Macalester Today Fall 2010

Macalester College

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Moving In and Moving On

We follow four first-year students as they start their college life at Macalester.
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**Species Defender, Reconsidered**

Regarding “Species Defender” (Spring 2010): I truly wish that Dr. Mark Davis was right, but sadly, he is advocating notions that are not only wrong-headed, but dangerous, in that they foster continued public complacency when it comes to invasive species control and prevention. Most invaders did not “naturally” colonize an area and most of the invasion biologists that Davis derides know this. An aquatic weed stuck between lakes, European mussel larvae dumped into a North American lake from the ballast water of a cargo ship, the list goes on—these are not natural expansions of a species range. Whether deliberately or unintentionally introduced, these species became established because of human error. For every example Davis could give of a relatively harmless non-native species, there are dozens more that have devastated ecosystems. Alarmism about intrusive species stems from well-founded scientific research and observations of what happens to native biodiversity after a successful invasion. It has nothing to do with xenophobia.

Meg Duhr-Schultz ‘04  
St. Paul

Mark Davis was my undergraduate adviser, and I admire anyone who is bold enough to say, “The emperor has no clothes”—and has the evidence to back it up. I appreciated the backstory, too. His perspective as an outsider is an asset and likely the source of many objections. Here are mine: Nature has a romantic hold on my imagination, and it drives me nuts when people detach that part of being human from their work. It’s a personal issue, and undoubtedly a projection, so, let me just say this: I hope Mark smells the multiflora roses and snaps a few artistic photos while he’s taking measurements and recording data. I’m a volunteer naturalist at Bowman’s Hill Wildflower Preserve in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, and I’m certain that the woods there are about as different from the woods at the local state parks as a garden is from a landscaped asphalt parking lot. Preserving an “ideal nature” is not realistic, but neither is letting the oriental bittersweet climb all over our open arms. The solution is an educated appreciation of the natural world and the impact we’ve had on it, so that we make choices with an ever-evolving awareness of our place in a world of which we are unfortunately and inexcusably still quite ignorant.

Paul A. Kelley ’88  
Havertown, Penn.

**Kudos for Dr. Sam**

Thank you for highlighting Sam Willis (“Alternative Medico,” Spring 2010); he’s a great example of the multifaceted students who graduate from Macalester and have learned to think outside the box. Providing medical care is generally viewed as an obvious example of a service industry, but providing comprehensive primary care to the people in our country who are falling through the cracks is one of the greatest community services an individual can provide. I was a Russian major at Macalester who skated through my science/math requirements with three courses. Now I work as a family physician at a community health center, caring for everyone who comes through our doors—new immigrants, Medicare patients, the homeless, and the uninsured. Like Dr. Sam, every day I make a significant difference in someone’s life. And yes, occasionally I even get to speak Russian.

Heidi Lowrey Baines ’95  
Anchorage, Alaska

**More on Big Ideas**

I loved “What’s the Big Idea?” (Summer 2010). I think you can do much more with this concept. To start things off, here’s my own big idea: Everyone should live outside his or her native country for at least a year before age 30.

Dan Flath  
Visiting Professor, Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science  
St. Paul

I just read what “some of Macalester’s brightest academic minds” would do to change the world. Some “big” ideas, like powering video games with treadmillers or reading more medieval authors, were sort of cute. I was appalled, however, to see that other “brightest minds” put forth simplistic solutions that seemed naive beyond imagination. We can no longer contribute to a political campaign because it might be a bribe. If we own a business, we must provide employees daycare because they can’t afford it but we apparently can. Let unions run the economy without any bosses because bosses do no productive work. Decide that gasoline really costs $70 a gallon due to wars for oil and then charge at least $7 a gallon for gasoline to force a restructuring of the economy. Then we can localize agriculture and eat less processed food. Good grief. Who says academia is out of touch? Life should be so simple. I think I had similar discussions at 2 a.m. in the Dayton Hall lounge once.

David Foster ’67  
Maiden Rock, Wis.

The article “What’s the Big Idea?” could serve as the poster child for what’s wrong with our colleges and universities. What showed through clearly in most professors’ “ideas” was the arrogance of their assumptions. Imbedded throughout was the notion that they know what’s best for us, and that the government should therefore micromanage our economy and lives according to their [faulty] assumptions. It’s tough to choose the most inane idea, but I pick the concept that we should beggar ourselves by mandating $7 per gallon of gas.

Jim Noran ’74 P’99’06  
Montclair, N.J.

**Rosenberg’s Remarks**

I was really impressed by the remarks President Rosenberg made at the Commencement ceremony. He summarized so beautifully what is lacking in much of our present society. I wish his Commencement address could be more widely circulated.

Norma Mattern Wigfield ’49 P’73  
Silver Spring, Md.

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**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 lllamb@macleaster.edu or to Macalester Today, Macalester College, 1600 Grand Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105.
A Gentle and Generous Man

BY BRIAN ROSENBERG

We talk a good deal in general terms about what it means to be an engaged and supportive alumnus of Macalester. I would like to devote this column to the memory of one particular alumnus who was a model of generous engagement and whose influence on the institution from which he graduated was quiet but lasting and profound.

When George Mairs earned an economics degree from Macalester in 1950, his connections to the college were already strong. His father, also named George, had founded in 1931 the St. Paul investment firm Mairs and Power. Though not himself a graduate of Macalester, he served on the Board of Trustees, remarkably, from 1930 to 1975, one of the longest terms in the history of the college. George Mairs ’50 worked at that same firm for 58 years, including as manager of the acclaimed Mairs and Power Growth Fund and eventually as chairman and CEO.

George’s devotion to the city of St. Paul was both extraordinary and selfless. He knew more about the history and culture of the city than anyone else I have ever met. The list of the organizations and institutions he supported with his time, energy, and resources—including but not limited to St. Paul Academy and Summit School, the Wilder Foundation, the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, Presbyterian Homes, Episcopal Homes, and the Ramsey County Historical Society—is especially remarkable given his busy professional and family life and his utter absence of any desire for recognition.

George brought to the selection of his philanthropic activities the same care he brought to the selection of the companies in which to invest. He studied the nature and value of the mission and the quality of the people; he determined how he could be most helpful to the fulfillment of that mission; he trusted good and thoughtful individuals to make wise use of his assistance; and then he got out of the way. A letter of thanks or a friendly lunch was for George more than enough recognition. He knew innately that people appreciated his help and he did not need or desire effusive reminders.

At Macalester, George followed his father onto the Board of Trustees, but that was only one portion of his years of service to his alma mater. In recent years he was one of the most generous donors to the ongoing Step Forward campaign and served on its Steering Committee. It is entirely fair to say that without George’s generosity there would be no Leonard Center and we would not be moving ahead with the first phase of the Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center renovation. You probably do not know this because George saw no need for anyone to know it. He saw only the need to help.

I can recall just one subject on which George and I ever disagreed: my desire to recognize his service and generosity by naming a space in the Leonard Center in his honor. I take pride in my persuasive abilities but could make no impact on George. He felt no desire to be so memorialized. Besides, he would say, people would only mispronounce his name—it’s pronounced like the planet Mars, with the /silent/—and he had no desire for it to be mispronounced in perpetuity. But I am nothing if not determined. If you examine the iron railings in the Alumni Gymnasium, you will see that the letter M is worked into the design. We all know that it stands for Macalester. What George never knew was that in my mind it also and will always stand for Mairs. We have to take our victories where we can.

George passed away on May 28, 2010, after a protracted illness. His physical limitations prevented him from ever seeing the Leonard Center in its finished form, but this mattered to him far less than the knowledge that it was completed and splendidly serving the Macalester community.

Soon the first phase of the Janet Wallace renovation will be complete. After consulting with his family, and in consideration of his great love for both Macalester and music, we have decided to name a major space in that building in George’s honor. I am willing to risk George’s eternal disapproval—though in truth I do not think he would be especially unhappy at having his name linked to the importance of the arts at the college.

And I have vowed to remind everyone who will listen, as long as I am able, that the name is pronounced like the planet. It’s the least I can do.

BRIAN ROSENBERG, the president of Macalester, writes a regular column for Macalester Today. He can be reached at rosenbergb@macalester.edu.
The slogan of Eureka! Recycling’s new compost project is “Make dirt, not waste.” And with 1,100 households in the Mac-Groveland neighborhood participating, they’re liable to make a lot of dirt. Eureka’s project, funded in part by Macalester’s High Winds Fund, is focused on educating the community about how to reduce waste at the source and transform trash into nutrient-rich soil.

Collaborating on the project is Christie Manning, professor of behavioral psychology at Mac. People today don’t realize that the amount of waste they generate is abnormal, says Manning. “It’s what our neighbors do, it’s what we see on TV—everyone has big garbage cans and the waste just goes away,” she says. Her role in the project is to investigate which factors motivate community participation, thus ultimately designing a program that will encourage more involvement.

Via workshops, waste sorts, surveys, interviews, and more surveys, Manning and Eureka are trying to determine the barriers and motivators that are at play in the decision to compost. For example, does the novelty of having a bike rather than a truck haul away compost increase enthusiasm for the program?

Ultimately, the results of Manning’s research will be used, she says, to furnish “a much bigger vision for a program accessible to everybody.” Eureka! Recycling plans to ultimately design and implement a city-wide composting program to help St. Paul achieve its goal of becoming a waste-free city by 2020.

—KALIE CAETANO ’13
Lucky art history major Alberto Rios de la Rosa ’11 spent last summer in Venice, surrounded by art. Rios de la Rosa was a logistics and administration intern for the Peggy Guggenheim Collection, an important museum of early 20th century European and American art located in Guggenheim’s former home on Venice’s Grand Canal. As an intern, Rios de la Rosa did everything from guarding art to giving tours. He also prepared talks for other interns and attended speeches by art experts, including an arts consultant for the Italian government and the Guggenheim Collection's director. Being with other students who “share the same passion for art history” was an extra benefit, he says.

After more than a year of planning, research, and work, Macalester’s website has a new look. The new alumni site includes more profiles, photos and chapter events. Check out the alumni site: macalester.edu/alumni.

Learn more and see this annotated homepage at: macalester.edu/aboutthesite
Summit to St. Clair

Urban Enviro Intern

Who: Brianna Besch ’13

Hometown: Cairo, Egypt (Besch’s father worked for USAID in Cairo; the family previously lived in Kazakhstan, where her mother was country director of Peace Corps)

Majors: Environmental Studies and Geography

What: Twin Cities Summer of Solutions program, housed under the nonprofit Grand Aspirations, brings together youth leaders from across the country to do sustainable community development projects around climate, energy, economic security, and social justice problems. It serves as an incubator—or “think-and-do tank”—for bold grassroots initiatives that would otherwise have no institutional infrastructure.

How did it start? Grand Aspirations started just two years ago, having grown out of grassroots initiatives by a group of Mac students involved in MacCARES. Since its first program in the Twin Cities in 2008, Summer of Solutions has grown to include groups in 12 programs located across the country.

What are their projects? In the Twin Cities, the 35 high school and college students and recent graduates who made up last summer’s working group (15 of whom were full-time volunteers) worked on projects like these:

- Cooperative Energy Futures, also founded by Mac students, which aims to use the power of community to create economic opportunity through energy efficiency and to empower people to implement climate and energy solutions. Last summer they created a local sales team in Minneapolis’s Phillips neighborhood to sell energy efficiency kits and train residents about simple home efficiency solutions.

- The Alliance to Re-Industrialize for a Sustainable Economy (ARISE), a coalition of nonprofits, labor groups, students, city officials, and community members working to build sustainable communities centered around green manufacturing in St. Paul and beyond. One site they’re developing plans for is the old St. Paul Ford plant site on the Mississippi River. They also hope to create a template for other potential sites around the country.

- Urban gardening in the Harrison neighborhood of Minneapolis.

- Partnering with Sibley Bike Depot to support their programming to increase bike access and connect with the local community.

What Besch learned: “To facilitate meetings, connect with people, fundraise. Our group is experimental and solution-oriented. My entire way of thinking about energy and food systems and business has shifted. It has been a great experience.”

After Mac? Besch’s parents met as Peace Corps volunteers in Swaziland. She hopes to follow them into the Peace Corps and then attend graduate school to prepare herself for a career in international development with an environmental focus.
WHEN MOST COLLEGE women’s soccer teams play, fans are few. But when the Macalester women’s soccer team hits the turf, the stands are packed with boisterously cheering supporters.

Mac’s women’s soccer team, a longtime powerhouse that qualified for the national playoffs last year, enjoys a solid fan base of students, faculty and staff, and family members, all bolstered by the international flavor unique to the Mac campus. New head women’s soccer coach, Kate Ryan Reiling ’00, points to Macalester’s multicultural make-up as one big factor behind the turnout—which usually comes to at least 200 fans each game: “The strong international base of students who grew up watching soccer... helps to create the culture of getting out to games.”

But global citizenship aside, Reiling says that the spirited team and the party-like atmosphere of the Friday night games create an enthusiastic fan base who “bring high energy and great joy” to the matches. Their ranks will likely be swollen this year by alumni who fondly remember the exploits of Reiling’s of Mac’s own 1998 NCAA Division III championship-winning team.

Editor’s Note: As of late September, the men’s soccer team record was 7–2–1.

NEW WOMEN’S cross-country and distance running coach Betsy Emerson took over coaching duties at Macalester this fall. Emerson was head women’s cross-country and track and field coach at Luther College for 17 years before leaving in 2005 for other types of work. Most recently, she worked as an instructor for MultiCare Health Systems in Tacoma, Washington.

At Luther she led highly successful programs, receiving Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (IIAC) Coach of the Year honors six times in cross-country and three times in track and field. Emerson led the Norse to a third-place NCAA Division III finish in cross-country in 2000 and a fourth-place national finish in outdoor track and field in 1997.

“I feel so fortunate to be working at a school that emphasizes academic excellence in an environment that encourages diversity and multiculturalism,” says Emerson. “After spending the past five years traveling around the world and experiencing different cultures, I have a greater appreciation for the value of students studying abroad and attending classes with students from other nations.

“Macalester has a history of great individual runners and teams, and I hope that in the years to come we develop into a team that vies for conference championships.”
For the second time in three years, Macalester golf coach Martha Nause played at the U.S. Women’s Open Golf Championships, held July 5–11 at Oakmont Country Club near Pittsburgh. Nause, who coaches both men’s and women’s golf at Macalester, won a sectional qualifying tournament at the White Bear Yacht Club (White Bear Lake, Minn.) in May to make the field, playing in the 13th U.S. Open of her pro golf career. Nause was quoted in a July 11, 2010, New York Times story about the U.S. Golf Association’s failure to sponsor a women’s senior open: “When you look at the list of championships that the USGA runs, there’s a championship for every population except for senior women professionals. People have been asking for years, ‘Can we please have a U.S. Women’s Senior Open?’”

Nause failed to qualify for the traditionally men’s Senior Open in a local tournament in June. That event is not formally restricted by gender.

Fine Arts Steps Forward
The remaining building priority of Macalester’s Step Forward campaign is a renovation and expansion of the Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center. Fundraising for the first phase of the project, which includes a new gallery, music spaces, and an arts commons, is at $16 million toward a $24 million goal. The college plans to break ground in January. To see project renderings and an arts video, go to macalester.edu/janetwallace.

New Professors
Four new tenure-track faculty joined the staff this fall. Shown here are (from left): Nathan Hensley, English; Juliette Rogers, French; Kristin Naca, English; Brian Lush, Classics.
Disaster Dude (AND FRIENDS)

If an F3 tornado touches down in southwestern Minnesota, wiping out the region’s major hospital, are there enough beds nearby to handle the patients? Or must mobile medical units be dispatched? Who is responsible for deciding? Who coordinates disaster efforts?

Ethan Forsgren ’11 (Ames, Iowa) spent part of last summer contemplating just such disaster scenarios with Minnesota’s Office of Emergency Preparedness. Considering such possibilities ahead of time helps emergency responders prepare for events such as tornados and pandemics.

Forsgren (right) and his team constructed disaster exercises that forced participants to become flexible decision-makers who worked together well as a team. “But before that happened,” says Forsgren, “we had to get creative— inventing pitfalls and roadblocks to their success while still keeping the situation realistic.”

Forsgren’s internship was made possible by a Taylor Public Health Fellowship, which provided him with a stipend for 10 weeks of part-time summer work. Taylor fellows—Mac had six last summer—work with their advisors to submit a proposal based on their public health interest area, says biology professor and Taylor program director Elizabeth Jansen. If they’re selected for a fellowship, students are responsible for setting up their own project experience with a mentor. A parallel program, the Taylor Healthcare Shadowing Fellowship, provides stipends for shadowing health care providers in clinical settings.

Taylor fellows relish the freedom to design their own experiences. Mollie Hudson ’12 (Berkeley, California), a certified HIV counselor, split her time between the Berkeley Public Health Clinic and a hospital in Tanzania, where she worked in the HIV/maternal health department. Because she hopes to someday attend medical school, her goal was to learn about HIV transmission and prevention in two very different parts of the world.

Before this summer, she says, “I’d only scratched the surface of understanding HIV in the context of an individual’s life. I was able to do more in Tanzania—I actually got to assist with a couple births.” Hudson hopes to return to Tanzania next summer to start a radio show promoting sexual and reproductive health.

Masha Kuznetsova ’12 (above) used her fellowship to work in the Volgograd Plague Prevention Institute—equivalent to the Centers for Disease Control—in her Russian hometown. She worked with epidemiologic data and policy, particularly related to cholera and plague, and learned Russia’s strategies for responding to infectious disease epidemics. Says Kuznetsova, “I’d studied public health approaches to epidemics in medical geography class, but seeing how it works in real-life situations and taking part in it is a completely different experience.”

Taylor fellowships are open to students in many majors: Forsgren is majoring in biology, Hudson in history, and Kuznetsova in anthropology and psychology. All three are simultaneously pursuing concentrations in Community and Global Health. The other 2010 Taylor Public Health fellows were Mollie Mayfield ’10, Mina Tehrani ’11, and Meghan Wilson ’12.
Meet four first-year students as they enter Macalester College. We’ll follow them throughout this momentous introductory year.

Top left: Kiah Zellner-Smith ’14 with her sisters Kenda, 13, and Quinn, 9, at her June graduation from Minneapolis South High School. Top right: Sam Leopold-Sullivan ’14 leaving her desert home in Tucson. Left: Ben Bernard ’14 and twin sister, Emily, who attends Carleton College. Opposite: Ben pondering his new room in Turck Hall and working out in the Leonard Center.

BY | LYNETTE LAMB | PHOTOS BY | SHER STONEMAN
Ben Bernard came to Macalester at least in part because Will Sheff ’98, front man for one of his favorite bands, Okkervil River, is a graduate. Sheff also happens to be the son of Ben’s high school guidance counselor. “So I really heard about Macalester through a lucky coincidence based on nerd-love for one of my favorite bands,” he says.

Nerd-love was truly a fortunate fluke, because Ben claims that not a single other person at his Massachusetts prep school had ever heard of Macalester. Their loss, he says, as he contemplates taking classes that are “a mix of the academic and intellectually rewarding and the appropriately bizarre. I am probably most looking forward to my first-year course on vampires. Any class where you watch Buffy the Vampire Slayer as homework has already won me over.”

Besides Buffy and some classes in literature and geology, Ben isn’t too sure what his academic path holds. “I’ve always wanted to be a doctor, but unless I have a sudden and unprecedented understanding of science, that probably won’t happen,” he says. “English major, maybe?”

He knew he’d like the college when, on his campus visit, “the first thing I saw was two kids fighting with medieval staves on the quad.” Being a New Englander, he has no weather worries and is excited about living in the Twin Cities. Says Ben, “As I keep having to explain to snickering friends who are going to places like New York and San Francisco, Minneapolis and St. Paul are actually awesome cities.”
How does a teenager from halfway around the world hear about Mac? In the case of Juan Sebastian Martinez of Quito, Ecuador, it was close friend Jose Rubio ’12 who urged him to take a look at Mac.

"I had to give Macalester a try after hearing about its students’ hospitality and how it was a place where internationalism and multiculturalism are key factors," he says. "Those are rare in my home country."

Despite having visited the campus in January ("I know for a fact it will be very cold during the winter, but I’ll survive," Juan says. "After all, I studied for a year in Canada"), Juan "instantaneously fell in love with the college and its people." His one hometown friend notwithstanding, Juan is the only student in his high school class to attend a small liberal arts college in the United States.

Juan is planning to study economics and international relations and has a goal to visit China before he graduates. "I have an intense curiosity about that country and its people," he says. He also hopes to continue in Model United Nations and Tai Chi Chuan while at Mac, both activities that he was passionate about during his high school years.

An only child of a psychoanalyst mother and Spanish study-program administrator father, Juan fully expects to miss his friends and family while he’s more than 3,000 miles from home. But more than anything else, he says, "I will miss my Nana’s cooking."
“I will miss my Nana’s cooking.”
—Juan Sebastian Martinez Fernandez de Cor
Kiah Zellner-Smith '14
South High School, Minneapolis

Kiah Zellner-Smith was so shy in middle school that she avoided raising her hand in class. Four years later, by then senior class president, she delivered a speech to an audience of several thousand at Minneapolis South High School’s graduation. “It was one of the most amazing days of my life,” she says. “I used to be nervous talking in front of a group, but this time it just felt like home.”

Which is exactly what she was hoping Macalester would soon feel like, despite having never expected to find herself at a hometown college. “I didn’t think at first that I wanted to stay in the Twin Cities,” she says. “But I wanted a smaller school, and I couldn’t see myself spending four years in a cornfield town.”

Mac’s generous financial aid package helped, but it was by no means the decisive factor. “The University of Minnesota would have been way cheaper—almost free,” she says. But back in the ‘80s, Kiah’s mother had been unhappy and lost at the gigantic university, and she urged her daughter to consider all the benefits of attending a smaller college. “I’ll know all the teachers and they’ll know me—the size makes me feel good,” she says.

Like many first-year students, Kiah has no idea what she’ll major in, but she has established interests she plans to pursue. Four years of high school French plus a summer trip to France with an aunt has “inspired me to continue studying French,” she says. “I’d like to be fluent in French and start another language as well. Why not?” She also loves drawing and photography and is pleased that non-art majors can easily take those classes.

Speaking of classes, her head was spinning at the list of possible first-year courses alone. “I signed up for classes on race, global emerging diseases, linguistics, psychology—it’s so hard to pick just a few! They’re so much more interesting than high school classes.”
I’d like to be fluent in French and start another language as well. Why not? —Kiah Zellner-Smith
"We visited campus during a February snowstorm and I thought it was really cool. I like snow—or at least at this point I do!"

—Samantha “Sam” Leopold-Sullivan
It isn’t easy to find a college if you’re determined that your higher education must include science, knitting, and bagpiping. So imagine how delighted Samantha “Sam” Leopold-Sullivan of Tucson, Arizona, was to hear about Macalester College from chemistry professor Kathleen Parson ’67, who works with Sam’s mother at the Research Corporation for Science Advancement.

“Only three or four colleges have a major bagpiping component,” says Sam, who has played the bagpipes for five years and looks forward to joining the Highland Pipe Band this year. “I’m already talking with [pipe band director and alumnus] Mike Breidenbach,” she reported a month before school started. As for her other hobby, Sam works at a knitting store in Tucson and was glad to see that Mac had a knitting club as well as fiber arts classes in the Art Department.

Just which sciences she’ll like most isn’t certain, but a high school internship spent in a University of Arizona microbiology lab persuaded Sam that particular field wasn’t for her. She’s now leaning toward environmental sciences, noting that “the chance to do summer research at Macalester really intrigues me.”

The only child of a widowed mother, Sam admits that her mom is “having a little trouble with me going away,” and is trying to pick up some consulting work in Minnesota so they can have regular reunions. “I’m also teaching her how to use Skype,” says Sam.

The inevitable jokes about an Arizonan confronting a Minnesota winter don’t bother this lifelong desert dweller. “We visited campus during a February snowstorm and I thought it was really cool. I like snow—or at least at this point I do.”

Ben, Juan, Kiah, and Sam are just getting started. Look for the next installment of their first-year adventures in your Winter 2011 issue of Macalester Today.
Under Macalester’s hood, usually unnoticed, is an engine that keeps the college moving forward. It’s called the endowment. Like any engine, it needs fuel.

**The Gift That Keeps on Giving**

MADISON MACK ’12 began her junior year at Macalester this fall. A biology major with an emphasis in biochemistry, she spent the summer working in Professor Devavani Chatterjea’s lab, researching the role played by a particular kind of white blood cell—called a mast cell—in inflammation and inflammatory pain. Mack will continue working in the lab this school year as part of a work-study program that last year paid her to serve as a science tutor for fellow students.

Mack’s education is being subsidized by more direct forms of financial aid, as well. Among other grants, she has received Macalester’s faculty/staff scholarship. Taken together, all of that aid—the scholarships, the summer fellowship in Chatterjea’s lab, the ongoing work/study program—does not cover the entire cost of tuition and fees. But it makes a big dent. For Mack, it makes Macalester possible. “I definitely could not have come here without the financial aid I receive,” she says.

What makes much of this financial aid possible, in turn, is Macalester’s endowment. That’s where the bulk of financial aid money—and indeed much of the college’s operating budget—comes from.

Mack is bright, articulate, talented, and ambitious. She sings in the choir. She’s active in the campus group Women in Science and Math. She’s precisely the kind of student Macalester wants today as an undergraduate and tomorrow as an alumnus. Other colleges felt the same way about Mack, who comes from a middle-class Missouri family and graduated third in her suburban St. Louis public high school class. She applied to other small liberal arts schools, which also offered “fairly good” aid packages. If Macalester had not made itself affordable, she says, “I probably would have chosen one of them.”

**How the Money Moves**

The cash flow from Macalester’s endowment—a fund that rises and falls with market conditions but was valued in late August at $585 million—allows the college to compete for top students like Mack. And “students like Mack” means helping a lot of quality kids. Of the nearly 2,000 undergraduates on campus this fall, about 70 percent receive some kind of financial aid.

That includes most international students, who make up 11 percent of the undergraduate population—a category in which Macalester ranks seventh nationally among liberal arts colleges. Macalester president Brian Rosenberg notes that the international flavor of its students and faculty has been a particular point of pride for the college since one of his predecessors, Charles Turck, raised the United Nations flag on campus in 1950.

According to U.S. News analysts, Macalester is one of only 70 U.S. colleges and universities nationally that meets 100 percent of a student’s demonstrated financial need—“need” being documented by a standard national formula. Among 2008 graduates, Mac students emerged with the lowest student debt burden of any college or university in Minnesota, public or private. Among students who receive aid, the average package amounts to more than $30,000 per year (out of a total tuition plus room and board cost of $49,000).

“It’s important to us as a college to have a student body that is not monolithic,” says David Wheaton, vice president for administration and finance. “We need some breadth and depth in the student body to get a variety of perspectives. A range of geographic backgrounds and personal histories among students and faculty makes everyone’s experience that much richer.”

The shorthand term for this concept is diversity. Macalester’s endowment enables the financial diversity among students that is a prerequisite for other kinds of on-campus diversity.

**Keeping Up with Our Peers**

Even if this were all there were to say about the endowment’s role in the life of the college, it would seem peculiar that Macalester’s alumni lag in contributions compared to other liberal arts colleges’ alumni.

In the five years from 2005 to 2009, gifts to endowments at the country’s top 40 liberal arts colleges—Macalester’s peer group—av-
The quality of the education is," says President Brian Rosenberg. "Out it, library. The operating purposes, but they flow through the operating budget. Endowed faculty chairs and special scholarships are directed to those student financial aid. (Funds generated by "restricted" gifts such as faculty and staff salaries come out of the operating budget. So does all student financial aid. (Funds generated by "restricted" gifts such as endowed faculty chairs and special scholarships are directed to those purposes, but they flow through the operating budget.) The operating budget pays to light and heat all campus buildings. It pays to run the library. It pays for supplies, mailings, student activities and organizations, and faculty scholarship and research.

Since the endowment funds a third of the operating budget, the short answer to "Why is the endowment important?" is that without it, Macalester would be almost unrecognizable. "Without funding from the endowment, the quality of everything we do would diminish," says President Brian Rosenberg. "The quality of the education we provide for students would diminish. Financial aid would shrink dramatically. Our faculty could not be what it is.... Our aspiration is to provide one of the best educations in the world, and we couldn’t even think about doing that without our endowment."

Kathleen Murray, Macalester’s provost, points out that two years ago the college did faculty searches for 16 open positions, "and with each of those we got our top choice. Mac did so well not only because it could pay competitively, she says, but because “faculty members are drawn to a place that’s financially stable. They know that our endowment keeps Macalester strong and safe.”

Officials’ concern about the endowment is not that the fund is puny. Actually it’s the largest of any liberal arts college in Minnesota, slightly bigger than that of Carleton College. Macalester’s endowment ranks a respectable 15th among the 40 national colleges in its peer group, according to a 2009 study by the National Association of College and University Business Officers. (At the top of that list was Williams College in Massachusetts, with an endowment valued at $1.4 billion. In a bad year for the market, that figure was down significantly from 2008.)

The challenge with the endowment is, as Vice President for Advancement Tommy Bonner puts it, "If we don’t grow it, over time there’s a slow eroding. We admit as many students as possible, regardless of financial need, to get the brightest kids from around the world. If we’re not growing the endowment, either access suffers—we admit fewer students—or quality and faculty resources suffer."

Whereas 70 percent of Macalester students receive need-based financial aid, perhaps only about 40 to 50 percent of students at many East Coast liberal arts colleges do, Bonner says. This suggests that students in Mac’s peer-group schools tend to come from wealthier families, who are more able to make gifts and other contributions.

**Life after Wallace**

Officials say there’s a lingering perception among some alumni and friends of Macalester that the college’s endowment is enormous and set for eternity. That impression is strongest among alumni who are less engaged with the college, Rosenberg says, but it is persistent. It springs from a famous gift from Reader’s Digest founder and Macales benefactor DeWitt Wallace. "The biggest headlines Macalester got in 30 years were about the Wallace gift," says Rosenberg.

More precisely, the headlines had to do with events following the Wallace gift that resulted in Macalester possessing—briefly, on paper, in the mid ’90s—the largest endowment of any liberal arts college in the country. DeWitt Wallace, Class of 1911, was the son of James Wallace, an early Macalester president. DeWitt died in 1981, leaving to Macalester’s endowment 500,000 shares of Reader’s Digest stock. The company—and, therefore, the stock—was privately held.

As Craig Aase ’70, Macalester’s chief investment officer, explains, Reader’s Digest went public in 1990. At the time, Macalester’s endowment stood at about $70 million. The private stock split 20 for one, giving Macalester 10 million shares. The college was allowed to sell 20 percent of those shares in the initial public offering. More chunks were sold periodically over the next several years. By the mid-’90s, when the stock price peaked at about $50 per share, the endowment’s valuation rose to more than $500 million.

One small problem: About half the paper value, Aase says, was in unregistered Reader’s Digest stock that the college was not allowed to sell. Macalester still held 40 percent of its original shares in 2001, when it began to sell off the last blocks. However, by that time the stock’s value had plummeted.

**Riding the Stock Market Rollercoaster**

The endowment’s value peaked at $700 million in October 2007, the height of the market, says Aase, and then roughly followed the market down through the crash of 2008 to a trough of $475 million in February 2009. It has since recovered to its present value of $585 million (as of late August).

Virtually all college endowments lost value in their 2009 fiscal year, when global stock markets declined 30 percent. Macalester’s endowment return was -13.4 percent and the average endowment return for that same period was -18.7 percent. Mac’s performance over the past five years is now in the top 10 percent of all endowments and foundations.

Aase credits Macalester’s investment strategy and its management of endowment payouts for what, in relative terms, has been an excellent performance in a rocky economy. The endowment maintains an investment balance of 45 percent stocks, 15 percent government
bonds, and 40 percent in diversified assets such as real estate, private equities, and hedge funds. By holding steady to its stock position regardless of general market conditions, the endowment benefited from the rally that followed the market’s low point in February 2009.

As for managing the payout, each year the endowment pays into the operating budget a sum equal to 5 percent of its average value over the previous four years—or roughly $30 million a year recently. In 2007 and 2008 that formula was allowing yearly payout increases of 10 and 11 percent because of the endowment’s rising value during the four-year baseline period. Instead of spending it all, Aase says, college leaders held a healthy portion in reserve—a move that proved wise.

The upshot is that while Macalester instituted a salary freeze in 2009 (lifted earlier this year), says Aase, it wasn’t forced to make staff reductions and other dramatic cuts during the economic downturn as institutions like Williams and Harvard were. “People who contribute to our endowment can be assured that it’s well managed,” he says.

Where’s the Love?

It isn’t only in contributions to the endowment that Macalester supporters lag the peer-group average. In light of what is happening at competitive schools, overall contributions are lackluster as well. Total giving from 2005 to 2009 at the top 40 liberal arts colleges averaged $26.5 million a year, according to figures from the Council for Aid to Education. Macalester’s average of $14.7 million places it 33rd on that list.

In gifts to endowments, Macalester’s five-year average of $4.15 million ranks 36th. In unrestricted contributions to current operations (think primarily of the Annual Fund), Macalester averaged $2.8 million. The peer group average was $5 million.

In 2010 (as counted at the end of the fiscal year on May 31), Macalester received $16.3 million in total gifts. To continue competing with its peer group, says Bonner, the college needs to raise its annual average above $20 million. The five-year median figure for the peer group was almost $24 million.

Complicating the issue is the fact that more than half of total gifts directed at Mac over the past several years have gone toward building projects—notably the Leonard Center, Markim Hall, and the Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center. Rosenberg readily concedes that more money might have flowed into the endowment if fundraising efforts hadn’t directed it instead into capital projects.

Once the second phase of the Fine Arts Center project is complete, however, no major construction efforts are on the drawing board. Fundraising efforts will increase their emphasis on the need to replenish and grow the endowment.

Another priority, Rosenberg says, is to increase the number of alumni who contribute to the college. Thirty-nine percent of Macalester alumni made some kind of contribution in 2009. That ranks the school 25th among the Top 40 liberal arts colleges, according to U.S. News. (Carleton ranks first, with 61 percent of its alumni giving.)

In the near term, raising the raw number of contributors will benefit the Annual Fund more than the endowment, Bonner explains. Most endowment gifts come in wills and bequests, not in the form of annual contributions. “But if someone gets used to giving to Macalester regularly for 10 years or so, it may become a thought in estate planning.”

Such is the hope, at any rate, if the doors are to remain open to kids like Madison Mack. 

JACK GORDON is a Twin Cities freelance writer.

STEADY HAND

FOR 33 YEARS, CRAIG AASE HAS KEPT MACALESTER IN THE BLACK.

BY ANDY STEINER ’90

In 1977, just seven years after he’d graduated from Macalester, Craig Aase got a call from his former professor and mentor, Paul Aslanian. Aslanian, then treasurer of the college, told Aase that his alma mater was hiring a controller. “I was thrilled,” Aase recalls. “I jumped at the opportunity to return to Macalester.”

He was hired for the job, and quickly settled back in at the school he’d first come to from McGregor, a small North Central Minnesota town. Though Aase’s Macalester connections helped him land the job, there were also times when being a recent graduate was awkward. “Occasionally professors I’d had overextended their budgets and I had to ask them to reign in spending,” he recalls. “They didn’t always take me that seriously—at first.”

But it didn’t take long for that to change. Under Aslanian’s tutelage, Aase’s influence and position at the college grew, from controller to business manager to chief financial officer and, finally in 2002, to chief investment officer. During his 33 years minding the till, Aase has piloted the college through several dramatic financial ups and downs, from the stunning cash influx that occurred as a result of a large Reader’s Digest stock gift to the dot-com bust and recent international financial meltdown.

Through it all he has stuck to one approach. “No one hitting the panic button. The last four years have seemed like dog years, but our strategies and processes have stayed intact. We’ve done a good job of avoiding bad decisions, and as a result, our performance compared with that of other institutions has been quite positive.”

Aase’s calm approach helped keep the endowment healthy through tough times, says administration and finance vice president David Wheaton. “He’s maintained a steady, thoughtful, consistent hand, and he’s made a big difference. He always keeps in mind that the decisions we make are to serve current and future students.”

Aase is retiring at the end of 2010. A national search is now under way; his successor should be named by the end of the year.
MUSIC MAKERS

Whether they’re singing, playing, or signing bands, these Macalester alumni have made lives in the music business.

BY JIM WALSH PHOTOS BY DARIN BACK

John Kimbrough ’90 photographed at his garage studio in Los Angeles.
IN 1989, BOB MOULD ’82 told The Minnesota Daily, “Your first couple years in college should be about finding yourself. Take classes that you find interesting and fulfilling. Experiment. You have the rest of your life to figure out what you want to do with your life; college should be about exploring.”

That much was true for Mould, who spent the late ’70s and early ’80s attending Macalester and forming the legendary Twin Cities punk trio Hüsker Dü. Mould may be one of Macalester’s most renowned musical graduates, but he’s certainly not the only one. Here are six more folks who discovered themselves through music and Mac, and continue to do so today.

John Kimbrough ’90

Trivia question: Name the Macalester grad who is the only known link between beloved professor Walt Mink and mega-Disney kid-stars the Jonas Brothers.

Answer: John Kimbrough ’90.

Back in 1988, Kimbrough, along with fellow Mac grads Joey Waronker ’92 and Candace Belanoff ’90, formed the popular fuzz-pop trio Walt Mink. Kimbrough now lives in Los Angeles, where he plays with his power-pop band Valley Lodge and scores movies and television shows, including JONAS, starring the Jonas Brothers, for the Disney Channel.

“I don’t write the Jonas Brothers’ songs, but I write all the underscore music,” says Kimbrough, who won an Emmy for writing the opening medley for the Oscars in 2009. “When you hear the music that goes between or under the scenes, 90 percent of that is mine. Every episode is all original music, and it’s a ton of work but it’s really fun. I’m happy to have a gig, and happy to be doing it.”

Kimbrough has worked on dozens of high-profile projects, from the MTV Music Awards to the Video Game Awards. He brings a professional artistry to what he calls “cranking it out,” and has fond memories of how it all got started.

“I grew up in New York City and applied to four schools. Right when I was on the fence about which school to choose, [Hüsker Dü’s] Zen Arcade came out. I was a huge Hüsker Dü fan, and honestly, I just thought, ‘These amazing records are coming out of that place, I want to go to college there.’

“I didn’t even know there was a Macalester connection with Hüsker Dü. I had no idea Bob [Mould] had gone to Macalester. Those guys were like super people to me, and then I got there and heard, ‘Oh yeah, Bob lived in the basement of Bigelow.’”

Kimbrough’s own time at Mac was spent as a history major (and “a bit of a screw-up; I was really focused on playing music”) and the creative force behind Walt Mink. He joined forces with his old friends Waronker (now a studio and touring drummer for the likes of Beck, R.E.M., and Thom Yorke of Radiohead) and Belanoff, who last year received her PhD in public health from Harvard.

“We were taking this psychology class together that was taught by Walt Mink,” recalls Kimbrough. “And we liked it and were thinking about how to get people to come see our band, and we thought it would be hilarious to name the band Walt Mink.

“So we asked Walt Mink if we could use his name and he said, ‘Well, I’ll have to hear the music.’ We gave him this basement four-track demo tape that we’d been circulating around campus and he came back to us and said, ‘It’s really good. You have my blessing.’”

“I grew up in New York City and applied to four schools. Right when I was on the fence about which school to choose, [Hüsker Dü’s] Zen Arcade came out. I was a huge Hüsker Dü fan, and honestly, I just thought, ‘These amazing records are coming out of that place, I want to go to college there.’” —JOHN KIMBROUGH ’90
Gary Hines ’74

Over the course of three decades, Hines and his cohorts in three-time Grammy Award-winning Sounds Of Blackness have worked hard to meld scintillating music with simmering social consciousness. For Hines, that marriage began in the early ’70s at Mac.

“You have to remember what time it was. It was a moment in time when everything was happening at once,” says Hines, who became the Sounds’ music director his sophomore year. “It was the Civil Rights movement, the Black Power movement, the women’s liberation movement, the anti-war movement. We were bonded by the movement; it wasn’t a question of if you were involved, it was a question of how involved you were.

“And music reflected all that. Everything from Marvin Gaye’s ‘What’s Goin’ On’ to James Brown and Aretha Franklin and Stevie Wonder, every artist was involved in some way. Sounds Of Blackness was no exception. We were born out of the movement.”

Hines grew up in Yonkers, New York. Soon after his jazz singer mother moved the family to the Twin Cities in the late ’60s, Hines gravitated to Macalester. The seeds of Sounds Of Blackness (originally called The Macalester College Black Voices) were planted in 1969, and Hines recalls how supportive college staff and students were: Rehearsal and recording spaces were provided, as was invaluable guidance from professors.

“[Former choral director] Dale Warland, or ‘the maestro’ as I call him, is still a good friend and supporter of Sounds, and a role model of sorts,” says Hines. “He was helpful when I was looking for singers, and he encouraged me to take Sounds on tour. I was blessed to attend many of Mahmoud El-Kati’s classes on African American history and culture, and he still encourages us to be an institution, not just a band, so that African American experience would be preserved in all its forms.”

From those beginnings, a Twin Cities music institution was launched. Sounds Of Blackness has released more than a dozen recordings, including two greatest hits compilations on A&M Records, and has performed at the opening ceremonies of the 1994 World Cup, the 1996 Summer Olympics, and the 1998 World Figure Skating Championships. The group has also performed five times at the White House.

These days, in addition to regularly performing with Sounds and running the Sounds Of Blackness record label, Hines coordinates seminars in African American music.

“I was blessed to attend many of Mahmoud El-Kati’s classes on African American history and culture, and he still encourages us to be an institution, not just a band, so that African American experience would be preserved in all its forms.” — GARY HINES ’74
Gary Hines ’74 photographed in his studio in Minneapolis’s Prospect Park neighborhood.
Tim Teichgraeber ’90

The music business is a slithery beast that can devour even the hardiest souls. So when Tim Teichgraeber ’90 graduated from Macalester, he decided to marry his love of music (honed in his band Gneissmaker) with his liberal arts education and pursue an entertainment law degree.

“A lot of times there isn’t so much malicious intent in the music business, but it’s kind of an amateur culture,” says Teichgraeber from his home in San Francisco, where he works as an entertainment lawyer and wine writer. “People try to make a living at this and they make a lot of mistakes, and I sort of figured if I studied up on it, I could actually be of some service.

“Macalear taught me that I could effect change. It was empowering. It wasn’t hard to get involved with something and drive an issue or organization. It helped give me the confidence to pursue the things that I really like in life, which for me is music and writing.

“There weren’t a lot of kids from Kentucky going to Macalester, but I was looking to go someplace in a city that had a good music scene,” he says. “I got involved right away with the radio station, WMCN. I went from being a deejay to being the general manager. And that just puts you in the same little club with all the other people in college who are really fanatical about music.”

As an entertainment attorney, Teichgraeber has represented many independent artists and businesses, including bands such as Lifter Puller, Dillinger Four, The Oranges Band, and Von Iva, and labels such as Lookout! Records, Stand Up! Records, and Doomtree.

When it all gets to be too much, Teichgraeber escapes to his wine writing, which he says has “little or nothing” to do with his law practice—other than that both passions started at Mac.

“Macalear taught me that I could effect change. It was empowering. It wasn’t hard to get involved with something and drive an issue or organization. It helped give me the confidence to pursue the things that I really like in life, which for me is music and writing.” —TIM TIECHGRAEBER ’90

Zack Kline ’02

Growing up in Boulder, Colorado, Zack Kline knew he wanted to major in music in college. He took his violin to Vanderbilt University for a year, but ultimately found the rigors of conservatory study limiting, and transferred to Macalester.

“At Macalester, I had friends whose senior recital was all Irish music or half jazz; for me it was half classical and half my own music,” says Kline. “To have the freedom to do that was rare, actually. Often at other schools, you have to audition your stuff and it has to be classical. It has to be approved through a whole juried process before you’re even allowed to perform it at your recital.

“I also really liked getting a broad education and meeting people who were not just music nerds. Mark Mazullo is an amazing music teacher. My first year was his first year teaching. He was inspiring because he’s still practicing and being a really good performer, and he’s still trying to learn about the history of everything. He was really serious about his instrument, and really knowledgeable.”

That combination of freedom and hands-on instruction led Kline to form his current group, The Orange Mighty Trio, with Mike Vasich ’04 on piano and Nick Gaudette on bass. Kline met Gaudette while teaching at a Mankato summer music camp led by Macalester studio instructor Mary Horozaniecki. The trio, a self-described “blue grassical” outfit that City Pages has described as “maverick chamber music,” has recorded an EP and a CD, and is scoring two independent films.

So what did Kline—who balances night gigs with a day job as string ensemble director at Minneapolis’s City Of Lakes Waldorf School—take away from Mac that he passes on to his students?

“You’re always finding yourself repeating phrases from your own teachers,” he says. “Part of the reason I wanted to come to Macalester was because of the Flying Fingers folk group, because I love to do all sorts of bluegrass and jazz, so having that folk group was a big attraction. I played in that while I was at Mac, and I still bring a lot of non-classical music to my string students. And Macalester was definitely super supportive of that.”
Tim Teichgraeber ’90 photographed in the backyard of his San Francisco home.
“Can’t you guess why a girl from Maryland ended up in Minneapolis?” asks Sonia Grover, who has worked at the legendary Minneapolis nightclub First Avenue since the year after she graduated from Macalester and is now its booking manager. The answer mostly has to do with The Replacements, Minneapolis’s most mythic rock band.

“Don’t get me wrong, Macalester is an awesome school; I wouldn’t have gone to it otherwise,” says Grover. “I looked at a bunch of schools, but my heart was in the Twin Cities. I was 13 when I got into The Replacements.

“In high school I went to see Robyn Hitchcock play, and my friend got us backstage. And I heard people backstage saying The Replacements had just played there and I remember thinking, ‘That’s it. I want to be in music and I want to be in the Twin Cities.’”

Like many music fanatics, Grover soon signed on with the college radio station and poured herself into the local music community. At WMCN, she hosted a local music show and interviewed such rising stars as the Jayhawks, Magnatone, Polara, and the Hang Ups, and began and ended each show with a song by—who else?—The Replacements.

“These days, Grover spends her time booking national and local bands, fielding countless emails and phone calls from hungry musicians hoping for a break.

Indirectly, Mac led her to First Avenue. First, Mac mentor Dave Gardner ’93, who was in the Selby Tigers and National Dynamite, helped her get an internship at former radio station REV 105. Later, Grover got another internship, this one with local record label owners and bookers John Kass and Chris Strouth, “and that’s how I got to First Avenue,” she says.

“In high school I went to see Robyn Hitchcock play, and my friend got us backstage. And I heard people backstage saying The Replacements had just played there and I remember thinking, ‘That’s it. I want to be in music and I want to be in the Twin Cities.’”

—SONIA GROVER ’97
Amanda Warner ’01

It doesn’t take much prompting to get Amanda Warner—a.k.a. half of the New York–based electronic duo MNDR—to gush about how Macalester fostered her as an artist.

“The music department was very challenging,” says Warner. “Carleton Macy is a great, challenging theory and form instructor. I was tired of conventional Western music theory. I had done that as a kid, all the way up to competitions as a concert pianist, so by the time I got to college I was much more interested in experimental composition and sound design. Having the electronic music lab and Jan Gilbert—a well-respected electronic music composer—on staff gave me a lot of opportunities to work on my music and expand outside of a traditional Western musical education.

“I loved it. I was able to work with software and work with instructors on that. Sound design was new and instructors let me explore that like an art school would. I could design my own courses and that laid the foundation for where I am now, writing music and touring.”

Warner, who transferred from Lewis and Clark College, is originally from Fargo. She was drawn to Mac by the Twin Cities music scene and the college’s reputation for progressive politics. “It was really politically crazy when I was there, actually,” she says. “There was a yearlong peace camp in the middle of campus, and protests happening all the time. It felt good to be at Macalester and have a lot of friends who protested and talked about what was going on.”

What else was going on, for Warner, was her music. She played with several bands, including indie rock bands Triangle and the Busy Signals, and in a jazz trio with former music professor Tom Cravens. Meanwhile, she also earned a music degree and took lots of science classes. That educational foundation has proven helpful to her work as a lighting-sound-song artist, exhausting though it may have been back in the day. “I’d play at First Avenue and be there until three in the morning,” she recalls. “And then I’d have to be at chemistry lab by 8 a.m.”

Today Warner supports herself as a songwriter and musician. MNDR (pronounced “mandar,” the band’s other member is Peter Wade) keeps busy opening for cutting-edge artists such as Yacht, Massive Attack, and Deerhoof. Its first full-length CD is set for release next year.

“Having the electronic music lab and Jan Gilbert—a well-respected electronic music composer—on staff gave me a lot of opportunities to work on my music and expand outside of a traditional Western musical education.”

—AMANDA WARNER ’01

JIM WALSH is a Twin Cities music writer and musician.
twilight’s midwife

When Megan Tingley ‘86 read Stephanie Meyer’s manuscript, she knew she’d found a bestseller.

BY LAURA BILLINGS COLEMAN

PHOTO BY MICHAEL CROUSER
fter more than 20 years in the publishing business, Megan Tingley ’86 knows better than to bring just one unpublished manuscript on a cross-country flight. “I bring a whole bag of them,” she says, lowering her voice slightly, so as not to offend any unpublished authors who may be listening, “because they’re usually not very good.”

But one Friday in the fall of 2003, Tingley took off from New York with a 600-page manuscript about a girl in the Pacific Northwest and her preternaturally handsome chemistry partner. “When you’re an editor, everything reads like something you’ve read before, but there was something about the voice that felt different to me,” recalls Tingley, who spent the rest of the flight nudging a colleague awake to read passages out loud. “It was so striking to me that this was a first-time author with no writing training, so to speak, and it was such a strong draft that just kept going.” By the time the plane landed in California, Tingley was dialing her phone to buy the girl-meets-vampire novel Twilight.

In the seven years since Tingley discovered author Stephanie Meyer’s debut bestseller, the series has spawned three sequels, a novella, a plan for five movies (the third one, Eclipse, was released in June), and a new generation of sullen young movie stars, not to mention an unusual number of babies now being christened Bella, Jacob, and Cullen, after Twilight’s triangulated lovers. Meyer has sold nearly 90 million books around the world, advance reading copies are traded like precious gems on eBay, and academics are even publishing scholarly tomes (Twilight and Philosophy) plumbing the Cullens’ supernatural hold on popular culture.

“I thought it would do well, but in my world that means selling 50,000 copies,” laughs Tingley, publisher of Little, Brown Books for Young Readers. “This is not normal.”

Learning how to spot a good story is a skill Tingley first began to develop at Macalester, which she chose because of its international emphasis and because “coming from New Hampshire, I wasn’t afraid of snow.” After living in Paris as a child while her father worked for a telecommunications firm, Tingley developed an early interest in writers from around the world, and she designed her own Macalester degree in comparative literature. “I never imagined myself a writer, so working on my own stories was not motivating to me,” she says. “What I really enjoyed was seeing what my classmates were writing, and discovering that I had this kind of clarity when it came to reading their work to know, ‘Here’s what’s working and here’s what’s not.’ It felt like something I could actually see.”

In fact, early drafts of Twilight ended with Bella and Edward Cullen getting married—a plot twist that Tingley suggested postponing for maximum effect. By the time Mr. and Mrs. Cullen were finally introduced in Breaking Dawn, the fourth and final Twilight novel released in 2008, the publishing house had to hire private investigators and armed guards to prevent any plot leaks to rabid fans. Breaking Dawn went on to sell 1.3 million copies in its first 24 hours, a record for the Hachette Book Group USA, which now owns Little, Brown.

In spite of her good instincts about story arc, Tingley admits she could never have plotted her own longevity in book publishing, infamous for its high turnover. Hired as an editorial assistant at Little, Brown in 1987, “I was told flat out that this was an apprenticeship, a one- or two-year position with no career path,” she says. But her assignment in the children’s division coincided with a new phenomenon in publishing—Baby Boomer parents who began fueling a fresh market for picture books. It was a perfect niche for Tingley, who’d also considered becoming a teacher and who created a children’s book library and literacy program at the Boston Family Shelter, a temporary housing facility for homeless women and children. “She often went to read to the kids at the shelter,” recalls classmate Shelly McPhail ’86, whose 13-year-old daughter Ruby has been the eager recipient of many of Tingley’s titles. “It was a way for her to get their reactions and to learn what books they liked—but it’s also who she is. A lot of people talk the talk, but Megan is all about doing.”

As Tingley rose up the editing ranks, she earned attention for creating a “New Voices, New World” contest encouraging submissions from writers with various ethnic backgrounds, and in 2000 she...
received her own imprint, Megan Tingley Books. "Then a little book called Harry Potter came along and changed everything," she says. J.K. Rowling’s top-selling book was famously rejected by several American publishing companies (Little, Brown not among them) and no publisher wanted to make that mistake twice.

Time Warner, which then owned Little, Brown, moved the children’s division from Boston to New York so Tingley and other top editors could aggressively cultivate up-and-coming authors and agents. At one of those meetings, Tingley persuaded a reluctant agent to send her the manuscript for Twilight, which was about to be submitted to several publishers simultaneously. “She told me, ‘I don’t really see you as a vampire person,’” recalls Tingley. “I still don’t know if that was meant as a compliment or not.”

In fact, Tingley, who became publisher in 2006, is better known as a champion of books about young people on the fringes: The Absolutely True Story of a Part-time Indian, Sherman Alexie’s autobiographical National Book Award winner, Julie Anne Peters’ Luna, the first young adult book to focus on a transgender teen; and Trenton Lee Stewart’s The Mysterious Benedict Society, about four children so gifted they're recruited to save the world from an evil genius.

“If I look back on the books I’ve done, I’ve always been intrigued by the outsider story,” says Tingley, who lives in Brooklyn with her husband, writer Dan Zevin, and their children, Leo, 7, and Josephine, 4. “I moved around a lot as a kid, and I had to do a lot of starting over and fitting in. I think that’s why those stories have always been the most interesting to me. Readers are naturally more engaged by the character who’s different, facing a challenge, taking a journey.”

“Even Twilight carries on that theme in her work,” says Paul Raushenbush ’86, a college friend who is now associate dean of religious life at Princeton. “I remember her talking with real interest and affection about this book when it was first being edited. What she liked about it was its complexity. It gets at some of the struggles that young people go through, the questions about life.”

Those themes may also explain why young adult fiction has found such a strong crossover audience of adult readers. “There used to be this kind of invisible barrier between books for adults and books for teenagers,” she says, noting that many of the world’s most dedicated “Twihards” are women who discovered the books through their daughters. “We were all young once, and I think reading Twilight takes women back to that time when everything feels intensified and every decision feels like life or death. We all want stories with a beginning, a middle, and an end, and characters we care about. But something that’s sometimes missing from adult literature is that feeling of being riveted, a magical experience that you never want to end.”

Watching Twilight turn into a successful film series has been magical, too. “You want your book to end up in the right hands, so it was thrilling to see the movies have been so faithful to the books,” says Tingley. The downside is that when she’s introduced as the editor who discovered the decade’s bestselling book, “People will say, ‘Oh, it was a book first? That’s just so shocking, because to me the book is everything.”

Even so, Tingley is not a publishing purist who bemoans the advent of the iPad and other new storytelling platforms. “You can’t bury your head in the sand and pretend that the electronic revolution isn’t happening,” she says. “The last few years in publishing have been eye-opening and scary, but it has also been exciting. I mean, when was the last time there was so much media attention paid to reading? When Apple and Amazon want to be in the reading business, how is that a bad thing? They’re interested in content, and that’s what we do in publishing.

"The medium may be changing," she says. "But I still believe in the power of a really well told story."
September 11 inspired minister Rebekah Montgomery ’96 to join the Army National Guard.

BY | ANDY STEINER PHOTO BY | TRACEY BROWN

IF YOU ASK HER FATHER, he’ll tell you that Rebekah Savage Montgomery ’96 was destined for a life of service.

“It’s how she was wired,” says Phillip H. Savage, a retired attorney and civil rights activist who was an associate of Martin Luther King, Jr. “And it’s also how she was raised. So that’s just the kind of person Rebekah turned out to be.”

Montgomery, now an Army National Guard chaplain on active duty, is grateful to have been raised by parents who infused her with a sense of social responsibility. It gave her life a sense of direction—a spiritual backbone, if you will. “I grew up in the Unitarian Universalist (UU) tradition, where social justice and serving the community are a big part of how we view the world,” Montgomery says.

Her parents predicted that Montgomery’s service inclinations, combined with her academic ability, would eventually lead her to a medical career. But this is where her story takes a gentle turn.

“Seven years in, I realized I need to witness and feel the suffering and cruelty that the people I serve with are also feeling. If I don’t let myself feel with them, how can I possibly do what I’ve been charged to do?”

Even though military chaplains are noncombatants, that doesn’t mean they’re removed from the horrors and hardships of war. Montgomery recalls one incident in which three young soldiers were killed and their entire battalion grieved. Montgomery, too, was devastated. “As chaplains, we can get overwhelmed by the grief and sorrow we’re exposed to,” she says. “To put it plainly, I was struck down by my emotions. That night I assisted in a dignified transfer of remains, and in that moment I thought, ‘What if this were my son or husband?’ For the first time in my military career I was overcome by grief and I cried.” She calmed herself by retreating to her tent and calling her husband, then stationed in another part of Afghanistan.

“As a military chaplain, it’s my job to keep one hand in the fire,” she later realized. “I need to witness and feel the suffering and cruelty that the people I serve with are also feeling. If I don’t let myself feel with them, how can I possibly do what I’ve been charged to do?”

When she returned from her service in Afghanistan, Montgomery was awarded the Bronze Star.

In 2001, Montgomery was a Unitarian Universalist minister working as a hospital chaplain when she heard that the World Trade Center had been attacked. As the world slowly came to terms with the disaster, Montgomery decided to do something to help her country and the military personnel who serve it.

“I realized I had a lot of skills to offer, including a strong impulse toward service, which is how I view the role of a military chaplain,” she says. She contacted all branches of the military, and the Army National Guard called her first. Says Montgomery, “It was a total leap of faith.” She was ordained in 2002 and commissioned in September 2003.

While doing hurricane relief work in Florida early in her army career, Montgomery met Captain Travis Montgomery, a civil affairs officer with the Army Reserve. “I wasn’t sure I wanted to date anyone in the military,” Montgomery laughs now. “I struggled with the idea of getting serious with Travis. Turns out it was a good decision.” The couple married in 2005.

Montgomery was deployed to Afghanistan from 2005 to 2006, spending a year with one brigade, then volunteering to stay on six months with the next brigade. As one of three chaplains assigned to serve the religious needs of 3,400 soldiers stationed across Afghanistan, Montgomery led multi-faith services, provided counseling, led scripture studies, and officiated at memorial services. “My task force was stationed all over the country,” she says. “Because there were only three chaplains on duty, we’d rotate. I’d go down range for a week or two, then I’d switch places with the next guy and head back to our headquarters in Kabul.”

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“As a military chaplain, it’s my job to keep one hand in the fire,” she later realized. “I need to witness and feel the suffering and cruelty that the people I serve with are also feeling. If I don’t let myself feel with them, how can I possibly do what I’ve been charged to do?”

When she returned from her service in Afghanistan, Montgomery was awarded the Bronze Star.

Inspired by Montgomery’s caring ministry, innate cheerfulness, and “unfailingly positive attitude,” her commander, Chaplain (Lieutenant Colonel) Bruce Farrell, nominated her for Military Chaplain of the Year, a distinguished service award presented by the Military Chaplains Association. She subsequently won the award, which was presented in July 2009.

“Rebekah has energy, good personal skills and good Army staff skills,” says Farrell. “She’s a positive person with the courage to face work problems. This nation requires people in the military to face some pretty rough stuff. A good chaplain—and that’s what Rebekah is—acts as a kind of shock absorber for the daily stresses of military service. She puts a human face on a not-so-human organization.”

Seven years in, Montgomery has no plans to end her military commitment, though she is happy to now be residing in her hometown of Bethesda, Maryland, where her parents and sister also live. She and Travis have two children, 3-year-old Genevieve and 1-year-old Thane.

Montgomery was recently named program manager of the Army National Guard Strong Bonds Program, an Army program designed to help service members and their families strengthen relationships challenged by deployment stresses. Having delivered their son during his father’s second deployment, she understands the strains caused by military-enforced separation and hopes that her program—which runs weekend retreats for military families—can help others going through similar situations.

“I have unending respect for the spouses and family members of military service members,” she says. “It may be the soldiers who raise their hands and take the oath, but it’s really their families who serve.”

ANDY STEINER ’90 is a regular contributor to Macalester Today.
Mac Weddings

1. Shaina Aber ’02 and Marc Hanson were married May 30, 2010, in Deep Creek Lake, Md. Present at the wedding were Katrina Keil ’02, Margot Kane ’02, Erik Johnson ’02, Kathleen Gohike ’02, Laura Bartlow ’02, Bengo Mrema ’00, Max Neubauer ’01, Ariel Jacobs ’02, Nora Connors ’02, Laurel Havas ’01, Brendan Bell ’02, Sebastien Sanchez de Lozada ’01, Steffany Stern ’02, Misha Werschkul ’03, Josh Fogt ’03, Katy Forsyth ’02, Jonathon Kropt ’03, Kat Palinski ’02, and Ned Brown ’03.

2. Paul Dennis ’03 and Tara Mennitt were married June 26, 2010, at the Hubbardton Battlefield in Vermont. Pictured with the newlyweds are Mollie Windmiller ’03 (left) and best man Brandon Dixon ’03 (right).

3. Bill Ragalie ’05 and Marina Ilari were married on December 26, 2009, in her hometown of Venado Tuerto, Argentina. Mac attendees included Peter Weidmann ’05, Nick Africano ’05, Maureen Ragalie ’07, and Colin Gustafson ’05.

4. Lauren Chesnut ’06 and Isaac Vayo were married June 25, 2010, in Bowling Green, Ohio. Pictured (from left): the newlyweds, Andy Tweeten ’05, Emily Purcell ’06, Katie Ashton ’06, Anne Zander ’07, Katie Malnor ’06, Neely Crane-Smith ’06, Anna Farrell ’06, and Matty Tucker ’04.
Sophie Kasimow ’05 and Seth Shames were married on May 23, 2010, in New York City. Joining in the celebration were (from left) Anna Schwartz ’05, Becky Wexler ’04, Becky Scott-Rudnick ’05, and Diana Marianetti ’05.

Chen-Yu Wu ’09 and Marie Gray ’09 were married on July 24, 2010, in Lakewood, Ohio. Joining them were (from left): Professor Erik Larson (Sociology), Garrett Schneider ’10, and Aubyn Eli ’09.

Carlye Sikkink ’09 and Joseph Novak ’09 were married on August 14, 2010, in the Macalester Chapel. Mac attendees (Class of 2009 unless noted) were (top row): Erin Garnaa-Holmes, Nora Catolico ’10, Brendan Noteastein, Sam Heidepriem, Cory Copeland ’10, Talon Powers, Francisco Guzman, Jeff Bennett ’10, Julie Gaynin ’10, Dan Truchan, Allister MacMartin, Jack Eisenberg, Caitlin Wells; (middle row): Mira Kohl ’10, Lee Littlejohn ’10, Joe Christenson, Clarissa Hulman, Mark Bracey Sherman ’10, Katy Henderson ’12, Darren Angle, Jane Biliter, Krista Yank, Ryan Henderson, Heather Brown, Matt Seidholz, Willie Gambucci ’11, (bottom row): Rebecca Solano, Christina Thompson ’11, Jack Irvine, David Cox, Hector Ramos Ramos, Alex Howe, Casey Battaglino, Katey Dolezal, Sarah Dicks, Katie Levy, Jalene Betts.
THE MACALESTER MYSTERY

BY GABRIELLE LAWRENCE ’73, DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS

THERE’S A MYSTERY about Macalester alumni that has been puzzling me for several years and I think you can help me solve it.

The Macalester alumni community is unique in many ways. We’re from every national, ethnic, religious, and racial group, we’re of different political persuasions, we live on farms, in cities, and in the remotest parts of the world. Many of us have built our lives in Minnesota. We’re architects and zookeepers, volunteers and parents, rich and not so rich. We don’t always agree, but we respect our differences. We’re a diverse mixture of people, to be sure.

We also share the common ideals embodied in Macalester: a commitment to academic excellence, service to community, internationalism, and dedication to diversity. At Macalester the world was introduced to us and we learned to consider ourselves global citizens. We’re proud to be Macalester alumni even though we’re sometimes disappointed in specific decisions made by the college. Data show that we have strong, positive feelings about our college. Our lives were shaped and changed here. We remember the professors who challenged us and the lifelong friendships we formed.

Which is where the mystery comes in. Despite our devotion to Mac, not nearly as many of us give to our alma mater as do the alumni of our peer schools. Thirty-nine percent of Mac alumni contribute to its Annual Fund, compared to 61 percent of Carleton alumni, 56 percent of Lawrence alumni, and 42 percent of Grinnell alumni.

What’s up with that?

More of us come to Reunion every year. We’re proud of our Macalester education. We hear President Rosenberg talk when he’s in town. We enjoy Mac social gatherings, faculty lectures, summer sessions, and alumni trips. But the majority of us don’t make a regular contribution to the Annual Fund. It’s a missed connection. And it’s not so much about the money—though that’s important—as about participating in the ongoing life of the school and giving current and future students the type of extraordinary experiences that we all had. Why do so many of us decline to be part of this?

Are we different from alumni of other colleges? Are we just not joiners? Do surrounding cows and cornfields foster commitment? As students, did our urban location dilute our connection to campus? Or does our emphasis on community service lead to a lifelong habit—an admittedly excellent one—of supporting many other worthy nonprofit organizations beyond the college? Do we feel that smaller contributions don’t make a difference? Do we think the ghost of DeWitt Wallace is secretly funding the college?

Yes, Mac is supported by a strong network of generous alumni who participate in funding the college every year—more than 8,000 of you make that commitment annually. And clearly young alumni get this—last year, 60 percent of the Class of 2005 participated.

But why is our overall participation in the Annual Fund markedly lower than that of comparable colleges? What do you think? I’d like to hear your theories and solve this mystery.

Macalester Today doesn’t have room for alumni baby photos...

...but MacDirect does!

Share all your latest exciting news in MacDirect, our free online community for Macalester alumni. It’s where alumni tell each other and the college what’s going on.

macalester.edu/alumni/macdirect

Macalester’s strength and conditioning coach, Steve Murray, and his wife, Katie, snapped this photo of their daughter enjoying the last issue of Macalester Today.
More women’s soccer team members who reunited at Reunion last June. Shown here (from left) back row: Sarah Marsh ’05, Johanna Shreve ’05, Rachel Larson ’05, Jessica Bullen ’05, Julia Shepherd ’92, John Leaney (recently retired coach), Annie Borton ’07, Jo Opdyke Wilhelm ’96, Kerstin Buettner ’97, Sarah Oviatt ’04, Jennifer McKeand ’92; middle row: Kate Ryan-Reiling ’00 (current head coach), Julie Knoll Rajaratnam ’97, Kerstin Buettner ’97, Eva Farkas ’97.

MAC AROUND THE WORLD

Women’s soccer team members who reunited at Reunion in June (from left): Jennie Haire Johnson ’96, Jemma Merrick Perkins ’95 (assistant coach), Paige Fitzgerald ’94, Karen Moen ’87 (former assistant coach), Kate Ryan-Reiling ’00 (current head coach), Julie Knoll Rajaratnam ’97, Kerstin Buettner ’97, Eva Farkas ’97.

Jed Fix ’06 and geography professor Bill Moseley crossed paths in Hong Kong in August 2010. Fix (a graduate student at Fordham University) was in Hong Kong following an internship in the Philippines, and Moseley came through after lecturing at Sun Yat-Sen, University in Guangzhou, China. They are featured here outside a Hong Kong restaurant.

Senior Week Planning Committee last May at the Champagne Toast, the kick-off event for Senior Week. Pictured are 2010 classmates (from left, bottom): Stephen Snider, Oliver Cano, Sarah Mercado, Emily Cox, Grant Reid; (from left, middle): Molly Brown, Claire Vincent, Claire Berge, Maria Princen, Wes Alcenat; (from left, top): Margaret Scott, Amanda Cagan.

More women’s soccer team members who reunited at Reunion last June. Shown here (from left) back row: Sarah Marsh ’05, Johanna Shreve ’05, Rachel Larson ’05, Jessica Bullen ’05, Julia Shepherd ’92, John Leaney (recently retired coach), Annie Borton ’07, Jo Opdyke Wilhelm ’96, Kerstin Buettner ’97, Sarah Oviatt ’04, Jennifer McKeand ’92; middle row: Kate Ryan-Reiling ’00 (current coach), Heather Craig ’90, Karen Moen ’87 (former assistant coach), Karen Houghton ’89, Kristine Lamm ’01, Holly Harris ’00; front row: Jennie Haire Johnson ’96, Anna Bacho Flory ’00, Paige Fitzgerald ’94, Erin Hoople ’05, Lucy Corbett ’05, Laura Neumann Patel ’00, Kristin Covey ’00, Sheri Baker Halvorsen ’94.
In Memoriam

1934
Arthur J. Gregory, 95, died June 4, 2010, in Hockessin, Del. He served as an ensign and communications officer in the Navy during World War II and worked for the DuPont Company audit department, retiring in 1982. Mr. Gregory is survived by his wife, Mary, a daughter, a son, three grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

1939
Loraine Closner Rehder, 93, died June 16, 2010. She served for 20 years as outstate Minnesota’s first female probation officer. Mrs. Rehder also co-owned the 709 Cab and Bus Company with her husband, the late Bob Rehder ’38, and was an active partner in a bowling distributorship founded by her husband and son. She is survived by two daughters, a son, two grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

1940
Richard L. Johansen, 92, of Roseville, Minn., died June 6, 2010. He was a veteran of World War II, served as administrative assistant to Minnesota Gov. Luther Youngdahl, and was public relations director of GTA. Mr. Johansen is survived by his wife, Carol, a daughter, two sons, four grandchildren, a sister, and three brothers, including Wallace Johansen ’53 and Gerald Johansen ’61.

1941
Ivan K. Gesche, 91, of Winnebago, Minn., died May 16, 2010. He operated a family farm until his retirement in 2003. Mr. Gesche is survived by his wife, Delna, two sons, six grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

1942
George P. Katz, 92, of St. Paul died April 20, 2010. He is survived by his wife, Patricia, three daughters, five sons, nine grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

1943
Bonnie M. Youmans, 89, died May 20, 2010. She retired as personnel director at Ivinson Memorial Hospital in 1983. Mrs. Youmans is survived by three sons, as well as several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

1944
Constance Frey Trombley, 91, of Golden Valley, Minn., died June 26, 2010. She is survived by two sons, two granddaughters, and two great-grandchildren.

1946
Lois Baldwin Rynstrom, 86, died June 13, 2010. She taught girls’ physical education at Kirkland Junior High School in the Seattle area. Mrs. Rynstrom is survived by her husband, Roger, three sons, and four grandchildren.

1947
Mark L. Norman, 84, died March 27, 2009, in Naples, Fla. He served in the Navy in the Pacific theater during World War II and later practiced as an ophthalmologist. Mr. Norman is survived by his wife, Mary, three sons, four grandchildren, and a great-granddaughter.

1949
Kenneth P. Awsumb, 91, of Bemidji, Minn., died May 16, 2010. He served in the Army during World War II and began working for the Mead Corporation in 1963. After retiring from Mead in 1984, he launched a consulting service. Mr. Awsumb is survived by his wife, Lois Critchfield Awsumb ’46, two daughters, three sons, three grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

1950
Burrell (“Bill”) R. Board, 84, of Cottage Grove, Minn., died March 23, 2010. He was a veteran of World War II. Mr. Board is survived by his wife, Isabel MacDougall Board ’49, four children, five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

1951
James P. Bowell, 84, of McAllen, Texas, and St. Paul died May 30, 2010. He was a decorated World War II veteran and founded the Sibley Co. and Miller Manufacturing Co. of South St. Paul. Mr. Bowell is survived by his wife, Alicia, four daughters, four sons, and 18 grandchildren.

1953
William J. Duff, 84, of Sun City West, Ariz., and Spooner, Wis., died April 20, 2010. He served in the Navy Air Corps in the South Pacific during World War II and worked for Mobil Oil Corporation for many years. Mr. Duff is survived by his wife, Marjorie, and a daughter.

1955
Mary Hagberg Markquart, 76, died June 18, 2010. She volunteered with several organizations. Mrs. Markquart is survived by her husband, Lee Markquart ’53, a daughter, three sons, ten grandchildren, a brother, and a half-brother.

1957
Lyle H. Habben, 74, of Remville, Minn., died May 22, 2010. He worked on his family farm, at Control Data, and for the Southern Minnesota Beet Sugar Cooperative. Mr. Habben is survived by his wife, Barbara, four sons, seven grandchildren, sister Kathleen Habben Decker ’65, and a brother.

1959
Mary Peterson Forrester, 73, died June 14, 2010. She worked with mentally and physically challenged children. Mrs. Peterson is survived by her husband, Alan, two daughters, a son, six grandchildren, and a brother.

1961
Robert G. Duffus, 83, died July 23, 2010, in Sioux Falls, S.D. He served in the Army Air Corps during World War II and retired in 1983 after 35 years with Aetna Life & Casualty. Mr. Duffus is survived by his wife, Janet McCutchan Duffus ’49, two sons, five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

1963
Dorothee Barclay Kilen, 83, of Longview, Wash., died May 15, 2010. She taught elementary school in Minnesota and California and high school in Oregon. Mrs. Kilen is survived by her husband, George, a daughter, a son, two grandchildren, and two sisters.

1964
Robert J. Leighton, 83, of Venice, Fla., died Feb. 22, 2010. He served in the U.S. Army Air Force from 1944 to 1947. Mr. Leighton is survived by a daughter, a son, and two grandchildren.

1966
Margaret Montgomery Smith, 94, of Traverse City, Mich., died June 10, 2010. She taught at Traverse Heights Elementary School for many years. Mrs. Smith is survived by a son and two grandsons.

1967
Bob Rehder

1969
James D. Grobel, 82, died May 24, 2010. He served as an Army paratrooper before embarking on a career in banking. He became president of First National Bank in Glasgow, Mont., at the age of 33, and served as chairman of First Community Bancorp and president of First Community Bank. He also served as vice president of the American Bankers Association and president of the Montana Bankers Association. Mr. Grobel is survived by his wife, Lois, two sons, four grandchildren, and two brothers.

1970
Ivan K. Gesche

1971
Richard L. Johansen

1972
Kenneth P. Awsumb

1973
Burrell (“Bill”) R. Board

1974
James P. Bowell

1975
Mary Hagberg Markquart

1976
Lyle H. Habben

1977
Mary Peterson Forrester

1978
Robert G. Duffus

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Dorothee Barclay Kilen

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Kenneth P. Awsumb

1987
Burrell (“Bill”) R. Board

1988
James P. Bowell

1989
Mary Hagberg Markquart

1990
Lyle H. Habben

1991
Mary Peterson Forrester
David W. Pratt, 72, of Deephaven, Minn., died Feb. 7, 2010. He worked for 20 years in real estate with Herfurth and Bernet Realities and retired as vice president of investments after 20 years with Piper Jaffray, Inc. Mr. Pratt also served with various county and state library organizations and task forces. He is survived by his wife, Lucinda, a daughter, a son, six grandchildren, a sister, and a brother.

Wallace J. Wells, 74, of Tulsa, Okla., died Feb. 8, 2010. An Army veteran, he worked for Cargill for 18 years and served as president of International Chemical Company for 30 years. Mr. Wells is survived by his wife, Diane Johnson Wells ’60, a daughter, two sons, and four grandchildren.

John E. Stusek, 68, died June 29, 2010. He was a Navy SEAL and worked on the Mississippi River and at the Minneapolis–St. Paul Airport. Mr. Stusek is survived by his wife, Elisabeth, a son, a daughter, two sisters, and two brothers.

Judith K. Lockwood, 60, of Vero Beach, Fla., died July 17, 2010. She was editor of the East Coast newspaper of the Japanese Consulate in New York and the author of several novels. She also worked as a real estate sales representative for Coldwell Banker in Vero Beach. Ms. Lockwood is survived by her parents.

Diane Danes Lo Cicero, 55, died May 19, 2010, in Chapel Hill, N.C. She taught high school math for many years. Mrs. Lo Cicero is survived by her husband, Michael, her mother, and two sisters.

John A. “Jack” Edwards, 57, of St. Matthews, Ky., died May 11, 2010. He was a senior associate at the Schlechty Center, a nonprofit that partners with school leaders across the country to improve education. He is survived by Karen Buckingham, a stepson, two grandchildren, a sister, and a brother.

Mary E. Calvo, 51, of St. Paul died June 18, 2010. She was a public services librarian for the St. Paul Public Library. Mrs. Calvo is survived by her mother, a sister, and a brother.

Beth Epstein-Danner, 50, died March 17, 2010. She served in the South Pacific as a Peace Corps volunteer and ran a hospital in a small town in the Indian Himalayas. She also worked as a family practice physician for the Country Doctor Community Clinic, practiced emergency medicine in White Salmon, Wash., and served as a health officer for Hood River, Wasco, and Sherman Counties in Oregon and as the consulting physician for the Oregon State Office of Family Health. Mrs. Epstein-Danner is survived by her husband, Craig Danner ’81, and two sons.

Heather R. Kimmel, 26, of Madison, Wis., died July 4, 2010. She taught high school mathematics at Colegio Granadino, an international school in Manizales, Colombia. Ms. Kimmel is survived by her parents, a brother, and her grandparents.

Alexander A. Willis, 19, of Havertown, Pa., died unexpectedly on July 9, 2010. He is survived by his parents, a sister, a brother, and his grandparents.

Aref J. Jabr, of St. Paul, husband of Barbara Johnson Jabr ’53 and a good friend to Macalester, died May 17, 2010. He was 86. A native of Palestine, Mr. Jabr helped establish the first Jordanian diplomatic mission in Washington, D.C., in 1950 and represented Jordan at the United Nations. He worked at West Publishing Company for 34 years, becoming manager of statute planning in the company’s editorial department. Mr. Jabr is survived by his wife, a daughter, a son, and two grandchildren.

Mary R. Shepard of St. Paul, a former Macalester trustee, died July 17, 2010. She was 91. Mrs. Shepard was an activist for many years, participating in anti-war efforts as a Vietnam War protestor, an early leader in Women Against Military Madness, and a board member of Clergy and Laity Concerned. She also fought for the ordination of women in the Episcopal Church and was an advocate for economic equality. In 1980 she traveled with a group of 50 Americans to talk to Iranian students holding U.S. Embassy officials hostage in Tehran. Mrs. Shepard is survived by a daughter, three sons, six grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Janis Raatz Rider ’88, 44, died unexpectedly Aug. 23, 2010, while on vacation in Hawaii. Rider excelled at Macalester in three sports, having been a member of the volleyball, basketball, and track & field teams. She’d been an assistant track & field coach at Macalester since 1999 and earlier was an assistant volleyball coach at the college. Rider was the NCAA III national javelin champion in 1988, the same year she placed fourth nationally in the shot put. She was a four-time All-American. Rider was an attorney for the Minnesota State Legislature, helping to craft the language of proposed bills as an employee in the Office of the Revisor of Statutes. She’d also served for the past several years as a director of M Club, the college’s alumni organization that supports Macalester varsity athletics. A memorial service was held at Macalester in the Leonard Center on Sept. 11.
Soccer Dad

BY JAY WEINER

DURING THE FALL semester of 2009 I commuted across the vast spectrum of intercollegiate athletics.

Vocationally, as a journalist, I was writing a white paper entitled “College Sports 101: A Primer on Money, Athletics, and Higher Education in the 21st Century.” Its target audience was university presidents, political leaders, and the media, and its focus was the out-of-control finances of quasi-professional Division I sports. This project was funded by the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics, which has long sought to reform commercialized campus sports—surely a Sisyphean task.

Meanwhile, parentally, I followed with stomach-churning anxiety and intermittent exhilaration the Division III Macalester men’s soccer team, of which my son Nate Juergens ’11 is a member. I suffered from college sports whiplash.

Pondering the excesses of the Big Ten or Southeastern conferences required the meditation—the salve, really—of cheering for the blue-and-orange-clad Scots as they battled on a smaller stage their Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference foes.

We all know that of the possible permutations of words in the English language, these six rarely coalesce: “Macalester qualified for the NCAA tournament.” But last year both the Mac men’s and women’s soccer teams made it to the national post-season promised land. Who needs Division I?

The men’s season started with great expectations, thanks to a core of experienced juniors and seniors, an energetic sophomore class, and some potential among the first-years. But for some reason, the men’s team just couldn’t click. Underachievement clouded September. After the Scots lost a 1-0 lead in the closing minutes of their home game against St. Scholastica—a team from a lesser league than the MIAC—and then dropped the game in overtime, their normally calm coach Ian Barker was visibly morose. He sat in the parking lot between Macalester Stadium and the Leonard Center, chatting with team followers and wondering if Mac athletes had the internal fortitude to fight back from such a defeat.

Soon afterwards at a team meeting, Barker challenged his players to intensify their commitment by a mere 5 percent per player. On a team of 20, he figured, that would raise the level of commitment by 100 percent. It was a neat formula, but at first it didn’t add up. Three-quarters of the way through the regular season, the team was a woeful 6-7-1, having lost to Gustavus in a game that went into overtime and in which the Scots dominated the extra period, only to fall short 2-1. But that defeat was a turning point. Everyone finally got mad, an emotion usually reserved for political science class or when Café Mac runs out of tofu.

If there’s anything that Division I athletes have in common with our gents—who led the MIAC in team GPA last season—it’s that magic happens in sports. A team finds itself and then rights itself. Every game someone else does something special, and a season—whether it’s in Lincoln, Nebraska, or on Snelling Avenue—turns around. After the Gustavus defeat, there was an unexpected rout of St. Olaf. Then came an overtime win against archival St. Thomas. And before you know it, the Scots had stringed together a seven-game winning streak.

Because of the flexible nature of my work and my proximity to campus, I missed just one game all season, a road match in Moorhead, Minnesota, against Concordia College. But I was not alone in my obsession. The parents of defender Jesse Geary ’12 drove 150 miles from Duluth to every home game; his mother, on an academic sabbatical, made it to every road game, too. Thank goodness for audio books and NPR.

At the final regular season game against Hamline, which came during fall break, Mac soccer parents from Oregon, Alaska, Wisconsin, Washington, D.C., and throughout Minnesota assembled to cheer on their sons. It was the fifth win in that delicious streak and clinched a league playoff spot. Afterward, those same parents gathered at our St. Paul home for a victory party. It felt so good that we even briefly forgot about the following month’s tuition payment.

Things got better. On a sparkling November Saturday, the Scots traveled to Northfield to face Carleton in the MIAC championship final. As many as 100 Mac students bused and carpooled down Interstate 35 to witness the joy of the Scots beating the Knights 1-0 and to sing a full-throated, “Mac-al-es-ter is wonderful” on enemy turf.

In the end, before being eliminated in the second round of the NCAA playoffs, the Scots were among the top Division III men’s soccer teams in the nation. As someone who had spent the fall studying the failed economics of big-time college sports, I knew this: The 2009 Macalester soccer season was priceless.

Jay Weiner’s son Nate Juergens is a Macalester senior defender. Weiner’s latest book is This Is Not Florida: How Al Franken Won The Minnesota Senate Recount (University of Minnesota, 2010).
Percentage of students receiving financial aid: 67

Percentage of financial need Mac meets: 100

Average first-year aid award: $33,991

Donors needed to keep Mac accessible: All of us

Ruth Lippin ’65
Annual Fund supporter and volunteer since 1972
Major: French
Hometown: St. Paul
Activities: Reunion committee, James Wallace Society, Great Scots events, and hosts annual Class of ’65 holiday gathering and first-year dinners

Ruth’s gifts to the Annual Fund allow Macalester students to graduate with the lowest loan debt among all Minnesota colleges. Financial aid is just one way your contributions strengthen and improve our college. Your participation matters; support the Annual Fund and maintain our rich tradition of enrolling exceptional students, regardless of family income.

Every step counts.
macalester.edu/giving
First-year students at New Student Convocation