Notes from Kayla Nussbaum’s field journal taken on Prof. Wang Ping’s canoe trip. Also, Amy Shaunette ’10 studies Sweden through books.

Kayla Nussbaum ’13 didn’t expect to get into Professor Wang Ping’s poetry class, “Rivers, Humans and Environmental Justice,” much less embark on a journey down the Minnesota River. But when she did, she suddenly found herself pleasantly uprooted.

The class left on September 11th in the midst of a thunderstorm. The caravan, lead by Professor Ping (English) and co-instructor Martin Gunderson (Philosophy), arrived on a Sioux reservation near the mouth of the Upper Minnesota River later that day. After canoeing to the lower part of the river, the class bonded over a campfire, documenting their experiences along the way through visual and written media.

“We had to speak about something that impacted us in our life,” Nussbaum said. “I got close to my classmates in a way that seems unique for an English class. It was helpful to have that back story. It made critiquing my peers’ writing an intimate process. We’re all friends now. Even with the professors.”

Renowned poet Allison Hedge Coke, who recently spoke at Macalester, accompanied the crew. Hedge Coke drew the students’ attention to the location of their camp, where they were asked to keep a field journal of notes, poems, photos and sketches focusing on their impressions.

Students of Professor Wang Ping’s poetry class explore the Minnesota River.

Professor Kristin Naca recently published her first book of poetry, *Bird Eating Bird* (HarperCollins). She is currently teaching “American Voices” at Macalester, focusing on Chicano@ writers, particularly poets. Since her arrival at Macalester she has been delighted to find that her students and fellow colleagues are open, ambitious, and excited to learn and share their experiences. Still, Naca reports, her Filipino heritage and deep roots in Hispanic communities, most recently in Texas, did combine to produce some major culture shock upon her arrival here in Minnesota.

Professor Naca finished her book in April of 2008, and it was picked by Pulitzer Prize winner Yusef Komunyakaa for the National Poetry Series mtvU prize. Komunyakaa is best known for his “poem myths,” which describe his experiences in Vietnam and the tragic loss of friendships in that war, and Naca has long admired his work.

Naca said that she was “completely flabbergasted” when receiving the call about her award from Princeton,
Kristin Naca. Cont. from page 1

New Jersey. It caught her off guard in the best way possible.

She later had the opportunity to interview Komunyakka for mtvU (find the link to the video on the English Department News page).

Despite her Filipino background, Naca wrote her poems in both Spanish and English, reflecting the significant role Spanish played both in her graduate work and her childhood experience. But she named the Macondo Workshop in San Antonio, TX as one of the primary forces behind the linguistic choice. For Naca, writing in Spanish was important because she felt that Latin American poetry had not been “brought up to the surface” in her coursework, which she found “disheartening.” Issues of tension between major ethnic groups and Anglos in San Antonio also inspired Naca to write in both languages. Professor Naca noted how major ethnic groups are not being “witnessed or chartered by many outsiders” within the Texan context.

Bird Eating Bird has just appeared in print in September and since then Naca has been traveling to different cities giving book readings. Support the English Department! Support our writers! Read Bird Eating Bird.

“When literature is contextualized by location the task of choosing a place to study abroad becomes a complex one.”

Have you studied abroad? Tell us of your experience!
October Babes

Harvey Kurtzman- October 3, 1924
founder, Mad Magazine

R. L. Stine- October 8, 1943
author of Goosebumps series

e e cummings- October 14, 1962
American poet

Jack Anderson- October 19, 1922
investigative journalist

Michael Crichton- October 23, 1942
author of Jurassic series

Dylan Thomas- October 27, 1914
Welsh poet

Ezra Pound- October 30, 1885
American expatriate poet

Top 5 Book List
- Master and Margarita- Mikhail Bulgakov
- Lolita- Vladimir Nabokov
- The Story of Ferdinand- Munro Leaf
- Franny and Zoe- J. D. Salinger
- London Fields- Martin Amis

We Like To Read

Kiki Ferguson ’10

What I’m Reading Now...
Robinson Crusoe- Daniel Defoe

Emma Colón ’12

Four lively souls play a rousing game of Boggle at Treat Day

Please send a photo for the English Major picture board to abrailov@macalester.edu.

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We understand that you’re an English Major, so you have a lot of feelings. If you want to talk about them then you can email us at jtamang@macalester.edu and mwilson4@macalester.edu.

Happenings

- **WHET YOUR WHISTLE!** Food and games in the English department lounge every Wednesday from 5-7PM
- **GET A JOB!** Look out for our English Department Internship Panel in mid November
- **Submit!** to Chanter at chanterful@gmail.com

If Adults Still Make You Anxious...

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