• First-year students settle into school
• Veteran international host family visits European “kids”
• Queen of the coffee beans
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Macalester College

Chair, Board of Trustees
David Deno ’79

President
Brian Rosenberg

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Gabrielle Lawrence ’73

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For Change of Address, please write:
Alumni Relations Office, Macalester College,
1600 Grand Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105-1899. Or call (651) 696-6295. Toll-free: 1-888-242-9351. Email: alumnioffice@macalester.edu

To Submit Comments or Ideas,
Phone: 651-696-6452. Fax: 651-696-6192. Email: macaloday@macalester.edu
Web: macalester.edu/alumni

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More on Alumni Giving
Data suggest that 39 percent of alumni contribute to the Annual Fund while 70 percent of today’s students at Mac receive some form of financial aid (“The Macalister Mystery,” Winter 2011). I was fortunate to be among those students who received financial aid. Macalister’s positive impact on my life is immeasurable. Therefore, I feel obliged to show my gratitude toward the college that provided for me when I was in need. I intend to continue “pay back” as long as I am financially able. After all, the financial aid students receive at Mac is made possible, in part, through the Annual Fund.

Jay Tu ’85
North Royalton, Ohio

Legibility issues
Macalister Today magazine is beautiful and interesting, but it would be a lot more interesting if all the articles were legible. Tiny black type on dark backgrounds just doesn’t cut it for most people over 45. Busy backgrounds, are also a problem, as is white type on a black ground.

“The Gift That Keeps on Giving” (Fall 2010) would be of special interest to older readers—that is, those with less-than-perfect eyes. However, it’s in a small font size. Ideally, anything that you want we older people to read should be in at least 12 point. Many of us would love for the whole issue to be that size, if communication is truly the purpose of the magazine.

On the plus side, I appreciate it when you use the more easily readable serif fonts, rather than sans serif fonts. The serifs help older eyes recognize letters.

Jean McCord ’65
Tacoma, Wash.

Random Mac Tweets

Jan. 6: @Macalester 5 Mac alums are MN legislators: J. Ortman ’86 [R], B. Champion ’87 [D], F. Hornstein ’81 [D], C. Mariani ’79 [D], & S. Peterson ’67 [D].

Feb. 5: @JamieDresher: Raul from facilities @Macalester just fixed the handicapped door of the CC to the building with my bobby pin. Give that guy a raise!

Feb. 7: @Kathy_Kim: Just saw a @Macalester squirrel burrow into the snow, is there a tunnel system that we’re unaware of?

Feb 8: @mechagucha Hey @Macalester, I got your #entertainment issue of Mac Today. Who knew @ladygaga was a fan? Saint Paul aint lookin’ so far from LA anymore.

Feb. 8: @MorphMpls Fun at the @Macalester Alum meetup @BulldogNE. I love me some tater tots with garlic aioli!

Feb 14: @Andreadrecremer The Macalester women’s a cappella group, the Sirens, is serenading one of my colleagues! I love this part of Valentine’s Day :) 

Feb. 16: @Taylr reading Mary Karr’s ‘lit.’ she must’ve gone to Macalester—she mentions a psych prof named Walt Mink. Never knew the source of band’s name.

Feb. 16: @Grinblo Attended an acting workshop by Michael Fosberg today, going to try to make his show Incognito in the @Macalester campus center later today.

Mar. 2: @MPRAFriedrich Mac prez phoned 7,500 alumni and parents—simultaneously—on President’s Day.

Mar. 3: @AmRadioWorks We’re talking about the value of liberal arts education on the podcast this week. With @Macalester Prez Brian Rosenberg.

Mar. 4: @sotav Celebrating Macalister Founders Day in Northern Ireland!

Love Those Hollywood Guys
Three cheers for Sam Ernst ’88 and Jim Dunn ’88 (“Hollywood Roommates,” Winter 2011). How great to see nice guys finishing first. I can literally say they changed my life: Jim helped me get my internship at the Hungry Mind Review over 20 years ago and my wife worked for them at the Table of Contents restaurant. In fact, we met at its coffee bar. These guys have a special place in our lives. Their friendship epitomizes the very best of Macalister and made me thankful yet again for the lasting and truly important friendships I started with many special people back when we were just kids finding our way on Second West and Second Turck, in Roger Blakeley’s “Literature in Critical Perspectives” and beyond.

Philip Patrick ’91
New York, New York

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 Macalister Today. You can send letters to lalmbd@macalester.edu or to Macalister Today, Macalister College, 1600 Grand Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105.
Sixty-five Percent

BY | BRIAN ROSENBERG

WHEN YOU RECEIVE this issue of Macales-
ter Today, the Step Forward campaign to raise
$150 million in support of a range of college
priorities will be less than a year from its
scheduled conclusion at the end of 2011.

We expect the campaign to be successful,
and we know that it has already made and will
continue to make a major dif-
ference in our ability to educate
students. We know that we have
benefited from the generosity of
thousands of alumni, parents,
and friends of the college. In this
column, however, I do not want
to talk about money. (Interesting
question: Can a college president
do such a thing?) Rather, I want
to talk about participation.

Among our most important
goals for Step Forward is to reach
a 65 percent alumni participation
rate. Currently we stand at
58 percent. To put this in con-
text, many of our peer institu-
tions have reached alumni par-
ticipation rates of 75 percent in
recent campaigns, so we do not
believe our goal to be excessively
ambitious or unrealistic.

Why does this matter? That is, if we man-
age to reach our goals for scholarship support,
capital projects, academic programs, and the
annual fund, why should we care how many of
our alumni participated?

We should care for several reasons. Cam-
paings like Step Forward have among their
goals not only raising funds but also strength-
ening a shared sense of ownership of the
college and a shared endorsement of its mis-
mission and purpose. They represent an oppor-
tunity for alumni to show how important
Macalester is in their lives, the lives of cur-
rent students, and the evolution of the local,
national, and international communities our
graduates inhabit.

Fairly or not, the percentage of alumni
who give back to their alma mater is one of the
outstanding faculty and staff working closely
with students produce high graduation rates
and sharp improvement in essential skills.
This is efficiency. We know that the rate of re-
turn—whether measured in economic, social,
or personal terms—of a Macalester education
is high. We believe it more critical than ever
that our graduates serve as our ambassadors
through their work, their testimony about the
college, and, yes, through their giving back.

Participation in the Step For-
ward campaign is not difficult.
Any gift of any size to the Annual
Fund or any other college pri-
ority counts. I can’t resist noting
that our youngest alumni, who
have the fewest resources, are
participating in this campaign
at the highest level—a sign that
Macalester’s efforts today are
highly valued and a wonderful
portent for the college’s future.
I do not believe that the alumni
participation rates for Macales-
ter campaigns in 20 years will be
lower than those of our peers.
I wouldn’t be surprised if they
turned out to be higher.

To those who have already
given to the Step Forward campaign I extend
my deepest thanks. I encourage you to share
your enthusiasm for Macalester with your fel-
low alumni. To those who have not yet partici-
pated, I ask that you consider doing so as a sig-
nal of support for an institution that made a
difference in your lives and whose quality and
values I consider exemplary within American
higher education.

And, of course, the financial help you pro-
vide has never been more critical than in these
challenging economic times. (Rats. I almost
made it all the way through without talking
about money.)

BRIAN ROSENBERG, the president of
Macalester, writes a regular column for
Macalester Today. He can be reached at
rosenbergb@macalester.edu.
MANY PEOPLE HAVE WISHED they could help in a medical emergency. Last January, 22 Macalester students did far more than just wish—they devoted $1,000 apiece and much of their winter break to an intensive three-week Emergency Medical Technician-B (for basic) course, organized by Macalester First Aid.

Macalester First Aid (MFA) is a new student organization bringing emergency medical education and service to the college. In addition to the EMT course, it offers First Aid/CPR classes and holds weekly educational meetings. MFA is led by certified EMT Ethan Forsgren ’11 (Ames, Iowa), certified CPR and first aid instructor Igor Stanceric ’12 (Zagreb, Croatia), and Davis United World College Scholar Terence Steinberg ’11 offer my help,” says Moore. This kind of training, she adds, “could potentially save a life.”

Why spend such a big chunk of winter vacation studying emergency medicine? Rachel Gunsalus ’13 (Los Gatos, Calif.) did it because she believes it could help her future work in international medicine. A sociology major with a concentration in community and global health, Gunsalus is already putting her new knowledge to work as a volunteer in the emergency department of St. Joseph’s Hospital in St. Paul.

As this issue went to press, Forsgren and Steinberg were working on a plan to start an EMT class in Caracas, Venezuela. They will design a model curriculum for the region.

EMT-Bs are trained “to stabilize people and keep them alive, not to solve their underlying medical problems,” says Forsgren. More specifically, they’re able to assess patients and help transport them as well as give them medication, oxygen, and CPR, and to use a defibrillator.

The EMT-B course required three weeks of full-day classes, plus significant homework and practice. Lead instructor Laszlo Alberti of Hennepin County Medical Center (HCMC) brought in speakers such as firefighters, nurses, ER techs, and a toxicology expert. Students who completed the course must still pass the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians exam to be certified.

Once certified, they’re eligible to work for an emergency medical service, including the one MFA is building on campus. At Macalester, EMTs will act under the direction and license of a physician. Fortunately for MFA, Johanna Moore ’03, an emergency medicine doctor at Hennepin County Medical Center, has agreed to become their medical director, available by phone to advise and authorize appropriate care. “I was so impressed by Ethan and the vision the group had for Macalester First Aid that I was more than happy to offer my help,” says Moore. This kind of training, she adds, “could potentially save a life.”

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Two Pain Connections

FROM A YOUNG AGE, Lin Aanonsen was drawn to science by the wonder of it all, and since 1989 she has shared that wonder with Macalester students, teaching them the intricacies of human physiology, cellular and molecular neuroscience, neuropharmacology, and cell biology. “I love teaching cell biology,” says Aanonsen, with obvious awe. “The cell is the smallest unit of life, yet it contains within it the program for its own death.”

Her research, which focuses on the mechanisms of pain transmission in the spinal cord, especially those underlying chronic pain, has involved some 60 students over the years. In 2003 Aanonsen (top) was presented with Macalester’s Excellence in Teaching Award.

Last fall English professor Ping Wang brought to Aanonsen’s “brain” lab the students in her creative writing course on pain and healing. When Aanonsen placed a human brain in a student’s hands, the room was suffused with a reverence both for the organ itself and for the person who had donated it to science.

The power of that kind of interdisciplinary connection has led Aanonsen to teach two new courses. In fall 2011 she and Wang will team teach “Mind and Matter,” a class that will explore the interconnectedness of all things through readings and discussion, lab and fieldwork, and creative writing.

Aanonsen will also teach a first-year course called “The Heart and Soul of Biology.” Although both classes will touch upon science and spirituality, “These courses will not be about preaching,” says Aanonsen. “It’s science, but it’s also about asking the questions—how do science and art, the physical and the spiritual intersect?—while making the classroom inviting to all.”

Aanonsen was recently named the O.T. Walter Endowed Professor of Biology and gave her inaugural lecture in March on the topic “What Pain Can Teach Us.”

“It’s truly a great honor and very humbling for me, especially given that Jan Serie held this chair before me,” says Aanonsen.

In January another recently honored professor, Karine Moe (bottom) of Economics, gave her inaugural lecture, having been named the F. R. Bigelow Professor of Economics.
Grounds

WITH THE WHOLE MAC CAMPUS going green, it makes sense that its grounds wouldn’t be far behind. Below is the first draft of a sustainable landscape master plan for the Macalester campus.

The last landscape plan dated to the early 1980s, according to facilities services director Mark Dickinson, and was no longer guiding plantings and other work. The need to use appropriate plant materials, to deal with storm water, and to manage the grounds more sustainably were all considerations behind this new plan.

Although high maintenance turf will be replaced in lower use spaces, it will be preserved in large open areas, such as in front of Old Main, which are frequently used by the campus community.

Newly Tenured Profs

Jamie Monson of history and Roopali Phadke of environmental studies received tenure and were feted at a February reception in the DeWitt Wallace Library. Monson (far right) teaches courses on African history, African environmental history, and memory and narrative. Recently she has been studying the history of China-Africa relations and technology transfer in the history of Chinese development assistance to Africa. Phadke teaches classes in environmental politics and policy, climate change and energy issues, and water management. Her scholarly interests lie in democratizing science and technology decision-making and developing water and energy resources.
Mitch Glasser ’12 (Chicago) is one of Mac’s standout baseball players this season, garnering praise from head coach Matt Parrington and national accolades. But ask him about his individual season goals, and he shares a particularly challenging one: ”I’d like to hit a fair ball over our 40-foot outfield fence.” Glasser knows this may be tough, noting that Fenway Park’s green monster is a full three feet lower. ”I hit a foul ball over it last year and even that felt great.”

Glasser and his teammates are coming off a strong 2010 season when they had 22 wins, which tied the college’s single-season record. Glasser, who batted .418 in 20 Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) games, was a big part of the team’s success last year. He was named to the All-MIAC team and was also first-team on the Jewish Sports Review All-America Team. In early April 2011 he was named MIAC player of the week.

“Besides being one of the most talented players ever at Mac, Mitch has a level of enthusiasm for the game that very few players can match,” Parrington says. ”He’s a fun player to coach and is perhaps the most athletic second baseman in the league.”

Despite their success last season, says Glasser, he and his teammates have no intention of resting on their laurels. ”Winning 22 games was big, but it wasn’t enough to land us a spot in the MIAC playoffs,” he says. ”I’m looking forward to improving our record. I’d love to be able to look back on my time at Mac and say that my team was one of the best in Macalester history.”
MACALESTER MAY HAVE A REPUTATION as an unabashedly liberal college, but its students’ minds are not closed. In late February, more than 100 students from the political left, right, and center gathered to discuss the importance of civil political discourse in an era of misinformed pundits and ranting talk-show hosts.

The event, “Liberals, Conservatives, and Everything in Between: Bridging the Political Divide at Macalester,” was designed to bring together diverse groups of students and to encourage difficult but important political conversations. Hosted by Mac Dems, Mac GOP, and student body president Owen Truesdell ’11, students representing a cross-section of the political community at Macalester attended.

This speech/discussion was also the kickoff event of a larger initiative called “Build a Better Mac,” which is likewise designed to bridge the divide between political differences (as well as to bring together domestic and international students, athletes and non-athletes, and various academic divisions of the college).

Conservative political writer and journalist Reihan Salam (above) kicked off the evening by encouraging students to be more empathetic to people who don’t share their political views. “We’re at an anxious moment in our country. Everyone feels like they’re on the chopping block, just a few steps from a dark economic future,” he says. “[That fear] colors all of our political conversations, and makes us a lot less generous of spirit.” If you’re willing to engage with those who don’t share your perspective, you stand to gain, he said.

At the talk’s conclusion, students formed small groups to discuss political questions ranging from health care reform to gun control. With an emphasis on discussing rather than being dismissive, students were forced to confront views they may not have encountered within their friendship circles.

For Truesdell, the event’s success depended not on changing minds, but on having students reevaluate their entrenched political positions. “I hope students reconsider their political assumptions, and what makes them believe what they do,” he says.

Adam Freedman ’12, who'd previously been disappointed by the lack of political diversity on campus, was impressed by the attendance and students’ serious engagement with the topic. “I left inspired to support political discourse on campus,” he says. “I hope this presentation is followed by many more events that encourage conversation and debate.”

Truesdell especially hopes that liberal students came away with a practical skill that the college’s Republican students were forced to learn early on: “Being able to work with people you disagree with, and come to a compromise, is something we all need to be able to do,” he says.

—ERIN PETERSON

Health Fellows

A fellowship that supports students and helps underserved populations around the world is newly available at Macalester, thanks to the generosity of married couple physician alums Winnie Mann ’71 and Carter Hill ’71. The Winter Mann-Hill Fellowships support Macalester students’ winter-break research or work in the areas of medicine, health care, or public, global, or community health.

2011 FELLOWS

- Ira Martopullo ’12, biology and Hispanic studies, went home to Albania to work with the Albanian Red Cross on its HIV/AIDS Campaign. He created an informational brochure that the Red Cross can use in presentations to schools and public offices and in training new volunteers.
- Jessica Vaughan ’12, anthropology and community and global health, designed new programming for a teen pregnancy prevention program in Costa Rica. The program’s aim is to raise girls’ awareness about educational and other opportunities and to provide them with tools to plan and achieve their life goals.
- Emily Vollbrecht ’12, American studies and community and global health, developed a brochure outlining HIV-specialized pharmacies and services in the Twin Cities.
- Sarah Ziegenhorn ’11, geography and community and global health, wanted to help the people of the AIDS Centre in Durban, South Africa. She learned to cook Zulu dishes and tested recipes for a cookbook—complete with nutritional information—designed for those with HIV/AIDS.
TODAY’S GO-GO DANCERS may seem far removed from lace-makers of the Middle Ages, but the two professions are actually organized in similar ways, found Jenny Grinblo ’11 (Akko, Israel). Sociology major and Davis United World College Scholar Grinblo recently won a top prize for her paper comparing the occupation of go-go dancing to craft labor guilds of the past. She was one of three Mac seniors to win top spots in the 48th Annual Midwest Sociological Society Student Paper Competition. She shared first place with Evelyn Daugherty ’11 (Ann Arbor, Mich.); third prize was won by Morgen Chang ’11 (Honolulu).

The winners were chosen in a blind review process, says sociology professor and adviser Erik Larson. “I think the judges were surprised that all three top winners came from Mac.”

Why all Mac students? “Good research is driven by curiosity and a desire to solve a puzzle,” he says. Those factors were certainly in play for Grinblo, who became interested in her topic because of a go-go dancer friend. That friend spoke to Grinblo’s first sociology class, “Sociology of Sexuality” with Professor Deborah Smith. Smith encouraged Grinblo to continue researching the topic and they eventually applied for a research grant together. Grinblo analyzed how women working in nightclubs as go-go dancers organized their work in ways similar to the older craft-labor model typical of guilds. However, the go-go dancers’ organization differed from traditional craft labor by creating and enforcing an identity of go-go dancing as distinct from sex work.

Ultimately the Grinblo and Smith collaboration led to the publication of three separate papers. The experience has been transformational for Grinblo, who is now considering a career as an academic. “The opportunity to do research with a professor, take on real responsibilities, and incorporate my ideas in our process gave me the confidence that I could succeed at this professionally,” says Grinblo. “It’s a wonderful feeling to believe in my abilities to this extent.”

Sharing top prize with Grinblo was Evelyn Daugherty, who examined how the U.S. government’s interest in Arabic as a “strategic language for national security” has affected Arabic language instruction at U.S. colleges. She found that government interest in Arabic has spurred a shift from learning classical Arabic for academic purposes to learning modern Arabic for professional purposes.

Chang’s paper addressed the question of how people use Internet technology in social interaction. She found that technical skill and level of offline interpersonal interactions influence how the Internet changes or expands users’ social networks. Users more socially connected in the offline world tend to use YouTube within existing social relationships, whereas those with fewer real-world social connections are more likely to have contact with strangers and feel agency about creating positive interactions online.

Grinblo, Daughtery, and Chang—along with six other Macalester seniors—picked up their awards and presented their papers in March at the annual meeting of the Midwest Sociological Society in St. Louis.
As year one draws to a close, our four first-years are settling in, loving classes, and looking ahead.
Opposite page: Ben (right) plays racquetball with fellow first-year Karl Heinritz in the Leonard Center; This page: Kiah (left) at dance practice with fellow Bodacious members Badhaftu Kadir (center) and Shannon Ashley.
Ben Bernard

TAKING A FOREIGN LANGUAGE has been the biggest challenge for Ben this year. He particularly dislikes getting up early for his 8:30 a.m. Spanish class. However, he’s enjoyed all his other classes, even the ones he didn’t expect to. “My happiest discovery at college,” he says, “is that even the areas of study I thought would have no redeeming value are actually pretty fascinating.”

Although he came to campus expecting to major in English or political science, it’s the psychology classes that have interested him the most, says Ben. He calls “Psychology: Distress, Dysfunction and Disorder” a course “so fascinating and well taught I can’t even bring myself to skip it when I’m sick.” He also likes comparative politics, largely because of “extremely engaging teacher” Andrew Reiter.

But as for choosing a major, he hasn’t yet, adding, “Hopefully inspiration will strike before the end of sophomore year rolls around.”

Ben has found a lot of camaraderie in his residence hall, and reports that many of the guys from his floor hope to stay together next year. They burn off energy doing construction projects, including building a snow fort in the quad and a water pong table out of boards purchased at Ace Hardware.

As for summer plans, Ben would love to take a meandering road trip with high school buddies, but allows that “I’ll have to work pretty much all summer to keep myself in late-night Domino’s pizza next year.”
Sam Leopold-Sullivan

SAM KNEW SHE LOVED ART when she got to Macalester, and by mid-year she’d truly become part of the department. Second semester found her studying both fibers/materials and sculpture (“drawing was full,” she laments) as well as working eight hours per week in the art department “doing whatever they ask—building stuff, taking things apart, cleaning studios, setting up for art classes.”

Altering a book was one assignment in late winter for her fibers/materials class. She spoke animatedly of creating a tiny book and cleverly storing it inside a cut-out section of a larger volume. She’s looking forward to the art classes she can take sophomore year, including drawing, art history, and Fibers 2, and is contemplating a studio art program in the Netherlands for junior year. “It would be a great way to get ready for my senior capstone project,” she says.

Sam has been less enthralled with the dorms than are some of her first-year peers, so she was happy to be considering sophomore year spent in either Russian House or EcoHouse.

As for summer, once again Art Department connections figure in her plans: If no internship works out, says Sam, she may spend the summer working on sculpture professor Stan Sears’s Wisconsin farm.
IN LATE WINTER, Sebastian was still having trouble balancing schoolwork with his social life. Of course, the course load he’d chosen wasn’t an easy one: Intro to International Economics, Intro to International Studies, Single Variable Calculus, and Chinese.

Much to his and everyone else’s surprise, says Sebastian, his favorite class has been international economics, mostly because of Professor Raymond Robertson. “I’m incredibly motivated to keep learning, but if my professor wasn’t such an energetic person I wouldn’t have fun in this class,” he says.

Despite the challenges, he remains committed to earning an economics degree and is looking forward to his sophomore year. But first comes spring break, which he was happily planning to spend in sunny Los Angeles with his best friend from Ecuador.

As comforting as old friends are, Sebastian has reveled in meeting new ones in St. Paul. Asked about his favorite part of college, he answers: “Mac students! I thank life every second for permitting me to meet such charismatic and friendly people as the ones at Mac.”
Kiah Zellner-Smith

AFTER A ROCKY START, Kiah now loves her life at Mac. She was relieved to get an A, two Bs, and a pass in her first semester classes (she chose to take her “really hard” anthropology class pass/fail). This term she’s especially enjoying “Origins,” a class with biology professor and dinosaur expert Kristi Curry Rogers, and continues to plug away at French, with the goal of spending some of her junior year in a French-speaking country.

Kiah has made many more friends as the year has gone on, noting that she has even met a few people working at Café Mac. Like Ben, she has become close with her dorm mates: “I love my floor! We have fun staying up super late and dancing in the lounge when we’re supposed to be studying.”

Dancing, in fact, has become a big part of Kiah’s social life. In February she performed with a group at the Black History Month variety show and also gained a spot on the highly selective Bodacious dance team. “It’s really cool,” she says of the ambitious group, which rehearse twice a week. “I’ve got to learn to move in ways I never have before! It’s good cardio exercise and lots more fun than running on a treadmill.”
The sound of the bagpipe band wafting through the air at Macalester functions seems as engrained in the fabric of college life as the plaid kilts its members wear. In fact both the band and the kilts are relatively new to campus ceremony and might have seemed strange to students from generations before 1948.

That was the year the pipe band tradition was actually born at the college. Professor Ivan Burg brought the idea of forming the group to one of his journalism classes. His intention was to offer a lesson in public relations—to see if his class could promote Macalester to the larger community through the unusual nature of the band and its obvious links to the college’s Scottish roots. Of course, it would be good to learn how to play the pipes, too.

As an indication of their priorities, however, Burg’s students had hardly squeezed their first bags before they sent a letter off to the chief of the McAlister clan in Scotland informing him of the project. Lt. Colonel Charles McAlister not only thought the bagpipe band was a splendid idea, but officially “adopted” Macalester College into the clan, granting the group the right to wear McAlister plaid.

The bagpipe band evolved in fits and starts, nearly dying in the 1950s, but it eventually emerged as one of the most enduring campus traditions. Some 30 years after Burg’s class gathered, a first-year student from St. Louis named Julie Stroud ’81 arrived at Macalester oblivious both of the college’s rituals and its connections to the Scottish highlands. “The first time I entered my dorm room, my new roommate was holding an instrument I’d never seen before,” says Stroud. “It had a strange mouthpiece and a tone like nothing I’d ever heard. She was so intent on learning her fingering that she could hardly pull away to introduce herself.”
Predicting the appeal and longevity of Macalester traditions is an exercise in futility. Their existence and evolution is as quirky and idiosyncratic as some of the rituals themselves. A hundred years ago or so, membership in one of the three dominant literary clubs at Macalester—the Clanions, the Eulogians, and the Athenaeans—was a must for social acceptance on campus.

The organizations themselves then seemed as enduring as the 700-pound rock that had been recently rolled to the campus from the corner of Grand and Cambridge and placed just outside of Old Main, by the Class of 1908.

What was new at Mac in 1915 was the game of Pushball, which had been encouraged by the administration as a substitute for the annual "Capture the Flag" contest between freshmen and sophomore boys. Over the years the flag match had evolved into a sometimes bloody brouhaha, making pushball seem like a lesser evil. A game invented only a few years earlier by a Harvard professor, pushball featured two competing sides trying to guide a ball as big as a Macy's Parade balloon from one side of a field to the other. It was kind of like rugby with the ball itself on steroids, but students loved it. "Pushball has undoubtedly come to stay," announced the Mac Weekly after that first game on campus. And, in fact, pushball turned out to long outlast the Clanions, the Eulogians, and the Athenaeans. The literary clubs died out in the '20s, while pushball has had a Lazarus-like existence, resurrected as recently as the 2007 Founder's Day festivities (and continuing up through the present).

It's fair to say that one tradition at Macalester is that traditions themselves go through cycles. The first Founders Day was held in 1938 in honor of President James Wallace's 89th birthday. In years following, the celebration became an annual and popular campus ritual, featuring Scottish treats and speeches extolling the virtues of Macalester founders and the history of the college. However, Mac students of latter years were not as enthralled by tales of olden times, a fact to which George Bonniwell '61 can attest. He was asked to give a Founders Day speech in 1960, just a few years before the tradition was temporarily shelved. "To say I didn't captivate my audience is an understatement," he says.

Years later, the tradition was resurrected on the occasion of Macalester President Brian Rosenberg's 2004 inauguration. Now celebrated as a kind of campus birthday party, Founders Day shows every indication of resuming its status as an honored campus tradition.

The Scottish Fair is another tradition that was born, died, and was reborn. Originally founded as the Highland Games at Macalester in the 1950s, these field competitions were initially held exclusively by and for Mac students, Bonniwell remembers. He tells of football players in crew cuts and Madras shorts heaving cabers in squat-thrust fashion. The games eventually died out in the late '50s, but came back with a vengeance under President James Robinson in 1972. In fact, the increasing popularity of the Scottish fair finally surpassed the college's ability to host the event, and festivities moved off campus in 2003. (The event, now called the Minnesota Scottish Fair and Games, is held annually at the Dakota County Fairgrounds in Farmington.)
Judy Brown Marquardt ’66 recalls philosophical discussions and eating burgers with her “Grill Rat buddies” at the Mac Grille.
Above: SnoWeek court, 1953 (from left) Georgie McLean ’54, Nancy Brown ’55, Donna Paulsen ’53, and Alyce Erickson ’53; Right: Girls at Frosh Camp, 1939
The 1960s sounded the death knell for a number of time-honored Mac traditions. Both Snow Week and the selection of a Homecoming Queen bit the dust in that revolutionary era. It should be noted, however, that even these seemingly long-lasting rituals were essentially invented from whole cloth not so many years before. In fact, Professor Burg, one of the great inventors of Macalester traditions, had his hand in establishing both.

Back in his student days at Mac in the early 1930s, Burg wrote a Mac Weekly column called “Ice Burge,” which highlighted various doings around campus. He promoted Snow Week as an extension of the St. Paul Winter Carnival, and actually initiated the first Homecoming Queen contest at Macalester in 1937. According to the Weekly, “It was a tradition, which was at the time nonexistent in Minnesota small colleges [but] became front-page material in the St. Paul dailies.”

If the Vietnam era brought an end to some of the previous generations’ more earnest campus activities, 1960s students helped institute traditions of their own. Perhaps chief among these was the political activism that reshaped the campus.

By the time Erin Bowley ’93 arrived at Macalester, the campus was noted for its highly charged political atmosphere, and she jumped into activism with both feet. Before her first month in St. Paul was through, Bowley had helped organize a bus trip to Washington, D.C., to back housing rights (“Everybody was organizing bus trips to D.C. in those days,” she recalls); participated in the grand old Mac tradition of “tabling”—setting up political advocacy tables at the student union; and designed and printed the first of many T-shirts, which likewise advocated for a cause.

“The first one said ‘We all need a home’ and it was printed in a little kid’s handwriting,” she recalls. “Believe me, it was just one of many T-shirts we made during my four years.” So many, in fact, that a friend of hers—who had saved many of the shirts from their college days—eventually turned them into a substantial quilt.

Traditional Mac hangouts have evolved over the years as well. George Bonniwell remembers the Green Mill when it was a burger and popcorn joint owned by an elderly couple named Sy and Edie. “Mac students would go there on their 21st birthdays to celebrate with a schooner of beer.”

Judy Brown Marquardt ’66 recalls philosophical discussions and eating burgers with her “Grill Rat buddies” at Knowlton’s Greasy Spoon on Snelling or the Mac Grille. Aside from serious talk of matters like Vietnam and JFK’s assassination, there were moments of lesser concern. “I learned to play the ukulele and bridge there,” she says. “There was also a popular folk group called Dewey Decimal and the Librarians composed of Mac students, including Don Mackenzie, Pete Malen, Dave Howard, and Bob Stimson.”

For a couple of years in the late ’60s a club called NOEXIT was joined to the Grille through a door draped with black beads. The name of the place was painted just inside the door in fluorescent colors, which jumped in the café’s black lighting, giving it the appropriate psychedelic feel. Underground reading material like The Berkeley Barb and Haight/Ashbury papers added to the ambience, while performers like Leo Kottke took to the stage.

Grant Killoran ’86 arrived at Macalester at the height of the Minneapolis music scene. The NOEXIT had long since exited and campus hangouts had expanded across the river. Killoran remembers vying for free tickets—being given away by WMCN—to shows at First Avenue. “We’d carpool to Minneapolis to see Prince or the Replacements or Hüsker Dü,” he recalls.

Despite these adventures, the traditions that have stuck most with Killoran revolve around particular campus settings and activi-


Above: Painting the rock; Left: Mac students for Stevenson in 1952.
“If the Vietnam era brought an end to some of the previous generations’ more earnest campus activities, 1960s students helped institute traditions of their own. Perhaps chief among these was the political activism that reshaped the campus.”

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Other Mac traditions mentioned by alums include the annual snow brawl on Grand Avenue, Religion and Life Week on campus, the frequency of marriages between Mac grads, and the Macalester bell, which was said to ring whenever a student lost his or her virginity (for years the Mac Weekly carried a column called “Ringing the Bell,” which announced the engagements and marriages of Mac students and alumni).

A more recent Mac grad, Tom Noonan ’01, mentions Macalester graduation ceremonies as among the school’s great traditions. He continues to return to the ceremony, years after his own commencement, just to witness it. “I like to be there,” he says. “It takes me back.”

But even in this moment, the idiosyncrasies of Mac traditions stand out. “The graduations themselves are ‘so Macalester,’” says 1981 grad Julie Stroud. “I don’t think I learned the lyrics to ‘Dear Old Macalester’ until that day. And of course all of us were sitting with our friends rather than in any particular order; when our names were called, people came up from all different corners of the audience. It was a kind of organized anarchy,” she says. “Yet somehow it all worked.”

TIM BRADY is a St. Paul writer who specializes in historical topics. He most recently wrote about Ambassadors for Friendship (Winter 2010).
This page (above and far left): Images from the Scottish Fair, 1958; Left: Sheryl Meinhard ’66 dancing the Highland Fling
HOW A ST. PAUL COUPLE SIGNED UP TO HOST ONE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT AND FOUND THE WORLD.

BY MARK WOLLEMMANN

We were sitting in a Sofia, Bulgaria, coffee shop in early June, sharing a few laughs with Ekaterina “Kate” Petrova ’03 about her introduction to the diversity of Macalester College. She was remembering herself as a first-year student, having just said goodbye to her parents, who were heading back overseas.

“I was crying and I met another girl in the hallway of our dorm who was also crying,” Kate said. “I told her, ‘I know … my parents just left, too.’

“She asked: ‘Where are they going?’ And I told her that my mom was going back to Kuwait and my dad was heading to Kazakhstan. And then I asked her where her parents were going.”

“Duluth.”

We heard similar stories during our recent five-week family trip that reconnected us with our international “children” in Europe. Kate’s anecdote was about culture shock, sure, but also about the challenges international students routinely encounter and overcome during their years at Macalester College, with a little help in some cases from twin cities host families.

* * * * *

First, some background: Our family—me, my wife, Melody Gilbert, and our 3-year-old daughter, Jenna—moved into the Macalester neighborhood in 1992. Before arriving in Minnesota, we’d lived in Florida, California, and New York, so we were looking for something to connect our little family to the community. When I say “we,” I really mean Melody. She grew up in Washington, D.C., and had been a world traveler from an early age. She and her family developed lasting friendships with people from different countries and cultures, so when she heard about Mac’s Host Family Program, she was immediately drawn to it.

I was slower to warm up to the idea. I was working long hours, mostly at night, as a sports editor at the Star Tribune and wasn’t sure how much of my life I was willing to share with strangers. I had lots of questions: Who are these students? Where are they from? How will they react to our modest St. Paul home? What do they want from us?

But my mild resistance was no match for Melody, a documentary filmmaker who coaxes even the most reluctant subjects to share their stories on camera. Because she was determined to give our daughter the kind of international experience she’d enjoyed as a child, I had no choice but to acquiesce.

So it was that in the fall of 1993 we were matched with our first

Photos from a European trip (clockwise from top): Cruising the Aegean outside Bodrum, Turkey, are (from left) Jenna Wollemann, Sinan Arel ’00, Melody Gilbert, and Mark Wollemann; the Wollemann/Gilbert family in Tallinn, Estonia, with Siim Soplempenn ’09; Melody with bride Marie Deschamps ’04, groom Stephan Chiche, and Malilda Svensson ’04 at Marie and Stephan’s summer 2010 wedding; Hanna Kalta ’97 (in black) and Arndls Osk Jonsdottir ’97 with then-preschooler Jenna and a buck killed by Wollemann’s brother, northern Wisconsin, 1993.

PHOTOS BY MELODY GILBERT
Our family now includes at least 13 Macalester international students, and our Macalester network continues to grow.
student, Hanna Kalla ’97, a young woman from Finland who’d spent part of her childhood in Tanzania, Zimbabwe, and Switzerland while her father worked for the United Nations. Hanna’s soft-spoken grace and intelligence were disarming. It didn’t hurt that my mother is 100 percent Finn and speaks the language. When Hanna visited my parents a few months later, she and my mom communicated in Finn and I was charmed by their connection. Hanna even gave her blessing to the Finnish sauna my father had constructed next to their northern Wisconsin home.

My defenses down, Melody seized on the opportunity to adopt another student the next year—Arndis Osk Jonsdottir ’97 from Iceland. Arndis, who had lived and worked in Minnesota before enrolling at Macalester, was outspoken, opinionated, and a little wild. Our first outing was to the State Fair where, on a whim, she and I rode the ejector seat. This giant slingshot propels a two-seat chair, attached by bungee cords, high into the sky before sending its riders plummeting toward earth. As luck would have it, a video camera was attached to the seat, capturing my bug-eyed howls and Arndis’s colorful commentary.

Later that fall, Hanna and Arndis joined us for our annual Thanksgiving trip to Wisconsin, where we feasted on turkey, gave thanks for our good fortune, and warmed up the sauna for bathing and bonding. The two of them had become fast friends (and remain so today) and quickly became part of our family. They didn’t even flinch when, upon awakening the next morning, they wandered outside only to find the large buck my younger brother had just killed as part of Wisconsin’s annual deer-hunting season.

And so it went, year after year, student after student. Many of our kids traveled with us to Wisconsin for Thanksgiving feasts and sauna visits. Some ate turkey and pumpkin pie before retreating to a quiet corner to study. Others enjoyed just being part of a family during a holiday. On one such trip, Albanian student Tomas Peshkatari ’04 wrote in the sauna book: “Sauna is the best invention! The Finns were smart. The Wellemanns’ house rocks! I had the most relaxing time.”

Over time, we became like many other families with multiple children. We stored boxes and suitcases in our basement. We hosted dinners and brunches for our children and their friends. We visited local restaurants. We made trips to the airport (many) and to Target (even more). We visited various stores and garage sales to buy

This page: Jenna (back to camera) and Hanna Kalla ’97 share a joyful reunion in England as Arndis Jonsdottir ’97 and Mark look on; facing page: Melody and Jenna at a British train station with Hanna (in black), Arndis, and Hanna’s daughter, Sophia.
and then haul furniture and appliances. On one of my last furniture runs, Siim Soplepmann ’09 and I drove to a distant suburb for a futon and frame. We had to take the furniture apart just to get it out of the seller’s house and into the car. On the drive back to campus, Siim and I held on tightly as the unwieldy frame hung precariously out the back of the car, swaying as snow blew in through the open hatchback. But, hands cramping and arms sore, we made it, as we always did.

Our family now includes at least 13 Macalester international students, and our Macalester network continues to grow. We have host family grandkids (two, with another on the way) and we’ve welcomed several new sons- and daughters-in-law. One of our first students, Tim Mak ’99, has lived in China for many years but his former St. Paul housemate, Amanda Becker ’99, now works with Melody in the documentary film industry.

As Melody had hoped, our daughter Jenna, now 21, is an accomplished world traveler. As our trip began last May, she had just completed a semester program in Belgium, visiting 16 countries in six months, and making friends from near and far. Her presence in Europe gave us the perfect excuse to travel. So off we went, on a trip we hoped would rekindle our relationships with our Mac “kids.”

This wasn’t an ordinary European vacation. We’d spent months lining up travel plans, consulting work schedules, and coordinating housing arrangements. We reconnected with families who had stayed with us over graduation weekends and with students who had shared their lives with us. We found successful young men and women who sang the praises of their college experience. Marie Deschamps ’04, now living in Paris, said, “Macalester isn’t the kind of school that tries to tell you what to think or do. It opened up our minds to all sorts of ideas.” Including, it would seem, the idea

**AN INTERNATIONAL FAMILY**

**Ekaterina Petrova ’02, Bulgaria**
LOCATION: Sofia, Bulgaria
ADDITIONAL DEGREES: Master’s in European politics and governance, London School of Economics
EMPLOYMENT: Editor for online travel magazine BalkanTravellers.com and freelance journalist

**Tomas Peshkatari ’04, Albania**
LOCATION: New York
EMPLOYMENT: The Carlyle Group, senior associate

**Matilda Svensson ’04, Sweden**
LOCATION: Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo
ADDITIONAL DEGREES: Master’s in law, development, and globalization from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London,
EMPLOYMENT: Associate protection officer, UNHCR

**Marie Deschamps ’04*, France**
LOCATION: Paris
FAMILY: Married in July 2010
EMPLOYMENT: Self-employed artist

**Maxence Paris ’05*, France**
LOCATION: Paris
ADDITIONAL DEGREES: Working on an MA in cinematography from the Ecole Normale Superieure Louis Lumiere.
EMPLOYMENT: Europacorp, script reviewer

**Anja Witek ’08, Germany**
LOCATION: St. Paul
EMPLOYMENT: Starbucks; volunteer organizer for the IWW Starbucks workers’ union

**Siim Soplepmann ’09, Estonia**
LOCATION: Tallinn, Estonia
ADDITIONAL DEGREES: Diploma from the Estonian School of Diplomacy in International Relations and European Integration
EMPLOYMENT: Sales manager for a hotel coordinator

**HERE ARE THE hosted students the Wollemann/Gilbert family have remained close to, in some cases long after their graduation from Macalester. Students listed with an asterisk* were not officially hosted, but somehow managed to become part of the family anyway.**

**Hanna Kalla ’97, Finland**
CURRENT LOCATION: Guildford, England (near London)
FAMILY: Married, 2-year-old daughter, Sofia and 5-month-old son, Luca
ADDITIONAL DEGREES: Master’s degree in intercultural communications and public relations; PhD in organizational communications
EMPLOYMENT: Senior consultant, Hill & Knowlton, London

**Arndis Osk Jonsdottir ’97, Iceland**
CURRENT LOCATION: Reykjavik, Iceland
FAMILY: Engaged, 10-year-old son, Tomas
ADDITIONAL DEGREES: Master’s in organizational psychology
EMPLOYMENT: Self-employed as a consultant and leadership coach, working in many countries

**Tim Mak ’99, Canada**
LOCATION: Singapore
FAMILY: Engaged
ADDITIONAL DEGREES: SAIS program, John Hopkins University
EMPLOYMENT: Law student at Singapore Management University

**Sinan Arel ’00, Turkey**
CURRENT LOCATION: London
FAMILY: Married in June 2010
EMPLOYMENT: Executive director, J.P. Morgan, Emerging Markets

**Marilena Ioannidou ’01, Cyprus**
LOCATION: Limassol, Cyprus
ADDITIONAL DEGREE: MBA

**Geoff Mak ’01* (Tim Mak’s brother), Canada**
LOCATION: Toronto
EMPLOYMENT: City of Toronto, Exhibition Place, Account Executive

**Siim Soplepmann ’99, Estonia**
CURRENT LOCATION: Tallinn, Estonia
ADDITIONAL DEGREES: Diploma from the Estonian School of Diplomacy in International Relations and European Integration
EMPLOYMENT: Sales manager for a hotel coordinator

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of incoming first-years finding refuge and lifelong friendship with their Minnesota families.

I don’t know if our family’s experience with this program is unique. After all, the Friends of Macalester International Students Host Family Program has been in place for 30 years and has involved around 150 families and 200 students. But I know our experience has been important to us.

Our journey began in Estonia, home of the Soplemanns, who stayed with us when Siim graduated in 2009. Siim and his parents, Jaan and Pille, showed off their culture- and history-rich country during five days of sightseeing, even inviting us to enjoy a night of Estonian sauna sitting in temperatures exceeding 212 degrees Fahrenheit. We couldn’t help but recall Siim’s visit to Wisconsin and the Wollemann sauna, which he said “felt like home.” We arrived in Tallinn just days after his graduation from the Estonian School of Diplomacy, where he was the student speaker at commencement ceremonies. And we stayed long enough to sample a traditional Estonian feast, prepared by Siim’s grandmother.

Next we traveled to Istanbul, where Sinan Arel ’00 greeted us warmly, despite his wedding being just three weeks away. Sinan, executive director for emerging markets with JP Morgan in London, spends one week a month in Istanbul and has an apartment in both cities. After our stop in Istanbul, we flew to Bodrum, Turkey, where we floated on the Aegean for three days on his family’s boat and talked about world politics, international conflict, and his lifelong love of the sea. We laughed when Sinan remembered thinking how old I was when we first met (mid-thirties) and how he’s now the same age.

Sinan, like all the students we visited, waved off our expressions of gratitude. “You did so much for us while we were at Macalester,” he said, “it is our pleasure to return the favor.” In fact, as we pulled back into port and said our goodbyes, Sinan said he was just happy we had seen his country as he saw it. “I wanted you to see my Turkey … all the good things that it has,” he said. “When you go back and share that with your family, with your friends, then I’ve done my job.”

Each succeeding step along the journey was filled with natural beauty, incredible history, and a mixture of pride and awe as we re-connected with these accomplished young adults whom we had first met as eager college freshmen years before.

There was Kate (Ekaterina Petrova ’03), now a journalist and editor in Sofia, Bulgaria, who travels widely, writes vividly, and has earned a degree from the London School of Economics. She helped us navigate the streets of Sofia and three days of lost luggage. At one...
point during our stay, Melody noticed Jenna and Kate sitting next to each other in a coffee shop. These two “only children” looked, to a mother’s eye, like sisters, thanks to their Macalester connection.

In Albania, Pavllo and Mira Peshkatari showed us the countryside and introduced us to, among other things, fresh fish for breakfast. Their son Tomas Peshkatari ’04 was stuck at work in New York, so it was left to his parents—who had stayed with us during Tomas’s graduation—to show us around. The Peshkataris, whose English was about as good as our Albanian, gave us a grand tour of their country’s heritage and natural beauty (seaside mountains, beautiful beaches, azure seas), and we reveled in our mutual affection for their son.

In Paris, we found Marie de Schamps ’04, now an artist, who, like Sinan, was busy putting the finishing touches on her forthcoming wedding. Nevertheless, she somehow found the time to prepare a French feast for us. We toasted her coming nuptials with her fiancé, Stephan Chiche, while savoring a delicious bottle of the same wine they’d serve a few weeks later at their wedding. Marie had joined our ever-expanding family because of her friendship with her first-year roommate Matilda Svensson ’04, our official international student that year. As their college years wound down, they became like sisters, much as Hanna and Arndis had years earlier.

Matilda, now working for the United Nations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, couldn’t join us in Paris, but three weeks later, after Jenna and I had returned to the United States, Melody reunited with them both at Marie’s wedding in Marseilles, a sweet conclusion to her trip.

* * * * *

After Paris, we met up with Arndis Jonsdottir ’97 (a consultant and leadership coach in Reykjavik, Iceland) and Hanna Kalla ’97 in England. Hanna filled our bellies with an American-style backyard barbecue in the London suburb of Guilford, and touched our hearts when she told us: “You spent years taking care of us; it’s our turn now.” Hanna, a senior consultant with public relations firm Hill & Knowlton who is expecting her second child, beamed as she watched Jenna play with her 2-year-old daughter, Sophia.

A few days after we had waved goodbye to Hanna and Sophia and returned home, we received an email: “I have a set of your house keys I’ve been hanging on to for years. Shall I mail them back to you?”

No, Hanna, that’s quite all right. You can use them the next time you come “home” to Minnesota.

MARK WOLLEMAN is a sports editor at the (Minneapolis) Star Tribune.
Choosing liberal arts over a music conservatory, Christopher Franklin ’90 became a conductor at Mac.

After years of apprenticing and performing at opera houses throughout Italy, conductor Christopher Franklin ’90 has learned certain strategies for dealing with that country’s unruly musicians, infamous for interrupting rehearsals with loud conversation, laughter, and complaints. “In Italy, they eat conductors for lunch,” says Franklin, noting that it’s sometimes necessary to “start the relationship with a kind of mini-explosion, just to prove that you have fire and conviction enough for them to follow you.” Demonstrating the wide range of gestures he’s perfected from the podium—fiery disapproval, withering impatience, a lyrical upwelling of backbone—he says, “conducting is about charisma, and if you’re not convincing on the podium, you’re going to hear it in the music.”

Though fluent in Italian, German, and French, Franklin recently had to brush up on an entirely different language: Minnesota Nice. He was back in St. Paul last fall, making his debut with the Minnesota Opera in its season-opening La Cenerentola (Cinderella). “Everyone is so polite,” Franklin observes from his dressing room at the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts, recalling his friendly introduction to the orchestra players three weeks before. He was still marveling at the way the brass section (“usually the football players of the orchestra”) listened quietly as he instructed the woodwinds. “They’re all very fine players, and discipline is not a problem,” he says. “Still it’s my job to pick up the rug and find out what’s underneath.”

The son of University of Pittsburgh baroque musicologist Don Franklin, young Christopher spent his formative years in West Berlin, studying violin from age six, and “conducting Beethoven with a pencil in our living room.” After returning to the states for high school, he was keen on finding a college with a strong international program, where he could study languages as well as music. “At 18, I wasn’t ready to decide whether music was my career,” he says. “That’s why Macalester was probably the perfect place at the perfect time. If I’d gone to Juilliard, I would have done music all day, every day.

“If I’d gone to Juilliard, I would have done music all day, every day. But here I played on the soccer team and I was concertmaster of the orchestra,” he says. “Mac was a place where you could try everything and see where it took you.” —CHRISTOPHER FRANKLIN ’90
But here I played on the soccer team and I was concertmaster of the orchestra,” he says. “Mac was a place where you could try everything and see where it took you.”

For Franklin, it first took him to Grand Marais, Ely, and New Prague—the small Minnesota towns where then-music professor Edouard Forner went to recruit Midwestern student musicians while giving his own students a chance to perform for wider audiences. During one of those trips, Franklin got his first chance to conduct an orchestra, “and let me tell you, being a young musician, conducting an orchestra for the first time is a life-changing moment,” he says. “To comprehend that the communicative and expressive qualities of a group of musicians playing together is endless. You’re moving your arms, and they’re playing, and you realize conducting is just the most incredible thing.”

Professor emeritus of music J. Michele Edwards taught Franklin’s first conducting class. She recalls, “Christopher could add the kind of musical significance to his gestures that you don’t see in a lot of first-year students, so he could actually indicate what he wanted to hear. He also listened carefully, which is a critical talent for a conductor, and had a good rapport with people.”

Convinced he’d found his calling, Franklin left Mac with a degree in music and German literature, going on to earn a doctorate at the Peabody Conservatory. Along the way he studied conducting with Charles Bruck at the Pierre Monteaux School for Conductors, worked with Seiji Ozawa at the Tanglewood Music Center, and earned a Fulbright Fellowship to the music conservatory in Saarbrücken, Germany.

The winner of two international conducting competitions, with apprenticeships and performances that have taken him from La Scala to Mexico City, Franklin’s musical CV reads like a world atlas. This year, he’ll perform a U.S. concert tour with tenor Juan Diego Florez, conduct The Barber of Seville in Peru, and tour with Italian orchestras in Padua and Genoa. Though he and his wife, Sicilian soprano Rossella Bevacqua, recently renovated a 17th century apartment in Lucca, Italy, Franklin admits they don’t spend as much time there as they’d like. “In this business, you really have to go where the work is.”

Though equally at home with the symphonic repertoire, Franklin has a special affection for “all the moving parts” in opera, and the creative energy that comes from knowing that “all hell can break loose.” Fortunately, things were incident-free during Cinderella’s run at the Ordway, with reviews praising Franklin’s “uncompromising tempos” and phrasing that “easily captured Rossini’s special ebullience.” Indeed, the Minnesota Opera was so happy with him that it has invited him back next fall to conduct the series opening production of Mozart’s Cosi Fan Tutte.

Although he’s gaining a reputation as a maestro to watch, Franklin much prefers the word mestiere. “Conducting is an art form, of course, but in Italian mestiere means artisan or craftsman. It’s a craft that you learn by doing and watching over a lifetime,” he says. “When I’m on the podium, the times that the hair has risen on the back of my neck have been when I’ve let the orchestra do what it can, just guiding it like a horse going over a jump. When you realize that, you discover that there aren’t many bad orchestras out there,” he says. “Only bad conductors.”

St. Paul writer LAURA BILLINGS COLEMAN is a frequent contributor to Macalester Today.
Lee Wallace ’96 (above) in the Peace Coffee warehouse; Peace Coffee’s own south Minneapolis coffee shop (below right); Wallace’s dog Dixie at word (below, center).
Lee Wallace ’96 may sell coffee, but she and Peace Coffee also produce a better quality of life for their suppliers.

BY BETH HAWKINS   PHOTOS BY JONATHAN CHAPMAN

They don’t call Lee Wallace ’96 Queen Bean for nothing. Ask the CEO of Peace Coffee what’s in that cup of Joe and the answer might be Snowshoe Brew, Twin Cities Blend, or Organic Guatemalan. Or she might describe the bikes that deliver the beans to stores, college campuses, and coffeehouses. Or she might talk about a school that got built thanks to the fair-trade premium Peace Coffee pays the small farmers who grow the beans.

Whatever her answer, Wallace is likely to have a giant grin plastered across her face while she gives it. Her job makes her ridiculously happy, and it shows. It was mostly a lucky accident that she found a position that combines her dedication to social justice with her passions for travel and natural foods.

A few years back, Wallace didn’t want a salaried job at all. She had paralyzed a master’s in public policy and a decade’s experience with business incubators and nonprofits into a comfortable gig as an organizational development consultant. Her plan was to work at home in her pajamas.

One of her clients was the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP), a Minneapolis-based nonprofit that promotes fair trade and sustainability. Fifteen years ago it started a for-profit subsidiary, Peace Coffee, to demonstrate that it’s possible to run a profitable business while also paying living wages to workers both in the United States and in the villages where the coffee is grown.

In 2006, the group asked Wallace to run the company while it searched for a new CEO. Four months later, the staff asked that she be appointed permanently. She doesn’t wear her pajamas, but she does take her dog, Dixie, to the office. “What makes Lee such a great fit is she has a very thoughtful understanding of what Peace Coffee is,” says project manager Anna Canning, one of the staffers who lobbied for Wallace’s hiring. “She knows that balancing the need to be profitable with the needs of our various stakeholders requires lots of conversations.”

Peace Coffee is part of a co-op of North American fair-trade roasters that imports coffee directly from subsistence farmers in 13 countries. The co-op insulates the farmers from the uncertainties of the commodities market by guaranteeing them a fair minimum price—although Peace Coffee pays well above the minimum—plus a fair-trade premium of 10 cents a pound to be used for community development projects.

When she travels, Wallace gets to see the results. For example, in Ethiopia, where one of the co-ops is located, average life expectancy is 48, less than a fourth of the population has access to clean drinking water, and nearly 90 percent live on less than $2 per day. When the growers were dependent on middlemen they got lower prices and couldn’t afford basics like wells and roads. On her first trip there two years ago, Wallace visited a health center with a sign identifying it as the “clinic of the fair-trade premium.” When she returned recently, she saw more new buildings that are a direct result of the financially advantageous relationship the co-op provides.

But big as those improvements are, they’re not what Wallace wants Americans to focus on. “To get people to buy fair trade because X amount of money per bag goes to build a well is too simple and doesn’t address the broader challenges faced by the farmers we work with,” she says. “An equally or more important part of our work is to fundamentally change importing relationships, not engage in charity.” Maybe this is where her Macalester background comes into play, she suggests. “I am way more interested in supporting structural changes, addressing historical inequities, and partnering with organizations as they work to find solutions to their communities’ problems.”

As a child in upstate New York, Wallace traveled frequently with her grandfather, a State Department Latin America expert. A family friend suggested that internationally minded Macalester might be a place where she’d feel right at home. In college, she was encouraged to combine her interests in business incubation and social justice.

Comfortably past the incubation stage, Peace Coffee has been solidly profitable for more than a decade. Every employee earns a living wage, benefits are available even to retail staff, and a portion of proceeds goes to the IATP to support its work. The company roasts half a million pounds of coffee a year in 40- and 120-pound batches at a “green” warehouse in Minneapolis’s Midtown neighborhood. The goal is to make sure the coffee on the store shelf or in the coffeehouse grinder is as fresh as possible, so batch sizes are determined by deliveries scheduled for the next two days.

Deliveries within 20 miles of the roasting facility are made by bicycle and regional deliveries are made by vans running on biodiesel. Peace Coffee is brewed at several regional colleges, including Macalester, and the company recently opened a coffeehouse in Minneapolis’s Longfellow neighborhood. Future goals include deepening connections between customers and growers—visitors to its website can trace the origins of Snowshoe Brew—by holding classes at its coffee shop and bringing farmers to Minneapolis.

Most gratifying to Wallace, the fair-trade movement’s influence is spreading. The company’s custom blends now can be found on supermarket shelves chock-a-block with organic competitors—which is fine with Wallace: “We got our start in food co-ops, but our idea has always been to show that fair trade is not just a niche, it’s a profitable way to do business.”

It’s good, then, to be Queen Bean.

BETH HAWKINS writes for MinnPost and many other regional and national publications.
At 103, **Rev. Noah Smith ’86** is still bringing his sharp mind and gentle spirit to a Minneapolis church.

**BY | ERIN PETERSON → PHOTO | KELLY MACWILLIAMS**

**THE REV. NOAH SMITH WAS 49 when he found his calling. At 74, he enrolled at Macalester. And today, at age 103, Noah Smith spends many of his Sundays standing at the pulpit at the Wayman African Methodist Episcopal Church in Minneapolis, giving sermons in a clear, strong voice. Some might call him a late bloomer. Almost everyone calls him an inspiration.**

Wearing a crisp shirt and tie in the immaculate North Minneapolis home he shares with his wife of 30 years, Hallie, Smith recalls his early years as a drummer. It was the dream of making music that led him to leave his Marion, Indiana, home and travel throughout the Midwest in the 1920s. “There was a group of musicians that needed a drummer, and I saw my chance to leave town,” he says. “It was the jazz age, I liked music, and I decided to go with them.”

He toured with the group through Detroit and Flint, Michigan, eventually landing in Minneapolis, a place he loved so much he made it home. His music career eventually slowed, and he took jobs as a sign painter and dining car waiter on the Great Northern Railway, among other things. But the thread that ran throughout his life, no matter where he worked or lived, was God.

Smith grew up in the African Methodist Episcopal Church and in the 1940s joined an AME Church in Minneapolis. By the early ’50s he’d become an active member of St. Peter’s AME Church in Minneapolis, playing in the church band, reading scripture, and teaching Sunday School. When the minister pulled him aside a few years later to tell him he should become a minister, Smith was flabbergasted. “I said, ‘Why should I do that? God should have called me earlier,’” he recalls. “The minister said, ‘He did, but you wouldn’t listen.’”

After four years of study, Smith became an assistant minister at St. Peter’s. Over the next two decades, he moved among ministries in St. Paul, Duluth, and Minneapolis, but in 1982, searching for more, he landed at Macalester. He contacted religion professor Calvin Roetzel, who directed the college’s Adult Scholar program. Roetzel recalls being immediately impressed. “He was someone with remarkable life experiences, intellectual gifts, and tremendous aspirations,” Roetzel recalls. He immediately admitted Smith into the program.

Roetzel knew that Smith—then 74, older than Macalester alumni celebrating their 50th reunions—would add a valuable perspective to a classroom filled with young people. Smith, for his part, said he gained just as much from the experience as any other student. “In Macalester’s religion courses, we listened to speakers from various faiths,” he says. “Calvin Roetzel told me, ‘Do not argue or debate them, no matter how outrageous their arguments. Listen to them. Find out what they’re all about.’”

Smith found himself serving as a sounding board for students eager to absorb knowledge from his experiences, and by the time he graduated, he had quietly become one of the most respected students on campus. At graduation, he received an award that honored him for capturing the spirit of the liberal arts as a lifelong pursuit—and a standing ovation. Mayor George Latimer proclaimed May 2 Noah Spencer Smith Day in St. Paul. “It was clear that he was a person of tremendous integrity,” says Roetzel. “He was very wise.”

Smith went on to earn a degree from New Brighton’s United Theological Seminary, and has continued preaching. He still occasionally preaches at Wayman and has a variety of other responsibilities at the church, including leading a weekly Bible study, filling in for the church’s drummer, and helping with worship services. He’s happy to tackle anything that’s handed to him, and acknowledges that taking life as it comes is one of the most important lessons he’s learned in his century on the planet. “I don’t set up an agenda for every day,” he says. “I just get up and meet whatever shows up.”

Though he has delivered sermons for more than 50 years, he never tires of it. “I’ll never quit learning,” he says. “I can pick up my Bible any time and find something that I overlooked or that has a deeper meaning. You never retire as long as God gives you life.”

That Smith is still making an impact was clear when he was featured in a recent Minneapolis Star Tribune article about his work at the church. That kind of publicity can give a person a big head, he acknowledges, but he tries to stay humble. “I read that there are more than 400,000 people over age 100, and that number’s getting larger every day,” he says. “Knowing that keeps me from feeling like too big a celebrity.”

Minneapolis writer ERIN PETERSON is a regular contributor to Macalester Today.
The Rev. Noah Smith ’86 was a favorite among his much younger classmates.
at Boulder. Christine Marvin introduced Jessica to her husband, Mike, and was a bridesmaid at their 2010 wedding.

2005

Cate McDonough Ellis and Bob Ellis welcomed the arrival of William Johnstone Ellis in July 2010 in St Paul. Liam joins big sister Sophia Victoria (2½).

Katie Swanson Hansen left the Walt Disney Company in 2010 to start her own company. She is based in Minneapolis and provides marketing and communications services to clients around the world (khansen417@gmail.com).

2006

The Class of 2006 will have its 5th Reunion June 3–5, 2011. See macalester.edu/alumni/reunion.

Laura Bower graduated cum laude from the University of Virginia School of Law. She is an associate at the law firm of Abrams & Baylis LLP in Wilmington, Del.

2008

Alexandra Douglas has served as an election observer in Burundi, Rwanda, and Kenya while working as the program manager for a women’s clinic in Bujumbura, Burundi.

2009


2010

Rose Friedman received the New York State Labor History Association’s Barbara Wertheimer Prize in Labor History for her essay “The IWW and the Mesabi Miners, 1916-1917.” She lives in Washington, D.C., and is an intern at National Public Radio.

Books


Chris Barsanti ’94, Filmology (Adams Media, 2010)

Charles Baxter ’69, Gryphon: New and Selected Stories (Pantheon, 2011)

Kimberley Brown ’74 and Shaw Smallman, Introduction to Global National Studies (University of North Carolina, 2011)

Eric Dregni ’90, Vikings in the Attic: In Search of Nordic America (University of Minnesota, 2011)


Olga M. Gonzalez, assistant professor, anthropology, Unveiling Secrets of War in the Peruvian Andes (University of Chicago, 2011)

David H. Hopper, James Wallace Professor of Religion Emeritus, Divine Transcendence and the Culture of Change (W.B. Eerdmans, 2010)


Joe Kutchera ’92, Latino Link: Building Brands Online with Hispanic Communities and Content (2011, available through Amazon)

Mark Maggio ’80 (with siblings Rosalie, Frank, Patrick, Kevin, Mary, Matthew, and Paul Maggio), Pieces of Eight: Still Best Friends After All These Years (2011, available from Amazon)

Erica M. Nielsen ’03, Folk Dancing (ABC Clio, 2011, from the series The American Dance Floor)

G. Michael Schneider, retired computer science professor, On The Other Guy’s Dime: A Professional’s Guide to Traveling Without Paying (Tasora, 2010)
I’m the first to admit that a college reunion is a weird concept. We return to the place where we had remarkable, transformative experiences years ago. We remember the professors who challenged us, the smells of the stairways, the walks along Summit Avenue to the river, the elm tree canopy. And we remember each other—the people with whom we shared a brief but intense period, a time of unparalleled intimacy for many of us.

And even though we know better, we half expect everything and everybody to be the same when we return to campus. Of course, things are different: The elms are gone, people are walking around talking into their hands, and there are new buildings everywhere. We have also changed, grown up, started careers and families, moved away, and made new friends. But our memories remain constant and we carry around comforting images of our classmates for years. (He was a fabulous dancer; she was the prankster.) And we know that others carry equally outdated images of us. It can be strange when our past and present collide.

Another odd thing about reunions is the mythology we construct around them. Reunions are often a measuring point for us, a time when we take stock of our lives. My psychologist friends assure me that reunion fantasies are common. You know—the one where we come back to campus brilliant, successful, slender, with perfect trophy families and impress everyone, especially that old flame. When we haven’t exactly achieved that dream, reunion phobia can occur and it can become easier to avoid the whole thing, to stay home and watch television.

Some people are convinced that reunions are exclusive gatherings of successful people you don’t know, who don’t want to know you. They have visions of long, dull programs with excessive fundraising and cheerleading. Others are convinced that because they lived off campus or worked during college, they won’t know anyone, no one will talk to them, and they’ll end up feeling as awkward and shy as a first-year student.

But Reunion is different here. Which shouldn’t surprise you because, after all, this is Macalester. Reunion here is more like a small-town festival, like the Vidalia Onion Festival or the Hopkins Raspberry Festival or Askov Rutabaga Days. It’s bigger than your class; it’s an all-class event. It’s a campus festival, a celebration of unique community spirit, an opportunity to explore the beautiful campus, hear provocative ideas from professors, and listen to music performed by alumni musicians. Think parades, picnics, town bands, little kids dancing, different generations sharing stories, and everyone enjoying ice cream.

This is your community, a collection of diverse and interesting people who share common values and experiences and where you are always welcome. Reunion may be a weird idea, but it works because it brings our pasts, presents, and futures together in a personal way, at the place where we began our journeys and with the people who once traveled with us. We’re looking forward to seeing you again!

“I was so much older then, I’m younger than that now.” —Bob Dylan
In Memoriam

1930

Burette Fisk Foss, 99, died Nov. 28, 2010. She is survived by her son, Loren Foss ’63, daughters Margaret Foss Poitzsch ’58 and Carolyn Foss Thompson ’67, eight grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren.

1931

Lillian Koch Meier, 102, of St. Paul, died Jan. 9, 2011. Mrs. Meier had a 40-year career as a social worker with Ramsey County. In 1998 she received the Care Providers of Minnesota Adult Volunteer of the Year award. She was an 80-year volunteer at St. Paul’s Church Home and served on its board for more than 20 years. She was preceded in death by her husband, Albert G. Meier, one sister, and five grandchildren.

1934

Dorothy Strunk Schilling, 98, of Northfield, Minn., died Dec. 23, 2010. She worked for Carleton College in various positions, most recently as administrative assistant to the president. She also operated a dairy farm with her late husband, sold antiques, and sponsored an annual Christmas craft fair. Mrs. Schilling is survived by four daughters (including Jeanette Schilling Messersmith ’68), a son, eight great-grandchildren, and eight great-great-grandchildren.

1935

Dorothy Jean Kane Marquardt, 97, of San Diego died Nov. 29, 2010. She worked in the Hinsdale, Ill., school system, for the Macalester Dean of Students Office, and for a national child development study at the University of Minnesota. Mrs. Marquardt is survived by a daughter, son Steve Marquardt ’65, daughter-in-law Judy Brown Marquardt ’66, and granddaughter Sarah Marquardt ’93.

1939

Josephine F. Cowern, 93, of North St. Paul, Minn., died Dec. 4, 2010. Willard E. Peterson, 97, of Willmar, Minn., died Dec. 16, 2010. He practiced medicine in Willmar for 33 years and served on the state boards of directors of the Tuberculosis Association and the American Lung Association. He retired in 1979. Dr. Peterson received the Sigurd Olson State Conservation Award in 1982 for supervising stream restoration on the Straight River. He is survived by a daughter, two sons, nine grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren.

1940

Norman K. Elliott, 95, died Jan. 26, 2011. He served in the Army during World War II and worked at Macalester from 1945 to 1946. He joined Macalester Park Publishing Company, a business operated by his father-in-law, Macalester professor Glenn Clark, and expanded the business to include a bookstore and church supply house. He also wrote four books, edited Clear Horizons Magazine and OSL Sharing Magazine, and provided spiritual counseling for more than 30 years as executive director of Release Incorporated. Mr. Elliott is survived by his wife, two daughters, and two grandchildren.

1941

William W. Havercost, 92, of Whitefish, Mont., died Nov. 4, 2010. He served in the Army during World War II and in the Reserve Corps. During a 28-year career as a university librarian, he worked at Humboldt State University, California State University at Chico, Usbriidge College in London, and Plattsburg State University of New York. Mr. Havercost is survived by his wife, Ann, a daughter, a grandson, and three great-grandchildren.

1942

Walter H. Carlson, 92, of Roseville, Minn., died Dec. 16, 2010. He served in the Army during World War II and the Korean War. He worked for various Minnesota state agencies and retired from the Minnesota State Employment Service in 1980. Mr. Carlson is survived by a daughter, three sons, numerous grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and a brother.

1943

Betty Alexander Hanna, 88, died Nov. 17, 2010, in Chino Hills, Calif. She received a master’s in mathematics from the University of Chicago in 1945. Mrs. Hanna is survived by her husband, Edward, son Charles Hanna ’70, and a daughter.

1944

Ethelyn Habicht Gustafson, 86, of Rapid City, S.D., died March 9, 2010. She is survived by a daughter, a son, two grandchildren, and a sister.

1946

Gwendolin Eilrod Carlson, 90, of Bichfeld, Minn., died Feb. 7, 2011. After training as a nurse she worked at Minneapolis General Hospital for 20 years. Mrs. Carlson is survived by a stepdaughter, a stepson, numerous grandchildren, and two brothers.

1948

Marian Proctor Brokken, 85, of St. Paul died Dec. 26, 2010. She taught high school and elementary school. Mrs. Brokken is survived by two sons and four grandchildren.

1949

Anne Teisberg Christopherson, 90, of Webster City, Iowa, died Dec. 31, 2010. She served as a second lieutenant in the Army during World War II and spent 15 years as director of nursing at Trinity Regional Hospital. Mrs. Christopherson is survived by her husband, Orval, a sister, and two brothers.

1950

Harley L. Danforth, 86, died Jan. 17, 2011. He served in the U.S. Air Force in England during World War II. After working for the First Trust Company for 35 years, he retired to a hobby farm near River Falls, Wis. Mr. Danforth is survived by his wife, Mary Robertson Danforth ’49, two daughters, three sons, 11 grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

1951

Hildrud Kellogg Jenkins, 82, died Oct. 21, 2010, in Englewood, Colo.
She is survived by her husband, Thomas, a daughter, three sons, seven grandchildren, a sister, and two brothers.

Eunice Yukel MacLeod, 85, of St. Paul died Sept. 9, 2010. She is survived by her daughter, Laurie MacLeod ’76, a son, a grandson, and a great-grandson.

1951
Norman C. Rone, 88, of New Auburn, Wis., died Nov. 18, 2010. He served in the U.S. Navy in the South Pacific from 1944 to 1945 and taught high school science and math for 26 years in Minnesota and Wisconsin. He retired in 1979. Mr. Rone is survived by a son.

E. William Sevetson, 81, of New Brighton, Minn., died Nov. 18, 2010. He is survived by a daughter, four grandchildren, and brother Donald Sevetson ’54.

1952
Detores Bergen DeLong, 80, of Northfield, Minn., died Dec. 31, 2010. She worked at Ferman’s for 20 years. Mrs. DeLong is survived by her husband, Orrin DeLong ’51, two daughters, two sons, seven grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and a sister.

Ruth Zoske Maday, 79, died July 15, 2010. She was a fitness expert with the YMCA. Mrs. Maday is survived by her husband, Bernie, a daughter, a son, three grandchildren, and a sister.

William P. Philipp, 81, died Dec. 24, 2010. He taught physical therapy at Marquette University and served as a physical therapist at Lutheran General Hospital for 21 years. As an ordained minister, he served churches in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Illinois. Mr. Philipp is survived by his wife, Lois, two daughters, two sons, three grandchildren, and his brother, Thomas Philipp ’58.

1953

Barbara J. Nelson, 81, of Moorhead, Minn., died Nov. 28, 2010. She taught in southwestern Minnesota and did secretarial work.

Dale W. Peterson, ’79, of St. Cloud, Minn., died Dec. 28, 2010. He was a professor of history at St. Cloud State University, retiring in 1994 after 28 years there. Mr. Peterson is survived by his wife, Patricia Jensen ’53, three daughters, two sons, a granddaughter, and a brother.

1954
Lynn G. Carlson, ’78, of Minneapolis died Dec. 25, 2010. She is survived by a daughter, a son, three grandchildren, two sisters, and a brother.

1955

Ann Colle Rogers, ’82, passed away in Oakland, Calif., on February 16, 2011. Born in Minneapolis to Emily and Alfred Colle (founder of Colle-McVoy Advertising), she lived in Oakland and New York City and, with her late husband, Col. John H. Rogers, USMCR(R), had earlier lived in Arlington, Va., Atlanta, Grand Forks, N.D. and Chapel Hill, N.C. She had a BA from the University of Minnesota and a master’s in education from Macalester. Ann taught foreign languages in Lake Forest, Ill., and was an administrator at the American Language Center, the Institute of International Education, and the Minneapolis College of Art and Design. She is survived by a son, a stepson, a sister, four grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

1957
Richard A. Dahlquist, ’80, died Nov. 19, 2010. He worked at KRDU/KJOY in Dinuba, Calif., from 1980 to 1997, retiring as chief engineer, then worked part time at CBS Radio Infinity in Fresno, Calif., for two years. Mr. Dahlquist is survived by his wife, Anna Marie, two daughters, a grandson, and two brothers.

Judy Pederson Vincent, ’75, of Marine on St. Croix, Minn., died Nov. 23, 2010. She taught elementary school in San Clemente, Calif., and was a substitute teacher in Frederic, Wis. Mrs. Vincent is survived by her husband, David, a daughter, three sons, eight grandchildren, and a brother.

1958
Kenneth L. Lewis, ’74, of Irene, S.D., died Dec. 2, 2010. He served in the U.S. Army and worked as a social studies teacher and farmer. Mr. Lewis is survived by his mother, a sister, and a brother.

Alice Peckworth Wing-Leonard, ’75, died Dec. 6, 2010, in Yuba City, Calif. She was a schoolteacher and a librarian. Mrs. Leonard is survived by a daughter, a son, a sister, and a brother.

1960
John H. Bennett, ’72, of Kalamazoo, Mich., died Nov. 13, 2010. He taught high school English and creative writing in Kalamazoo for 35 years, receiving the Influential Educator Award several times. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth Wright Bennett ’60, a daughter, a son, two granddaughters, and a brother.

1961

Dorothy A. Pollema of Lewiston, Minn., died Dec. 15, 2010. She worked as area editor for the Rochester, Minn., Post-Bulletin and later taught in the Dover-Eyota schools. Ms. Pollema is survived by a brother.

1964
Robert W. Stimson, ’68, of Bloomington, Minn., died Jan. 12, 2011. After serving in the Minnesota Air National Guard and working as an industrial film producer, he worked for a British electronics manufacturer. After returning to the United States, he launched his own international manufacturers’ representative business and Airline Advertising, Inc. Mr. Stimson also performed as a musician with numerous groups, including Dewey Decimal and the Librarians, while at Macalester. He is survived by his fiancée, Holly Ylinen, and brother Ronald Stimson ’66.

Edward Swanson, ’69, of St. Paul died Dec. 10, 2010. He was a librarian with the Minnesota Historical Society and MinnPost at the University of Minnesota. Mr. Swanson is survived by his life partner, Carsten Slostad, a sister, and a brother.

1967
Karen Oswald Eastwood, ’65, of Fort Myers, Fla., died Nov. 25, 2010. After serving in the Peace Corps as a teacher in the Northern Marianas Islands and teaching at Niagara University, she was a professor of management and a founding faculty member of Lutgert College of Business at Florida Gulf Coast University. Mrs. Eastwood is survived by three sons and a sister.

Cynthia Sayen Sharp, ’65, died Nov. 29, 2010. She volunteered with school library programs and other organizations. Mrs. Sharp is survived by her husband, M. Kent, and two sons.

1972
Richard “Rick” B. Eiben, ’60, of Cedar Falls, Iowa, died Nov. 14, 2010. He worked as a custom cabinet, furniture, and door maker with Summit Door until his retirement. Mr. Eiben is survived by his mother, a sister, and a brother. Mr. Eiben’s family is establishing an endowed scholarship at Macalester in his memory.

1973
Susan Peters Carlson, ’59, died Jan. 22, 2011. She worked in banking for 35 years in Minnesota and California, most recently as senior vice president at Pacific Valley Bank in Salinas, Calif. Mrs. Carlson is survived by her husband, Chuck Carlson ’67, a daughter, three sisters, and two brothers.

1977
Gregory S. Lindstedt, ’56, died Nov. 10, 2010. He taught science in Hawaii for many years. Mr. Lindstedt is survived by his parents and a sister.

1984
Dana R. Rutherford, 48, died Dec. 13, 2010. He worked in reprographics. Mr. Rutherford is survived by a half-sister and a brother.

2011
Majid Omar Al Futtaim died on March 19, 2011, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.
Midlife Golf

THIRTY-FIVE YEARS AFTER graduating from college, I am obsessed with golf.

To put this in perspective, consider that one of the reasons I chose Macalester in the first place was the absence of a physical education requirement.

So how did this golf obsession develop? A variety of complicated reasons, I suppose, as with so many life choices. One of the biggest reasons must have been the abundance of beautiful golf courses in my Four Corners world. Add to this the fact that at work I had been moved into an office without a window. I needed to get outside and experience our celebrated New Mexico sunlight.

So two years ago, my friend and teaching colleague Joan and I looked at each other over coffee one day and said, “Let’s sign up for golf.” We each credit the other for introducing the idea, and in the end it doesn’t matter. The important thing is that once we were registered, we had an obligation to each other to carry on.

On the first day of class, we loaded our loaners and thrift shop clubs into the car and drove out to Riverview Golf Course, west of town. It was March, and that day lived up to expectations for a spring day in the high desert of New Mexico: The wind was howling. We got dust in our teeth just walking into the pro shop.

On that first day, we filled out a form for our teacher. On this form I was forced to confess my age and lack of athletic ability. But this form also asked a profound question, “What do you want to learn here?” Indeed, this experience was all about learning something new.

On that first day, we sat in the snack bar with the Kirtland Middle School golf team and watched a video. I learned what to do if a seagull picks up my golf ball during a round.

A week later, the wind died down and we were out on the course with our clubs. Our teacher was the Riverview Golf Pro, a large guy who chomped on unlit cigar stubs and drove around in a golf cart with his Weimaraner, Annabelle.

This was a teacher who believed in active learning. He showed us how to drive a golf cart and took us out to the first tee. He demonstrated teeing up the ball. Then he pointed to a tiny red flag hundreds of yards away and said, “See that flag? Hit it over there.” “But,” we said, “we don’t know how to do that.” “This is how you’re going to learn,” he said. “Try. Just try. When I see what’s going on, we’ll go back to the driving range and work on basics.” And that’s exactly what we did.

I missed the ball. A lot. But I kept trying. Some days we learned golf basics on the driving range and putting greens. Other days we went out on the course. We learned to play by playing. Little by little, it got better.

What happened here? After being a teacher for more than 30 years, I learned to be a student again. I remembered what it is like to be a beginner and be afraid of humiliation. I was reminded that a good teacher understands this, supports the student, and allows her to find her own way by practicing and trying again and again.

And I reconnected with my lifelong learner self. I remembered how Macalester had such a large role in imprinting this value in me—there will always be new things to learn. There will always be new places, new people, new situations that can teach me.

Please note that I make no claims to being any good at this sport. But there will always be new fairways to explore and new ways to try to get that crazy little ball into the hole all those hundreds of yards away. I will always find new things to learn.

VICKI HOLMSTEN ’75 is an associate professor of English at San Juan College in Farmington, New Mexico.
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