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## About the Authors

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## ABOUT THE AUTHORS

**Blythe Austin '08**, a California native, is an International Studies major at Macalester College. Before participating in the Maastricht program, she spent five months studying in Buenos Aires, Argentina. In both places she focused on researching immigration and refugee issues. Blythe is also interested in English literature, particularly nineteenth-century British fiction. Now in her senior year, Blythe is serving as Macalester's first-ever student liaison to the Board of Trustees. During college breaks, she tries to travel as much as she can—she has visited 32 countries thus far in her life.

**Paul Maximilan Bisca '08** was born in Timisoara, Romania. At Macalester College, he is majoring in International Studies with minors in Political Science and Economics. Academically, his interests include democracy building, EU-U.S. relations, and globalization studies. Currently he is developing the Maastricht essay into an honors thesis. Paul interned with Romania's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in 2006. Outside of school, he enjoys watching dry comedy shows, drawing, and talking to his friends.

**Jessica L. Hawkinson '08** is a senior International Studies and Political Science major at Macalester College. Her broad academic interests include the European Union, peace and security studies, globalization, and international law. During her junior year, Jessica spent her fall semester in London, England, at the School of Oriental and African Studies. Jessica will complete an honors thesis during her senior year—a product of research and experience completed during her two semesters abroad. Following graduation, she hopes to pursue a career in research and political analysis in Washington, D.C., before returning to graduate school.

**Momchil Jeleu '08** was born in Varna, Bulgaria, but lived most of his life in the capital, Sofia. In 1999, he was admitted to the American College of Sofia where he took the majority of his courses in English. In 2004, he entered Macalester College. He will graduate with majors in Political Science and International Studies. While at Macalester his extracurricular activities have been focused on the Macalester International Organization, the Institute for Global Citizenship Student

Council, and the Macalester Model U.N. He served as president of Mac MUN in 2005–2006 and participated twice with the Macalester team at the National Model U.N. Conference in New York. Currently, he is working on an honors project that largely stems from research at Maastricht. The thesis looks at how the governing structures of the European Union shape its role in the international arena, both in the economic and in the security realms. Traveling remains one of his biggest passions, and it helps that he is fluent in Bulgarian and English, and speaks advanced French and intermediate German!

**Thomas Klink '08** is a native of Stillwater, Minnesota. Prior to studying in Maastricht, he studied abroad in Chatellerault, France, during high school, and Kunming, China, in fall 2006. Tom is an International Studies major with minors in Political Science and Environmental Studies. Upon graduation he plans to teach elementary school in the Mississippi Delta with Teach For America. His main areas of academic interest are political ecology, international environmental and criminal law, and modern Chinese history. One day he hopes to attend graduate school to focus on one of these subjects, but he is in no rush to get there. In his spare time, Tom enjoys biking, tea, reading whatever he can get his hands on, and following local politics.

**Héctor F. Pascual Álvarez '08** is an International Studies and Theater double major. He originally hails from Alcalá de Henares in Spain. Prior to coming to Macalester, he spent two years studying at the United World College of Hong Kong. Héctor is interested in the role of the arts in community organizing and achieving social change, physical approaches to acting, the politics of the Middle East, cellular biology, Shostakovich's music, and the study of non-Western religions. Deeply committed to the defense of human rights, Héctor completed the Humanity in Action Fellowship in Washington and the Netherlands in the summer of 2006. At Macalester, Héctor is an active community member. He has worked as a Resident Assistant for three years, performed every season in the main stage productions of the Theater Department, and been involved in a variety of organizations, such as the Macalester International Organization (Co-chair), Pluralism and Unity, the Institute for Global Citizenship Student Council, and the Macalester Climbing Club. In his free time, Héctor enjoys reading and writing poetry, and has won several literary awards in Spain.

*About the Authors*

Born and raised near Baltimore, Maryland, **Sandy Robson '08** grew up with an interest in poverty issues. In high school, she sat on the board of a poverty-focused Baltimore non-profit and worked for a summer on a small sustainable development project in Mexico. At Macalester she has been involved in a range of activities, from efforts to make the school's endowment more socially responsible to Amnesty International. Sandy spent the fall semester of her year abroad studying in Jaipur, India, and interning with a small organization that addresses issues of caste in rural Rajasthan. After the Maastricht semester, she studied with the Quaker United Nations Office in Geneva and traveled throughout Eastern Europe. Sandy is currently in her senior year at Macalester, runs a bicycle share program, and plans on working for a Quaker lobby group in Washington, D.C., after graduation.

Born and raised within the city limits of Washington, D.C., **Elissa Vinnik '08** graduated from an all girls' high school, took a gap year, and joined the Sacramento, California based chapter of the AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps. During her ten months of service, Elissa lived in several communities on the west coast doing a variety of manual labor, construction, and tutoring projects. She arrived at Macalester looking for coursework that explored the challenges of communities she had worked with and found it in the American Studies Department. Although her studies have mainly focused on processes within the United States, the opportunity to spend a year abroad, first in Ghana and later in the Netherlands, was too great pass up. The twelve months away challenged and deepened her understanding of global processes, particularly regarding race and religion.