Major’s luncheon

An Editorial by David Jacobson ’13

On Thursday September 22, English majors and professors descended on Small Gallery in Olin Rice for the annual Major’s Luncheon. If you couldn’t make it, you missed out on the best lunch that most of us students have eaten in weeks, and that’s no idle chatter either!

Really though, how can you go wrong with fancy cheese and crackers, assorted wraps, chicken kebobs, sparkling lemonade and sunflower-decorated cupcakes — that matched the table cloths — for dessert? You can’t.

And to top it off, our new department coordinator, Jan Beebe, snagged us some free water bottles from the Sustainability Office as party favors! Sometimes five stars just isn’t enough. Style points to Department Head James Dawes (jokes) and coordinator Jan Beebe (glass plates and real silverware).

Professor Matt Burgess gave an entertaining reading from his new book: *Dogfight, A Love Story* — a final for the Minnesota Book award in 2011. The novel’s protagonist struggles with a pregnant girl friend, a brother’s release from prison, drugs, and stealing a dog for the homecoming dog fight.

If you enjoyed the fine food and delicious company of fellow English lovers at the Luncheon, you won’t want to miss Treat Night. It happens every Wednesday from 4:30-7pm in the Literary Lounge. See you there!

Meet Keri

A wonderful new appliance has arrived in the English Department. Keri the Keurig is ready for student and faculty use everyday in the Literary Lounge for students, which is on the second floor of Old Main.

You can make hot chocolate, coffee (black and pre-flavored), and tea with Keri. We try to keep take-out cups on hand if you want to take your caffeine to class.

Instructions on how to operate Keri are posted on the wall above her head, but if you need help, pop into the English office and someone will assist you.

We are open to suggestions on flavors of coffee or tea that you would like to have available to make with Keri. Contact Jan Beebe with flavor suggestions at <jbeebe@macalester.edu>. Stop by Old Main 218 anytime and give her a spin!

Keurig is a brand of single-serve coffee makers. It uses “k-cups” of pre-packaged grounds to brew single servings of joe.
Before
the words
something
builds
water to flood
rain to shower
hope to prayer.

Before the sound
shh
a thought
runs
along the streams
across fields
to a no man’s land
of raised eyebrows
curved mouths.

Before
the pause
dumb touch
aweless
inspiration
ha

before the silence
it’s the loudest it’s been
ear to ground
eye towards horizon
all sink
all pressed
dense.

There are some thoughts that you cannot quiet. When
you lose the way it once was, the memories flood your
mind to fill the void, and the thoughts that you hold
firmly start to slip away. It takes courage to lessen the
grip and open the palm.

My head has been the noisiest it has been in
years. A plague of odd clinks, pats, whams and whoops
prod into the corners of my mind. No one will take
these noises away from my head. The only place that
they can go is the river.

Nothing can drown out the sounds in my
head, but the river breathes into it. Like waves churn
to add air into the water, the river breathes air, space
and new scents into my thoughts. The painful war-
bling, crowded and crammed, slowly opens up with
each breath. And soon, they open up, each sound
distinctly separated from one another, their unique
rhythms revealed to my own mind. I can hear the
pulse, lapse and trips in each sound.

Meanwhile, the world around me constantly
moves to create space in the cramps and close in the
gaps.

Hush
Child
Don’t wait
for time
to carry you
away from
pain

Be unsettled
never rest
tongue the tastes
to give life to words
that matter
to matter

Draw in to
push away
momentum
Don’t lose
what controls
the core
what travels upwards
and pulls down

Imitate all that you see
because the world
will not cease

Pay attention
to all that curls
that’s where heat
resides

Hush
Child
Don’t wait
for time
to carry you
away.

But believe
hold dear
the embrace
and exhale.

More students’ excerpts on p. 6
What are we reading?

Tim O’Brien - Oct. 1 1946
“Fiction is the lie that helps us understand the truth.”

Mahatma Ghandi - Oct. 2, 1869.
“Hate the sin, love the sinner.”

“Do you know why the Indian rain dances always worked? Because the Indians would keep dancing until it rained.”

Eleanor Roosevelt – October 11, 1884.
“It is not more vacation we need - it is more vocation.”

E.E. Cummings – October 14, 1894.
“If a poet is anybody, he is somebody to whom things made matter very little - somebody who is obsessed by Making.”

P.G. Wodehouse – October 15, 1881.
“I know I was writing stories when I was five. I don’t know what I did before that. Just loafed I suppose.”

Oscar Wilde – October 16, 1854.
“An idea that is not dangerous is unworthy of being called an idea at all.”

Pablo Picasso – October 25, 1881.
“When I was young I could draw like Raphael, but it has taken me my whole life to learn to draw like a child.”

Zadie Smith – October 25, 1975.
“I myself have never been able to figure out precisely what feminism is. I only know that people call me a feminist whenever I express sentiments that differentiate me from a doormat.”

Sylvia Plath—Oct. 27, 1932
“There must be quite a few things that a hot bath won’t cure, but I don’t know many of them.”

Fyodor Dostoevsky – October 30, 1821.
“The formula ‘Two and two make five’ is not without its attractions.”

John Keats – October 31, 1795.
“Heard melodies are sweet, but those unheard are sweeter.”

David Jacobson ’13

Top 5 books
1. A Streetcar Named Desire - Tennessee Williams
2. Five Novels - Daniel Pinkwater
3. Tartuffe - Molière
4. Drown - Junot Diaz
5. Where the Wild Things Are - Maurice Sendak

Johnny Komisar ‘12

Man’s Search For Meaning
Viktor E. Frankl
Grace Geiger, an English Major who graduated in 2010, is now a contributing writer for the premiere English-Language online periodical in Chile. It’s called the Santiago Times and they run an issue 5 times a week. You can read Grace’s bio on The Santiago Time’s website, at <http://www.santiagotimes.cl/about-us/our-staff>, to hear about the other writing gigs she has had since graduation. A link to her most recent article for The Santiago Times is below, check it out!


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In the Real World

The National Football Foundation (NFF) & College Hall of Fame has announced the 127 candidates for the 2011 NFF National Scholar-Athlete Awards, presented by Fidelity Investments. Included on this list is Macalester senior defensive lineman Will Dhonau (Fond du Lac, Wis.). He is one of just 30 Division III players so honored.

Each college can nominate only one student for the award. The criteria for nomination are academic achievement (GPA of 3.2-4.0), outstanding football ability as a first-team player, and strong leadership and citizenship.

The 127 nominees also comprise the list of semifinalists for the 2011 William V. Campbell Trophy, endowed by HealthSouth, which recognizes an individual as the best scholar-athlete in the nation.

16 nominees will be awarded the William v. Campbell Trophy, which comes with an $18,000 scholarship for post-graduate studies. Winners are announced on Wednesday October 26th. We wish you luck, Will!

The English Department is proud to support its majors in all areas of achievement. Please inform us of any and all honors you or your peers receive.
Meet Jan Beebe: Our New Department Coordinator!

This summer, Anna Brailovsky (our former Department Coordinator) took her leave of the Macalester English Department, taking a position at the University of Minnesota. While her presence in this department will be missed, we now get to welcome a new member of the English Department team, Jan Beebe!

There are truly not enough good things to say about Jan. As a former social worker, student activities coordinator at Nova Classical Academy and a caring mother of four “wild children,” Jan fits right in to the vibrant community of the Macalester English Department.

She is fun and outgoing, plunging head first into the overwhelming process of learning all the ins and outs of this department with a smile, and sometimes even pizza bread!

Her delicious Treat Night entrees and amazing snacks ensure that students and professors never go hungry while her sidekick Keri makes sure we aren’t thirsty or uncaffeinated (see page 1). She truly cares about the students and faculty of this department, taking the time to learn the names of everyone that she encounters in the department.

Help her get settled and feel as welcomed as she would like you to feel by stopping by the English Department and introducing yourself.

“Please stop by and visit the Literary Lounge and explore the treasures it holds. I would love suggestions on what would make student life better for students in the English Department. Also, I live in the neighborhood so I hope to see you while out on a walk.”

Kaija Bergen ’11 and Katherine Willingham ’11 dressed up as a heroic couplet. Top that.

The English Department Halloween Party

October 31st
4:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Old Main 2nd floor (Literary Lounge)

Costume Ideas
For those of us who struggle with lit-themed dressings

Be a book.

Break out your tights.

Tons of books on this guy, being a child underneath is optional.

...there have been books with elephants...

You’re Invited

Eying Friends!

WHAT

The English Department Halloween Party

 Literary themed costumes encouraged!

WHEN

October 31st
4:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

WHERE

Old Main 2nd floor (Literary Lounge)
Emily Geris ‘14

Pike,
more like
SPIKE
through my gut,
arm, leg, head,
and heart.
Mighty waters continue
her flow, even though
my moon bleeds red,
the giant diamond
gleams white below.

M-I-S-S-I-P-P-I
Elementary halls ring with
sing-song, over chicken nuggets
we sing it backwards,
I-P-P-I-S-S-I-M.
Then: how to remember
the spelling of a river
for Thursday’s quiz.
Now: division between Twins,
receiver of tobacco gifts,
make-shift mother, tangible
when mine is not.

“I can’t canoe. I can’t. I can’t. I can’t.”
Have I learned anything in these 365 days?
“...arms burning after the first dozen strokes. All I can see is the end, as I implore it to
arrive. Peeling off clothing and feeling red infuse my cheeks, something shifts. Hot
blood pumps. Arms still nag, but core takes over. I’m in control.”
Remember the core’s strength, call on it in times of need; it never fails.
“I’m so strong. Like in the canoe. I made it, I kept up, I’m worthy.”
Not only like in the canoe but in life
poetry
relationships
missing you
discussion
Your worth is all around you,
if you’d just look.

More next month on the canoe trip!
Games page

The Ultimate Halloween Word Search

batwings  lizardfeet  y ft i s  p i d e r  c r y p t m
blackcat  moans  i k r g h o u l h b t h g i n u
bones  monster  n s p o o k y s s t i r i p s m
broom  moon  h n g b g n i k p m u p n o o m
caldron  mummy  c a g l w e r e w o l f o t x y
coffin  night  r o n i z z y l t i j g r i b v
costumes  owl  e m e n c s b e w a a i d o d a
creepy  potions  e o t s e m u t s o c j l n r m
crypt  pumpkin  p n h n b r o o m k k k a s a p
dracula  sceech  y i g a w m p n o t o w c h c i
dreadful  skeleton  r f i o l i o r s a l x a a u r
dreadful  spider  a f r r q l t n s e a u j e l e
dreadful  spirits  c o f g z r o c s g n i w t a b
dreadful  spooky  s c r e e c h  w h t t o o h r u
dreadful  tombstone  l i z a r d f e e t e i b m o z
dreadful  trick or treat  z s t s o h g d h e r r h o w l
dreadful  vampire  t p g t o m b s t o n e v a r g
dreadful  webs  t p g t o m b s t o n e v a r g
dreadful  werewolf  t p g t o m b s t o n e v a r g
dreadful  witch  t p g t o m b s t o n e v a r g
dreadful  zombie  t p g t o m b s t o n e v a r g

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A note from the esteemed editing team

We are very excited to see all of your lovely faces again! (Bet you couldn’t tell.) Tell us about your summers, internships, creative works, graduation plans (sorry to scare you seniors)—we want to know! Email us with updates so other majors can become inspired by your stories, or consoled by learning others are struggling too.

Plus, you have got to come check out the new set up in the English office. New department coordinator, Jan Beebe, has made delightful additions to our nook of Old Main (including candy, a Keurig machine, and new study spaces). Come say hello, and have free coffee, any-

Happenings

Treat Nights every Wednesday from 4:30-7 in the Literary Lounge!

Oct. 10th: "My Letter to the World: Narrating Human Rights" is a day-long series of talks and panel discussions on the personal narrative voice, literature and human rights, hosted by the University of Minnesota Human Rights Program and Creative Writing Program. All events are free and open to the public. The capstone event features author and foreign correspondent, Philip Gourevitch, who will discuss writing about the aftermaths of the Rwandan genocide, and atrocities from Abu Ghrabi. The talk is entitled: “Salvage: Writing About Aftermaths from Rwanda to Abu Ghrabi and Beyond.”

Held at the University of Minnesota in the Theatre Coffman Memorial Union. Events are free and open to the public, they start at 8:15 a.m. and go until 7:30 p.m.
https://events.umn.edu/014645

October 21st: Acapellooza! A free concert in Kagin at 9 p.m. Featuring all the A capella groups from Mac and some from the U of M, Carleton and more!

Oct 31st: English Halloween party at 4:30 in Old Main Literary Lounge!