

Winter 2017

# Macalester Today Winter 2017

Macalester College

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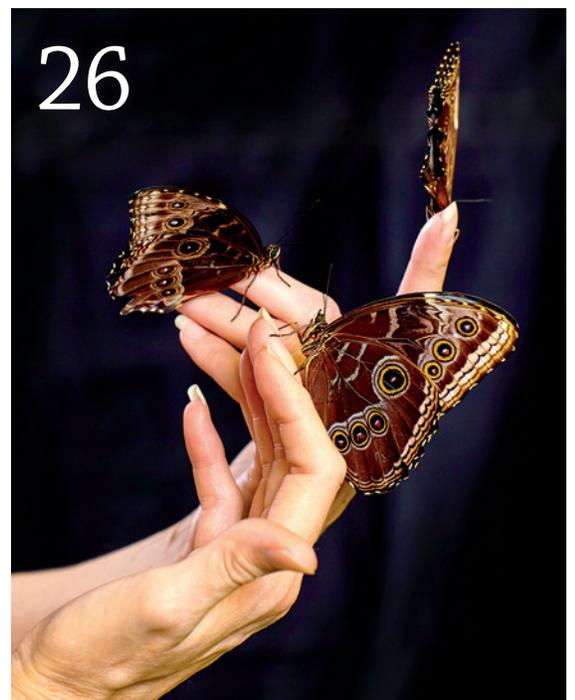
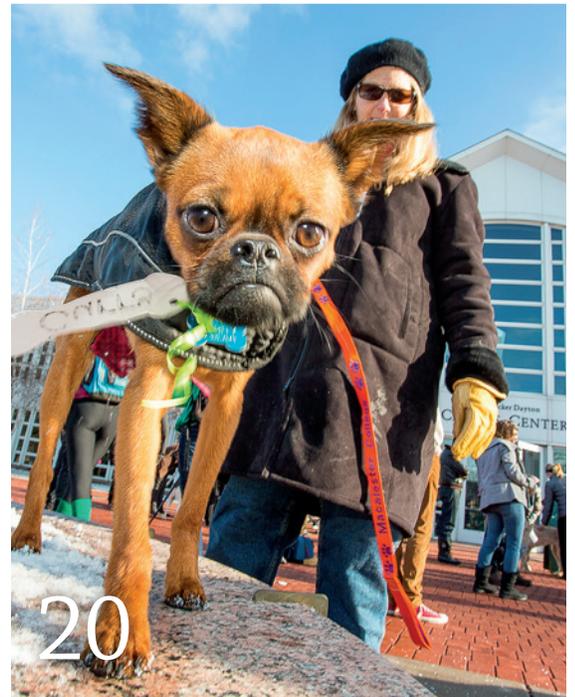
Two alums have devoted their lives to displaying and helping preserve an iconic North American butterfly.

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Three students found each other at Mac—and founded a band that has taken off.

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Firat Taydas '92 built his career from a "DNA-level" understanding of coffee and an entrepreneurial spirit.



**ON THE COVER:** Therapy dog Kevin greets (from left): Margaret Breen '20, Rajnee Persaud '19, and Sarah Matzdorf '18 / Photo by Alex Tubbs



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## Sexist illustration?

I am a Macalester parent and a member of the Parents Council. I am writing because the illustration (shown above) in the most recent Grandstand column (“Movie Making,” Fall 2016) perpetuates sexist stereotypes in the film industry—an industry well known for its discrimination against women and people of color. The recent press about Maria Schneider’s experience of the set of *Last Tango in Paris* and subsequent trauma provides just one example. In the Grandstand illustration all seven figures appear to be white; the only women pictured are a hair stylist and clapper. I know these issues are important at Macalester and I hope you will address them not only in the text but in all your illustrations as well.

**Melissa Ann Pinney P '17**  
Evanston, Ill.

## The abortion issue

I just read the article “Her Day in Court” (Fall 2016) and my question is this: Is Mac still a Christian college? The article was pro-abortion. The Fifth Commandment says, “Thou shall not kill.” It couldn’t be any clearer. So in my opinion, a Christian college should not promote killing helpless babies. I was so disappointed to see my Macalester so cheerfully promote something so against God.

**Georgia Catton '57**  
San Diego, Calif.

## More on Stella Wood School

Macalester once had a nursery school? I didn’t know that until reading your article about the Miss Stella Wood Center (“Pioneering Preschool,” Summer 2016). There is another school for young children across the street from Macalester called Highland Park Montessori School. Although the school started in Highland Park in 1963, for the past 23 years it has been housed on the corner of Summit and Snelling. Children aged 16 months to 6 years learn, grow, and work together, showing respect toward one another and going about their days in peace. Recently we’ve had have a number of Macalester students volunteer and work here, several of whom are considering taking further training at Montessori training centers in Europe. We are also fortunate to enroll the children of Macalester employees and alumni. We are so grateful to be part of Macalester’s neighborhood. Macalester, like our little Montessori school, seeks to create a world of understanding, opportunity, and peace. As Dr. Montessori said, “The child is both a hope and a promise for mankind.”

**Stephanie Clark '88**  
Director of Highland Park  
Montessori School  
St. Paul

## Mac TWEETS

**@WilliamGMoseley**

2016 was a rough year, but I’m not giving up & neither should you. Thoughts on End-of-Year Charitable Giving <https://t.co/EGGaAxurIL> #heymac

**@PaulFochtman**

Very proud of Paige: New Delhi, Mumbai, Frankfurt - Macalester College! #Mac2021 @macalester #heymac

**@eun.jjing**

When I despair, I remember that all throughout history, the ways of truth and love have always won. There have been tyrants and murderers and for a time they seem invincible but in the end they always fall. Think of it always. —Mahatma Gandhi #somuchlove #heymac

**Laurie Hertzell @StribBooks**

@MarlonJames5 has been named writer-in-residence at @Macalester College—the college’s first! <https://t.co/c6rbdN9xrB> <https://t.co/0uaBLbrllp>

## LETTERS POLICY

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

# Science Friction

BY BRIAN ROSENBERG

Something unprecedented is happening at Macalester.

Rather than explain, let me begin by providing some revealing numbers. Over the past decade, the percentage of graduates who have completed at least one major in the “STEM” disciplines—science, technology, engineering, and mathematics<sup>1</sup>—has grown 52 percent, from 27 percent of all graduates in 2007 to 41 percent in 2016. Currently, one in three declared majors at Macalester is in the sciences. Enrollment in STEM classes has grown during this period by almost 40 percent.

The most dramatic growth has taken place in biology, math, and computer science. The number of biology majors has risen from 74 in 2007 to 131 in 2016. Math majors have increased by 181 percent, and computer science majors have increased by 608 percent. That last is not a typo.

This trend can be explained in various ways. Nationally, the number of majors in what are known as the “hard sciences” has been trending upward for some time. On our own campus, the math and science programs are extremely strong and are being fed by new concentrations and minors in areas such as community and global health and data science. They are attracting more women and more students of color. And the job market for graduates in many of these areas is especially robust.

Generally I am neutral on the question of what major (or majors) should be chosen by students at Macalester. Once they have made the indisputably correct decision to attend an outstanding liberal arts college, they will learn and grow regardless of the major they select, and the habits of mind they need to thrive can be strengthened through studying plate tectonics or reading Aeschylus. This movement toward the sciences, therefore, is not intrinsically either a good or a bad thing, but it does



raise some interesting questions and pressing practical challenges.

First, the challenges: Put simply, both our faculty and our physical plant have been hard-pressed to accommodate this enrollment surge. When the renovation and expansion of the Olin-Rice Science Center was completed in 1997, no one anticipated this level of student interest in the departments housed therein (which, in addition to the natural sciences, include psychology). Thus we are short on office, classroom, and laboratory space, the last of which is highly specialized and difficult to reproduce in other campus buildings.

Faculty positions at Macalester are mostly tenured or tenure-track, expensive to add, and difficult to shift around. Thus staffing levels can easily lag behind rapid changes in student interest and enrollments. That appears to be the case now, though both the Provost and the affected departments are doing their best to keep up with the unanticipated demand.

The questions raised by this movement to the sciences run deeper than the purely practical. What are the implications for areas like the humanities and fine arts, which are central both to a liberal arts curriculum and

to becoming a fully educated person? To what extent should we be encouraging science students to also pursue an area of study outside that division? Should the sciences be taught differently in a liberal arts context than at a research university or engineering school? In a world of “big data” and the rapid spread of technology, is this movement toward the sciences a permanent or long-term shift, or will the pendulum soon swing back toward other disciplines? It wasn’t very long ago that applications to medical school were down and computer science majors were on the decline.

While I do not have easy answers to any of these questions, I do know that our solution at Macalester must be *both* to meet the needs of our students in the sciences *and* to maintain the diverse set of course offerings that distinguish a liberal arts education—and to do all this in a world in which we cannot dramatically increase expenses.

How, you ask, is this possible? We will figure it out—that’s what the liberally educated do. ■

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

1. I am counting in these data the following Macalester majors: biology, chemistry, computer science, environmental studies, geology, mathematics, neuroscience studies, and physics & astronomy. Psychology, which is sometimes classified with the STEM disciplines, is at Macalester classified as either a social science or a natural science, depending upon the course, and is excluded from these numbers. We do not offer majors in engineering or in “technology” per se.

# ▶ Summit to St. Clair

CAMPUS NEWS SUMMARY



Chemistry professors and married couple Leah Witus and Dennis Cao were students of Nobel Prize winner Sir Fraser Stoddart.

## NOBEL CONNECTIONS

PHOTO: DAVID J. TURNER

WHEN THIS YEAR'S NOBEL PRIZE in Chemistry was announced, the news spread quickly. The American winner, one of three, was Sir Fraser Stoddart, advisor and mentor to Macalester chemistry professors Leah Witus and Dennis Cao at Northwestern University. Stoddart was Cao's PhD advisor from 2010 to 2014 and Witus was a postdoctoral scholar in his lab from 2012 to 2015.

The Nobel honors Stoddart for his work designing and synthesizing molecular machines. With his research group, he created mechanically interlocked molecules such as *rotaxanes*, which consist of a ring encircling an axle. In *rotaxanes*, the ring can be made to move to specific locations along the axle, much like a molecular shuttle.

"Our work synthesizing these molecules was inspired by biology," says Witus. "There are proteins that act as molecular-scale biological machines. As synthetic chemists, we were working to create *rotaxanes* that could contract and expand on demand, as muscles do. Eventually, this could be used to make artificial molecular muscles for applications such as advanced prosthetic devices."

Adds Cao, "Computer chips based on single molecular switches would be tiny compared to the silicon transistors in today's computer chips and could potentially revolutionize computing, reducing

our use of heavy metals and their associated environmental costs."

Their mentor in this cutting-edge work "was very supportive, but also tough," says Cao. "You could exchange 30 drafts of a manuscript with Stoddart and it would still come back covered in red ink."

"That's something I want to bring to my students here," says Witus, "that practice of revising until the details are perfect."

Stoddart is known for being devoted to his research. "Fraser was a 'work 20 hours, sleep four hours' kind of guy," says Cao, who notes that the lab brought together people from across the world. Cao and Witus, who met there, are believed to be the sixth marriage to come out of the lab over the years.

Chemists are often interested in their academic genealogy—who you worked with and learned from, who your thesis advisor was. "Some chemists trace their academic genealogy back hundreds of years," says Cao.

Both Cao and Witus mentored Mac students in their chemistry labs last summer. "Students in my Young Researchers group heard me talk about my previous advisors, including Fraser Stoddart," says Witus, "so they were very excited when the Nobel was announced. Our Mac students are now the 'academic grandchildren' of a Nobel Laureate."



## WHITHER THE **BELL TOWER?**

MOST OF US ARE FAMILIAR with the distinctive role that the Macalester Bell Tower plays in campus life, but it turns out that the bell's history is nearly as scandalous as its reputation.

In 1856, Dr. Edward Duffield Neill, who would go on to found Macalester some years later, received the bell as a congratulatory gift for opening a men's college in St. Paul. Since there was no room on the grounds for a bell, Dr. Neill lent it to the House of Hope Presbyterian Church, where it enjoyed several decades serving as a downtown fire bell.

After that church was demolished in 1914, the bell found its way back to Macalester. There it rested in the basement of Carnegie Hall until the classes of 1927 and 1928 decided to build it a small tower home, from which it called and dismissed classes by means of a hammer attached to a clock in the main office. Throughout the years it acquired

nicknames like “The Kissing Bell” and “The Engagement Bell.”

But on Christmas Eve 1978, the bell mysteriously vanished from its cupola, only to reappear at the new Summit Avenue location of its former home, House of Hope. It seemed that the church's pastor was bitter about the broken affiliation between the church and the college (compounded by the lack of Macalester students attending his church). A rumor even sprouted up that the pastor promised to return the bell if Macalester's football team—at that point infamous for its losing streak—won a game against a House of Hope team.

Whatever the case, then-President John B. Davis successfully negotiated terms of exchange, and within a few days the bell had been returned to its small tower between Weyerhaeuser and the Great Lawn, where to this day it enjoys abundant opportunity to exercise its lusty ring. —ROSA DURST '17

## CAPTIVATING CAPSTONES

The senior year final projects known as capstones are always a challenge for the students involved. Sometimes their titles are intriguing as well. Here are a few recent examples we enjoyed:

- “Beyond Betty Crocker: Cookbooks as a Means for Spreading a Radical Message”
- “You Won't Believe What's Happening to Journalism: Trust, Funding, and Tradition in the Era of BuzzFeed News”
- “Marching Against the Madness: Macalester College and the Counterculture, 1966-1974”
- “A Tale of Two Gay Villages: An Urban Political Ecology Approach to Globalization”
- “Boys Club: Tackling Racism, Masculinity, Gender Violence, and Playing Basketball”
- “Watching it Burn: Republican Environmental Decision-Making”
- “To See the Face of God: Depictions of the Divine in Revelation”

## NEW IGC DEAN



The Institute for Global Citizenship, a lynchpin of Mac's internationalism efforts, has a new dean. **Donna K. Maeda**, most recently chair of the Critical Theory and Social Justice Department at Occidental College in Los Angeles, will begin as dean in July.

## MAKING A MUSEUM

“YES! YOU CAN TOUCH EVERYTHING!” art history professor Vanessa Rousseau tells the students clustered around a table of artifacts. Some of the items are identified in detail; others come with no information. Students pore over them, examining porcelain dolls, a terracotta head, potsherds, and a glass bottle that Rousseau reveals is from Turkey and nearly 2,000 years old.

Then the conversation segues into bigger questions: Which kinds of artifacts should be kept? Which curated? How do items circulate in personal and institutional collections—and who decides what will be displayed?

This is *untitled* (Museums), a new hands-on course that examines what it takes to create and operate museums of all types and sizes. Rousseau teaches the course with anthropology professor Scott Legge. Because the syllabus explores so many angles of museum studies, the class counts toward art, anthropology, and classics majors—and the class roster represents an even broader mix of disciplines.

Macalester’s location adds another layer to the learning. Many class sessions feature a guest speaker from one of the Twin Cities’ many museums. Students also took field

trips, including meeting with the Weisman Art Museum’s director and delving into the Science Museum of Minnesota’s archives and storage. “It’s really different than just reading a textbook,” says **Sara Ludewig ’17** (Northfield, Minn.), a history major interested in a museum career. “We’ve learned how complex a museum is. All those viewpoints make for a more well-rounded experience.”

They took a close look at collection possibilities at 1600 Grand, too. The class visited Macalester’s archives and art storage and met with staff members whose work intersects with museum studies issues. By semester’s end, students were to digitally imagine what a new campus museum could look like, selecting items both on current display and in storage.

Ludewig chose a collection of Homecoming buttons from the ’20s through the ’60s. Other students selected, sculptures, dinosaur bones, even a construction helmet from the Leonard Center’s groundbreaking. The assignment, says archeology major **Abigail Perrero ’18** (Springfield, Ill.), required putting into practice what she learned about curating—and it changed her perspective on the job. “Going to a museum is a different experience for me now,” she says.



PHOTOS: DAVID J. TURNER

# DYNAMIC NEW CURATOR

FOR NEARLY A DECADE at Minneapolis's Walker Art Center, Jehra Patrick forged connections in Midwest arts circles. Now she's putting those skills to work as the college's new curator and gallery director.

Patrick, who focused on arts programming and education at the Walker, directed the organization's Mn Artists program and digital platform. A painter herself, Patrick also founded and directs Waiting Room, a Minneapolis gallery space for emerging artists. Her ability to approach exhibits from multiple perspectives gives Patrick unique insight into what an art gallery can do for Macalester.

Her first priority is to draw more people from the community into the Law Warschaw Gallery. She's striving to build a program



with exhibits that connect to broader art currents, speak to Macalester's mission, and link to departments across campus. "I'm excited to see art become a catalyst for discussion in our community and to draw lines across multiple areas of study," she says.

Patrick will take each exhibit from start to finish—researching and communicating with artists, creating ads and interpretive materials, hanging shows, hosting tours and receptions. She is planning next year's program while managing this year's, which will include an exhibit of prints by American artist Roger Shimomura.

Boosting the gallery's presence in the Twin Cities art community is another of Patrick's goals. To do so she'll revise the gallery's outreach strategy and forge new relationships with artists. "This gallery is a dynamic public space," she says. "We have all the makings of a world-class program. We just need to turn up the volume to make sure we're being heard."

## Sophomore Poet



ENGLISH MAJOR **Miriam Moore-Keish '19** (Atlanta, Ga.), only a sophomore, saw her first book of poetry published last fall. Her 70-page volume, *Seeds*, is available from Barnes & Noble and Amazon.com and published under the nom de plume Miriam Elisabeth Moore.

place where more than a few of her poems were written.

*Adapted from an article by ZEENA FULEIHAN '18, first published in the English Department's online newsletter, The Words.*

## Winter Ball

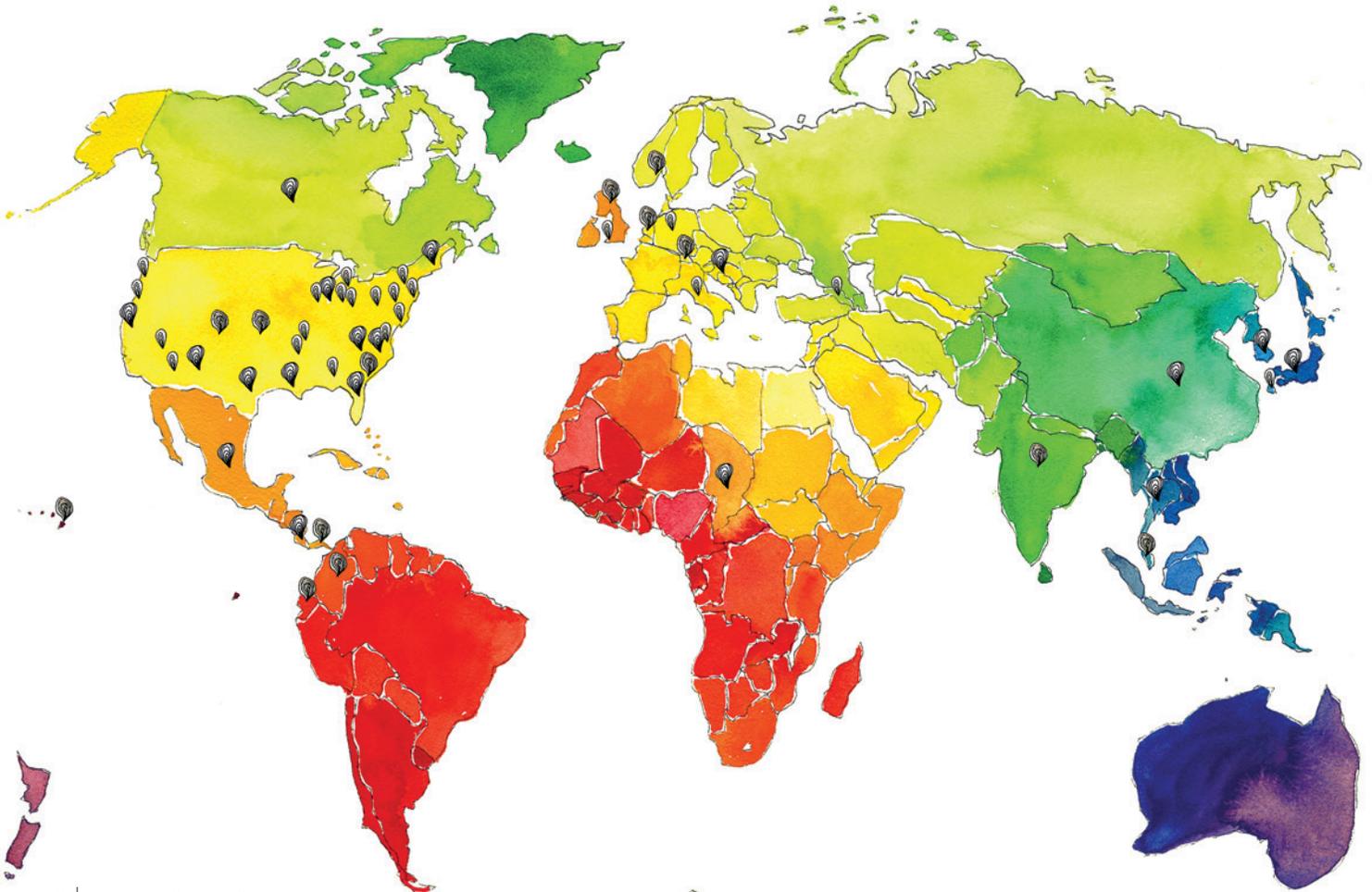
Hundreds of Mac students enjoyed the annual Winter Ball, held in November in Minneapolis.



PHOTOS: DAVID J. TURNER

## SEEKING STUDENTS

The Admissions Office travels far and wide seeking just the right mix of students for each new class. This map has a dot on every place they visited last year.





Football team captain Forest Redlin '17 has been successful at Macalester on and off the field.

## FOOTBALL RENAISSANCE MAN

WHEN THE FOOTBALL TEAM is on the road, head coach Tony Jennison starts game days with breakfast, long before most players are awake. But early one morning last fall when Jennison entered the lobby, he found team captain **Forest Redlin '17** (Tempe, Ariz.) already there, conducting business on his phone.

Jennison wasn't surprised by Redlin's juggling act. "When we recruited Forest, we knew he was special," he says. "There are some people who will be successful no matter what they do, and Forest is one of those people. He makes a daily impact on our program."

A two-time All-Conference football player in the Midwest Conference, Redlin is a member of the team that finished 7-3 last fall and won the conference championship in 2014. He's also part of a trio of captains—and a broader group of seniors—who thought carefully about the tone they wanted to set for their teammates.

Before fall camp began, the captains invited the other seniors together to draft a list of goals for their final season—80 percent of which had nothing to do with stats or scores. Instead, they focused on building a culture of respect, making first-year players feel welcome, and holding each other accountable.

During the season, seniors organized a presentation on the



Green Dot bystander [violence prevention] strategy and produced two videos—one of which has had more than 25,000 views—taking a stand against sexual violence. Redlin is also campus ambassador for Team IMPACT, which matches college sports teams with children suffering from serious medical conditions.

Outside football, the economics major has taken advantage of a wide range of opportunities. He has traveled internationally four times with Mac programs, including attending the COP21 climate summit in Paris with his environmental studies class and serving as a student representative for a faculty development seminar in Copenhagen. Even more formative, he says, was his summer internship with the American Refugee Committee, during which he did two weeks of interviews and research at a Rwandan refugee camp.

Although the football season ended with a disappointing loss to St. Norbert College, Redlin and his fellow seniors didn't consider it a failure by any means. As they reflected on the season, they revisited the goals they'd drawn up back in August. "We knew that if we achieved these outcomes, we would have had a meaningful season," says Redlin. "When we looked at the list, we realized we had done everything we wanted to do."



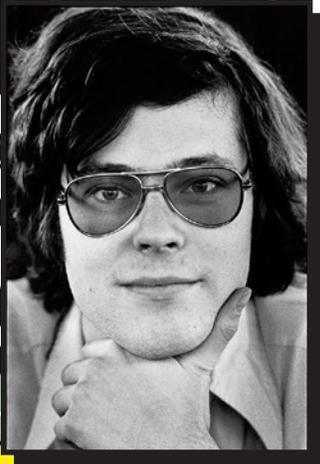
wallace hall council &  
Program board present

# HUSKER DU

**MACALESTER  
STUDENT  
UNION** **FRIDAY  
MARCH  
5**

# When Mac Was Rad

Looking back at the **1980s**  
at **1600** Grand



BY **MARLA HOLT**

The 1980s alternately seem long ago or like only yesterday. So many images pop to mind when thinking about that change-filled decade, ranging from regrettable sartorial choices like shoulder pads and perms to the issues like AIDS and trickle-down economics. John Lennon was killed, *We Are the World* was sung, the spaceship Challenger exploded, and the Berlin Wall came down. Ronald Reagan was president, the Soviet Union was the Evil Empire, and the Oliver North/Iran-Contra scandal was riveting.

It was a heady time, and at Macalester, students were fully engaged. They connected face-to-face, hanging out in the dorms or the Grille to talk about what was important to them. They often took action on a grassroots level, from protesting Honeywell's manufacture of weapons to supporting the meatpackers strike at Hormel.

The college was changing, too. The bequest of *Reader's Digest* founder DeWitt Wallace, a longtime Macalester benefactor, had boosted the endowment by \$200 million. Macalester celebrated its Centennial in 1985, the DeWitt Wallace Library opened its doors in 1988, and a \$3.2 million renovation of athletics facilities included the new Leonard Natatorium.

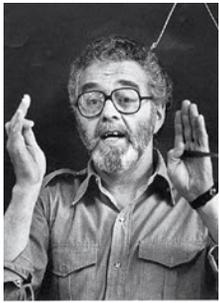
Students began taking computer studies courses (new in 1980) and signing up for degrees in engineering and architecture through partnerships with other colleges. President John B. Davis retired in 1984, replaced by Robert Gavin, who pushed the college toward becoming a first-rank national liberal arts institution, making many students nervous about the potential loss of Mac's distinctive culture.

Although it's impossible to re-create what life was like then for every student at Macalester, we found a few alumni to help us identify what resonated with them. We hope the following list might prompt you to remember your own '80s era on campus.

IMAGES: COURTESY DEWITT WALLACE LIBRARY ARCHIVES

## The Teachers

Professors brought the world to Mac, encouraging a lively exchange of ideas in the classroom. Students were taught by some of the best—Carleton Macy, Bob Ward, Chuck Green, David White, Anna Meigs, Walt Mink, Karl Egge, Scott Nobles, and many more, including:



- **Ron Ross, professor of journalism, 1980 to 1990**

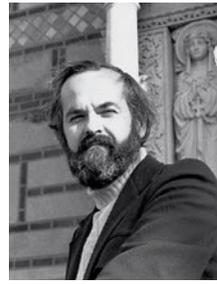
“He was British and had covered the war in Vietnam and was a classic old-school newspaperman. He’d actually light up a cigarette while teaching in Old Main, which back then was a tinderbox. We all loved him and learned a lot about journalism. His advice to ‘omit needless words’ has served me well.”

—Sarah Johanneson Clark '86



- **Emily and Norm Rosenberg, professors of history, 1974 to 2006 (Emily); 1975 to 2012 (Norm)**

The Rosenbergs, a married couple who job-shared before it was common, made studying American culture cool. Norm was known for his expertise on law and pop culture, teaching courses like “The ’70s” (which had barely ended). Emily focused more on policies, strategies, and the wonky side of history.



- **The anthropology professors (left to right): James Spradley, 1969 to 1982, David McCurdy, 1966 to 2005, Jack Weatherford, 1983 to 2012**

This trio taught cultural anthropology, bridging the gap between the ivory tower and the world at large by sending students out into the community to conduct ethnographies of their fellow humans. McCurdy and his band, The Mouldy Figs, entertained the campus with old-timey jazz. His menagerie of pets—snakes, rabbits, and dogs—often appeared at departmental picnics held in his backyard.

- **Sung Kyu Kim, professor of physics, 1965 to 2016**

Non-science majors flocked to Kim’s “Contemporary Concepts” (or “physics for poets”) course. He taught with humor and boundless energy, using a fascination with the universe to lure students into learning about topics like string theory and the uncertainty principle, and giving them the tools to read scientific articles with confidence. Word-of-mouth about the course was so positive that some of Kim’s fellow faculty members even signed up.



## The Issues

Students were informed, involved, and globally aware, caring deeply about social justice and engaging in grassroots activism. Any number of issues resonated on campus, from human rights to economic disparities to worldwide conflicts, and more, including:

- **Divestment from South Africa**

Activism on this issue was widespread across college campuses in the '80s, and Macalester was no different. In the late '70s and early '80s the college had greatly reduced its South African holdings, but the call for full divestment—argued between those who saw it as a strategy for dismantling apartheid and those who believed Macalester should not bring politics into its investment decisions—remained a hot-button issue throughout the decade.

- **AIDS**

Panic about the spread of HIV, inflamed by misinformation and homophobia, was rampant in the 1980s. Macalester published an official AIDS protocol in 1987, noting that those with AIDS did not pose a health risk to others. The policy protected the rights of people infected with the virus while honoring community concerns.

- **Women’s rights**

It was the United Nations Decade for Women (1976–85) and Macal-

ester opened students’ eyes to the fight to make the political, social, and economic status of women equal to that of men. They signed up for “Introduction to Feminism” and discussed bell hooks’s *Feminist Theory: From Margin to Center*. In 1989 a group of Macalester women—organized by **Amy Hagstrom Miller '89**—joined 500,000 others in marching at the White House in support of women’s equality. “There was a real threat to a woman’s right to choose at the time, with anti-abortion laws pending in the Supreme Court and threatening the reversal of *Roe v. Wade*. I’d never been to Washington before and was struck by the power coming off the city. The whole trip took less than 24 hours. We rode through the night, got out to march—there was a massive crowd and it was intense—and got back on the bus to ride home.” —**Lisa Bralts '90**

- **Nuclear arms race**

The Cold War still loomed large, and one of its symptoms was the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Nuclear war seemed imminent (*The Day After*, a graphic 1983 TV movie about the effect of a nuclear holocaust on small-town Kansas, did nothing to allay those fears). At Macalester, some students participated in “die-ins”—collapsing on the pavement at the corner of Snelling and Grand during the civil defense sirens—to protest desensitization to the reality of war. By the late '80s, the die-ins had died out, replaced with displays of gravestones (marked with nuclear warhead stats), screenings of *Atomic Café*, and burnings of Reagan in effigy.



## The Times

The Internet was taking shape in academia by the second half of the 1980s and by 1989 its networks were a global system linking the wealthiest countries, but for most of the decade, we weren't nearly as digitally connected as we are today. Old-school highlights included:

- **Talking on the telephone in the dorm hallway**

It was the only way for students to talk to their parents. They either sat by the phone waiting for the call or hoped that whoever answered could find them. By the mid-'80s, dorm-room telephones were an option—for a fee.



- **Using typewriters**

Personal computers weren't yet ubiquitous, so students took notes by hand, drafted papers in notebooks, and typed them on Smith Coronas. For most of the '80s, there was only



one computer lab on campus, requiring students to save their work on floppy disks.

- **Buying cigarettes in the Union**

Smoking was allowed in Macalester buildings until 1994, so students bought smokes—and tampons, aspirin, and other life necessities—at

the Mac store in the Union.

- **Looking up classmates in the Spotlight**

Macalester's 1980s version of Facebook was a paper directory of black and white photos of each student, organized alphabetically by first name. (Because who could remember the last name of that cute classmate in biology?)



## The Hangouts

Many students could legally drink (Minnesota didn't raise the drinking age to 21 until 1985) and campus parties were frequent. Students walked to nearby establishments like Harry Larry's, the Phoenix, and the Broiler, where they ate breakfast if they slept too late to eat on campus. Pizza came from Green Mill and students drank cheap beer and played pool at dive bars like the D and the King and I. O'Gara's was good for live music and spotting professors eating with their families. Students bought coffee at Dunn Brothers, textbooks at The Hungry Mind, and music at Cheapo Records.

The Union was student central—its second floor housed most of the student orgs. Cultural houses were popular gathering spaces, too, opening their doors to the community at large.

- **The Mac Weekly**

"We put the paper together on Thursday nights, throwing what was essentially a big party—we exchanged ad space for pizza and beer from local businesses. Sometime in the middle of the night, the five or six of us who actually wanted to go into journalism got serious and put the paper to bed. We had total freedom and we challenged the administration on everything. It was the most fun I've ever had." —Curt Brown '82

- **WMCN Radio**

"My first show—called Air Guitar Pogo—was a great way to develop my musical tastes, transitioning from metal to punk at that point. It was scheduled at the worst possible time, Saturday morning from 6 to 9.

Who wants to get up that early? As a junior and senior, I was involved in the station's management, so I moved to the prime 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. slot. Northern Lights Music on University Avenue sponsored that time slot, so I went there weekly to check out the new stuff and get the \$25 worth of new albums they gave us." —David Collins '85

- **Mac Cinema**

"We had a contract with some of the big movie studios like Universal. We'd go through these huge movie catalogs and pick out what we thought would be popular. Of course it was quirky, avant-garde stuff like *Clockwork Orange* and *Harold and Maude*, never big blockbusters. I think we played *Singing in the Rain* once. The films were shipped in huge canisters and we showed them using a big projector in the science building for a couple bucks a ticket." —Alison Morris '86

- **Cultural Houses**

"We had a lot of contact with students of color at other colleges and universities in the Twin Cities. We had parties at Black House all the time—it was a real gathering place for students, alumni, and people of color in the metro area. The house was common ground and you got to know everybody who came through the doors. We even had a black graduation ceremony in Janet Wallace for African American students at all the colleges. It was a great time to be a part of the community at Mac." —Shelley Carsten Watson '82



Move-in day, 1987

## The Costs

<b>1980–81</b>	<b>1988–89</b>
\$6,525	\$13,714

## The Music

Weekends at Mac meant live music—in the Union, at a revolving party in the Kirk Hall courtyard, and at Springfest, the biggest gathering of the year. Students had access to a host of local musicians, and rocked out to some well-known ones, including Prince at First Avenue. A few big-name bands that came to campus:

- **The Suburbs**
- **The Replacements**
- **Hüsker Dü**

Guitarist/vocalist **Bob Mould '82**, bassist Greg Norton, and drummer/vocalist Grant Hart formed this hardcore punk band at Macalester in 1979. They later crossed over into alternative rock, breaking up in 1988.

- **The Jayhawks**, a Twin Cities–based alternative country rock band that now includes keyboardist **Karen Grotberg '82**



## The Games

Some of Mac's varsity teams, like men's basketball, enjoyed winning seasons during the '80s, but mostly students made their own fun. Sporting highlights included:

- **Football team ending its 50-game losing streak**

By the fall of 1980, Macalester had earned a ranking of #2 on ESPN's list of the 10 Worst College Football Teams of All Time. The team finally broke its losing streak with a last-second victory over Mount Senario College (which later closed) on Sept. 6, 1980. The win even spawned the advent of a short-lived cheerleading squad, which was generally mocked. It disbanded later that year.



- **Runner Julia Kirtland '87 making NCAA history**

In 1984–85, Kirtland became the first female athlete in NCAA history to win individual national titles in three separate sports in one academic year: cross country, indoor 3K, and outdoor 5K. Overall, she was an eight-time national champion and 16-time All American at Macalester. She went on to become an elite long-distance runner.



- **Ultimate Frisbee taking off**

**Mike Bosquez '83** started the Macalester Ultimate Club in the fall of 1980, and pretty soon discs were flying all over campus. Mac hosted its first Ultimate tournament indoors in the Fieldhouse in 1985.



- **Snow-brawling across Grand Avenue**

Students tossed snowballs—and huge chunks of snow and ice—at each other across Grand Avenue between Turck Hall and the Union. Police were called in more than once to restore order, as angry motorists and bus drivers complained of having their vehicles pelted.



Above: The DeWitt Wallace Library under construction, 1987; below: famous '80s alumni (from top): Ari Emanuel '83, Peter Berg '84, Sarah Craven '85, Stephen Smith '82, Rebecca Otto '85, Lois Quam '83

## The Classmates

Macalester produced some remarkable graduates in the 1980s, including:

- **Richard Binzel '80**, professor of planetary sciences at MIT and inventor of the Torino Scale, a method for categorizing the impact hazard of near-Earth objects, such as asteroids and comets. He is also famous for working on NASA's New Horizons mission to Pluto.
- **Scott Beatty '81**, entrepreneur-in-residence at Food + Future coLAB, a collaboration with Target, IDEO, and the MIT Media Lab that's exploring new technologies and creating new ventures to tackle major food-related challenges
- **Stephen Smith '82**, host and executive editor of *American RadioWorks* (American Public Media) and winner—along with ARW—of du Pont–Columbia University Gold and Silver Batons, considered the Pulitzer Prize of broadcasting.
- **Lois Quam '83**, faculty member at Columbia University, former COO of the Nature Conservancy, and former head of the Global



Health Initiative at the U.S. Department of State

- **Ari Emanuel '83**, Hollywood talent agent and co-CEO of William Morris/Endeavor
- **Peter Berg '84**, actor, writer, director, and producer known for, among other projects, *Friday Night Lights* and *Deepwater Horizon*
- **Sarah Craven '85**, director of Washington, D.C., office of the United Nations Population Fund
- **Rebecca Otto '85**, third term Minnesota State Auditor, first woman Democrat to be elected State Auditor
- **Paul Raushenbush '86**, senior vice president of Auburn Seminary and former executive editor of global spirituality and religion for *Huffington Post's* religion section
- **Gloria Perez '88**, president and CEO of the Jeremiah Program, a Twin Cities-based national organization that helps low-income single mothers achieve economic self-sufficiency [M](#)

MARLA HOLT is a freelance writer based in Owatonna, Minn.

# Warming Up



# to Winter

Instead of seeing frosty days as a liability, the Macalester community **embraces the cold**, dark, and snowy.

BY ELIZABETH FOY LARSEN → ILLUSTRATIONS BY JANICE KUN / i2iART.COM



As he went through the rituals of new student orientation in the fall of 2013, the furthest thing from the mind of **Peace Madimutsa '17** was that the late summer swelter would eventually give way to air so raw he'd be plotting his route to the Leonard Center with warm-up stops en route. The way he saw it, winter was no big deal. After all, he'd spent two years of high school in New Mexico, laughs the economics major from Zimbabwe. "I'd been in the mountains and seen snow. I thought I knew what it was like to be cold."

But as anyone who, like Madimutsa, lived through the Polar Vortex of 2013-14 knows, cold is a relative concept when it comes to Minnesota winters. In fact, the Macalester newcomer was surprised to learn that his college education would extend well beyond discussions of Chinese currency valuations and Argentine inflation to include impromptu primers on the comparative merits of weatherproof boots and the best way to pack a snowball.

With an average annual snowfall of 54 inches and temperatures that regularly dip into the single digits, St. Paul's winter climate is not a fact that Macalester can brush aside as no big deal. Instead of viewing those frosty days as a liability, there's a growing appreciation at Mac that a college with four distinct seasons is something to celebrate. In fact, informal and organized efforts across the college are proving that the cold months foster a sense of creativity and resilience unique to this time of year.

"Students who study here are impressed that Minnesotans still make use of the outdoors, even though it might be the coldest weather they've ever experienced," says geography professor Daniel Trudeau. "They see people running and skiing and enjoying themselves on Summit Avenue and the River Road. It can be inspirational."

## WARM-WEATHER RECRUITING

That's not to say St. Paul's climate is always an easy sell with prospective students. "When we're presenting at college fairs, weather *does* come up," says admissions director Jeff Allen, who also represents the college in northern California. "Minnesota has a reputation of having a frigid climate with lots of snow." That reputation—an undeniable fact—hasn't hurt applications from Allen's region, however: After Minnesota, the Golden State sends the largest number of students—195 in 2016—to the college.

Winter is probably a bigger hurdle for students coming from the Southeast, says Allen, which means that Philana Tenhoff, who represents the college in that region, must work doubly hard to get prospective students to even listen to her spiel on Macalester. "I've been at college fairs where people shiver as they walk by, and just keep moving," she says, "without even stopping to have a conversation with me about who we are and what we offer."

Having grown up in the South American nation of Guyana, Tenhoff can relate to their concerns. She had never seen snow until her freshman year at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minn. Now she uses her own past experience as a winter newbie to engage with people about Macalester. "I talk about how winter forms communities in the dorms and the lounges that you don't always get in places where people can stay outside all year," she says. "Students are interested to hear about activities like broomball and ice fishing and ice skating." Tenhoff also doesn't shy away from logistics. "I make it clear that Minnesota is prepared for bad weather, because some Southern students come from states that get shut down by snowstorms."

Furthermore, Tenhoff emphasizes, Macalester is a truly international community, with plenty of students hailing from countries that never see snow. Indeed, this year the majority of new international students came from countries with warm or temperate climates, including



27 from Africa and 175 from East Asia and Oceania.

And if those facts don't get students interested? "I remind them that the cold might feel bad on your bones," she says. "But it's also a great way to experience something different."

## COLD CLASSROOMS

Once at Macalester, students find that studying in a winter climate gives them opportunities to try something different in the classroom, as well. For environmental studies professor Louisa Bradtmiller, "spring" semester provides a chance for students in her Paleoclimate course—which explores the climate of Earth's early periods—to create their own Paleoclimate record by taking core samples of lake floor sediment. Because the equipment is cumbersome—the tubes used for the coring can be nearly five feet long—it's actually easier to walk out on the ice and drill a hole in it than it is to use a boat to get core samples in the summertime.

Bradtmiller values this activity for several reasons, including that it's a hands-on look at the scientific process. But she also appreciates that the climate can be daunting. "Scientists must go to great lengths to collect their data," she says. "Sometimes they are afraid. This activity gives students a sense of the tough things people might face to work in this field."

Likewise, biology professor Jerald Dosch asks his students to don snowshoes to perform fieldwork at the Katharine Ordway Natural History Study Area, where he's director. "As an educator, one of my barely hidden goals is to teach students—many of whom grew up elsewhere—that winter is a time to be enjoyed," he says. "I love the challenge of winter and the crispness and clarity of the air and how far sound travels. I love getting my students to do science outside and to experience the beauty of a season they may not know much about."

The logistics of outdoor classwork presented a particular challenge last year to environmental studies visiting professor Margot Higgins, who teaches *Bicycling the Urban Landscape*. Fresh from graduate school in Berkeley, Calif., Higgins had no previous experience with winter bicycling. So she retrofitted an inexpensive mountain bike with studded tires and introduced safety drills to a curriculum that focuses largely on issues of equity and race as they relate to transportation.

While last winter was milder than most, the class still faced some field trips with slippery terrain and bitterly cold air. "I was really impressed that they were so positive," says Higgins, adding that not a single student opted out of the field trips, which included rides with an urban geographer.

Because it was held in Minneapolis, her students also got to attend the 2016 Winter Cycle Congress, an international gathering devoted to promoting the health and environmental benefits of year-round bicycling. This opportunity truly expanded her students' concept of community, says Higgins, now a winter cycling convert. "Biking isn't a fringe activity in the Twin Cities. It really allows for a lot of engagement with the world outside Macalester."



## FRIGID FASHIONS

Back on campus, the geology department hosts an annual mid-winter *Jökulhlaup*, Icelandic for "glacial burst." Held outdoors, the event includes a barbeque, a hammer throw, and a predict-the-temperature contest. The college also sponsors a yearly Winter Ball, held in November to kick off the season. It's the largest off-campus event at Macalester, with more than 1,000 people attending. And then there's the men's intramural hockey team, which plays at least one game each season outside, similar in style to the wildly popular U.S. Pond Hockey Championships held each January in Minneapolis.

On the more practical side, each fall the International Student Programs office puts on a winter fashion show of "dos and don'ts." "It's funny, but we also want it to be helpful," says Merrit Stueven '17 of Munich, Germany. This year she strolled the catwalk as a "don't," complete with thin tights, no hat, and non-waterproofed boots and jacket. The show is followed by outings to malls, thrift shops, and a Goodwill store so first-year international students can get properly outfitted for the oncoming blizzards.

That sartorial advice was a godsend for Peace Madimutsa, who now loves the feeling of gliding over snow and ice in his Rhino boots. Madimutsa has also come to enjoy the way campus is transformed by winter's first snow dump, especially when his fellow students start building the pop-up snow caves and igloos that become informal hangouts. "You value your social interactions more in winter," says Madimutsa, adding that he believes the cold weather also helps him focus on schoolwork. Not that it's all high-minded seriousness, of course. "When you're walking across campus and people start throwing snowballs, it's so much fun," he says. "The cold helps people find new ways to be creative."

That positive attitude could come in handy for Madimutsa this year. Federal forecasters are predicting a return of the near-Arctic conditions of the 2014 Polar Vortex that so surprised him as a freshman. **M**

Minneapolis native and winter veteran **ELIZABETH FOY LARSEN** is writing a book about cold-weather cities.



# THE DOG IS IN

Campus therapy canines come to the rescue of homesick, heartsick, and homework-stressed Mac students.

BY LAURA BILLINGS COLEMAN

PHOTOGRAPHS BY DAVID J. TURNER AND ALEX TUBBS

On the morning after a stunning presidential election night, when searches for “the five stages of grief” started trending on Google, the student team behind Macalester’s therapy dog program knew just how to start the healing process.

“We posted an old puppy picture of Kevin on his Instagram account, just to let people know he’d be on campus if they needed to see him,” says **Emma Burt ’17** (Shoreline, Wash.), who regularly attends to Kevin, the flaxen-bellied therapy dog who has become a celebrity on Mac Social since the Petting Away Worry and Stress program (PAWS) started on campus last fall. The family dog of medical director Dr. Steph Walters, and the self-confident alpha in a growing pack of comforting campus canines, “Kevin’s got a way of making people feel better just by being here,” says **Emily Johnson ’17** (Waimea, Hawaii), another of Kevin’s four trained student handlers. “And we figured it could be a busy day for him.”

When the 80-pound pedigreed golden retriever clocked in for his usual Thursday morning session at the library—the same day President-elect Donald Trump and his transition team were making their first visit to the White House—more than 50 Mac students stopped by in almost as many minutes to bask in his golden glow. Some smiled from afar and called out his name (inspired by the rainbow bird in the movie *Up*). Others scratched his ears, or invited him to lean his large head against their legs. Still others, like **Ellie Hohulin ’19** (Glen Ellyn, Ill.), dropped down on all fours to bury her hands in Kevin’s well-groomed fur.

“She’s like Kevin’s number one Instagram fan,” her friend **Eleanor Beaird ’19** (Scottsdale, Ariz.) explains as she watches Hohulin and four other female students huddle over Kevin, as he lay prone on the library carpet. “I have allergies so I don’t pet him myself, but I think I get a little something out of seeing him around anyway.”



Spreading the love: Macalester therapy dogs Kevin (opposite and this page top and right), Leo the collie, and Murray (in blue scarf) help comfort and calm anxious students.





**Opposite and this page: Images from Dog Days, held the Saturday before final exams in front of the Campus Center.**

**In fact,** simply making eye contact with an engaged dog can prompt an increase in oxytocin, the bonding hormone that reassures humans that everything might turn out okay after all. “Dogs really do pay attention to the human face, and they can respond to emotional cues in a way that can give relief when you’re feeling a quart low,” says psychology professor Jaine Strauss. Petting nearly any animal can lower your heart rate and cortisol level, but the science also suggests that the finely tuned social antennae dogs have adapted over time can make them more beneficial companions than many you’ll find on two legs.

“Studies have actually found that if you bring a close friend into the kind of acutely stressful situation that college students experience all the time, like an exam or an interview, signs of stress reactivity increase in the presence of friend, but are dampened with a dog,” Strauss says. “The presence of a dog seems to offer a very nonjudgmental attention that provides all the benefits of social support, and nothing that hints at your deficiencies or makes you feel bad.”

As colleges cope with a well-documented rise in student anxiety and depression, research like this explains why campuses from Harvard to Berkeley are easing up restrictions on campus pets, and unleashing therapy animals as a low-cost wellness strategy. At Yale University, for instance, law school students can check out a border terrier mix named Monty for 30-minute sessions. This fall, the University of Minnesota campus mourned the death of a 10-year-old therapy chicken named Woodstock, who had more than 1,000 Twitter followers.

At Macalester, “Dog Days” has been a campus tradition since 2006, typically attracting more than 200 exam-stressed students to spend quality time with a dozen or so campus-affiliated canines on the Saturday before each finals week. Service animals are always welcome on campus, while well-tended iguanas, hedgehogs, and other small pets are allowed to cohabitate in residence halls thanks to a fairly liberal policy on low-risk pets weighing under two pounds. (No ferrets or snakes need apply, however.) Though accommodations requests for emotional support animals have gone down slightly at Macalester in recent years, the campus pet trend is so prevalent there are even signs of a “backlash”: Former New York City mayor Rudy Guiliani complained that college students who required such creature comforts after the presidential election were a bunch of “spoiled crybabies.”



Therapy dog wranglers (top)  
Cheryl Doucette with Finnegan  
and Andi Wulff with Leo

**In fact,** proponents of the PAWS@Mac program believe the initiative is actually teaching students to be more resilient, as it demonstrates how reaching out to others, refocusing on the present, and taking time to recharge can reduce stress and provide some fresh perspective. “Before Kevin started coming to campus, I used to see students behind closed doors who were really homesick or sad, and I would think, ‘I know a therapy dog who could really help right about now,’” says Dr. Walters. Seeing how positively her college-age patients responded to Kevin during his pilot year (2015-16) inspired her to seek out three additional certified therapy dogs to help fill the need—Murray and Finnegan, golden retrievers owned by communications department staffer Cheryl Doucette, and Leo, a rescued collie owned by special events manager Andi Wulff.

Last year, Kevin had an estimated 2,200 student interactions—effectively sniffing and circling nearly every student on campus. While he and his pack can’t take the place of counselors when it comes to supporting students with real mental health concerns—a presenting problem in a quarter of all student visits to the Laurie Hamre Health and Wellness Center—they may provide some nonverbal encouragement for students to find the help they need. “I remember a student who stopped by right around mid-terms, gave Leo a hug, and suddenly found himself in tears,” says Wulff. “He was surprised by his own reaction. But I think dogs help us connect in that way, and for that student, I think it was just such a relief to have an outlet for those feelings.”

Julia Manor, a visiting assistant professor in the psychology department, says the evidence showing the stress-reducing connections between dogs and humans is strong—but humans could also return the favor by observing some simple rules of canine decorum. “No patting them on the top of the head—dogs really hate that,” says Manor, an animal learning and cognition expert who has also worked as a professional dog trainer. “It’s much better to scratch them under the neck or chest.”

As primates, humans are hard-wired to hug, but for canines, “the basic message of a hug is ‘I’m going to squeeze your neck now. Death is imminent,’” Manor says. “They do learn to tolerate it, but generally it’s very rude.” If a dog turns its back to you, goes stiff, disengages after a round of petting, or flashes the “whale eye” (opening the eyes wide enough to reveal the whites), you may be invading his space. “If you stop petting, and the dog approaches again, that’s an indication that they’re enjoying it and they want more,” Manor explains. “A loose body, a loose wagging tail, and relaxed ears are all signs that a dog is having a good time.”

Manor says there’s even evidence to suggest that @PawsatMac’s Instagram feed is helping to spread a healthy dose of Vitamin Dog to students who don’t have face to fur encounters with Kevin, Murray, Finnegan, or Leo. “When you show people pictures of cute animals, they tend to report lower anxiety and less depression,” Manor says. “It’s a short-term effect, but there’s some evidence that it works. So post more puppy pictures on Facebook and everyone will thank you.” **M**

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**LAURA BILLINGS COLEMAN** is a regular contributor to *Maclester Today* and a neighbor of the college. She regularly walks her own golden retriever, Oona, on the campus, where the two-year-old dog is known for stealing tennis balls.





# Class Pets

## Name: Kevin, age 5

**Traits and Tricks:** With nearly 800 followers on Instagram (@PawsatMac), Kevin is a social animal who actively cultivates new campus customers with his jowly smile and confident swagger. Though he's treated like a celebrity at Mac, medical director and owner Dr. Steph Walters says the adulation hasn't gone to his head. "He does like to conk out after his work sessions, but we don't see any signs that he's not enjoying his time on campus."

**TIP:** Try not to bring tempting snack food in his radius—he's been known to steal goodies from backpacks and purses.



## Name: Murray, age 3

**Traits and Tricks:** Slighter in build than Kevin, but with a similarly well-tuned social antenna, Murray is one of two therapy dogs managed by communications staffer Cheryl Doucette. Recovering from a shoulder injury, Murray walks with a limp that has a way of drawing students right to his side. "And then when you look into his eyes, that's when he really gets you," Doucette says.



## Name: Finnegan, age 11

A high-energy golden retriever with serious therapy credentials, Finnegan helps out at the behavioral health department of Abbott Northwestern Hospital and howls with excitement on the days he pulls into Macalester's campus. "Finnegan loves his work," says Doucette. "He's dynamic but he also sets a tone of calm."

**TIP:** If you sit down on the ground and cross your legs, Finnegan will often back up and take a seat in your lap. "He's a lover," says Doucette.



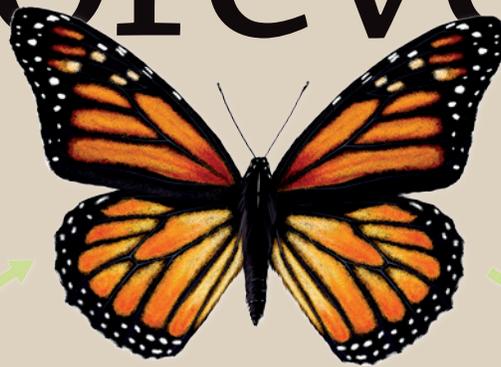
## Name: Leo, age 9

An adopted shelter dog who trains with owner Andi Wulff, special events manager, Leo is a regular at the "Dog Day" petting event held the Saturday before finals week, and makes other campus appearances throughout the year. A classic *Lassie Come Home* collie, Leo is an affectionate herding dog who can't help keeping his eye on the door. "It's hard for him to watch people coming and going out of a door without trying to herd them back, but he's learning the drill," says Wulff, who has earned sheep dog trial titles with the collies in her care.





# Monarchs Forever



Two alums  
have built a career  
displaying and helping  
preserve an iconic  
North American  
butterfly.

BY LYNETTE LAMB

PHOTO BY ROBIN LIETZ



Monarchs Forever owners Jane Breckinridge '86 and David Bohlken '86 in their Minnesota State Fair butterfly house.



**Top: Oklahoma kids encountering butterflies; bottom: Native youth harvesting native plant seeds on Seminole Nation land.**

side for an hour and we'll come back three or four times before the fair is over. It's so relaxing."

These magical winged creatures come courtesy of Monarchs Forever, a butterfly wholesale and exhibit business owned and operated by **Jane Breckinridge '86** and **David Bohlken '86**. The former Mac political science and economics majors began their unexpected career in the '90s, when Bohlken and his late father ran a Christmas tree farm north of St. Paul.

The pesticides they used on the trees killed off nearly everything except milkweed, favorite home of the monarch chrysalis. The caterpillars and butterflies intrigued Bohlken, who was soon raising monarchs in his St. Paul home.

A friend's offhand remark that he could sell the butterflies for weddings and other events was the catalyst for a thriving wholesale venture as well as for several large butterfly houses at state fairs and garden shows.

The biggest exhibit of all is at the Minnesota State Fair, where in 2016 more than 67,000 people visited in 12 days. "We work from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. with no breaks," says Breckinridge. "We live on Coca Cola and Advil." Over the course of the fair, they release up to 6,000 butterflies in the former Penny Arcade building they purchased a decade ago. Although the upfront costs are high—insurance, butterflies, staff, etc.—in a good year they can make more than \$100,000 in a crazy week and a half.

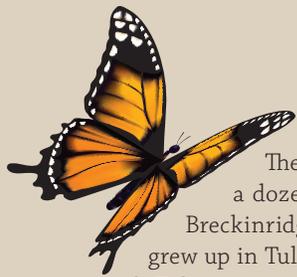
Those late summer days also provide an informal annual reunion with Macalester friends and former professors, says Bohlken, who met his wife as first-year students in Dupre. "Classmates drop by all the time and I think we've had every one of [biology professor] Mark Davis's kids work here over the years."

## The Minnesota State Fair—one of the nation's busiest—is corn dog and cookie stands, throngs of sweaty, determined people, the deafening jangle of the Midway, the squawks and squeals of livestock.

But inside the butterfly house exists another world altogether. Children and adults float through the netted facility not unlike butterflies themselves—quietly, slowly, calmly. Holding out Q-tips topped with a banana/Gatorade mixture, they wait silently as blue morphos and painted ladies land on the cotton-topped sticks and, just as frequently, on their colorful shirts.

A 6-year-old boy from Chicago stands transfixed as more than a dozen butterflies cover his chest and arms. "He'd rather be here than eating," his Twin Cities grandfather chuckles. "We've already been in-





\* \* \*

The couple's connection with butterflies deepened a dozen years ago, about the time they turned 40. Breckinridge, who is part Euchee and Creek Indian and grew up in Tulsa, got homesick for her family and their land outside Tulsa—given to her great-grandmother by the federal government when her tribe was relocated from the Southeastern U.S.

So Breckinridge and Bohlken moved to Oklahoma, building a house on her family's land outside the town of Leonard. Soon they became concerned about what they were hearing about the marked decrease in monarchs. In 2010 the World Wildlife Fund included monarchs on its top 10 list of species in need of close monitoring, and by 2014 various environmental groups were asking the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to give the butterfly threatened protection status under the Endangered Species Act.

Monarchs' numbers are dwindling largely because their habitat has been systematically destroyed. On their long annual migration from Minnesota to Mexico, the colorful butterflies must stop and feed on nectar in flyway states like Oklahoma, dining on milkweed and other indigenous plant life.

But with U.S. crops increasingly planted on every inch of land and with the growing use of pesticides on those crops, the habitat for wild things is shrinking quickly. "Monarchs could be on the endangered species list by next year," says Bohlken.

"Now is the time for monarch preservation," adds Breckinridge. "Once they're gone, they're gone forever."

That realization prompted her to start working a few years ago with Dr. Chip Taylor of the University of Kansas, an evolutionary biology professor, expert on monarchs, and founder of Monarch Watch. Together they have received numerous grants from the Monarch Joint Venture, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and ConocoPhillips to restore Oklahoma habitat and educate citizens about the importance of that habitat to monarchs and other native fauna. They have been particularly focused on teaching members of the 39 Indian nations, whose tribal jurisdiction covers more than 75 percent of state land.

To that end, Breckinridge, now director of Euchee Butterfly Farm, is working with Native American youth from seven Oklahoma Indian nations in an ambitious native plant restoration project.

Last spring she spearheaded the planting of more than 17,000 milkweed plants with seven area tribes. Next spring they plan to plant another 20,000. Last fall they collected seeds from native plants living on prairie remnants scattered throughout the state, in locations as diverse as an eagle sanctuary and a small spot adjacent to baseball diamonds. Over the winter, seeds were dried and then cultivated in greenhouses for replanting next spring.

Breckinridge's next butterfly-related project is even more ambitious. She was recently granted \$500,000 by the USDA for her Natives Raising Natives project, in which she and Bohlken will teach Creek people in Oklahoma how to raise butterflies as a cash crop. With the USDA funds they will build a training facility and an outdoor native butterfly garden on family land.

By last fall Breckinridge had signed up 100 potential growers



**Top: Butterfly family (from left) Jane Breckinridge '86, daughter Hunter, David Bohlken '86; bottom: Minnesota State Fair butterfly house staffer**

and had a waiting list besides. "Our main partner in this project, the Morris Indian Community of the Creek Nation, doesn't have a casino or a smoke shop, so its people need an income source," Breckinridge says, adding this business is easily done part time from home. "We've got interested people of all ages and types, including stay-at-home moms, senior citizens, and disabled people."



The goal is for each butterfly farmer to earn about \$500 a month—a decent financial boost for many local families. Monarchs Forever will buy back pupae from growers for its butterfly houses and wholesale business. Any excess inventory will go into Euchee Butterfly Farm's own exhibit or be used in framed dioramas to be sold at the facility's gift shop.

It's a big project, especially when added to the duo's habitat restoration and education work and butterfly house business. "It was the largest USDA Rural Business Enterprise grant funded last year and the only one given to a Native woman," says Breckinridge. "And a big part of it is the heavy conservation message we spread about the importance of monarchs and other pollinators."

Meanwhile, back in Bohlken and Breckinridge's living room outside Leonard, there's a butterfly terrarium over the fireplace, a framed tobacco hornworm in the hallway, and dozens of painted ladies flying inside a net-covered box. "We've had every inch of the floor in here covered in butterfly cups," says Bohlken, "and 10,000 painted ladies in the house waiting to be sent to a garden show.

"Butterflies *do* connect with people," laughs Breckinridge. Her job now, hers and Bohlken's, is to move a fun and beautiful business into a true environmental crusade. It won't be easy, but they are committed to the cause.

"The habitat is degraded, the land is broken, and the creatures are disappearing," says Breckinridge. "The battle to reverse these losses is about the hearts and minds of my people.

"This is the most meaningful work I've done in my life." **M**

**LYNETTE LAMB** is editor of *Macalester Today*.

PHOTOS: TOP RIGHT: ROBIN LIETZ; CENTER: LYNETTE LAMB

# badbadhats

Three students found each other at Mac—and founded a band that has taken off.

BY BRAD ZELLAR

**K**ERRY ALEXANDER has a fascinating voice, whether she's talking at a coffee shop or singing on stage with her band mates in Bad Bad Hats, a trio that formed at Macalester in 2012. Her accent is hard to place, a charming and sometimes slurry drawl with hints of the deep South, yet with a peculiar pronunciation of certain words—house, for instance, or night—that would sound right at home on a barstool in Minnesota's Iron Range.

Both in person and in her stage banter, Alexander has a digressive and deadpan delivery that provides a perfect complement to the tight, infectious, and emotive pop of Bad Bad Hats—one of those bands that has assimilated so many influences that it's difficult to pin down from one song to the next who they remind you of.

*Psychic Reader*, their 2015 debut LP, got them noticed by many of those whose notice matters in indie rock circles (NPR, *Spin*, *Pitchfork*, and *Stereogum*, among others). It's a brisk, hooky, sing-along record with all sorts of curveballs and a fierce, almost subversive emotional undertow. Virtually every song sounds like something you might have heard blasting from your car radio during Bill Clinton's first term.

Alexander is the obvious center of Bad Bad Hats—she sings, plays guitar, and writes most of the songs—but her bandmates, Chris Hoge (drums) and Noah Boswell (bass), seem entirely comfortable with their roles as accessories and collaborators, and the band's arrangements of Alexander's songs transform them from their humble and sort of bashful coffee house origins into something tougher, more propulsive, and more adventurous.

Alexander, it turns out, comes by her hard-to-place accent honestly. Born in the Twin Cities, she grew up in Alabama before moving to Florida at 15. She started writing songs at 8, and got her first guitar at 13. "I spent most of high school writing sad songs and playing them alone in my room," she says. "I had a walk-in shower with good acoustics, and I'd go in there and try to learn how to sing."

You can hear traces of her initial influences, including Alanis Morissette, Letters to Cleo, Michelle Branch, Sheryl Crow, and Feist, in her songs today. It wasn't until she headed north to Macalester, though, that she mustered up the courage to perform in public.

Although Macalester was "the one place that checked off all the boxes," she didn't become certain of her decision until her first visit to campus, while listening to Mac radio station WMCN. "The show on was just the perfect show for 17-year-old Kerry. I'm sure they were playing someone like Feist or Regina Spektor, and in that moment I could absolutely see myself at Mac."

Chris Hoge's first impression of Macalester wasn't quite so solid. He'd grown up in Guilford, Conn., where he had played in a cover band called Damopes ("We played Tom Petty, Black Eyed Peas, and crap like that"). "I really wanted to get out of the Northeast," he says. "And I wanted a liberal arts college in a city. But when I visited here in April there was a big snowstorm, so I told my dad I didn't think I could go to school in Minnesota." In the end, though, his decision came down to a choice between Macalester and American University and Mac won.

During Alexander's first years at Mac she wrote songs and started to record demos. She also started dropping in at open mic nights at Dunn Brothers coffeehouse. "I was trying out my own songs," she says, "but I had to sneak them in between covers of Justin Bieber's 'Baby' or Rihanna's 'Rude Boy.' It's hard to get a lot of validation from those sorts of situations, but it only took a few enthusiastic people for me to think, 'Hey, maybe I'm doing something pretty good.'"

She met Hoge through mutual friends their sophomore year, having heard that he, too, was a songwriter. "We checked each other

out on MySpace, because that's what you did then," she says. "I wrote a duet and asked Chris to work with me on it. Then there was a hiatus while I studied abroad, but then Noah came along when we were seniors, and that's when the band really came together."

Boswell grew up in Las Cruces, N.M., where he'd tried many musical styles—grunge, hip hop, heavy metal, even jazz and folk. He took a peripatetic route to Macalester, starting at New Mexico State and transferring to Kansas State before running into high school friend **Maya Weisinger '12**, Alexander's roommate at Mac, during winter break. On Boswell's first visit to St. Paul, Weisinger introduced him to Hoge. Before long he had transferred to Mac and bought a bass.

That was 2012. Alexander and Hoge were both seniors, on track to graduate that spring—she with an English/creative writing degree, he with political science. All three members of Bad Bad Hats DJed shows at WMCN, where Alexander was manager. Their band's first official performance was at a campus battle of the bands sponsored by the station.

Bad Bad Hats lost that competition to a funk band, but they managed to impress one of the judges—Ian Anderson, founder of the influential Minneapolis indie rock label Afternoon Records, which had helped launch the career of Haley Bonar.

Although the band only played three songs that day, Anderson liked what he heard, eventually signing Bad Bad Hats and releasing their debut EP, *It Hurts*, in 2013. "It was pretty amazing, really," Alexander says. "We still do two of the three songs we played that day, and





**Bad Bad Hats members (from left): Chris Hoge, Kerry Alexander, and Noah Boswell**

one of them—‘It Hurts’—we play at every show we do.”

By the time Boswell graduated in 2014, Bad Bad Hats was performing often and working on their EP *Psychic Reader* with Brett Bullion, one of the hottest producer/engineers in the Twin Cities. When that album came out in 2015, Bad Bad Hats sold out their record release party. “That was the first ‘wowza’ moment,” says Alexander.

After the release of *Psychic Reader*, the band started touring extensively and attracting national attention. They did five weeks of shows across the U.S., opening for Omaha’s The Mynabirds, and to date have performed in 34 states, including on both coasts and down south. Now working on a new album, they’re heading back out on the road in early 2017 as the opening act for Margaret Glaspy, after which they’ll headline a slate of East Coast shows.

Alexander and Hoge have been dating pretty much since the inception of Bad Bad Hats, and recently got engaged, yet Boswell shrugs

off a question about whether things ever get awkward in the band’s minivan during those long days and nights on the road.

“I’m sometimes aware of some weird tension,” he says. “But we’ve spent so much time together that I know how to navigate around it. We’ve grown a lot as friends, and as a band. From the start we’ve all felt comfortable together and haven’t been afraid of saying what we think, trying new things, and making mistakes. Part of that is just a Mac thing.”

The “Mac thing,” of course, is integral to the band’s inception, identity, and success, but it has also turned out to be a sort of security blanket on the road. “We can usually count on a ton of Mac grads to show up whenever we play in cities like New York,” Hoge says. “It’s fantastic, though it also feels a little bit like cheating.” **M**

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**BRAD ZELLAR** is a longtime Twin Cities music writer.

# Ground Level



## Firat Taydas '92 built his career from a “DNA-level” understanding of coffee and an entrepreneurial spirit.

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BY **ANDY STEINER '90** → PHOTO BY **WILL FOSTER**

Some of Firat Taydas's earliest memories of his childhood in Turkey involve coffee. “I would go with my mom to the bazaar to buy green coffee beans. When we got home, I'd roast them in a clay pot. It would smell so beautiful. I have this memory of my mom grinding it. Then I'd make coffee for my dad. He had a cup after every meal. It was like a little ceremony.”

It's a good thing that Taydas '92 has positive memories around coffee: He has made a 20-year career out of it.

Since he joined Starbucks in 1996, the economics and international studies major has steadily worked his way up the corporate ladder. Today, Taydas works with a Seattle-based team that helps prepare new drinks and retail concepts for Starbucks stores around the world.

Taydas's first job out of Macalester wasn't at the coffee giant, however. He briefly sold insurance for Mass Mutual, and then opened a juice bar near the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. “I'd always wanted to open my own business,” he says, “and this was a great opportunity to build something from nothing.”

Taydas and his business partner got in on the ground floor of the '90s juice craze, and when customers began asking for mochas and espressos too, Taydas began offering gourmet coffee drinks that harkened back to his Turkish childhood. “We brought really high-quality coffee beans,” he recalls. “For the mochas, we ground dark chocolate. We used natural ingredients.” Although there were already plenty of coffee shops in the neighborhood, Taydas's store did a brisk business.

“Our customers were happy,” he says. “And so was I. I saw the magic of this business: When you make someone a cup of coffee, you connect with them on a different level.” This coffee-drinking tradition, Taydas realized, “is in my DNA.”

Taydas ran his Minneapolis shop for about two years, until his wife, **Sarah Stonhouse '92**, was offered a job transfer to Phoenix. After the briefest of debates (“It's always 80 to 90 degrees in Arizona...”), the couple decided to move.

Having sold his juice bar shares, Taydas landed in Phoenix with no job prospects. But coffee quickly came calling. “I saw in the newspaper that Starbucks was holding a job fair,” he says. At the time, there were no Starbucks stores in Arizona, and the chain had little name recognition in the state. Only three people showed up for the interview.

He eventually landed a job as a management candidate, and in December 1996 opened the first Starbucks in Arizona. He then served as an Arizona district manager for a decade before transferring to the company's main office in Seattle.

An entrepreneurial background has been helpful in his career at Starbucks, says Taydas, but so too has his Macalester education. “One day I could be working on a project, and my next assignment could be

something completely different. It's helpful to be able to apply what you've learned in one area to the next project, and to think about issues from a global perspective.”

Taydas was a student confident in his opinions and with natural insight into consumer behavior, remembers Vasant Sukhatme, Edward J. Noble Professor Emeritus of economics. “I remember asking questions having to do with the actions of consumers in the marketplace,” Sukhatme says. “Firat was one of the few students who had clear answers and stood his ground when questioned. He was willing to defend his position. In my book, that's a good thing — and probably one of the qualities that helped him succeed.”

Professors like Sukhatme helped him learn to consider real-world problems from many perspectives, says Taydas. “Classes like his helped me to appreciate a well-rounded viewpoint,” he says. “When I got into the work world, I brought what I gained in college to solving challenges at work.”

Taydas's entrepreneurial bent led him to a coveted position helping test and implement new products and store formats. He is part of Starbucks' Innovation Team, a group that develops ways to introduce new coffee concepts to stores worldwide. For example, Taydas worked on developing new espresso machines specifically for Starbucks stores and their customers' beverage preferences. Doing so involved a rigorous test protocol, Taydas says.

Starbucks' carbonation platform is another of Taydas's big projects. The company offers carbonated beverages in Southern states, he explains, using a machine they developed called the Fizzio, which carbonates iced teas and products with green coffee extracts called Refreshers.

Taydas also worked with Starbucks' “Reserve Bars” program, and helped to implement a Seattle coffee shop called Starbucks Reserve Roastery and Tasting Room that roasts and serves a line of unique reserve coffees. Starbucks is introducing Roastery-inspired brewing methods and beverages into select stores. “It's like Willy Wonka's coffee,” Taydas says. “It's a tourist destination, a must-see place in Seattle. It is where we demonstrate our coffee expertise and try out cool ideas.”

This kind of project is a dream opportunity that combines Taydas's “DNA-level” love of coffee with his business-start-up energy and expertise.

Even after two decades, he insists he's never bored. “I found my calling at Starbucks,” Taydas says. “I get to operate as a little start-up within a big corporation. And I get to bring my passion for coffee to this project and share it with others. It's the perfect fit.” ■

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**ANDY STEINER '90**, a St. Paul freelance writer, is a regular contributor to Macalester Today.

# In Memoriam

## 1943

**Chester A. Eklund**, 95, of North Oaks, Minn., died Sept. 30, 2016. During more than 40 years with Northwest Airlines, Mr. Eklund worked as a senior captain, training instructor, and chief pilot. He also helped operate his family's resort, Fox Hunter Lodge. Mr. Eklund is survived by a daughter, two sons, three grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, and a brother.

**Marian Temple Werth**, 93, died Sept. 18, 2016. After working for 15 years for First Bank Credit Corp., Mrs. Werth became the accountant for her husband's construction business. She is survived by a daughter and a son.

**Jeanette Ouren Wilson**, 95, died Nov. 7, 2016, in Colfax, N.C. She worked for Price Waterhouse in Chicago and then in the accounting department of the American Red Cross in the Philippines and Korea during World War II. Mrs. Wilson is survived by two daughters, a son, six grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

## 1946

**Rose Clark Turner**, 89, of Monona, Iowa, died Dec. 10, 2013. She is survived by a daughter, a son, four grandchildren, a great-grandchild, and a sister.

**Ellen Lane Wolfe**, 91, of Midland, Mich., died Oct. 17, 2016. She worked for Dow Chemical in the legal documents and toxicology areas. Mrs. Wolfe and her late husband, Richard, hosted international students and other visitors from abroad. She is survived by a daughter, four sons, five grandchildren, and a sister.

## 1947

**Beverly Eckstrom Urness**, 91, of Eden Prairie, Minn., died Nov. 18, 2016. She taught various subjects at several high schools in Minnesota and gave piano lessons after her retirement. Mrs. Urness is survived by two daughters, a son, seven grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

## 1948

**Donna Ristau Hanson**, 89, died Aug. 18, 2016, in Blue Earth, Minn. She worked as a deputy clerk of court in Martin County,

Minn., a bookkeeper for North Country Homes, and a secretary for her husband at Lutheran Brotherhood Insurance. Mrs. Hanson is survived by a daughter, eight grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, four stepchildren, 10 step-grandchildren, six step-great-grandchildren, and a sister.

**Elizabeth Miller Hauser**, 90, of Mankato, Minn., died Oct. 16, 2016. She worked as a real estate agent and in Mankato State University's bookstore. She also served on the board of the Mankato Symphony Guild. Mrs. Hauser is survived by three daughters, a son, 12 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, and a brother.

**Doris Amundson Matzke**, 89, of Crookston, Minn., died Sept. 5, 2016. She was an executive secretary at the University of Minnesota-Crookston, retiring in 1992. She is survived by a daughter, a son, and two grandsons.

## 1949

**Walter W. Bauer**, 93, died Aug. 31, 2016, near Alexandria, Minn. A veteran of the U.S. Navy during World War II, Mr. Bauer taught and coached hockey and golf at North St. Paul High School. Mr. Bauer is survived by two daughters, a son, five grandchildren, a great-granddaughter, a sister, and a brother.

**H. Byron Robinson**, 93, of St. Paul Park, Minn., died May 26, 2016. He is survived by his wife, Alice, three daughters, two sons, and three grandchildren.

## 1950

**Glen L. Amundson**, 91, of Golden Valley, Minn., died Jan. 26, 2016. He served as a pilot in the Marine Corps during World War II and was a longtime employee of McConnell Travel School. Mr. Amundson is survived by two daughters, a son, and a granddaughter.

## 1951

**Jorge E. Ademe**, 87, died Aug. 10, 2016, in San Antonio. He worked for 3M in Mexico and Minnesota for more than 35 years and retired in 1990. Mr. Ademe is survived by his wife, **Lorelei Bancroft Ademe '52**,

two daughters, two sons, nine grandchildren, and a great-grandchild.

**Shirley Grant Bikkie**, 87, of Moscow, Idaho, died Aug. 16, 2016. She is survived by her husband, Jim, two daughters, five grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

**Donna "Dusty" Cowan Kreisberg**, 86, of Washington, D.C., died June 28, 2016. She began her Foreign Service career with a posting in Paris, and she and her family were sent on assignments to Germany, El Salvador, Chile, the Philippines, and Aruba. After working for several years for the U.S. State Department in Washington, D.C., Mrs. Kreisberg retired as an editor for a departmental publication. She also served on Macalester's Alumni Board for many years and proudly promoted the college. Mrs. Kreisberg is survived by a son, two grandchildren, and **Harry Char '51**, with whom she revived a romantic relationship after they reconnected at their 60th Reunion at Macalester. (Mrs. Kreisberg's survivors were incorrectly reported in the Fall 2016 issue of *Macalester Today*. We regret the error.)

**Jessica Page Stickney**, 87, died Oct. 4, 2016, in Billings, Mont. She worked as a secretary in the YWCA's national office. In addition to serving two terms in the Montana legislature, Mrs. Stickney was a member of her local school board and the founding board of the Custer County Art Center. Mrs. Stickney received Macalester's Distinguished Citizen Award in 2006. She is survived by her husband, **Edwin Stickney '50**, two daughters, a son, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

**Cleo M. Waldhauser**, 89, of South St. Paul, Minn., died recently. During a career as a copywriter and copy chief, Ms. Waldhauser worked for Schuneman's and Young-Quinlan and spent 34 years with Dayton's and Target.

## 1953

**Dagmar Cebe-Habersky Kroc**, 84, of Topton, Pa., died Nov. 5, 2016. Mrs. Kroc is survived by her husband, Rudolf, a daughter, two sons, seven grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and a sister.

**Marlys Elsholtz Liska**, 85, of

Minnetonka, Minn., died Oct. 26, 2016. She worked in the Minneapolis *Star Tribune's* personnel department and volunteered at Minneapolis Children's Hospital for 34 years. Mrs. Liska is survived by her husband, Jim, two daughters, a son, eight grandchildren, a great-grandchild, and two brothers.

**Marshall H. Petersen**, 85, of West St. Paul and Inver Grove Heights, Minn., died Oct. 13, 2016. He practiced as an optometrist in West St. Paul for 60 years and provided his services on vision mission trips. Mr. Petersen is survived by his wife, **Harlean Claflin Petersen '57**, a daughter, a son, four grandchildren, and a sister, **Marlys Petersen McGaver '50**.

## 1954

**Dean H. Blomster**, 85, of St. Paul died Sept. 18, 2016. He served with the Army Combat Engineers from 1957 to 1959. After teaching sixth grade, junior high, and adult students, Mr. Blomster began a career as a counselor in the St. Paul Public Schools in 1974. He retired in 1993. Mr. Blomster is survived by two daughters and his companion, Gerry Hartman.

**John S. Erickson**, 84, of Excelsior, Minn., died Sept. 8, 2016. He served in the U.S. Army from 1954 to 1956, graduated from Harvard Law School in 1959, and worked at Cargill for many years, retiring in 1997. Mr. Erickson is survived by his wife, **Ginny Zosel Erickson '55**, two daughters (including **Lee Erickson Stephenson '85**), son **John Erickson '86**, 10 grandchildren, and brother **Jim Erickson '56**.

## 1955

**David B. Gale**, 83, of Tiskilwa, Ill., died Nov. 21, 2016. He worked as a contractor, builder, and carpenter. Mr. Gale was a founding member of Plow Creek Fellowship, an intentional Christian community, and advocated for peace and justice. He is survived by his wife, Margaret, a daughter, four sons, 14 grandchildren, and a sister.

**Janice Brown Johnson**, 82, of St. Paul died Sept. 11, 2016. She was a social worker in Waseca, Minn., and Hennepin County, and worked for the University of Minnesota Psychology Department testing

# In Memoriam

clients for the state's Vocational Rehabilitation Department. She was also active in efforts for peace and desegregation and ran a church-based monthly drop-in dinner for the homeless for more than 20 years. Mrs. Johnson is survived by her husband, James, a daughter, two sons, seven grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

**Marion Mountain Petersen**, 84, of Sun City West, Ariz., died Sept. 23, 2016. She worked for 3M, promoting such products as gift-wrap ribbon and Scotch tape. She was elected to the first of her four terms as Wauwatosa, Wis., alderman in 1976 and began serving as president of the local Common Council in 1988. After retiring from both positions in 1992, Mrs. Petersen incorporated the Wauwatosa Beautification Committee and served as its president from 1993 to 2000. She is survived by her husband, Gordon, a daughter, a son, four grandchildren, and a brother.

## 1957

**Robert E. Hedstrom**, 84, died Sept. 25, 2016, in Henning, Minn. He took over the women's clothing store Vollie's from his mother, served in the Wadena, Minn., Volunteer Fire Department, drove for People's Express, and did surveying for regional universities. Mr. Hedstrom is survived by three daughters and two grandsons.

**Harlan M. Quinn**, 81, died Oct. 9, 2016. He was an analyst in the computer field who also enjoyed collecting contemporary art and creating his own sculptures, paintings, and drawings, often of equestrian subjects. He is survived by a son, two grandchildren, and a brother.

**Ronald E. Tornstrom**, 86, died Sept. 24, 2016, in Caledonia, Minn. He worked for the University YMCA in Minneapolis and the Salvation Army. Mr. Tornstrom retired as a social worker for Houston County, Minn., in 1987. He is survived by his wife, **Carolyn Michelsen Tornstrom '59**, three sons, nine grandchildren, and a great-grandson.

## 1958

**John R. Howard**, 80, of Oakland, Calif., died Nov. 11, 2016. He served in the U.S. Navy as a hospital administrator at St. Albans Naval Hospital in New York. After working in hospital administration at Fresno Community Hospital and the University of California-San Francisco, Mr. Howard became president of California Nevada Methodist Homes. He launched JRH and Associates, a business that placed individuals in executive jobs at hospitals, and retired in 2006. Mr. Howard is survived by his wife, Jan, two daughters, and two grandsons.

**Marianthy Phocas Johnston**, 82, of Woodbury, Minn., died Oct. 22, 2016. She worked for Macalester College, Murray Junior/Senior High School, Hamline University, and Metropolitan State University. Mrs. Johnston is survived by her husband, **Gordon Johnston '58**, three children, two grandchildren, two great-granddaughters, and two brothers.

## 1959

**William R. Moore**, 79, of New Richmond, Wis., died Sept. 9, 2016. He worked as an educator in Fullerton, Calif., and Grand Junction, Colo. Mr. Moore is survived by two daughters, two sons, eight grandchildren, two sisters, and his companion, Elaine Heittman.

## 1960

**John D. Black**, 81, of Nisswa, Minn., died Nov. 11, 2016. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps, spent 30 years as general manager of facilities for Control Data in Minneapolis, and owned a Jiffy Lube franchise. He also played bagpipes in the Brian Boru Band. Mr. Black is survived by a daughter, two sons, and four grandchildren.

**Edward H. Chang**, 79, of Lakeville, Minn., died July 13, 2013. He retired after 46 years with Fremont Industries. Mr. Chang is survived by his wife, **Beverly Smith Chang '58**, a daughter, a son, six grandchildren, and two brothers.

**Eric W. "Bill" Green**, 80, of Plymouth, Minn., died Oct. 5, 2016. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War and launched a

management consulting firm that served physicians, medical clinics, and hospitals for more than 30 years. Mr. Green is survived by his wife, Valerie, a daughter, two sons, six grandchildren, two great-grandsons, a sister, and a brother.

**Richard D. Lund**, 82, of St. Paul died Aug. 5, 2014. He worked as an engineer for 3M for more than 30 years. Mr. Lund is survived by three daughters, a son, and eight grandchildren.

## 1961

**Larry J. Olds**, 77, of Minneapolis died Oct. 13, 2016. He worked with the Teachers for East Africa program in Uganda and organized the country's first national basketball team. He was active in the alternative schools movement and worked at Minneapolis Community and Technical College from 1974 to 2000. The duplex that Mr. Olds shared with his partner, Dorothy Sauber, and friends was an important community hub in Minneapolis's Powderhorn Park neighborhood. Mr. Olds had two sons and four grandsons.

## 1967

**Kathleen J. Meyer**, 71, died Nov. 14, 2016, in Bemidji, Minn. In 1990 she joined the faculty of Bemidji State University, where she served as a professor of French and German and as chair of the Department of Modern Languages. She retired in 2011. Ms. Meyer also sang in the Bemidji Choral and was on the board of the Bemidji Symphony Orchestra. She is survived by a sister.

## 1968

**Sharon Paswalk Gutekunst**, 70, of Jackson, Miss., died May 5, 2016. After working as branch manager of the Jackson District Library for 11 years, she taught elementary school until her retirement in 2004. Mrs. Gutekunst is survived by her husband, Dean, a son, and four grandchildren.

## 1971

**Neale E. "Ned" Bateman**, 67, of Rochester, Minn., died Nov. 2, 2016. He worked as a publisher's representative in the Twin Cities and on the East Coast. After moving to Dallas in 1976, he was

a buyer and manager for several bookstores. After earning a degree in computer and information sciences in 1998, Mr. Bateman embarked on a second career in interactive voice response systems with InterVoice/Brite and Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad. He retired in 2013. Mr. Bateman is survived by his sister, Nancy.

## 1972

**Louis W. Fallert**, 64, of Duluth, Minn., died Feb. 16, 2014. He organized two science fiction fan conventions and attended many others. Mr. Fallert is survived by his wife, Grace Meyer-Ruud, two children, and a brother.

**Kathleen V. Figenshau**, 65, of Colorado Springs, Colo., died Aug. 24, 2016. She worked for the Amateur Hockey Association of the United States and as executive assistant to a school superintendent. Ms. Figenshau is survived by a sister, **Merry Jo Figenshau Thoele '71**, and three brothers (including **James Figenshau '68** and **Sherb Figenshau '81**).

**Steven C. Moon**, 66, of Lilydale, Minn., died Sept. 21, 2016. He was a state administrative law judge for 26 years and played bass with Cyril Paul and the Calypso Monarchs and the Rhythm Pups. Mr. Moon is survived by his mother and four brothers.

## 1973

**Karen M. Ilstrup**, 65, of Wayzata, Minn., died Oct. 16, 2016. She is survived by her husband, Allan Collins, two stepchildren, four grandchildren, and a sister.

## 1974

**Frank L. Bowdry**, 62, of Thomasville, Ga., died July 20, 2014. He worked as a barber. Mr. Bowdry is survived by four daughters, three sons, 16 grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, his mother, two sisters, and two brothers.

## 1976

**Judith A. Gundersen**, 62, of St. Paul died Nov. 11, 2016. She was a dentist in private practice for 20 years. Mrs. Gundersen also worked in dental education for the

University of Minnesota and in public policy with the Minnesota Department of Human Services. She also went on dentistry aid and mission trips. Mrs. Gundersen is survived by her wife, **Barbara Cederberg '75**, three children, and two grandchildren.

## 1978

**Kirk D. Almendinger**, 60, of Forest Lake, Minn., died unexpectedly Nov. 23, 2016. He practiced dentistry in three cities in Western Wisconsin. Mr. Almendinger is survived by four sons and two brothers.

## 1981

**Ann F. Woodnorth**, 56, died in August 2016 in Chicago. She was a partner with Tilden, Loucks, and Woodnorth, an investment advisory firm.

## 1987

**Ben M. Lewis**, 53, of Cleveland died Nov. 21, 2016. He worked on several films in Los Angeles, including one by director Stanley Kubrick. He is survived by his wife, **Bellamy Printz Lewis '87**, a daughter, a son, his parents, a sister, and two brothers.

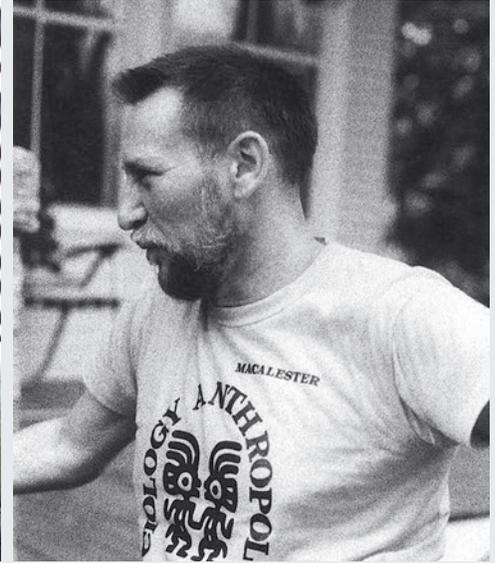
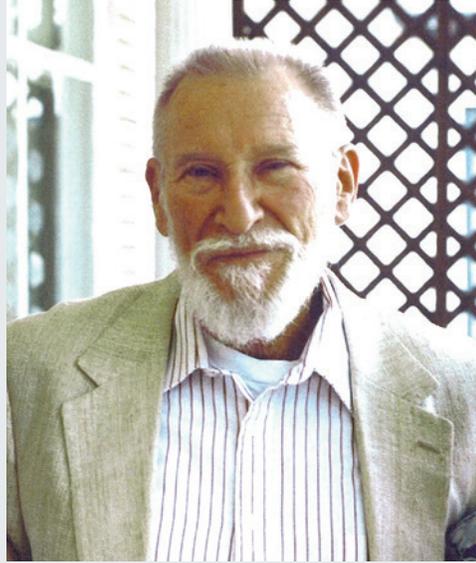
## 1996

**Sarah Isaacson Puppe**, 42, of Fargo, N.D., died Nov. 8, 2016. She worked with AmeriCorps VISTA as a community organizer in fair housing and was a workshop facilitator for mothers working their way off welfare. While pursuing master's degrees in theology and intercultural studies from Fuller Seminary, Ms. Puppe worked at churches in North Dakota. She is survived by her husband, Mark, a daughter, her parents, and two brothers.

## 1998

**Benjamin G. Gillies** died Aug. 25, 2016, in Denver. He worked for the Hungry Mind and Subtext bookstores in St. Paul and was a partner and cofounder of City Stacks Books & Coffee in Denver. Mr. Gillies is survived by his partner, Emily Scholl, his mother and father, and two brothers.

## Other Losses



**Irwin Daniel Rinder**, 92, a professor of sociology at Macalester from 1968 to 1984, died Sept. 6, 2016. Professor Rinder was born and raised in New York City and spent several years in the U.S. Air Force during WWII. He earned his master's and PhD from the University of Chicago. Before coming to Macalester he taught at Carroll College (Wisconsin) and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He also served as chair of Macalester's Sociology and Anthropology Department for a time. He was known for his thought-provoking classes on minorities, ethnicity, film, human sexuality, and many other topics. He also was a book review editor for *Sociological Quarterly* for 10 years. The Berry-Rinder-Swain Prize was established in honor of Rinder and fellow emeritus professors Paul Berry and Al Swain. He is survived by four daughters, one son, seven grandchildren, one great-grandchild, and six stepchildren.

...

**Steve Colee**, 64, Director of International Admissions at Macalester, died October 27, 2016, while on a recruiting trip for Admissions in China. Mr. Colee had worked at the college since 1984, and was, as President Brian Rosenberg put it, "passionate about his work and about Macalester, and he shared his enthusiasm with countless students during their college search process." He was born in Bethesda, Md., but grew up in Puerto Rico. He earned a BA from Gettysburg College (Pennsylvania), taught high school in San Juan, Puerto Rico, for several years, and earned a master's degree in education from Stanford University. His first admissions job was at the University of South Florida, before coming to Macalester in 1984 as Director of Admissions. He held that position until becoming Director of International Admissions in 2011. Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid Lorne Robinson says, "Macalester Admissions was a huge part of Steve's life and he worked tirelessly on behalf of the college during his many years here. We will remember him for his dedication and many contributions to Mac." He is survived by two sisters, two brothers, and numerous nieces and nephews.



PHOTO: DAVID J. TURNER

## Listening to the Land

BY AMY VOYTILLA FREEMAN '04

MY HUSBAND, DAVE, AND I JUST SPENT a year in Minnesota's Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. For those of you who are unfamiliar, the BWCAW is a 1.1 million-acre federally designated Wilderness Area in Northern Minnesota. Yep, Wilderness with a capital W. It is a maze of lakes, rivers, wetlands, and roadless forests—a canoeist's paradise. It is also the most popular Wilderness Area in the country, receiving about a quarter of a million visitors annually.

The BWCAW is where I first experienced wilderness as a kid. Just a day's drive from St. Paul, it made summer vacation complete. While attending Macalester I got a summer job at an outfitter on the edge of the Wilderness and I was hooked. After completing graduate studies at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, I thought I'd balance out all that city time by living "up north" for a year. One year turned into 10 as my livelihood and personal sense of well being became inextricably tied to this beloved Wilderness Area.

So it should come as no surprise that I'd do anything to protect the BWCAW. When Dave and I learned that a Chilean mining company wanted to build a copper mine near the edge of the BWCAW, we teamed up with the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters. Spending an entire year in the Boundary Waters would be our way to contribute to the cause.

It was not an expedition in the traditional sense, geared toward traveling from point A to point B in a certain amount of time; rather it was about bearing witness to the very land and water we were fighting to protect. Through social media, blog posts, podcasts, and articles, we kept the Wilderness in people's minds for a whole year. We witnessed the change of the seasons, wandering wolf packs and small miracles like the metamorphosis of dozens of dragonflies. We grew accustomed to living outside and our senses grew sharper. We harvested wild rice and our connection to the land and water deepened.

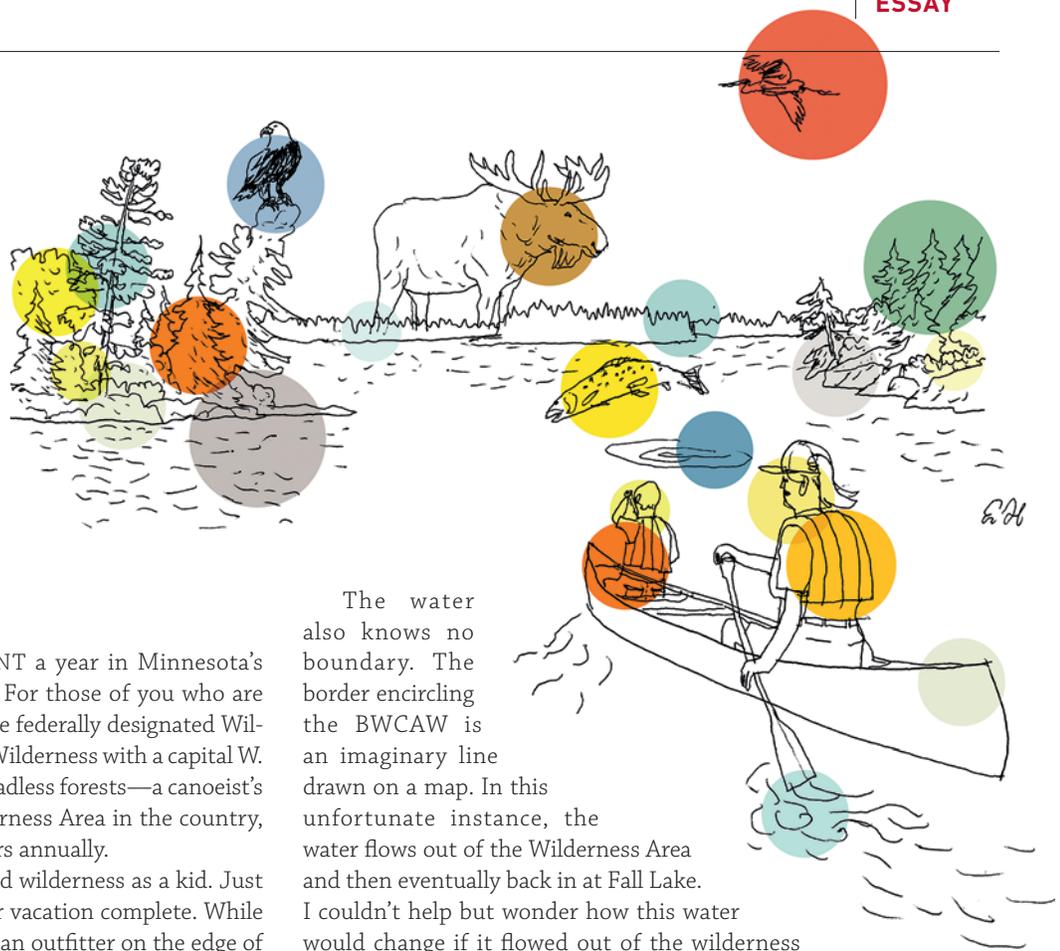
We exited the Wilderness on September 23. After 366 continuous days spent in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, Dave and I paddled our canoe down a familiar river—the South Kawishiwi, back to where we started near the proposed mine site. Somewhere in the middle of a nondescript portage we crossed an imaginary line. There was no sign, no change in the character of the forest, but we had just stepped out of the BWCAW for the first time in a year. The moose and red squirrels haven't been told where the boundary of this federally designated wilderness area lies.

The water also knows no boundary. The border encircling the BWCAW is an imaginary line drawn on a map. In this unfortunate instance, the water flows out of the Wilderness Area and then eventually back in at Fall Lake. I couldn't help but wonder how this water would change if it flowed out of the wilderness past an industrial mining zone and over a tunnel designed to transport a slurry of toxic waste rock.

I'm reminded of the wise words of an elder we met in a remote First Nations community while dogsledding in the Northwest Territories a few years ago. He was touched by what we were doing—traveling a long way by dog team; he told us that his people had lost touch with the land now that they zoom around on snowmobiles. "When you travel by dog team or canoe, you see every rock, every tree. The land speaks to you." His words have stuck with us on every human or dog-powered journey we have undertaken since.

Our time spent in the BWCAW was an opportunity to simultaneously *listen to* the land and *speak for* the land through daily photos and posts. After sharing this concept with a visiting journalist, she asked, "What does the land say to you?" I'm not sure if she expected some profound answer or thought we were delusional and was just playing along. I realized it's not important to share specifically what the land said to us—through the call of a loon echoing across a still lake, the muffled fall of snowflakes, the smell of wild rice, or 365 sunrises. What is important is that the land speaks to anyone who takes the time to listen. That is why I have made it my mission to preserve the BWCAW and wild places like it. Future generations deserve the opportunity to hear it too. **M**

*During their Year in the Wilderness for Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters (savetheboundarywaters.org), AMY VOYTILLA FREEMAN '04 and her husband, Dave Freeman, camped at approximately 120 different sites, explored 500 lakes, rivers, and streams, and traveled more than 2,000 miles by canoe, foot, ski, snowshoe, and dog team. When they're not exploring, they split their time between Ely and Grand Marais, Minn.*



# LEAVE IT TO MAC

“This is an investment for me as well as for Macalester. Giving is gratifying.”

—Phoebe Wood Busch '64

Phoebe Wood Busch's Macalester story starts well before she was born, when her parents met on campus as fellow members of the Class of 1934.

Always a loyal Annual Fund donor, Phoebe thought about making a special gift for her 50 Year Reunion in honor of two graduation years: her parents' 1934 and her own 1964. For Phoebe, a charitable gift annuity that benefited Macalester while still providing a reliable income for her made the most sense. “It's an investment for me as well as for Macalester,” says Phoebe, who retired after a 40-year career teaching history and German. “I know that this gift is going to be used well at an institution that's been very important in my life.”

For more information on making a planned gift, contact Theresa Gienapp at **651-696-6087** or visit [macalester.edu/leaveittomac](http://macalester.edu/leaveittomac)

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