Goethe’s description of architecture proves apt for the sparklingly remodeled Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center.

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Knoxville Exchange

I was born and raised on the South Side of Chicago, the son of a Presbyterian minister who spent his life working for racial justice. So although I always read your magazines with interest, your Spring 2012 issue was the best I’ve ever read, particularly “Civil Rights Swap” by Paula Hirschoff. That piece was the best written, most inspiring article yet, and literally brought tears to my eyes. I hope that Hirschoff will contribute to *Macalester Today* again.

Bill Baird ’56
Placerville, Calif.

I’d like to compliment Paula Hirschoff on her fine look at the student exchange program with Knoxville College in the 1960s. However, I am saddened that an issue featuring that piece, international study photos, and a short article on international friendship omitted any mention of SPAN. Macalester students were among the founders of Student Project For Amity Among Nations or SPAN in 1947. SPAN brought many Mac students across international and cultural divides and gave us an experience that developed empathy and self-understanding. The two years I spent in the program—traveling to Tanganyika (now Tanzania) in 1963—had a profound influence on my life and outlook. Many other Macalester SPANers would likely agree. Though the SPAN newsletter seldom mentions Macalester students these days, I would encourage them to take a look at this high-impact program.

Russell Greenhagen ’64
President, Tanganyika SPAN Group
Jefferson City, Mo.

Cakes on Wheels

I liked “The Philanthropy of Pastry” article (Spring 2012) so much that it prompted me to look up Cakes on Wheels on Facebook. Thanks for the interesting piece.

Ann Gaines Rodriguez P ’09
Belmont, Texas

Alumni House Contributors

The *Macalester Today* article on the Alumni House renovation (“Alumni House,” Spring 2012) was very nice. However, having worked on the project and knowing how difficult it was to take it from ideas and drawings to completion, I was disappointed that no mention was made of the effort put in by facilities project manager Mike Hall. He actually made it happen. Regardless, it was nice to see the fruits of our labors showcased in the magazine.

Curt Stainbrook
Macalester Facilities Services
St. Paul

Corrections

In a Class of 1941 obituary printed in the Summer 2012 issue (page 45), the decedent should have been spelled as follows: Ella Marie Damman, 92, of Minneapolis, who died on May 4, 2012.

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 or to *Macalester Today*, Macalester College, 1600 Grand Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105.

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WHILE THERE YOU CAN:
• Find yourself in the honor roll
• Look up classmates
• Browse stories about the accomplishments of students
• Learn more about the impact of gifts
Imagine a state that has for decades been one of the most highly educated and economically stable in the country: where nearly two-thirds of the population has some college education and more than 10 percent of the population has an advanced degree. According to the 2010 census, this state has the third best high school graduation rate in the U.S., and its students are among the best performing on math and science exams. Not surprisingly, it’s home to one of the highest concentrations of Fortune 500 headquarters in the country, and in May 2012 its unemployment rate stood at 5.6 percent, far below the national rate of 8.2 percent.

Now imagine a state that has one of the largest race-based achievement gaps in the country—where, in effect, students born into affluence and those born into poverty, and students of color and Caucasian students, attend different school systems. Since 2000, this state has seen a 35 percent decline in per-student support for higher education, as compared to a national decline of about 20 percent. One result of this decline is that the debt burden of its college students is among the highest in the nation. Of its students currently entering college, fewer than half will graduate. Its population sector projected to grow the most is one of the groups least well served by the education system at every level.

Both states are Minnesota.

The first paragraph describes a standard of economic and civic life that exists today as a consequence of decisions made in the past. The second foreshadows a far less thriving future, one that might arise from decisions being made—or not made—right now.

One of the Minnesota characteristics I have come to admire is the willingness of individuals and groups to work together for the common good. It’s not surprising, therefore, that the state has an organization like the Itasca Project, a group of leaders from business, politics, education, and nonprofits who have formed a “civic alliance drawn together by an interest in new and better ways to address Minneapolis/St. Paul regional issues that impact our economic competitiveness and quality of life.” Nor is it surprising that this group has identified higher education as a top regional priority.

For the past year I’ve been part of an Itasca higher education task force whose report, Higher Education Partnerships for Prosperity, was recently published and can be found at theitascapartnership.com/priorities.htm.

Two things have been particularly striking about this effort. One has been the willingness of individuals from both the business and education sectors—including the leaders of some of the state’s largest employers—to devote significant time to imagining solutions to the educational challenges we face. Another has been the willingness of educational leaders—Eric Kaler, the new president of the University of Minnesota, and Steven Rosenstone, the new chancellor of the Minnesota State Colleges and University System, have both joined me in the group—to put aside competition and think about a cooperative model that would best serve the citizens of the state. I’m pretty sure that neither of these things would be possible at the moment in many other places.

Unsurprisingly, the Itasca report does not suggest that there are easy solutions to the higher education crisis in this state, particularly during a time of enormous economic stress. But a prerequisite for solving any problem is to first recognize its existence. The report does that and identifies four specific areas in which the state can and should make progress:

- Align academic offerings with workforce needs
- Foster an ecosystem of research and innovation
- Form new collaborations across higher education to optimize system-wide intellectual assets and efficiency
- Graduate more students

Each of these areas will require thoughtful treatment. “Workforce needs,” for instance, do include specific areas of knowledge and vocational skills, but they also, and perhaps most centrally, include the need to graduate students who can think creatively, write and speak clearly, work collaboratively, and adapt to change. As it happens, we at Macalester think that a high-quality liberal arts education does a remarkably good job of inculcating such abilities.

Anyone with a connection to Minnesota should care about the work of the Itasca task force. And so, I would argue, should everyone else, since Minnesota’s higher education challenges are a microcosm of the nation’s. Perhaps the solutions we arrive at, through cooperation and careful attention to matters of importance, can be a model for the nation as well.

BRIAN ROSENBERG, the president of Macalester, writes a regular column for Macalester Today. He can be reached at rosenbergb@macalester.edu.
LECTURING THREE TIMES A WEEK may not be the best way to teach, math professor Chad Topaz has realized. He is pioneering new methods of teaching in his Applied Calculus and Differential Equations courses.

"Thanks to learning scientists, we now understand that learning isn’t simply a matter of a professor pouring knowledge into students’ heads,” says Topaz. "The traditional model of delivering a lecture is just the tip of the iceberg in terms of what’s possible."

Topaz has been exploring innovative pedagogy since reading books such as How People Learn: Brain, Mind, Experience, and School (National Academies Press). "Math has traditionally been very knowledge centered,” says Topaz. "New ideas suggest that successful learning environments also emphasize assessment, the learning community, and individual learners’ needs.”

One of those new teaching ideas centers around how to most effectively use the few hours each week when students and faculty are together in the same room. To that end, Topaz is using something called the “flipped classroom” model. It works like this: Students read the relevant material and listen to Topaz’s pre-recorded lectures before class, which frees up valuable class time to address lingering questions, do small group or computer lab work, or give students individual attention.

It’s more work for the professor—at least for the first year of each course—because Topaz must prepare and record the lectures ahead of time using Livescribe technology. A battery-powered pen records the voice portion of the lecture as Topaz writes the notes, and the electronic lecture can be posted online. The student experience is much like watching the professor write on the white board as he explains concepts.

Topaz estimates that 95 percent of his students like having the lecture delivered this way. “They can pause and re-listen to parts they didn’t understand the first time around,” says Topaz. Students respond to his lectures using Google Moderator, an online forum in which they can pose and answer each other’s questions, or by blogging about the material. To assess comprehension, Topaz sometimes poses questions during class to which students respond via handheld clickers, giving him immediate feedback as to how well they’re grasping a given concept.
Exchange Students

STUDYING ABROAD is a major part of the Macalester experience for many students, with three out of five doing so during their four years at Mac.

However, because Macalester allows its students to take their financial aid with them when they study abroad, the cost to the college for this popular feature is up to $5 million a year and growing. (It shot up to $5.4 million last year because of a bumper crop of juniors.) Provost Kathy Murray asked herself how the college could keep providing an international study experience without continuing to grow this cost.

Luckily, because Murray had administrative experience at less financially favored institutions, she knew of a great compromise: Exchange programs between U.S. and international colleges.

Sciences Po in France and Nanyang Technological University in Singapore are the first institutions Macalester has established exchanges with. The relationships kicked off last spring, when Noah Rosen ’12 studied at Sciences Po, a political science/international studies college in Paris. This fall Chris Krapu ’13 is studying at Nanyang University, a science and engineering college. Meanwhile, three Nanyang students and one Sciences Po student are at Mac this fall; three Mac students are headed to France in the spring.

Although International Center director Paul Nelson calls Sciences Po “an easier sell” with Mac students, Nanyang was an intentional early exchange choice, especially designed for physics and chemistry majors. “Science students have heavily sequenced programs and therefore it’s hard for them to study abroad,” says Murray. “This allows them to do that without losing time.” It was a bonus that Nanyang had many years of experience with exchange relationships, Murray says.

But Murray’s plans are far more ambitious than these two colleges. She’s talking with Leiden University in the Netherlands and Tel-Hai College in Israel, with many more, she hopes, to come. Says Murray, “Someday we should have 20 of these exchanges in place.”

Five new faculty members began work this fall in tenure-track positions. Shown here (from left) are Lesley Lavery, Political Science (PhD, University of Wisconsin), whose research focuses on the relationship between policies and politics; Kari Shepherdson-Scott, Art and Art History (PhD, Duke University), whose research focuses on 19th- and 20th-century Japanese visual culture; Eric Carter, Geography (PhD, University of Wisconsin), a health geographer with interests in people-environment geography and historical geography and a regional focus on Latin America; Michael McGaghie, Music (DMA, Boston University), choral conducting; and Mark Mandarano, Music (MM, Peabody Conservatory), instrumental conducting.
IN LABS FROM ST. PAUL to Arizona, and in the field from Montana to Australia, more than 80 Macalester students spent their summers immersed in cutting-edge research. Following are a few Mac students who are pushing the boundaries of knowledge:

- **Chase Kahn ‘14** (Miami)—avian botulism in the Great Lakes (biology major)
- **Erin O’Leary ‘13** (Eau Claire, Wis.)—galaxy evolution at Kitt Peak National Observatory, near Tucson, Ariz. (physics with astronomy emphasis)
- **Tony Thao ‘13** (St. Paul)—at U of Arizona with Professor Raymond Runyan ‘72, cell transformation in the embryonic heart (biology)
- **Nikita Avdievitch ‘13** (Bronx, N.Y.)—with Professor John Craddock, structural geology in Northeastern China (geology)
- **Mira Hager ’14** (Madison, Wis.)—immune response to HIV (biology)
- **Percy Griffin ’13** (Tema, Ghana)—synthesizing molecules with implications for new drugs (biology, chemistry)
- **Maggie Molter ’14** (Cedarburg, Wis.)—graphene, with implications for ultrafast supercomputers (physics, music)
- **Hannah Wiesner ’14** (Madison, Wis.), **Domi Lauko ’14** (Milwaukee, Hungary), **Caitlin Baker ’12** (St. Louis Park, Minn.)—researching mite harvestmen (tiny relatives of the daddy longlegs) in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area of Queensland, Australia (biology)
- **Megan Whitney ’13** (Kennebunk, Maine) and **McKenna Bernard ’14** (Mount Vernon, Iowa)—measuring baby dinosaur bones with Professor Kristi Curry Rogers (biology)
Within Macalester’s water polo community, Catherine Flint ’12 (Palo Alto, Calif.) was regarded as a key team leader. Last summer she was recognized nationally when the Collegiate Water Polo Association (CWPA) named her the 2012 Women’s Varsity Division III Scholar-Athlete of the Year.

Flint, a geography and educational studies major who graduated with a 3.6 GPA, finished her career as the water polo program’s third-highest all-time goal producer. She was a three-time CWPA Scholar-Athlete selection and a 2012 CWPA All-Division III First Team selection. She was also named the Dorothy Michel Senior Female Scholar-Athlete of the Year in May.

The highest honor an active CWPA player can receive, the athlete of the year award recognizes an outstanding senior student-athlete who has achieved success in academics, athletics, and community service.

Flint’s ability to balance leading a varsity athletic program with handling Macalester’s rigorous academic workload helped her succeed, says coach Jennie Charlesworth. That focus and effort marked her leadership in the pool, too. “She had such a steady presence. The girls relied on her as a strong person in and out of the water,” Charlesworth says. “They looked to her for advice and support and learned from her and her talents. We’re going to have to build around what she helped create.”

Flint is now in Oakland, Calif., teaching sixth-graders in an after-school program through Citizen Schools, a national nonprofit that partners with middle schools to address the educational achievement gap. When her two-year commitment to Citizen Schools ends, she hopes to stay in the Bay Area teaching middle school math.
ONE OF THE CHIEF QUESTIONS college students must answer is this: What do I want to do after graduation? Each year one group of Mac students gets closer to their own post-college solutions, thanks to a Taylor physician shadowing or public health fellowship.

The almost 50-year-old Ruth and Vernon Taylor Fellowship Program provides modest stipends for about a dozen students to spend the summer either shadowing health professionals such as physicians or working part time in public health jobs. Some of the fellows, including the two mentioned below, are doing concentrations in Mac’s popular Community and Global Health program.

Dinesh Rathakrishnan ’14 (Petaling Jaya, Malaysia), who shadowed doctors at four hospitals, realized—to his surprise—that he was most drawn to emergency room medicine. He spent time at the Mayo Clinic, the VA Hospital, Minneapolis Children’s Hospital, and Hennepin County Medical Center (HCMC).

“Because of my interest in public health, I thought I’d become an infectious disease doctor,” he says. “But I loved shadowing in the ER at HCMC, a Level One Trauma Center. It was exciting and something I can see myself doing.” Although that realization threw a wrench in his plans, the hospital shadowing did solidify the biology major’s intention to attend medical school.

Emma van Emmerik ’14 (Amherst, Mass.) was one of six students doing a public health fellowship over the summer. She spent her time at WellShare International, a Minneapolis nonprofit that designs and implements community-based health programs in the U.S. and abroad. She found the internship through Kate Lechner ’06, a program director at WellShare.

Although political science major van Emmerik thought she was most drawn to international work, she loved her job working in the Twin Cities with the local Karen community, an ethnic group from Burma. Together with program staff from WellShare, van Emmerik conducted interviews and focus groups around family planning. She’ll stay as an intern this fall to help analyze the data and develop programs.

“I had a great experience and great mentors,” she says. “I’m so grateful I had this opportunity to do something outside the college. Actually, the chance to live in the Twin Cities and access the working world here was a huge reason I applied early decision to Macalester.”
MANY MAC STUDENTS say balancing everything is the hardest part of adjusting to college life. Brook LaFloe ’15 (St. Paul) is no exception, and it’s no wonder: the sophomore neuroscience major is a two-sport athlete and a Bonner Scholar who already has science research experience to her credit.

The key to all that juggling, says LaFloe, lies in making a very thorough schedule in which she maps out time for homework, volleyball and basketball practice, and even fun with friends. “There’s so much more going on in college,” says LaFloe, who graduated from St. Paul’s Johnson High School.

Last summer LaFloe landed a Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) position at Avila University in Kansas City. Through a family friend, she got connected to a professor in the REU program whose grant included research opportunities for Native American students. He encouraged her to apply.

LaFloe’s research team explored the foraging behaviors of the ameiva lizard, native to the Bahamas—which meant traveling to that Caribbean country for fieldwork. LaFloe, who received a Gates Millennium Scholarship that supports up to 10 years of science-focused education, already knew she was drawn to scientific research as a career.

This summer’s experience only confirmed her interest.

Kansas City and the Bahamas were the latest in a string of new travel opportunities La Floe has enjoyed, including a trip to New Orleans with her Bonner peers and to Chicago with the women’s basketball team. “I didn’t think I’d ever leave the country before studying abroad,” says LaFloe, who had planned to return to a job at Dairy Queen before finding out she’d landed the REU position. “This definitely made me want to see the world.”

This fall she’s putting the finishing touches on an academic paper based on her summer research, and is helping with youth programs through her Bonner work-study job at the American Indian magnet school. On campus, LaFloe is full speed into her second season of volleyball, as well as working with another Native American student to organize a campus powwow.

LaFloe’s coaches marvel at her schedule. “Brook did so much in her first year at Mac; I’m amazed at how she juggles it all,” volleyball coach Annie Doman says. “Her role on the team has definitely changed this year, and her improvement will challenge her teammates in practice. Her positive energy makes her the kind of athlete you want on your team.”
For more than a decade, Andrew Klein ’90 has kept a watchful eye on Antarctic ecology.

Andrew Klein ’90 spends a month in Antarctica every winter, collecting soil samples to test for human contaminants.
Nearly every winter for the last 12 years, Andrew Klein ‘90 has taken the same trip. Sometime before Thanksgiving he flies to Christchurch, New Zealand, then hops a military plane bound for McMurdo Station, the U.S. scientific research base located on the southern tip of Antarctica’s Ross Island.

Klein starts by describing his month-long home in clinical terms: “Basically, it’s a big gas station,” he says, dryly. “Most scientists come there to get equipment and get flown out to do their research.” But it doesn’t take long before Klein begins waxing poetic about Antarctica, the focus of his considerable brainpower for much of his professional life. “There are only two places I ever got off a plane and said, ‘Wow,’” he admits. “Antarctica is one of them. The landscape is amazing. It’s all white. And there’s a 14,000-foot volcano smoking away in the background.”

Klein’s interest in the icy continent began while he was majoring in geology at Macalester. His senior thesis, advised by the late geology professor Jerry Webbers, focused on remote sensing of Antarctic geology. This was in the ‘80s, well before Google Earth, and Webbers and Klein were working with technology still in its infancy.

“It was an ambitious project because Jerry was relatively inexperienced with the hardware and Andrew was just a student,” recalls geology professor John Craddock ’80, who joined the faculty during Klein’s senior year. Recalling the hours the two put into the project, Craddock says: “At first they flailed away at the system until they figured out how to make it work. The software wasn’t user friendly. You had to do a certain amount of programming to work with it.”

But all the flailing was worth it, Craddock adds. Experience with this important new technology set Klein apart from the academic pack: “This project was a game changer for Andrew, because after graduation he was scooped up by Cornell, and since then it has been his thing.”

At Cornell, Klein completed a PhD in geological sciences and a post-doc at NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center before being hired by the geography department at Texas A&M University in 1997.

Klein has lived in the Lone Star State long enough now to speak with a hint of a drawl. He loves his work, his students, and the support he gets from the department, but the native Midwesterner admits that adjusting to his new home in College Station, Texas, took time. “It’s really hot here in the summer,” he says. “Maybe that’s why I spend so much time in Antarctica.”

His first trip to the South Pole was in 1999, when Klein began the research that he continues to this day: collecting soil samples to test for human contaminates such as hydrocarbons and metals. As part of the Antarctic Treaty, the soil samples that his team collects are analyzed to measure the human impact on one of the world’s most pristine environments.

Under the treaty, Klein explains, “if you have an activity that makes more than a minor or transient impact on the environment it’s supposed to be monitored.” So the U.S. government hired Klein and his colleagues to monitor impact from McMurdo Station and determine what’s happening over time. Every year since 1999, he has returned to collect more samples.

Happily, the human impact on Antarctica, his research shows, has not increased over the decade-plus that Klein has pulled soil samples there. As the largest base on the continent, McMurdo is home to as many as 1,300 people during the summer and about 200 during the cold, dark winter. “Until the 1980s, standard waste practices in Antarctica were not stringent,” Klein says. “Now all the waste created at the base is either consumed or brought back to the U.S. And there has been a lot of cleanup of past environmental problems.”

To spread the word about their research to the next generation of scientists, the Texas A&M team regularly interacts online with schoolchildren. They’ve even brought teachers along on a few trips to report back to students. “The goal is to interest kids in things that they wouldn’t normally see,” Klein says.

Stephen Sweet, a geochemical and environmental researcher at Texas A&M, has known Klein since 1999 and accompanied him on most of his Antarctic expeditions. Klein, he says, stands out for “his intelligence, good humor, and dedication to protecting the Antarctic environment.” Spending a month in one of the earth’s most isolated places could be tedious, says Sweet, but Klein makes sure the Texas A&M team has a good time while holed up at McMurdo.

Trekking to the South Pole is something Klein hopes to do as long as funding and interest hold out. He believes his research has helped preserve the continent’s environment and his team’s connections with schools have helped spread awareness of how humans can help—or harm—the world’s polar regions.

“I get a lot of satisfaction out of doing my bit to protect the most pristine place in the world,” Klein says. “There’s something that keeps drawing me back.”

St. Paul writer ANDY STEINER ’90 is a regular contributor to Macalester Today.
Keeping Us Human

As the humanities’ prominence in higher education has faded, Macalester hopes to be the exception that changes the rule.

BY DANNY LACHANCE  ILLUSTRATIONS BY JULIE DELTON

Several years ago, noted fiction writer and alumnus Tim O’Brien ’68 was reading an excerpt from a work in progress to a crowded chapel full of alumni. Macalester President Brian Rosenberg still remembers the scene.

O’Brien was ruminating about what it meant to have become a father late in life. “He was reading a letter to his children that said, ‘You’ll never know me. All you’ll ever know is this old version of me,’” Rosenberg recalls. As O’Brien was reading, Rosenberg looked around the chapel and noticed that many alumni had started to cry. Moments like that one, Rosenberg says, capture the spirit of the humanities and the essential role they play in a Macalester education. “It was so powerful. Everyone in the room was just knit together in a way we almost never see.”

Ask eight humanities scholars to define what, exactly, the humanities are and you’re apt to get eight different answers. Most agree, though, that humanities is the umbrella term used to describe scholarly work, courses of study, and academic disciplines that take up, in one way or another, the question of what it means to be human.

Answers to that question, they argue, cannot be discovered by breaking down the world into distinct variables that can be tested for significance. Meaning is discovered through interpretation, an act that is always somewhat subjective. The conclusions humanities scholars draw may not be objectively verifiable, but they insist, their work captures ideas and essences that aren’t observable in a Petri dish.

For much of the history of universities, the humanities were the only game in town. But in a world transformed by the rise of the sciences and social sciences, humanities scholars have perceived a decline in the value placed on their teaching and research.

The Humanities Indicators, a database created by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences several years ago, illustrate that decline in concrete terms. In 1967, almost 18 percent of all undergraduates left college with a humanities degree. In 2009, the last year for which data was available, 8 percent of undergraduates earned humanities degrees. In 1979, the federal government appropriated $403 million for humanities programs; in 2007, that was down to $138 million (measured in 2006 dollars).

According to some commentators, liberal arts colleges like Macalester are the privileged exception to the rule. But even if that’s so, the college is not resting on its laurels. Amid a national conversation about the worth of the humanities, Macalester faculty and alumni are more engaged than ever in asserting their value and safeguarding their future.

For religious studies professor Paula Cooey, the humanities are valuable because they prompt students to rethink their assumptions about the world. Cooey, the Margaret W. Harmon Professor of Christian Theology and Culture, doesn’t mince words when she describes how she teaches about religious deities in her theory and methods course. “I make everyone mad,” she says. Some students, she explains, come into the course as believers in a particular faith tradition. Others are non-believers who see deities as illusions. Both find themselves challenged. “If they’re devout, they have to start dealing for the first time with the constructed nature of culture and deities. And those who think that gods and deities have no meaning struggle with the fact that construction is real. It makes a difference,” she says, and has had enormously real consequences for human beings.

Continued on next page >
Asserting that ways of thinking and doing are not natural but are instead the product of creation is perhaps one of the most important contributions humanities scholars make. As English professor Neil Chudgar puts it, “We resist the notion that the world is given and something to theorize about. We insist on the ‘madeness’ of the meanings and theories we encounter. We raise and answer questions about how things assume the shape they assume.”

Take the recent near collapse of the global economy. Complex and abstract financial instruments, such as credit default swaps, became part of a larger system that eventually collapsed. Social scientists might take that system on its own terms to identify how and why our economy began to collapse. But humanities-minded thinkers zoom out further in their analyses, identifying the values and processes that made that system—and credit default swaps—seem so normal and natural. “One of the things that’s freeing about the inquiry we do is that when you show the ‘madeness’ of the world, you show that it doesn’t necessarily have to be that way,” says religious studies professor Susanna Drake. “It’s not inevitable.”

That realization also creates a sense of responsibility, Chudgar adds. “Once you discover that meaning is made, not given, you have a responsibility to make meanings of your own that have ethical implications in the world.”

For the past eight years, Eden Bart ’87 has worked at the Minnesota Humanities Center in St. Paul on projects that do just that. As Minnesota’s population has become increasingly international, many state residents have yet to engage meaningfully with the implications of those changes—or with the state’s Native American history. Part of that work is happening through the center’s “absent narratives” initiative. In partnership with state organizations that advocate for communities of color, the center has developed everything from traveling exhibits to Internet videos designed to showcase the experience and contributions of Minnesotans whose stories have often gone untold.

“We work with them to change the narrative of marginalized communities from one of victimhood to a one of heroic survival against terrible odds,” says center president David O’Fallon. He points to “Why Treaties Matter,” a traveling exhibit created by the Minnesota Humanities Center in conjunction with the state’s American Indian Affairs Council, which toured the state last year.

An elderly Dakota man left hospice care briefly to see the exhibit, O’Fallon says. “It was his history being told, in his voice—not by others. And he wanted to be there for it.” The man’s presence at the exhibit was transformative for those there on the day he visited. “There was an incredible sense of the shared humanity of the visitors to the exhibit, who saw him not as some poor Native American elder in his last days but as a proud member of a sovereign nation that they are living with now.”

Many of the absent narratives projects, Bart points out, take the form of professional development opportunities for Minnesota K–12 teachers, who remain disproportionately white. “We’re working with
By fostering critical thinking, imagining alternatives to our present ways of doing things, and bringing communities together, humanities programs often provide value that isn’t measurable in dollars.

Teachers at a deeper level to bring about a new way of looking at how they’re teaching, what they’re teaching, and the relationship between them and their students,” she says.

By fostering critical thinking, imagining alternatives to our present ways of doing things, and bringing communities together, humanities programs often provide value that isn’t measurable in dollars. But those programs still have to exist in a world that measures value monetarily.

Recognizing that reality, some college administrators and professors are considering how to more clearly broadcast the value of a humanities education. For years, faculty have been reassuring humanities majors that their educations have economic value. “What I usually tell students is that those who dismiss a humanities degree are often looking at short-term gain, and that training in the humanities provides an incredibly important foundation for many other fields they may wish to pursue,” says Joanna Inglot, Edith M. Kelso Chair of Art History. The critical thinking, writing, and analyzing skills students develop in courses on 16th century art will always be in demand in the 21st century—and they don’t have the expiration date vocational skills often do.

But it’s not enough to provide that reassurance on an ad hoc basis, says Provost Kathleen Murray. “We’re very confident of our value, but we have to be able to tell people what that is. For too long we’ve just said, ‘We’re Macalester. Of course you know you’re going to get a good education here.’”

To remedy that information gap, the college recently launched an initiative to better quantify and promote the value of a Macalester degree to prospective students. Departments throughout the college, including those in the humanities, are revamping their websites to include mission statements that tell visitors what kinds of skills and knowledge their program imparts to students. Those statements will eventually include data about the department’s alumni that demonstrate just how successfully it puts its mission into action.

Macalester is also working to promote the value of the humanities beyond its institutional borders. Part of the humanities decline can be attributed to its own retreat to the ivory tower in recent decades. Humanities scholars must have more of a public presence, says history professor Peter Rachleff. “We need to write op-eds, show up on public radio and television—we need to be visible in our neighborhoods,” he says. “We need to show how the analytical tools that we develop inside the academy are valuable in wrestling with the complex issues we face outside it.”

One way in which humanities scholars can reach a broader audience is through an emerging national initiative called the digital humanities. In recent years, some humanities scholars have been pushing to harness technological power to expand the reach and nature of the humanities. They’ve digitized images of rare cultural artifacts, such as Greek pots or original texts, and have published them electronically, opening access to scholars and laypeople from around the world. But projects in the digital humanities go far beyond electronic archiving. They also involve presenting knowledge visually that might previously have been presented only in words, such as the layout and positioning of an ancient temple, for instance.

To bolster its participation in the digital humanities movement, Macalester recently won—in collaboration with Carleton and St. Olaf Colleges—a digital humanities planning grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation that will enable faculty members to develop digital humanities projects over the coming year. Environmental studies professor Chris Wells, for instance, is collaborating with the Minnesota Historical Society to create a smartphone application that will give visitors to environmentally important sites information about their history and significance.

Projects like these will raise awareness beyond Macalester about the value of humanities scholars. “Humanities scholars around the country and world could do a better job of helping funders, lawmakers, grant-making agencies, and the public see the value of what we do,” says Adrienne Christiansen, director of the Jan Serie Center for Scholarship and Teaching. “The digital humanities project represents one exciting way to do that.”

While the future of the humanities in colleges may be uncertain, there’s much evidence to suggest that the needs the humanities fulfill—reflection, creative expression, appreciation of beauty—remain. Chudgar points, perhaps surprisingly, to dollar stores. “I’m always amazed by how many objects of decoration there are. Presumably, if you’re going to a dollar store you’re economically constrained and you’d want to be maximizing your economic utility. But what you find is row after row of things that have no use other than to do something not obviously useful.”

The question, it seems, is not whether the demand for the stuff of the humanities will be around in a hundred years, but whether colleges and universities will still play a primary role in meeting that demand. For Brian Rosenberg, the answer for his college is obvious. “Macalester will always be a place where the humanities occupy a central role. It’s who we are and what we are.”

Danny Lachance is writing a book on the cultural history of capital punishment in the United States.

FALL 2012 | 15
Otto shown at The Loft Literary Center in Minneapolis, site of his book launch.

For a side-by-side comparison of Barack Obama’s and Mitt Romney’s answers to the top American science questions: sciencedebate.org/debate12

shawnotto.com
Saving Science

Shawn Otto ’84 wants policymakers and citizens to make decisions based on scientific evidence rather than emotional appeals.

BY JAN SHAW-FLAMM ’76 → PHOTO BY DARIN BACK


But some people would rather he just shut up. Climate change deniers don’t like him much. And members of the anti-vaccination movement pressured the Minnesota Book Awards to remove his book from consideration. The committee refused and Fool Me Twice won the top nonfiction award in 2012.

“Science has enabled us to double our life spans over the last 140 years and multiplied the productivity of our farms by 35 times,” says Otto. “Thanks to science we have a population we can no longer sustain without destroying our environment, so we are dependent on science to find new ways to increase efficiency and reduce environmental impact.”

Although properly addressing the world’s major problems increasingly involves science, that discipline is nevertheless too often ignored by policymakers. “Fewer than 2 percent of congresspersons have a professional background in science,” says Otto, who notes that the current U.S. Congress includes three scientists and six engineers.

Realizing that “politicians can’t take the lead on this on their own; they have to respond to public pressure,” Otto cofounded Science Debate 2008 to persuade that year’s presidential candidates to debate science policy. The candidates declined a televised science debate, but did provide online answers to 14 critical questions. Coverage of those answers garnered 850 million media impressions, demonstrating that Americans care deeply about issues such as climate change, pandemics and bio-security, energy, and stem cells.

To Otto, knowledge of science goes to the very viability of democracy. On that subject he quotes Thomas Jefferson: “Whenever the people are well informed, they can be trusted with their own government.” But what happens, Otto asks, when the people are not well informed about the science of a problem?

In a recent poll commissioned by ScienceDebate.org, 81 percent of likely U.S. voters agreed that “public policy should be based on the best available science, not the personal opinions of elected officials.” So why then do the minority opinions of climate-change deniers, anti-evolutionists, and anti-vaccination activists garner so much ink? And what can be done to steer the discussion to non-partisan, evidence-based decision-making?

Here are Otto’s ideas for shifting the balance toward science:

• The media should reject “false balance” reporting that gives equal coverage to two sides. “If 98 percent of scientists in the field say the evidence points to human behavior as a cause of climate change, climate-change deniers should not enjoy equal coverage.”
• Scientists must be more engaged and visible in their communities. “Most Americans cannot name a single living scientist. That’s got to change.”
• Politicians should make knowledge-based—not opinion-based—arguments. “Jefferson couldn’t care less about your opinions.”
• Academics should move away from the “over-embrace” of postmodernism. “It’s a useful idea from a political perspective, that each of us has a valid experience, but it doesn’t mean that there’s no such thing as objectivity.”

Before Fool Me Twice was published, Otto was best known as writer and co-producer of the Oscar-nominated film House of Sand and Fog, starring Ben Kingsley and Jennifer Connelly. He has written for DreamWorks, Lionsgate, and Starz studios, and has two film projects currently under discussion. One is a big action film about an illegal program to make the perfect spy, with the working title The Zeta Files. The other film, Sins of our Fathers, which Otto would also direct, deals with a small-town banker’s plot to destroy a competing bank.

In another creative endeavor, Otto designed and built the family’s passive solar, wind-powered, geothermal home near the Minnesota–Wisconsin border. It has since been toured by more than 10,000 people interested in green architecture.

With interests in film, science, architecture, and politics—he also has managed the successful political campaigns of his state auditor wife, Rebecca Wicks Otto ’85—Shawn Otto certainly sounds like the classic liberal arts/Macalester alumnus, but that was a bit of a fluke. Graduating early from his Golden Valley, Minn., high school, Otto attended the University of Minnesota briefly before dropping out to spend a year in California. At the time, he says, “I was kind of a teen drifter.”

Then a family friend told Otto about a Macalester seminar called Quantum Physics, Cosmology, and Consciousness, taught by professors Sung Kyu Kim (physics), Walt Mink (psychology), and David White (philosophy). That unique seminar inspired him to apply to Mac. Says Otto, “Macalester was a great place to grow up and learn how to think.”

And truly clear thinking people are sorely needed in our society today, he says. “There’s a growing gap between our power to change the world with science and technology and our ability through democracy to regulate that to maximize freedom and minimize unintended consequences,” says Otto. “People like Macites are increasingly needed to fill that gap.”

JAN SHAW FLAMM is a staff writer for Macalester Today.
In 1998 the group Public Art Saint Paul collaborated with the college to develop a campus public art plan and commission this work from artist James Carpenter. Installed in 2001 on the Campus Center’s second floor, this piece’s colored-glass prisms transform light pouring into the atrium’s skylights.
Public art is everywhere on the Macalester campus. It’s just a matter of opening your eyes.

Not all of Macalester’s art is found in its pristine and spacious art gallery in the renovated Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center. Instead, you can find the college’s art—glass pieces, paintings, sculptures—all over campus. You need only slow down and look.

At first glance, Macalester’s public art pieces seem more different than similar, falling into many styles, created from a wide variety of materials, for various purposes, in separate decades.

But as Macalester art curator Greg Fitz ’99 explains, they’re unified by their collective intention and effect—“populating our space with thoughtfulness,” as he puts it. “And when art works in a public venue, that’s what it’s doing,” Fitz adds. “It’s carving out a space for a deep breath and concentration.”

Some of Mac’s public art is impossible to miss—such as the gigantic wood sculpture in the Campus Center’s stairwell or the free-standing pillars outside Kagen Commons—while others are tucked away in less conspicuous corners of campus. But each has a story behind it, with an inspiration ranging from the physics of soap bubbles to global citizenship.

This year, the focus of public art on campus will shift to pieces newly installed in the Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center’s renovated and expanded spaces. Says Fitz, “We’ve been earmarking great work for it since we knew the building was coming.” Several pieces were hung this fall, including work by the late art professor Gabriele Ellertson, who died in 2005. Ellertson’s daughters gave the college one of her oil paintings, which will hang permanently in the art history lounge.

The other highlight, Fitz says, is a woodblock print from the late Minnesota Native American artist George Morrison, which hangs in the entrance to the art history lounge. The print was framed at the Grand Avenue art shop Wet Paint with lumber pulled from Lake Superior—a fitting nod to an artist who spent much of his career on the lake’s North Shore.

The Ellertson and Morrison additions open the next chapter of art on campus, each piece in that legacy with its own story and moment in Macalester’s history.

Wishing Well (TOP-RIGHT)
This cast-bronze sculpture was funded by the Classes of 1996 and 2000. Created by art professor Stan Sears and Andrea Myklebust ’95, it was installed on the sidewalk between Old Main and Olin-Rice, just outside the entrance to the new arts commons in the Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center.

The Sentinel (RIGHT)
The Sentinel, a gift from the Class of 1995, is the work of Don Celender, an art professor at Macalester from 1964 to 2005. Some readers may remember the brass and stained glass sculpture from its years outdoors: it was originally installed in 1995 behind the library, overlooking Shaw Field. After Celender’s death, his family arranged for it to be restored and relocated to the Campus Center’s second floor, adjacent to the windows facing Weyerhaeuser Hall.
Winging to the West
This wooden sculpture by artist Philip Rickey is dedicated to the memory of Jerry Rudquist, a beloved Mac painting instructor who died in 2001. Installed in 2006 thanks to funding set aside by Macalester for Campus Center art, this sculpture made from American elm, black walnut, cherry, Siberian elm, and white oak hangs in that building’s center stairwell.

Dance of Reciprocity
One of the newest pieces on campus, this mural is located on the third floor of Markim Hall, in the Institute for Global Citizenship. Before he began painting last spring, artist Ta-Coumba Aiken invited Macalester community members to sketch their own interpretations of global citizenship—images he incorporated into the final product. At the IGC’s opening celebration in September, a contest and popular vote determined its title.
**Fountain**  
*Isamu Noguchi*, a seminal figure in American modernism, originally created this iron sculpture for the Tokyo offices of *Reader's Digest*. A gift from *DeWitt* and *Lila Wallace*, it came to Macalester’s campus in 1965 in time for the opening of the original Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center building. This sculpture sits in the middle of a currently nonfunctioning fountain, on the art building’s south side.

**Invisible Handshake**  
Installed in 2008, this sculpture is rather hidden, located on the Olin-Rice Science Center’s south deck facing the athletic fields. Built by *Helaman Ferguson* and weighing 6,212 pounds, it was inspired by a shape related to energy-minimizing surfaces that arise naturally in the physics of soap bubbles. Before it was commissioned in stone, the design was created for a 1999 snow sculpture competition by a team including Ferguson, math professor *Stan Wagon*, former Mac math professor *Dan Schwalbe*, and *Tamas Nemeth ’99*.

**Untitled Terrazzo**  
Located just inside the front door of Kagin Commons, this terrazzo floor memorial was donated by the Class of 2001 as part of the Kagin renovation project, which wrapped up in 2002. *Stan Sears* and *Andrea Myklebust ’95* created the memorial with epoxy terrazzo and water-jet cut materials. It honors *Paul Pellowski ’01*, a classmate who died shortly before his graduation.

**Kagin Plaza**  
Another *Stan Sears* and *Andrea Myklebust ’95* creation, these eight carved limestone seating elements and pair of columns were installed in front of Kagin Commons in 2002, thanks to arts funding set aside for the Kagin renovation. Sears and Myklebust incorporated imagery from classical drapery, and the columns’ inspiration comes from patterns found in textiles and spools of thread. “These abstract sculptural forms,” Myklebust says, “suggest a narrative central to the liberal arts: the gathering together and ordering of many different strands—of experience, courses of study, cultures, and individuals—to form a whole.”

**REBECCA DEJARLAIS ’06** is a staff writer for Macalester Today.
In an election year, there’s no shortage of attack ads, mudslinging, and fear-mongering. It’s enough to give even the most glass-half-full types pause. But before you listen to the latest reports of the sky falling, take note of why these Mac faculty, alumni, and students think there are plenty of reasons that, politically anyway, things are looking up. Whether you lean left, right, or center, we’re sure you’ll agree with our experts that there are real reasons for hope.
The political discourse about same-sex marriage is getting more civil.

**Jane Bowman Holzer ’02** is the board secretary for Project 515, an advocacy organization working to ensure that same-sex couples and their families have equal rights under Minnesota law.

One of the most dramatic changes I’ve seen in the last 10 years is the nature of the debate about same-sex marriage. In 2006, for example, then-Minnesota state senator Michele Bachmann did her best to pass a bill that would have put an amendment on the ballot restricting marriage to unions between a man and a woman, and outlawing civil unions. While it was being discussed on the floor, the debate strayed toward statements like: homosexuality is wrong, homosexuals are pedophiles, homosexuals shouldn’t teach our children in schools. This radical rhetoric was espoused by only a few, but it was happening. People were bringing offensive signs to the capitol about how gay people should die.

Fast forward to 2012. The bill that will be voted on in Minnesota this November is much smaller in scope, but more importantly, the discussion around it contained no comments about gay people being inherently bad. Instead, the discussion was entirely: “Let the people vote.” Those who wanted the amendment on the ballot never got off message. I think people are finally realizing it’s just not acceptable to make derogatory comments in public about gay people.

There’s never been a better time to spread your political message.

**Jake Levy-Pollans ’09** is the Minnesota digital director of Obama for America.

In 2008, everybody was talking about how important Facebook was during the campaign, and that’s true. But to put that in perspective, Twitter now has about the same number of active users as Facebook did in 2008—and Facebook has hundreds of millions more. There are also new tools like Tumblr and Pinterest. Social media reaches a far broader cross-section of the country than it did four years ago. Why is that important? Because it’s our job, in politics, to talk to people where they are. That’s why we call voters on their phones and knock on their doors. But today, people are also on their social networks, so we have new ways to connect with voters and educate them about election choices. Digital tools also make it easier for us to keep track of how many people we’re talking to, and to spend less time driving among field offices. Sometimes, we don’t even have physical field offices at all, just digital ones. Technological tools mean that it has never been easier to get involved in a campaign, that more people are getting involved, and that more of them are engaged than ever before. And the existence of greater numbers of educated and engaged voters makes me optimistic for our democracy.
Female politicians are aiming higher.

Julie Dolan is an associate professor of political science at Macalester.

Political scientists had all sorts of theories about the first mythical woman who would seriously contend for the presidency, and we were really wrong. We thought it would be someone who came via the vice presidential route or a moderate Republican who appealed to both parties. A liberal Democrat like Hillary Clinton was unexpected. This election cycle, there was Michele Bachmann, a much more conservative candidate than Hillary Clinton, who became the first woman to win the Ames straw poll. What encourages me is that these are two very different women with very different strengths, who decided to go for it. They asked, “Why not me?” In years past, I think women were, reasonably, much more cautious about running for office. There was a sense that if you ran and didn’t win, you were setting back all women. But today, Michele Bachmann can run as herself, not as “a woman doing what Hillary Clinton did.” And the press seems to treat her not as the second woman running for the nomination but as a candidate who happens to be a woman. I find this development encouraging. Clinton, in many ways, paved the road for future candidates to say: Women can do this. It doesn’t take one particular kind of woman. The field is much more open for women than it used to be.

Young people still consider politics a way to make positive change.

Andrew Ojeda ’13 is running on the Republican ticket for Minnesota State Representative in St. Paul District 64A.

I grew up in Fresno, California, and I’m just the second person from my family—I have three older brothers—to go to college. I have a double major in political science and German studies. I would have added a triple major in economics, but running a campaign takes a lot of time.

Four years ago, when the Republican National Convention came to town, I started getting involved in politics. Eventually I became co-chair of MacGOP, which was named chapter of the year by the Minnesota College Republicans. During caucus season this election cycle, I got involved in some local races, but I wanted to do more than just head to the polls or put up a yard sign. Eventually I decided to throw my hat in the ring for state representative. I got the nomination and I haven’t looked back. I always thought I wanted to be in business, but the more I learned, the more I realized that politicians are much more influential than most businesspeople. One of the top things we need to address is taxes. Minnesota is one of the highest taxed states for individuals and businesses. So I’ve been talking with current legislators about what we can do as individual representatives not only for our district, but for our state. As a Republican, I know that many Macalester students don’t agree with me on every aspect of politics, but there are many things we can agree on, including how politics should be run. We need to listen to the other side and understand where they’re coming from. Will I win? I’ll say this: We’re doing the best we can with what we’ve got.
Proactive bipartisan politics can still work.

Rebecca Otto ’85 is the Minnesota State Auditor.

When the markets crashed, all investors were affected, no matter how well diversified—even government pensions. Investment returns for pensions were down. The number of government employees stayed flat or declined, so growth in employee contributions to the pension system did too. The pay for government employees was generally frozen, which meant that pension contributions based on salary growth assumptions were no longer accurate. At the same time, Baby Boomers were beginning to retire, so there were more people drawing from the system. For some states, all these factors have led to a train wreck. But Minnesota recognized the issues sooner and was an early reformer. The changes implemented during the 2010 Legislative session were bipartisan, and all affected groups supported the changes. Employers and employees contribute slightly more; retirees’ cost of living adjustments were reduced until a certain funding level is achieved.

The solution involved all parties sacrificing, with everyone understanding that we needed to make these changes to ensure the long-term stability of the pension plans. As a result of our progressive, forward-thinking policies, Minnesota pension funding levels are going in the right direction.

Technology is breathing new life into political humor.

Adrienne Christiansen is an associate professor of political science at Macalester.

If you’re on Facebook, you’ve probably seen “posters” of photos or old movie clips with ironic, funny, or sarcastic political captions in block letters. People find them, post them, and sometimes they go viral. One popular example is “Texts from Hillary,” which shows Secretary of State Hillary Clinton exchanging fake texts with politicians and celebrities. Whatever views these on-line posters share, it’s a sign that Americans are expressing their views about politics—and that’s a good thing. I’ve always been interested in political humor and parody because it’s a release valve for people’s pent-up political feelings. And today, thanks to social media, it’s so much easier to share those ideas. These posters democratize people’s capacity to make political statements that draw on cultural memes and cultural knowledge, regardless of one’s political view. Will it change Wall Street? Will it change democratic institutions? Probably not. But it shows that we’re not just rolling over and saying, “The heck with it. I give up.” And that, to me, is a very hopeful sign.

ERIN PETERSON, a Minneapolis writer, is a regular contributor to Macalester Today.
Construction wrapped up in early summer when campus was quiet. Bit by bit, Mac community members got their first glimpses of the renovated and expanded music building and arts commons. At Reunion, small groups of alumni snuck a peek at the new building. In July, music faculty members moved into their new offices, and by early August, Admissions tour guides were showing off the space to prospective students.

But it wasn’t until this fall—the first academic semester in the renovated space—that the campus community is seeing the full impact imagined back when architectural plans were drawn up. Students are auditioning for ensembles in spacious rehearsal rooms, viewing faculty art in the gallery, and meeting friends in the bright, open commons.

Mac students care about music and art: Each semester, in the music department alone, 500 students enroll in classes, take private lessons, or join an ensemble. This revived building provides the space to accommodate that demand—and to make the arts accessible to every student at Macalester.

Frozen Music

Goethe called architecture “frozen music.” That’s a fitting tribute for the Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center’s new music building, arts commons, and gallery, a shining new campus hub.

BY REBECCA DEJARLAIS ’06 → PHOTOS BY CRAIG BARES + DAVID J. TURNER

One of the most striking spaces on campus, the Mairs Concert Hall features improved sight lines and acoustics. It honors the Mairs family, specifically George A. Mairs III ’50 and Mary Dustin Mairs, as well as his father, George A. Mairs, Jr. H ’77 and mother, Louise Ritchie Mairs. Both George Jr. and George III served on the Board of Trustees.
The JWFAC project added 50,000 square feet and renovated 57,000 existing square feet to bring the arts at Macalester into the 21st century.

Many Mac community members explored the commons and gallery for the first time at the open house celebration held in early September.
The Lowe Dayton Commons—supported with a gift from Mary Lee Lowe Dayton, grandparent of a Macalester graduate and former Board of Trustees chair—was designed to foster collaboration and connections between each building’s faculty, students, and staff, and to provide an inviting gathering space for the entire campus community.
With the first of three construction stages now complete, the Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center is becoming a vibrant campus hub and gathering place for students, faculty, staff, and visitors:

- Expanded classrooms provide more space for students and faculty, plus the first-ever dedicated physical space for art history classes
- A new gallery showcases art exhibits
- The dramatic two-story Lowe Dayton Commons welcomes the community to the fine arts
- The Mairs Concert Hall provides state-of-the-art sound quality in a lovely, wood-filled space
- Amply sized rehearsal rooms allow music groups to practice while enjoying campus views

“The more students we can get into these buildings, the better we’ve educated them.”
—Provost Kathleen Murray

New classrooms (above and right) accommodate increased student demand and incorporate state-of-the-art technology for optimal learning experiences.

One key addition to come out of the project: two greatly improved rehearsal rooms. Crawford Hall (left) and Hewitt Hall provide the college’s musical groups with large, flexible rehearsal spaces with stellar campus views. Crawford Hall is named for Step Forward campaign chair Jerry Crawford ’71 and his wife, Linda Del Gallo Crawford, and Hewitt Hall was supported with a gift from Mark G. Leonard ’65 P’10 in honor of his wife, Candace Hewitt Leonard ’67 P’10, and her extended family.
Stage 2: Studio arts

The next step in improving Mac’s fine arts spaces is a new studio art building. The Minneapolis architectural firm HGA has already drawn up plans in which each space is designed to draw in the entire community, from art majors to neighborhood visitors. The new building features a spacious studio for senior art majors, a third floor with additional space for painting and drawing, and a 2D design suite. Construction will begin in January 2013, with the project scheduled for completion in January 2014.

Fall semester brings a full line-up to the concert hall. On September 22, a packed house took in the first concert in the new space, featuring the Music Department’s faculty and special guest pianist Provost Kathleen Murray.
The Drake Lounge (above), a popular spot for studying and meetings on the music building’s second floor, was supported with a gift from Harry M. Drake ’50, a former college archivist who died in July 2012. The Lowe Dayton Commons (right) features natural light and a view of the Leonard Center across Shaw Field.

Macalester is committed to the arts, considering them an integral part of a liberal arts education. This renovation and expansion—along with future projects in studio arts and theater—will dramatically enhance learning experiences and arts opportunities for members of the Class of 2013 and beyond.
Her parents named her Legacy, she says, “so I’d have a name to live up to.” And Legacy Russell ’08 certainly seems to be doing that—as a writer, artist, curator, and creative producer who’s actively building an impressive body of work in each of those roles. The lifestyle Web site refinery29.com recently named her one of “The Ten Most Inspiring Young Artists in New York City Right Now.”

Inspiration has been evident in a number of her recent projects. Her performance piece “The Initiation” had its world premiere last winter at New York’s Museum of Arts and Design, as part of the museum’s Risk x Reward series. Her essays and creative writing have appeared in dozens of magazines and Web sites, including Guernica magazine, The Santa Fe Literary Review, and ArtSlant. As a curator, she was granted a fellowship with the renowned public arts presenter Creative Time, working under the tutelage of Nato Thompson and Anne Pasternak.

Clearly, this talented young woman enjoys wearing many hats, a characteristic that helped lead her to Macalester. “I loved the way the school created intersections between internationalism and other practices. Those bridges between the domestic and global realms really influenced my work, then and now,” she says, adding that it was a great place “for understanding how to operate in an interdisciplinary way.”

Her college extracurricular activities—as editor of Chanter, arts and culture editor for The MacWeekly, art gallery employee, and Art Alliance organizer—allowed her “to experience many different voices, and to engage in dialogue and critique about the act of writing and literary practice.”

After graduating with a double major in art and English, Russell returned to her native New York City, where her day job is working as an art editor at BOMB magazine’s online journal, BOMBLOG. Based in Fort Greene, Brooklyn, the magazine is within walking distance of the living and studio space Russell shares with partner Candace Martin ’05, a lawyer specializing in mergers and acquisitions. When asked what a writer-artist-curator and an attorney have to talk about, Russell says, “Actually our work overlaps a lot. As more artists experiment within the digital and reproduction realms, the more the law comes into contact with art production and questions of ownership.”

This fall Russell left New York temporarily to spend the academic year at Goldsmiths College in London, where she’s continuing her studies in visual and cultural arts and art history. She’s eager to work with admired teachers such as Eyal Weizman, visual cultures professor and director of the Centre for Research Architecture, whose work she describes as “looking at modes of trauma and how they impact architectural structures and the geographies in which they operate,” and Simon O’Sullivan, an art history/visual cultures lecturer whose project “Plastique/Fantastique” “makes use of shrines as a vehicle within contemporary art practice.”

Her Macalester teachers also made a big impact on her, says Russell, and the impression was mutual. Creative writing professor Wang Ping, for whom Russell completed an honors project, says, “Her writing was always experimental and courageous—very refreshing.” Art professor Ruthann Godollei describes Russell as “intelligent, articulate, and energetic,” and English professor James Dawson says simply, “I remember thinking in the very first class I had with Legacy that she’s the kind of person who is going to change things.”

Given what she’s already achieved, he’s probably right. Stay tuned.

BY JULIE KENDRICK • PHOTOS BY SHIA LEVITT

This Renaissance woman of the arts has taken New York by storm.
Daryl "Bud" Lembke of Walnut Creek, Calif., turned 90 in May. Since retiring from a 50-year career in journalism (including 21 years with the Los Angeles Times), Bud has become a playwright. His most recent effort, *Arthritis Be Damned*, is a parody of life in Rossmoor, the retirement community where he lives with his wife, Mary. A concert reading of the play raised $4,200 for two nonprofit organizations.


1944
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1948
Gerald Webking of Eugene, Ore., has traveled extensively since retiring as a German teacher at South Eugene High School. He plays in several bridge groups and continues to maintain his home and orchard.

1951
Shirley Dawson Vancleave of Boulder, Colo., is "still kicking at 83 years," despite two recent visits to the hospital for breathing problems and asthma.

**1953**
**The Class of 1953 will be celebrating its 60th Reunion June 7–9, 2013. Janet Padmore Armajani is Reunion chair (jarmajani@aol.com). See macalester.edu/alumni/reunion.**

Alyce Ostergren Pederson celebrated her 80th birthday with her six children, nine grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and friends at her daughter Robin’s house in June. George Miller ’51 reports that Alyce also celebrated by skydiving over the Minnesota countryside.

1954
David Coulson of Huntington Beach, Calif., is "pleased to note that Macalester was ranked very high as a liberal college."

1958
**The Class of 1958 will be celebrating its 55th Reunion June 7–9, 2013. See macalester.edu/alumni/reunion.**

Jessie Parker Strauss has led Habitat for Humanity trips to such places as Central and South America, Mongolia, New Zealand, India, and Africa for the past 15 years. She plans to lead a Habitat trip to China in March, and she invites anyone who likes to sing and would be interested in joining a Habitat trip to Argentina next June to contact her (jessie@jessiestrauss.com).

1959
**Jessie Parker Strauss has led Habitat for Humanity trips to such places as Central and South America, Mongolia, New Zealand, India, and Africa for the past 15 years. She plans to lead a Habitat trip to China in March, and she invites anyone who likes to sing and would be interested in joining a Habitat trip to Argentina next June to contact her (jessie@jessiestrauss.com).**

1963
**The Class of 1963 will be celebrating its 50th Reunion June 7–9, 2013. Kay Thomas is Reunion chair (kthomas@umn.edu). See macalester.edu/alumni/reunion.**

While visiting relatives, Sara Hoffman Aikens of Albert Lea, Minn., stayed at a vacation resort in the Ostfriesland area on the island of Borkum, Germany.

Andru Monk Peters is running unopposed for a second three-year term on the Lake City, Minn., city council.

1964
Dennis Rompasky of Kula, Hawaii, was looking forward to celebrating his 40th wedding anniversary last June. During a two-and-a-half-month journey around South America, Dennis and his wife passed through the Panama Canal and stopped at Machu Picchu, the Antarctic Peninsula, the Falklands, and the Amazon.
1967
Ronald Damper is the founder and owner of Damron Corp. The company, which was the first minority-owned supplier to serve McDonald’s, provides the fast-food chain with tea and the McFlurry spoon. Ronald has served on the Burr Ridge, Ill., Board of Fire and Police Commissioners since 2001. He has been married to Dianne for 42 years and has two children.

Loren Geistfeld of Columbus, Ohio, retired from The Ohio State University in 2009 and from Wesleyan in 2011. He now volunteers for his church and Habitat for Humanity. His wife, Carol Leske Geistfeld ’68, helps elderly clients with bookkeeping and tax preparation.

1968
The Class of 1968 will be celebrating its 45th Reunion June 7–9, 2013. Lew Beconne and Jean Beconne are Reunion co-chairs (jmbeccone@gmail.com). See macalester.edu/alumni/reunion.

Since graduating from Macalester, Mary Spaeth Campbell has worked as committee counsel with the Nebraska Unicameral Legislature, as a lobbyist, and as assistant to the superintendent for governmental relations for the Nebraska Unicameral Legislature, as a lobbyist, and as assistant to the superintendent for governmental relations for the Lincoln Public Schools. She planned to retire this past August.

1969
“What Happens in Hell,” an essay by Charles Baxter, appeared in the fall 2012 issue of the literary journal Ploughshares. Charles’s first novel, First Light, has been reissued by Vintage. He teaches at the University of Minnesota.

As part of a team of civil rights scholars, Carol Bragg of Seekonk, Mass., worked on an effort by JPMorgan Chase and the King Center Project to digitize Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s papers for display on the Internet (www.thekingcenter.org).

Paul Jensen moved to Wyoming 10 years ago following a 30-year career in Washington, D.C. Since then, Paul has written three books and worked as a cowboy, a substitute teacher, a carpenter, and executive director of a senior center.

Paul Letourneau, professor of neuroscience at the University of Minnesota Medical School, was elected to the university’s Academy of Excellence in Health Research in July. The September 2011 issue of Developmental Neurobiology featured a special section about Paul’s contributions to the study of the growth of axons in the developing nervous system.

1971
Barbara Phillips has joined the boards of two international women’s rights organizations, the Programme on Women’s Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights International and the Women’s Learning Partnership for Rights, Development, and Peace.

1972
Peggy Davis of Colrain, Mass., was one of four artists featured in “Judeo-Islamic Relations: Women Artists’ Contributions to Love and Peace,” an exhibition at Westfield State University last spring. Peggy’s artwork can be seen at hebrewlettering.com.

1973
The Class of 1973 will be celebrating its 40th Reunion. Michael Skoien is Reunion chair (mwskoien@comcast.net). See macalester.edu/alumni/reunion.

1974
Kimberley Brown and Stephen Frenkel ’83 were winners of Portland State University’s 2012 John Eliot Allen Outstanding Teaching Awards. Kim teaches applied linguistics and Stephen teaches international studies.

1980
Under the leadership of coach Roberto Sobalvarro, the U.S. women’s epee team won the bronze medal at the 2012 Summer Olympics in London. Ro, who teaches fencing at the University of Minnesota and the Twin Cities Fencing Club, also coached the U.S. women’s epee team at the 2000 Olympics in Sydney.

Liz Throop has been named dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Education at the University of Wisconsin–Platteville. She was previously interim dean of Buena Vista University’s Business School.
Liz looks forward to hearing from fellow alumni in the Platteville area.

1981
Elisabeth Paper’s drawings, paper cuttings, and photographs were on exhibit at the Cloister Art Gallery in St. Paul this fall.

1982
Anne Leplae received the Les Palmes Académiques award from the French government in recognition of her efforts to expand French culture beyond the country’s borders. Since 1998, Anne has served as executive director of L’Alliance Française de Milwaukee, a nonprofit organization that promotes French language and cultural exchange.

1984
In February, Barry Peterson was appointed to a three-year term on the Hennepin County Adult Mental Health Advisory Council. He has also served the Democratic Party as precinct chair and associate chair in two Minnesota Senate districts, advocated for children and elderly residents of the apartment complex where he lives, and volunteered with such organizations as the Red Cross, the Special Olympics, and the Center for Victims of Torture.

1986
Pamela Leland of St. Paul is “exploring the meaning of life unhyphenated, being present with my beautiful daughters, and dancing as often as possible.” She is a life re-empowerment coach and teaches in the Leadership Minor program at the University of Minnesota.

1988
The Class of 1988 will be celebrating its 25th Reunion June 7–9, 2013. Sarah Rossmann Deschamps is Reunion chair (sarahdeschamps@mac.com). See macalester.edu/alumni/reunion.

1991
Peter Clark graduated from the University of Minnesota with a master’s degree in computer science. He now integrates demographic and environmental data as director of software development for the Terra Populus project at the University of Minnesota’s Minnesota Population Center.

1992
Mark Newman, assistant professor of information at the University of Michigan–Ann Arbor, received a National Science Foundation Faculty Early Career Development Award. The grant will support his work on improved techniques for the design of software involving human-computer interaction.

1993
W. Bowman Cutter has been promoted to associate professor of economics at Pomona College. He joined the school’s faculty in 2008.

1995
Sun Yung Shin’s first poetry collection, Skirt Full of Black, won the Asian American Literary Award.
for Poetry in 2008. She is also the author of Cooper’s Lesson, an illustrated bilingual children’s book in Korean and English.

**1996**
Sarah Isaacson and Mark Puppe announce the birth of their first child, daughter Mari Lee Puppe, on March 2, 2012, in Fargo, N.D.

**1997**
Ardis Burr of Seattle has achieved her dream of living on a houseboat.

**1998**
The Classes of 1998 and 1999 will be celebrating a cluster Reunion June 7–9, 2013. See macalester.edu/alumni/reunion.

Michael Albrecht joined the faculty of Eckerd College as an assistant professor.

Programmer and musician Paul Cantrell hopes to distribute and produce a music video for The Broken Mirror of Memory, a composition, performance, and recording project for bass clarinet and piano (http://mirror.innig.net). Paul won the International Clarinet Association’s composition prize for the piece.

**2000**
Melissa Kelly’s band, Serenata, has released its second compact disc of European renaissance and folk music, Ah Vita Bella! Melissa sang, played viola and percussion, and coproduced the album.

**2001**
Maria and John Garbe announce the birth of Henry Zachary Garbe on July 9, 2012. John completed a PhD in animal genomics at the University of Minnesota in 2011 and now works as a bioinformatician at the Minnesota Supercomputing Institute.

Playwright Danai Gurira was nominated for a 2012 Black Theater Alliance/Ira Aldridge Award for her play The Convert. The award recognizes theater and dance performances in the Chicago area that feature the work of African-American artists or deal with African-American themes.

**2002**
Megan Alpert of Cambridge, Mass., won the Orlando Prize for Poetry from the A Room of Her Own Foundation. Her winning poem will appear in the fall 2012 issue of the Los Angeles Review.

Kristen Harkness received a PhD in comparative politics from Princeton University on May 8. She looks forward to starting a postdoctoral fellowship at the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame.

**2003**
The Class of 2003 will be celebrating its 10th Reunion June 7–9, 2013. Sarah J. Raser and James Hamilton are Reunion co-chairs (sjraser@gmail.com and hamil250@umn.edu). See macalester.edu/alumni/reunion.

Joseph Walsh is running as the Democratic-Farmer-Labor-endorsed candidate for the House of Representatives in North Central Minnesota’s District 15A (walshformn.com).

**2005**

Continued on page 44→
1. Megan Thieme Chmielewski ’06 and Stuart Chmielewski ’06 were married on May 19, 2012, at the Macalester Chapel.

2. Marie Godwin ’10 and Logan Stroman were married on June 16, 2012, in Chaska, Minn.


4. Alaina Kelley ’05 and Peter Hawthorne were married on May 28, 2011, in Minneapolis.

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5. Ilya Winham '03 and Emily Sahakian were married in the Macalester Chapel on Oct. 29, 2011.

6. Ellie Morris '04 and Michael Nutt were married on May 28, 2011, in Carrboro, N.C.

7. Aditi Naik '07 and Benjamin Kantor '06 were married in Brooklyn, N.Y., on June 17, 2012. Joining them was a large Mac crew.

8. Scott T. Macdonell '06 and Christina I. McCoy were married on May 27, 2012, in Austin, Texas.
1. Josina Raisler-Cohn ‘04 and Bongani Mngomezulu ‘02 were married on June 25, 2011, in Essex, Mass.

2. May Lin Kessenich ‘05 and Tom McCormack were married on August 18, 2012, in St. Joseph, Mich. The bride is shown with (from left) Ole Koppang ‘05, Christy Koppang ‘05, Erin Case ‘05, Bethany Tate ‘05, and Chris Dwyer ‘05.

3. Patrick Hayden ‘03 and Stephanie Gehlbach were married in Stowe, Va., on May 26, 2012. Scots in attendance included (from left) Greg Moy ‘03, Beth Azuma-Moy ‘03, Angela Bjork ‘00, Seth Hayden ‘00, and Zachary Hayden ‘97.

4. Mark Meinke ‘70 and Frank Taylor of Arlington, Va., were married March 26, 2011, at Friends Meeting of Washington, D.C.
Kofi Annan ‘61 with Nader Mousavizadeh, Interventions: A Life in War and Peace (Penguin, 2012)

Curt Brown ’82 and David Joles, In the Footsteps of Little Crow (Star Tribune Media, 2012)

Rachel Gold ’93, Being Emily (Bella Books, 2012)

Dan Harlov ’80 and Hakon Austrheim, co-editors, Metasomatism and the Chemical Transformation of Rock: The Role of Fluids in Crystal and Upper Mantle Processes (Springer Verlag, 2012)


Kate Hopper ’95, Use Your Words: A Writing Guide for Mothers (Viva, 2012)


Aaron Mendelson ’09, R&B: Gospel Grooves, Funky Drummers, and Soul Power (Lerner, 2012)


Ron Potter-Efron ’66, Healing the Angry Brain (available from Amazon, 2012)

Sun Young Shin ’95, Rough, and Savage, poetry collection (Coffee House Press, 2012)

Richard Sollom ’88, Weaponizing Tear Gas: Bahrain’s Unprecedented Use of Toxic Chemical Agents Against Civilians (Physicians for Human Rights, 2012)

Damian McShane Vraniak ’72, Paired-Learning for Students and Teachers (available through iTunes)

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From Interventions: A Life in War and Peace by Kofi Annan ’61 with Nader Mousavizadeh (PENGUIN, 2012)

In the audience [of an African student conference, where Annan represented the National Union of Ghanaian Students] was a representative from the Ford Foundation’s foreign student leadership project. The program was designed to identify students in the developing world with leadership potential and offer them a chance to study in the United States before returning home to help develop independent states. For me, this led to an offer of a scholarship to attend Macalester College in Minnesota—a state whose climate, social environment, and racial makeup could not have been more different from my native Ghana’s. My family imagined my returning with my U.S. education to do great things for my new nation. I had the same idea. Education was linked in my mind to service. I never dreamed, any more than my parents, that my departure from Ghana would be near permanent or that America would challenge my thinking in so many ways.
I’ll bet something like this has happened to you. Macalester friends were in town this summer and came over to visit me. We were good friends in college and just afterwards, when we shared a rundown duplex in south Minneapolis. But that was more than 40 years ago and although we stay in touch with brief emails and newsy letters about the kids, we rarely see each other. Yet the years fall away when we’re together, as we go deep into conversations about the things that really matter in our lives and in the world. We enter these discussions with an ease that always amazes me.

It was easy to make friends in college because we were living in close quarters with many opportunities for informal gatherings in an environment that encouraged bonding. Plus, we were young and wasn’t everything easier? Few of these elements existed once we left the 55105 zipcode to pursue our adult lives. It’s harder to initiate and sustain friendships of the same richness after college.

But here’s the funny thing: It’s always easier to befriend other Mac-calester alumni. It happens all the time. A few years ago I sat with an alumna from the early ‘50s on a long bus ride over dusty roads in India. She was bright, curious, and funny and had lived a very different life from mine, yet we quickly entered a conversation about culture, the meaning of life, and spirituality. Pretty deep stuff with someone I barely knew, but somehow we were able to connect on a level of mutual trust that powers these kinds of conversations. I’ve seen this happen repeatedly among Mac volunteers. Reunion committees often turn out to be mini-Mac experiences by themselves, ending up full of new best friends who never knew each other at Macalester but now insist on holding reunions of the Reunion committees.

Given how isolated we are from each other these days, it’s more important than ever to have friends. I read recently that more Americans today than 20 years ago say they have no one with to discuss personal issues, and only 50 percent have a friend in whom they can confide. We’re lonelier than we used to be, which isn’t good. People with strong social networks are healthier than isolated people; socially disconnected people die at a rate two to three times higher than well-connected people. Further, research indicates that people with strong social connections recover more quickly from illnesses and show fewer symptoms of chronic disease. Friends are good for your health.

I believe our relationships with other people help us realize what it is to be fully human. Our friends teach us what to treasure, what to avoid, and how to live every day. Our ability to form and sustain friendships is what makes us human.

Macalester alumni are excellent friend candidates because of an instant advantage: a connection based on shared experiences and values. Friendships can ignite on a dusty road in India, at a distant city alumni event, or at Reunion. It’s like returning to college, only better.

Re-engage with the Macalester community. We’ll make it easy for you to make some new old Mac friends.
Ben cofounded the Just Health Network, a nonprofit organization that supports community-based health initiatives in South America and Africa.

**2008**
*The Class of 2008 will be celebrating its 5th Reunion June 7–9, 2013. Ahna Minge (aminge@gmail.com), Emily W. Seddon, and Disa Sheqem are Reunion co-chairs. See macalester.edu/alumni/reunion.*

**2009**
*Molly Brookfield completed a master’s degree in cultural heritage studies at University College London in 2011. Her master’s dissertation was published in the summer 2012 issue of *Girlhood Studies* (Berghahn Journals). As a contributor to the upcoming National Public Radio/WBUR series “Generation Stuck,” Morgan Derby will speak and blog on the impact of the current social, economic, environmental, and political climate on the lives of twentysomethings.*

*Luke Franklin received a master’s degree in international studies from the University of Denver’s Korbel School in March 2012.*

*Natasha Leyk received a master’s degree in social sciences from the University of Chicago’s Committee on International Relations in August.*

*Becky Roberts began pre-service training as an environmental education and community outreach Peace Corps volunteer in Mexico last August.*

**2010**
*AmeriCorps worker Amanda Nelson spent eight months working with local volunteers to research the identities of and erect headstones for 23 Civil War veterans interred in unmarked graves in Green Lawn Cemetery in Columbus, Ohio. The Columbus Dispatch and National Public Radio reported on the project, which concluded in June.*

Douglas Marshak ’94 and Paul Evans ’94 met up in Jackson, Wyo., to attempt to climb the summit of Grand Teton. “We had to bail after a night at the Lower Saddle, thanks to 65 mph wind gusts,” Douglas wrote, “but it was still a great experience and a fantastic chance to catch up.”
In Memoriam

1937

Ruth Steel Eppeland, 97, of St. James, Minn., died April 24, 2012.

1938

Kenneth J. Johnson, 95, of Bismarck, N.D., died May 30, 2012. He attained the rank of captain in the Army Medical Corps during World War II and practiced in the Quan & Ramstad Clinic in Bismarck for 30 years. He was a pioneer in the specialty of allergy and published 23 articles in such publications as the Annals of Allergy, the Lancet, and Minnesota Medicine. He also conducted 82 breeding bird censuses for the American and Canadian governments and published three books on bird-watching. Dr. Johnson is survived by his wife, Adele, a daughter, three sons, and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Stanley P. Stone, 96, of Golden Valley, Minn., died July 5, 2012. He practiced family medicine at North Memorial Hospital and Golden Valley Clinic. Dr. Stone is survived by a daughter, two sons, seven grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

1939

Herbert N. Mahle, 95, of Naples, Fla., died June 16, 2012. He served as an officer on a destroyer in the Pacific during World War II and worked as an engineer with Economics Lab and Sperry Univac. He was also an owner and officer at Ramsey Engineering Co. Mr. Mahle is survived by his wife, Marguerite, two daughters, a son, nine grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren.

Eleanor Westen Norberg, 95, of San Mateo, Calif., died May 20, 2012. Mrs. Norberg was a devoted minister’s wife, helping her husband, the late Richard Norberg ’39, as he led United Church of Christ congregations in Ohio and California and served as a UCC conference minister in Northern California. She was also an accompanist and church organist. Mrs. Norberg is survived by two daughters, a son, three grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

1940

John D. Kaster, 93, of Hillsborough, Calif., died Jan. 12, 2012. He served as a captain in the Medical Corps during World War II, and later practiced as a pediatrician and ran for Congress in 1960 with the support of John F. Kennedy. Dr. Kaster is survived by his wife, Jean, two daughters, six grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

Elizabeth Broady Misure, 93, of Stuart, Fla., died July 7, 2011.

William R. Pencille, 92, died July 25, 2012, in Rochester, Minn. He was ordained as a Baptist minister in 1942, and during 20 years of missionary work in South America he made first contact with the Ayore Indians in the Bolivian jungle. After returning to the United States in 1965, Mr. Pencille worked as a pastor in Rochester and California and served as assistant director of deputation for South America Mission. Mr. Pencille is survived by a daughter, three sons, nine grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, a sister, and a brother.

1941

Esther Green Logman, 93, of St. Paul died July 20, 2012. She is survived by a daughter, a son, four grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

1942

Mikhail Davies ’55 and Kyle Wortman ’08, two daughters, four grandchildren (including Mikhail Davies ’55 and Kyle Wortman ’08), two great-grandchildren, and son-in-law Eric Wortman ’77.

Austin P. Hendrickson, 90, of Minneapolis died April 17, 2012. He is survived by two daughters, son Grant Hendrickson ’83, and four grandchildren.

1943

Charles Ludwig ’42, three daughters, two sons, four grandchildren (including Mikhail Davies ’55 and Kyle Wortman ’08), two great-grandchildren, and son-in-law Eric Wortman ’77.

1944

G. William Jones, 90, of Avoca, Wis., died Aug. 11, 2012. He was a captain in the U.S. Army during the Korean War and practiced medicine for 60 years in Montana, Iowa, California, and Minnesota. Dr. Jones is survived by his wife, Zihna, two daughters, three sons, nine grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Marjorie Mickelson Jorgensen, 89, died July 20, 2012. She worked for 17 years as supervisor of bill drafting for the Office of the Revisor of Statutes at the Minnesota State Capitol. Mrs. Jorgensen is survived by three sons, six grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and a brother.

1945

Bartley M. Foster, 90, of Edina, Minn., and Naples, Fla., died June 12, 2012. He served as a B-17 navigator in the 8th Army Air Force during World War II. During a 39-year career, Mr. Foster worked for Northwestern National Life Insurance Company, Reliastar, and ING. He also served on the boards of the Sister Kenny Institute and the Mortgage Bankers Association of America. Mr. Foster is survived by his wife, Mary Lou, three sons, a grandson, a great-granddaughter, sister Eleanor Foster Nessel ’51, and a brother.

1946

Edward L. Gilbertson, 87, of Minneapolis died Dec. 26, 2011. He was chief electrical engineer with Northwest Airlines for 41 years. Mr. Gilbertson is survived by his wife, Barbara, two daughters, seven grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Marna Honeycutt Hinners, 85, died Jan. 27, 2012. She is survived by a daughter, a son, and four grandchildren.

1947

Raymond L. Stougaard, 89, of Fairmont, Minn., died June 19, 2012. He served as a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy in the South Pacific during World War II. After retiring from the Navy, he made first contact with the Ayore Indians in the Bolivian jungle. After returning to the United States in 1965, Mr. Pencille worked as a pastor in Rochester and California and served as assistant director of deputation for South America Mission. Mr. Pencille is survived by a daughter, three sons, nine grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, a sister, and a brother.

1948

Thomas A. Brodie, 86, of St. Paul died June 9, 2012. He was a retired Air Force Reserve colonel and served as assistant superintendent of the Wayzata, Minn., Public Schools for more than 30 years. Mr. Brodie is survived by a daughter, two grandchildren, and a sister.

Bartlett R. Butler, 84, of Decorah, Iowa, died Jan. 15, 2012. He is survived by his wife, Barbara, two daughters, and five grandchildren.

1949

Norman B. Schmidt, 88, of Minneapolis died Aug. 13, 2011. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II and taught for many years in the Minneapolis Public Schools. Mr. Schmidt is survived by a daughter and two grandchildren.

Chris J. Wedes, 84, of Edmonds, Wash., died July 22, 2012. An icon of Seattle local television, Mr. Wedes was known and loved as J.P. Patches on an afternoon children’s program opposite Roger Awsumb ’51, who played Joe the Cook and other characters.
Mr. Wedes moved to Seattle in 1958 to help launch KIRO/7. The station’s first broadcast featured J.P. Patches, and Mr. Wedes’s show went on to become one of the longest-running local children’s programs in the United States. After the program ended in 1981, Mr. Wedes remained at KIRO as floor director until his retirement in 1990. The Seattle City Council proclaimed J.P. Patches Day twice, in 1978 and 2007, and Seattle Children’s Hospital named its diagnostic play area after Mr. Wedes in recognition of his longtime support. Mr. Wedes is survived by his wife, Joan, a daughter, and a granddaughter.

William G. Weiss, 87, of Houston died June 15, 2012. After serving in the U.S. Navy during World War II, Mr. Weiss did missionary work in Japan for 10 years and was pastor of churches in New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and South Carolina. Mr. Weiss is survived by his wife, Georgia Amundson Weiss ‘50, two sons, five grandchildren, and a great-granddaughter.

Robert T. Brown, 83, died April 24, 2012. He was a fourth-generation farmer in Eden Prairie, Minn., and worked for Wilson Learning Corporation.

Harry M. Drake, 86, of St. Paul died July 3, 2012. Born almost totally deaf, Mr. Drake learned to read lips as a boy at the Central Institute for the Deaf in St. Louis. After graduating from Macalester, he worked for the New York City design firm Frank Gianninoto & Associates and the Twin Cities advertising agency of McManus, John, and Adams. He was also actively involved with Macalester as an alumnus, serving for a decade as the college’s archivist, endowing a distinguished professorship in the humanities and fine arts, and receiving the college’s Distinguished Citizen Award in 2005. Part of Mr. Drake’s private collection of modern photographs was exhibited at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts in 1997.

Grace Primeau O’Brien, 84, of St. Paul died Dec. 29, 2010. She is survived by two sons and sister Marian Primeau Kole ’46.

1951
Jack F.C. Gillard, 83, of Glenville, Minn., died July 27, 2012. He worked as a lawyer and launched several small businesses. Mr. Gillard is survived by his wife, Marina, a daughter, two sons, eight grandchildren, and a sister.

1952
Elizabeth Fernstad Johnson, 81, of Willow Street, Penn., died May 23, 2012. She was a pianist and organist and taught music in public schools in Montana, Minnesota, and Maryland. She is survived by her husband, Clarence A.E. Johnson ’51, three daughters, five grandchildren, a sister, and a brother.

1953
Mitzi Hunter Olson, 82, died May 26, 2012. As a child, she was a Muriel Abbott dancer who worked with such entertainers as Liberace, Imogene Coca, and Victor Borge. Mrs. Olson and her husband, the late James Olson ’51, dreamed of building a recreational vehicle park, so in 1953 they purchased 45 acres on Tanners Lake in Minnesota, where they established Pure Oil Truck Stop, Tanners Lake Swimming Beach, and Landfall, a manufactured housing community. Mrs. Olson is survived by three children and three grandchildren.

1954
Kathryn Babcock Hostelter, 80, died Aug. 2, 2012. She worked for the Lake County Chronicle and Target and was active in Eastern Star and PEO. Mrs. Hostelter is survived by a daughter, three sons, six grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

1958
Charlotte Guiggle Olson, 92, of Minneapolis died July 19, 2012. She is survived by her husband, Raymond, a daughter, two sons, two grandchildren, and a sister.

1959
Paul A. Larsen, 75, of Kelliher, Minn., died June 1, 2012. He worked for 3M Corporation for 11 years and served as general counsel for United Power Association in Elk River, Minn., for almost 25 years. He was active with his local school board and the Macalester Alumni Association. Mr. Larsen is survived by his wife, Carol, daughter Susanne Larsen ’89, and a son.

Marcia Kane Schoeneman, 75, of Richfield, Minn., died July 17, 2012. She worked for the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency for 32 years.

1961
Larry W. Bergman, 74, of Naples, Fla., died July 12, 2012. He worked for Honeywell and served in the National Guard. Mr. Bergman is survived by a son and three sisters.

1966
Margaret H. Lommen, 67, died April 29, 2012. She was a flight attendant with Northwest Airlines for 43 years. Mrs. Lommen is survived by her husband, Robert Haines, her parents, and a sister.

1973
Alva L. Rankin, 61, of Lake Nebagamon, Wis., died July 23, 2012. He specialized in community water system issues with the engineering firm Short Elliott Hendrickson. He also served as a foster parent and volunteered with Kids in Nebagamon and the Catholic Charities Bureau. Mr. Rankin is survived by his wife, Anne, a daughter, two sons, his parents, a sister, and a brother.

1977
Ruth Holstad Edmunds, 87, of Spring Park, Minn., died Dec. 6, 2010. She is survived by a daughter, a son, seven grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, a sister, and a brother.

1984
Todd L. Warner, 50, of Marquette, Mich., died July 18, 2012. As director of natural resources at Keewenaw Bay Indian Community in Baraga, Mich., he helped establish the community’s Youth Conservation Corps. Mr. Warner is survived by his parents, two sisters, and a brother.

1986
Gary Peitersen, 48, of Casper, Wyo., died May 12, 2012. He is survived by a sister.

1998
Nathan L. Bryant, 36, of Baton Rouge, La., died Feb. 18, 2012. He was a physics and forensics teacher at St. Michael’s High School in Baton Rouge. Mr. Bryant is survived by his parents, three sisters, and two brothers.
IF YOU LOOK INTO THE LIVES of artists and writers—past and present, famous and unknown—you often discover stretches of time when the artist barely got by (hence the term starving artist). For some, starving artist is a proud banner, and for others (parents of artists, say) it’s a term of derision. Both attitudes—pride and dismay—reflect the truth that a life in the arts, though among the most delightful and profound of pursuits, rarely pays off in dollars.

In February, my composer friend and frequent collaborator, Carol Barnett, and I will be scraping together the airfare to get to the Carnegie Hall performance of our bluegrass mass, The World Beloved. To make ends meet, we’ll stay in a spartan convent. Thirty-some years into our careers, with scads of performances to our credits, you’d think we could each afford a decent hotel room. Not so—not in New York City—but it’s no big deal. Most people—or at least the 99 percent—have to scramble for bargains and patch things together.

To create a body of artistic work demands many uncompensated hours, supported by small advances and commissions, plus odd jobs—sometimes very odd. A highly regarded singer/actress I know has a business card with a startling title—"I Can Do That!"—beneath which she lists a scattering of occupations: caterer, gardener, babysitter, carpenter, housekeeper, bouncer, and crossing guard. The card delighted me, given my own job history. I’ve been a writer in residence and a distinguished this and that, but I’ve also delivered newspapers, picked apples, baled hay, staffed a home for disabled adults, directed documentaries, trained ad execs to meditate, and ghostwritten books.

Scrambling for odd jobs has a hidden benefit that many new grads may discover in today’s job market, and that Baby Boomers, even those with advanced degrees and long resumes, may be rediscovering. The hidden benefit is this: If you know how to do many different things, your risk of starvation goes way down. Your eggs, as they say, aren’t all in one basket.

Many of my odd jobs have continued my education, opening my mind to how things operate and the strange stuff that goes on in the office towers, school buildings, and farmyards around me. Such as the frosty morning I viewed, from my ladder on an orchard ridge, a fox sauntering through the tall grass between the trees, and learned from the foreman’s sharp warning that a fox that wanders toward human contact is likely rabid. Or the afternoon I went to an office tower’s 20th floor to take notes from the CEO and discovered that his entire staff was covering up his inability to use email and his unwillingness to learn. (And I’d been worried he might be put off by my old-fashioned habit of taking notes by hand.)

I’ve landed many gigs by pretending I knew more than I really did about any given line of work. Because I’m a quick study, it has often paid off—but not always. I’ll never forget the uncomprehending stares from the auto parts chain staff members when I showed up to write them a video script. The NASCAR references went over my head—what the heck is a tri-oval track and what’s an aero-push?—and since I couldn’t Google during the meeting, I lost the job and the chance to prove that “I Can Do That!”—which, in the event, I probably couldn’t. But most of the time, my can-do strategy has worked just fine. Operating this way, I’ve saved time for my own creative work, and have completed at least as many written works of my own as I have works-for-hire.

I don’t mean to suggest that the freelance life is a lark. Much of my paid work has been tedious, and I’ve suffered times of financial uncertainty when tempers frayed and worry became corrosive. But I don’t really know how else it might have gone.

What is work, after all? Our tribal ancestors wouldn’t have questioned the need to hunt and gather, just as other creatures do. For me, and for many others, odd jobs pay the rent and put food on the table, and “I Can Do That” becomes the overarching principle for the life of a working artist.

Marisha Chamberlain ’73 is a poet, playwright, and screenwriter living in Hastings, Minnesota.
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New students moved into campus residence halls on August 31, with a lot of help from yellow-shirted students and staff.

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