has amazing acoustics...*

*Actually, they call it Richardsonian Romanesque, the same style you see on the older homes on Summit Avenue...*

*No, no, that was back in the eighties. The football team actually wins now...*

"You must have gone here," the kid said, when we parted.

"No, I just live here," I told him. "But trust me, you'd love it here. It really is a fantastic location." ■

**LAURA BILLINGS COLEMAN**, a writer and editor in St. Paul, helped edit this issue. She and her dog visit Macalester College daily.



# Thank you!

Alumni, parents, and friends help Macalester maintain its commitment to being a preeminent liberal arts college, providing a transformative educational experience for all students, regardless of financial resources.

In the fiscal year ending May 31, Annual Fund donors gave \$4 million to prepare the hardworking students who will be the scientists, writers, policymakers, artists, businesspeople and world leaders of tomorrow.

Thank you for supporting  
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PHOTO: DAVID J. TURNER

Big smiles, big hugs at Macalester's Commencement