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ON THE COVER: Maddie Arbisi ’14 (left) and Vin Malwatte ’13 (right) in the DeWitt Wallace Library (photo by David J. Turner)
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Virtually Together

BY BRIAN ROSENBERG

President Brian Rosenberg addressed the following remarks to the congregation of St. Paul’s House of Hope Presbyterian Church on “Macalester Sunday,” February 3, 2013.

Being here puts me in mind of the inexorable passage of time. When I last assumed the role of preacher in this place, my two sons were boys. Now they are young men. I had yet to congratulate my fourth class of Macalester graduates, and this May I will congratulate my tenth. The Colts were hours away from defeating the Bears 29 to 17 in the Super Bowl. Lehman Brothers and Borders existed and the iPhone and Twitter did not. And, in the unlikely event that you have forgotten, my topic that day was the meaning and importance of higher education.

This morning in 2013 my topic is different.

In recent months I have been prompted by occasions of loss and deep sadness to think more about the nature of community. These months have seen an unusually high number of those I care about grow ill or pass away or be felled to their knees by overwhelming grief. Some of this, I know, is a consequence of my own aging and the inevitable aging of close friends and acquaintances. But aging does not explain the loss at the start of the school year of a 19-year-old Macalester exchange student in an accident only a mile from where we sit, or more recently the almost inconceivable loss of the beautiful 20-year-old daughter of friends and colleagues in an accident on the other side of the world. To me, nothing explains such things.

For many of us, grief begets reflection about the most profound and elusive concepts: love and faith, fairness and chance, friendship and family. And I have indeed thought about each of these things. But I keep returning to the subject of community, perhaps because it is so frequently discussed in my own particular professional sphere and because I have become so distressed at signs of breakdowns in community that threaten many of the things in which I most passionately believe.

Turn on the television, if you must; watch the news, if you dare; and ask yourself if we appear to be creating the kinds of communities in which we want our children and grandchildren to live. Ask yourself if the fact that we can be exposed to more information more rapidly and make our thoughts public with the click of a mouse or the touch of a screen has made us behave with more wisdom and civility. Ask yourself if we are more likely to empathize with those whose perspectives are different from our own.

It is both easy and tempting to imagine a future in which technology will allow us to do away with many of the forms of direct personal contact that have long established the basis of community. We need no longer be on the same continent, let alone in the same room, to have face-to-face conversations. We no longer need to have met someone to consider him or her a “friend” as that term has been redefined by social media. If we telecommute, we no longer need to be in a room with our coworkers, and if we take an online course we no longer need to be in the same room as our teacher. We can shop without seeing a salesperson. We can speak volumes, and all too often we can shout, while concealing our identities beneath avatars and user names and aliases. We can in fact move daily through an entire world without experiencing what would have been defined only 20 years ago as direct human contact. One could make a credible case that the nature of community has changed more fundamentally during the past two decades than during the previous two millennia. When I began my own academic career not so very long ago, there was no e in front of the word mail.

There is much to admire and embrace within this brave new world. I love the fact that I could see my older son from the comfort of my living room while he was studying in France. I love doing my Christmas shopping in my pajamas. I am in awe of the deep new forms of learning being created at Macalester through the imaginative use of technology. I am humbled by students’ ability to manage and manipulate information in ways I cannot even begin to comprehend. I recently returned from a trip to Silicon Valley, where I visited Macal-
ester alumni at the headquarters of Facebook and Google and came away impressed not only by their brilliance but by their commitment to making the world a better place. There is both wonder and a sense of inevitability in what we see unfolding so rapidly around us.

But while there is much here to inspire excitement, there is also much to inspire caution. Technology has the power to expand and democratize knowledge and services and to make essentials like health care and education available to millions for whom they are now out of reach. In that sense it has the power to create a more just and prosperous global community. But it also has the power to reinforce current inequalities and to create new ones.

In this country, and especially and sadly in Minnesota, there are enormous and growing disparities that threaten our prosperity and our civic life: disparities that begin with educational opportunity and expand to include income, health, safety, freedom, and hope. I have gone so far as to describe the existence of two Minnesotas: the one most of us in this room get to experience and the one experienced daily by many who live only blocks away.

While technology has the power to weave together these two Minnesotas and eliminate many of the differences, it also has the power to pull them further apart. It is not difficult to imagine a future in which those with means attend colleges like Macalester, rich above all in human contact, and those without means are taught on-line; in which those with means visit doctors’ offices and those without receive medical advice via computer; perhaps even one in which those with means worship in beautiful sanctuaries like House of Hope and those without join virtual spiritual communities.

The same tools, in other words, that have the power to reduce inequities also have the power to increase them. The difference between these two outcomes lies not in the tools themselves but in the determination and goals of those who wield them. We will decide whether technology shrinks or expands the yawning gulf between the most and least fortunate in our state, our country, and our world. We will decide whether technology strengthens or dissipates community. We will decide whether reality becomes a luxury good.

And begin the process of healing, knowing that healing may never be complete. Why do we do this? We do it because the touch of a hand, the look of caring in an eye, are what define us as human. “Stable communities,” according to Kurt Vonnegut, are places in which “the terrible disease of loneliness can be cured.” Both those experiencing grief and those providing comfort are vulnerable to that disease, and both draw strength from the curative power of gathering together. And such power is not confined to times of sadness but is equally necessary in times of great joy. Thus we gather, too, to celebrate births and marriages and graduations: to sing, to dance, to cry out with pleasure. There are few forms of loneliness more profound than experiencing joy alone.

Wendell Berry has written: “I believe that the community—in the fullest sense: a place and all its creatures—is the smallest unit of health and that to speak of the health of an isolated individual is a contradiction in terms.” The question, then, is whether the new virtual communities we’re creating are indeed units of health. My honest answer is, I don’t know.

We now that such communities are larger and faster and cheaper. To build an online college or an online church costs a fraction of what it costs to build a campus or a cathedral. This does matter. But at what price do we purchase these savings? Nate Silver, our first celebrity statistician, has found evidence that when people hold strongly partisan beliefs, more information actually leads to less agreement. Information, which technology provides in abundance, is not enough in itself to create community. Creating community requires interacting in ways that break down the barriers our beliefs incline us to construct and the information we choose reinforces.

I am the president of the kind of college whose time, some believe, is soon to pass: a place of physical classrooms, green spaces, an actual library, rooms where people gather to eat and talk and play. That access to such a place has become so expensive is a problem; that so few young people experience such a place is unfair.

But is the answer to this unfairness eliminating some of the most enriching and inspiring settings we can create? It seems appropriate on Macalester Sunday to say this: The fundamental value of our college lies in how it brings together people from all over the country and the world to create a community with strong and lasting bonds. In such a community we learn better, live better, and undergo a more profound transformation than we would alone.

Perhaps this will one day be supplanted by a world of massive open online courses, each of us gazing in solitude at screens. Our teachers, classmates, and friends will be measurable in pixels. If so, something of great value will have passed away. I hope instead that we can create a future in which places like Macalester are preserved but made more affordable and accessible through the technological tools the human mind continues to provide us.

Allow me to offer you one last quotation, from Henry David Thoreau. “I have heard,” Thoreau wrote, “of a man lost in the woods and dying of famine and exhaustion at the foot of a tree, whose loneliness was relieved by the grotesque visions with which, owing to bodily weakness, his diseased imagination surrounded him, and which he believed to be real. So also, owing to bodily and mental health and strength, we may be continually cheered by a like but more normal and natural society, and come to know that we are never alone.”

Now, I do not believe that the virtual community is either grotesque or diseased, though at times one might think so after reading some of the anonymous comments posted. But I do believe that such communities are to real human contact as visions are to reality: a simulacrum, a likeness. Like visions, they can be beautiful or frightening, instructive or distracting. Like visions they come at nothing like the cost of actual experience. But also like visions they are in the end bodiless, and the fulfillment they provide is fleeting. Like the visions of the man in Thoreau’s tale, they can sustain us when no actual human contact is possible, but they should never be seen as an adequate substitute for that contact.

The eyes I want to gaze into are moist; the hand I want to touch is warm; the crowd I want to join virtual spiritual communities.

BRIAN ROSENBERG is the president of Macalester College. He can be reached at rosenbergb@macalester.edu.
Seeing Cambodia through the lens of both economics and religion was the goal of a three-week January trip to that country, undertaken by 12 students and Professors Erik Davis, religious studies, and Raymond Robertson, economics.

The group visited such diverse sites as the 12th century temple complex Angkor Wat; Phnom Penh garment factories; the Cambodian World Bank headquarters; and the Killing Fields, sites where large numbers of people were killed and buried by the Khmer Rouge regime in the 1970s. The trip’s economic and religious views of Cambodia provided “two sides of the same coin,” says Emma Lynn ’13 (Mt. Vernon, Wash.).

A religious studies and music major who hopes to become an opera singer, Lynn signed up for the trip because of her interest in Buddhism. Once in Phnom Penh, however, she was surprised to discover a newfound interest in economic development—specifically the city’s garment factories and Better Factories Cambodia, a program that supports healthy working conditions in them.

“It’s easy to look only at potentially negative impacts of development, such as pollution and the inevitable change it brings to indigenous traditions,” says Lynn, “and turn a blind eye to its positive effects, such as raising the standard of living and providing better access to health care.”

Although admittedly a bit outside her comfort zone, economics major Anna Graziano ’13 (St. Paul) gamely climbed around Angkor Wat (sometimes on all fours), rode in tuk tuks (motorized rickshaws), and dealt with the heat and humidity of Cambodia, where winter temperatures often exceed 90 degrees. She considered any physical inconvenience well worth it. “Both professors are amazing,” says Graziano. “They made us feel like equals.”

Robertson serves on advisory committees to both the U.S. Secretary of Labor and the State Department. While the group was in Phnom Penh, he spoke at a conference about factory working conditions, introducing his book Globalization, Wages, and the Quality of Jobs (2009) to an audience that included Cambodia’s secretary of state. Equally impressive to the students was Davis’s knowledge of Cambodian culture. Having lived in the country from 2003 to 2006, he speaks fluent Khmer and has published articles on Cambodian religion and ritual.

For Graziano, at least, it may not be her last visit to the country. She hopes to one day return to Cambodia as a buyer doing business with the same kind of factories she visited.
Mac Idol

Kyla Martin ’15 didn’t expect her Mac music experience to come in handy over winter break—until she unexpectedly got a taste of Hollywood by singing on a Disney World stage in front of more than a thousand people.

Martin (Madison, Conn.), a math major/music minor who takes voice lessons at Mac, was in Orlando vacationing with family. She went to that holiday hub with no plans to audition at American Idol Experience, a Disney Hollywood Studios theme park attraction modeled after the popular TV show. On a whim, her aunt and cousin encouraged her to try out with them, and she went along after some initial resistance. “It was really intimidating at first,” says Martin, who when she was younger often called in to American Idol to vote for her favorite singers. “I kept saying, ‘We should just leave! What are we doing here?’”

But the producers liked what they heard from her. After two rounds of morning auditions, Martin was one of 21 people selected to perform at an afternoon show. That meant getting her hair and makeup done, receiving vocal coaching, being fitted for a microphone, and getting cues for where to stand—a behind-the-scenes look, Martin imagined, for what the real show’s actual production might be like.

Performing “Ain’t No Mountain High Enough,” which she once sang for a junior high show-choir audition, Martin won the audience vote at the afternoon show, advancing to the evening event. “Winning my first show was incredible,” she says. “You sit there while everyone votes. Little kids would come up to me afterward to say they voted for me.”

At the evening event each finalist sang again, with just one receiving the Dream Ticket. That ticket, in turn, literally sent the winner to the front of the line at any regional American Idol audition.

Martin came up just short, but was thrilled just to be one of the day’s seven finalists, and to have gained some confidence for future auditions. “It would be fun to audition for the real thing,” she says, “just to see where it goes.”
Newly Tenured: The seven Macalester professors granted tenure this year were feted at an early March champagne party. Shown here (from left): Kathryn Splan, Chemistry; Kristi Curry Rogers, Biology and Geology; Andrew Beveridge, Mathematics/Statistics/Computer Science; Devavani Chatterjea, Biology; Sarah Boyer, Biology; Christina Esposito, Linguistics; and John Cannon, Physics & Astronomy.

Author and environmentalist Bill McKibben spoke on campus in February just before competing in the American Birkebeiner nordic ski race in northern Wisconsin. After his talk, “Celebrating and Preserving Winter: A Call to Action to Slow Climate Change,” McKibben skied off across campus.
FROM INNOVATIONS IN THE WAY people expand their social circles to an online financial planning service, Macalester’s first “Macathon” displayed the creativity and technical acumen of its students. Modeled after hackathons—events usually held within tech companies to spur creativity and innovation—the Macathon challenged student teams to develop a technology-enabled product or service addressing a real-world issue.

The brainchild of Mac trustee Per von Zelowitz ’94 and his friend Seth Levine ’94, the first Macathon brought together eight student teams for a 24-hour competition culminating in a 10-minute idea pitch to a panel of alumni judges. The six alumni judges—who included von Zelowitz, cofounder of a company developing carrier aggregation software for mobile data network operators—all have backgrounds in entrepreneurship, technology, or venture capital. Judges provided advice and support during the competition.

David Melms ’13 (Milwaukee), a member of winning team Good Thinkin’, described the Macathon as “emotionally and physically up and down,” a rollercoaster compounded by the challenge of maintaining focus in the face of fatigue. Despite the difficulties, his Good Thinkin’ team triumphed when its publish-to-tablet service Reazy took first prize.

“The idea, first conceived by Michael Abramson ’15 (Atherton, Calif.), grew out of his internship with Trapit, an IT company specializing in delivering personalized content based on client interests and needs. Reazy would allow small- to medium-sized newspapers and blogs to create customizable tablet versions of their publications.

“When I realized the programmers on our team were capable of building the awesome technology required to make this happen, I really wanted to try it,” says Abramson. In addition to the $1,000 cash prize, Good Thinkin’ will receive advice from the alumni judges to determine if Reazy can become a marketable product. When asked about the group’s future plans, Melms quotes the late Steve Jobs: “People think focus means saying yes to the thing you’ve got to focus on. … It [also] means saying no to the hundred other good ideas that there are. You have to pick carefully.”

Reazy is worth saying “yes” to, Abramson believes. “Our group has agreed that we want to turn this into a business, and because of this competition we have a great opportunity to do something we never otherwise would have done.” —Donovan Kavish ’13

**MACATHON JUDGES**

| Josh Aas ’05, engineering manager, Mozilla Corporation |
| Mark Abbott ’96, CIO, Atomic Data |
| Steve Arnold ’72, cofounder and venture partner, Polaris Ventures |
| Peter Pascale ’94, director of product strategy and architecture, Pearson VUE |
| David Sielaff ’90, principal software engineer, Microsoft Corporation |
| Per von Zelowitz ’94, cofounder and CEO, +n(PlusN) |
Cross-country captain and distance runner Rachel Gunsalus ’13 (Los Gatos, Calif.) loves the Twin Cities, so it’s no surprise that Macalester’s location is a big part of her pitch to prospective students. “The best thing we can do to attract recruits is bring them to the Mississippi River and show them how we can run along it for miles without stopping,” she says. “It’s a great way to see both cities we live in.”

When she chose Mac four years ago, Gunsalus didn’t know how important those cities would turn out to be for her. “They’re more engaging than I ever imagined,” says the sociology major. “The Twin Cities have been good to me.” The advantages she’s gained include a paid internship at the Minnesota Department of Health’s rural health and primary care office, where her work has helped shape her honors thesis on how the Affordable Care Act affects the health of Minnesota’s migrant farmworkers. Later Gunsalus hopes to enter an MD/MPH program to combine her passions for medicine and public health.

Meanwhile, in athletics she’s had a good year too, including a cross-country season as one of the MIAC’s most improved runners. Although her recipe was simple—lots of summer training miles—her success was far-reaching: “She came back a transformed runner,” cross-country head coach Betsy Emerson says. “She has grown tremendously as a distance runner and a leader in our cross-country and track and field programs.”

Last fall, along with leading the team, Gunsalus finished in the top 25 at the Central Regional Championships, and just missed qualifying for nationals. She headed into the outdoor track season with new goals, excited to hit the river road trails in warmer weather.

Although she was born in Minnesota, Gunsalus spent most of her life in California. She didn’t grow up planning to return to her frozen native state, but after four years at Macalester, plans have changed. “I never thought I’d come back here,” says the enthusiastic recruiter. “Now I absolutely want to stay.”

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### Admitted

At the end of March, more than 2,000 anxious students learned they’d been admitted to Macalester. Here’s a breakdown of the stats:

<table>
<thead>
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<th>6,696</th>
<th>34%</th>
<th>89</th>
<th>72</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number who applied</td>
<td>Percentage admitted</td>
<td>Countries represented</td>
<td>Percent in top 10% of class</td>
</tr>
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49 States represented

31 Median ACT
PHOTO: CHRISTOPHER MITCHELL

Most people don’t think of Alaska as a breeding ground for top divers, but Mac’s best diver, Renee Jordan ’14, hails from Anchorage. And she has chalked up some notable accomplishments in her time as a member of the women’s swimming and diving team.

Last spring she won the 3-meter diving competition and placed third on the 1-meter board at the NCAA Central Region Diving Meet. In addition, she was named MIAC Diver of the Year and qualified for the NCAA Division II Championships, held in Texas in late March.

Diving coach Jake Dunn, named MIAC Diving Coach of the Year, has nothing but praise for his diver. “Renee has one of the hardest lists of dives on 3-meter for women’s Division III at the moment,” says Dunn. “When I tell her she needs to work on harder dives, she doesn’t shy away from it.”

Surprisingly, given her success, Jordan is still fairly new to diving. She spent most of her childhood training and competing as a gymnast, along with being a member of “a very active, outdoorsy family,” as she puts it.

In high school, however, Jordan gave up gymnastics and joined the swim team. After a “particularly boring set one day,” she began to think the divers were having more fun. “So I tried to do gymnastic tricks off the board,” she says, “and it actually worked really well.”

A team captain this year, Jordan holds all four school diving records. “She’s constantly striving to bring our swimmers and divers together into one cohesive team,” says swimming and diving head coach Beth Whittle. “She inspires her teammates with her work ethic and dedication to excellence.”

Improving her mental preparation has been another focus for Jordan lately. To achieve that, she has been working with golf coach Tomas Adalsteinsson, who has a master’s degree in sports psychology. “He’s helped her so she can be mentally prepared, execute, then move on to the next dive,” says Dunn.

Jordan’s confidence and focus also apply to her academic life, where she maintains a B average as a chemistry major and biology and philosophy minor. After Macalester, Jordan hopes to pursue a career in environmental chemistry.

Whether she’s in the classroom or on the diving board, Jordan exudes fearlessness. “She’s really a strong character,” says Dunn. “Determined and willing to go after what she wants.”

Some material taken from The Mac Weekly (Feb. 22, 2013), story by Ben Bartenstein and Daniel Ricci.
In a decade Brittany Lynk ’06 has gone from small-town Minnesota girl to a one-woman force for international understanding.

After graduating from Columbia, Lynk spent the summer in South Africa as an advisor for Think Impact: People-Powered Global Development, facilitating teams of U.S. scholars and South African community members as they designed business solutions for social issues using local assets. One group’s project, for example, created school supplies from discarded materials.

She returned to New York last fall to begin work as an IVLP English Language Officer. Each program starts in Washington, D.C., and includes stops in three or four other U.S. cities. Despite the program’s brevity, it has been an important experience for many global leaders: More than 50 current and 275 former heads of government are IVLP alumni.

In Lynk’s first program last November, she led 18 visitors interested in education and activism for young women. Participants were selected because they work to empower young people in their own countries. One participant, for example, leads a Kenyan girls’ nomadic school and traveled 1,000 miles on the back of a truck with livestock just to reach the Nairobi airport.

The group moved from Washington, D.C., to Los Angeles and then split into smaller groups that visited Cincinnati, Kansas City, and Albuquerque before reconvening in New Orleans to wrap up the program.

In addition to formal meetings with organizations and dinners in American homes, a big part of the experience is simply helping international visitors understand how vast the U.S. is and how diverse its people. One L.A. day included a stop at a Muslim school, which allowed visitors from the Muslim diaspora to see U.S. Muslims incorporating Islam into their daily lives. Visitors were often surprised to find connections to their home countries, such as when a Cameroonian spied her nation’s flag flying in Albuquerque.

“The face of America they usually know is either from government-to-government foreign policy or from Hollywood,” Lynk says. “It was fascinating to hear how people’s perspectives on America and its people changed.” Lynk led her second trip in January, shepherding around 25 visitors, mostly judges and lawyers, interested in the U.S. juvenile justice system.

Her ultimate goal: to increase the number of engaged global citizens. “My purpose is to nurture and create an expansive view for others by forging connections,” she says. “There’s story after story about how citizen diplomacy—actually getting to know people from a specific place—can change how nations get along. It can shape the course of history for the better.”

Rebecca DeJarlais ’06 is a staff writer.
Brittany Lynk ’06, who moved to New York City for graduate school, learned her way around the city by bicycle commuting.
Do we still need libraries in the digital age? On the DeWitt Wallace Library’s 25th anniversary, the answer is a resounding yes.

**Life of a Library**

Emily Lindstrom Tuck ’90 was one of dozens of Macalester students and staff who helped pack the stacks and storage rooms of Weyerhaeuser Library during the summer of 1988 for a much-anticipated move across campus into the new $10 million DeWitt Wallace Library. Though Mac’s old card catalogues were left behind in favor of new DOS terminals and databases, there was one long-standing library tradition that Tuck and other student managers were expected to uphold when the library opened its doors to students that fall.

“It was our job to chastise people for bringing food and beverages into the library,” Tuck recalls with a laugh.

This summer, Mac’s “new” library will celebrate its 25th anniversary, inviting former library staffers and alumni back to campus for a reunion that will mark the library’s contributions to campus life and scholarship. While alums like Tuck will find plenty in the library that looks just as it did (including the bust of Dante behind the circulation desk, sporting baseball caps or Mardi Gras beads depending on the season), the way students and faculty now use the library may look very different indeed.

For instance, the first floor—where library work-study students once spent their days shushing fellow classmates—is now a high-volume thoroughfare that welcomes more than 10,000 visitors a week, most speaking at decibel levels far above a whisper. Though the stacks still contain more than 430,000 volumes to support Mac’s curriculum, this on-campus collection represents only a fraction of the books, journals, databases, and other resources students can call up through their laptops—or even on the library’s new mobile website.

Reference librarians are still on hand to answer quick student questions (“What’s the GNP of Mozambique?” “Is it principal or principle?”), but they’re even more in demand for one-on-one appointments, teaching today’s digital natives to dive deeper into their disciplines than they can through Google, or tutoring faculty members who need help navigating the new world of digital scholarship. As for the long-standing ban against beverages, there’s now a coffee machine on the first floor that dispenses fresh ground Americanos and lattés that students can sip in a cozy study corner—preferably using a spill-proof, reusable mug.

“It’s the same building, but the way everyone uses it has definitely changed,” says librarian David Collins ’85. “The whole electronic resource juggernaut has really transcended our four walls so that the library is no longer just a space for collections. In a sense the whole campus has become the library because so many resources can be accessed within the campus network and beyond.”

But as the library has expanded its virtual reach, observers say its quiet corners and conference rooms have actually grown more important to creating a campus community. “You might think that the rise of technology would keep people out of the library but in fact it’s an
attractor because they provide such fantastic computing, printing, and digital technology help for students and faculty,” says Adrienne Christiansen, director of the Jan Seris Center for Scholarship and Teaching, which has had offices in the library for a decade. "When I was a young faculty member I worried that people weren’t using the library as much as they should, but now I never do. It’s all happening here.”

Creating the heart of the campus
Creating a library that could change with the times was one of the first challenges confronted by former library director Joel Clemmer when he was recruited to help shape the new DeWitt Wallace Library early in Bob Gavin’s tenure as president. The dark stacks and high humidity of the 1940s-era Weyerhaeuser Hall clearly needed an update, while Macalester’s image was in need of burnishing, too, as the college recovered from a tumultuous period of student protests, faculty walk-outs, declining enrollment, and disheartened donors.

Though in the early ‘80s then-President John B. Davis had helped to rebuild the college’s economic foundation, the renewal of support from Reader’s Digest founder DeWitt Wallace had presented Macalester with a fresh slate, says Clemmer. “At the time, the college was in a bit of a turnaround, so the library project took on an awful lot of importance,” recalls Clemmer, who retired in 2005. “It was our way to say to the world, ‘Macalester College is back. It’s still a first-rate institution, and here’s some physical proof of it.’”

Though a previous plan had proposed building the new library in the center of Shaw Field, by the late ‘80s the crumbling state of Old Main’s east wing made it possible to tear down the oldest building on campus with no outcry from preservationists. “This may be the geographer in me speaking, but the fact that the library is located in the middle of the campus is very important,” says David Lanegran, John S. Holl Chair of Geography. “I think it was a strong statement that going forward, academics were going to be at the center of the college. Also, pretty much everyone has to walk by it every day. You practically have to think of an excuse not to go in.”

The college hired Boston-based architectural firm Shepley Bulfinch to create a contemporary building with elements that would mirror Old Main’s Richardsonian Romanesque eaves, turrets, and eyebrow windows. Meanwhile, Clemmer and his staff visited each of the college’s 27 academic departments to learn what students and faculty hoped to see inside the building. Those meetings identified two needs that architects incorporated into the five-story building—“quiet corners where students could squirrel themselves away,” Clemmer says, and more communal areas to accommodate a growing curricular trend toward group projects and student collaboration.

The finished product was a welcome surprise for Sarah West ’91, who says the new design changed how she viewed herself as a student. “I remember the glory of walking into that new library,” says West, now a Macalester economics professor. “My favorite spot was on the fourth floor’s north side, where you’re tucked into a tiny alcove. Finding a spot that was safe, private, and well lit radically changed the way I prepared for class. That building got me out of my dorm and became a welcoming, luxurious place where I wanted to gather with others and work. The whole space felt revolutionary.”

High tech and high touch
Macalester’s library staff has a reputation for revolutionary moves as well, shifting the library database to the Internet years before a graphic interface made it the obvious solution. Library director Terri
Fishel drove the creation of Macalester’s first website—now every college’s most critical admissions tool—and she and her staff are now schooling faculty on the brave new world of e-publishing and digital humanities.

Five years ago, the staff decided to host a Library Technology Conference as a community service for the region. “Macalester seemed like a great venue for the conference because we’re really ahead of the game when it comes to technology, and we thought we were in a good position to pull it off,” says associate library director Angi Faiks. The popular conference was sold out in March, with 500 attendees from 20 states, Canada, and Nigeria.

Unlike many college libraries, which require student IDs at the entrance, Mac opens its doors to the community, granting borrowing privileges to neighbors. It also reaches far beyond the campus through Digital Commons, an open access online initiative where full text versions of nearly 3,000 student papers and faculty scholarship have been downloaded more than 596,000 times.

In fact, when Kwame Fynn ’13 and classmate Morgan Sonnen-schein ’12 had their statistics paper, “An Analysis of the Career Length of Professional Basketball Players,” published in a recent Macalester Review, it became the site’s most downloaded paper of all time, earning the pair coverage in media outlets from ESPN to newspapers in Fynn’s native Ghana. “I thought why not post it and see what happens?” says Fynn, noting that the paper is now “gaining traction in France.”

Forward-thinking efforts like Digital Commons, combined with the library’s spirit of community service, have given the collection a scholarly and quirky feel, says director of communications David Warch. In addition to lending academic tomes and bestsellers, the library also circulates digital cameras and Kindles, children’s puppets and iPads, bikes and helmets, and a collection of DVDs donated and curated by an anonymous librarian with a taste for independent films. “In an occupation that can be stereotypically stodgy and slow-moving, Macalester’s librarians have been very smart about their choices over the years,” says Warch. “They’ve remained relevant at a time when huge changes in technology have turned the world upside down.”

That transition over the last two decades hasn’t been without moments of high anxiety, says Faiks, times when librarians worried that the rise of the Web would render them obsolete. “People always valued librarians but they didn’t really know what we did, so in many ways the Internet has breathed new life into what we do by making our expertise much clearer,” she says. “With so much information available, the ability to navigate and think critically is more important than ever, and the library is the best place to learn those lessons.”

**Library lessons**

In fact, information fluency is built into the curriculum at Macalester, where all first-year students spend time with a librarian assigned as a liaison to each department. At his sessions with political science and international studies students, Collins introduces himself as “your personal librarian. That’s how I market myself to students.” Liaisons talk to students about the many ways in which they can access the library’s resources, from interlibrary loans with partner colleges to the more than 400 research databases and 4,000 e-journals the library receives.

As students move more deeply into the curriculum, researching capstone papers and honors projects, they’re encouraged to ask for help as often as they need it. “Students expect easy access to all this content, but once they start searching they find it can be difficult to do,” says special collections archivist Ellen Holt-Werle ’97. “We try to make the point that we’re here to partner with them. There’s so much they have to wade through and they don’t have a lot of time, so we’re here to help.”

Another lesson the library staff works hard to impart is the value of seeking out unfamiliar perspectives—an important skill for students saturated in social media. “On Facebook and other media, students already have their own personal filters in place” that tend to sift out opposing points of view, says library director Terri Fishel. “We try to help them break out of their filters and take advantage of the scholarly resources we have that they may not have been exposed to before. All points of view are represented here. We really want students to come and explore.”

While this style of research may feel a little old school to Macalester alumni who spent hours sifting through volumes in the stacks, these are brand new experiences for many of her students, says English professor Theresa Krier. “My parents were Depression-era parents and libraries were one of the things that saved their lives. When I was a child we went to the library every week, so it was a shock when I realized that many of my students—who had much more enriched childhoods than I did—had never been to a library,” says Krier, an ancient, medieval, and Renaissance poetry scholar. “Once I realized my students had no idea what they were missing, I started building library visits into all my classes.”

One excursion she’s added is a trip to Macalester’s special collections room to see a series of illuminated manuscript pages the library acquired two years ago—part of a push to add to the collection more items that don’t translate well in digital form. “As the pendulum swings toward the digital collection, the more you want some tangible items that tell a story you just can’t get online,” says Faiks.

Krier and archivist Holt-Werle selected the pieces together, seeking items like pages from public choir hymnals and private books of hours that, as Krier puts it, “show stains and injuries to the page that don’t have a lot of time, so we’re encouraged to ask for help as often as they need it. “Students expect easy access to all this content, but once they start searching they find it can be difficult to do,” says special collections archivist Ellen Holt-Werle ’97. “We try to make the point that we’re here to partner with them. There’s so much they have to wade through and they don’t have a lot of time, so we’re here to help.”

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Krier and archivist Holt-Werle selected the pieces together, seeking items like pages from public choir hymnals and private books of hours that, as Krier puts it, “show stains and injuries to the page that allow students see the living hand of the writer.” The pleasure her students have taken from un packing the clues about history and culture held in each page, she says, helps her “manage my anxiety about where all of these new technologies are taking us. Now I take the longer view, that the technology of the written word has been in all of these forms, and everyone seems very comfortable surfing from one to the next. The function of a good library will never end.”

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St. Paul writer LAURA BILLINGS COLEMAN is a regular contributor to Macalester Today.
Clockwise from top left: Cozy reading corner on the top floor of the library; exterior shot of library; early 1900s library assistant job description and library rule list; the library when it was located in Old Main, early 1900s; women students in the 1960s looking through books in the children’s reading room of the old Weyerhaeuser Library.

"It shall be the duty of the assistants in charge of the desk to take note of conversation, visiting, or other violations of library rules, and request its discontinuance; and in case of its continuance or repetition to notify the librarian, who shall have authority to suspend the library privileges of such offenders."

MACALESTER COLLEGE.

Library Rules

RULE 1. Books may be kept two weeks; then, if not called for, may be renewed. Fine for each book overdue, two cents a day.

RULE 2. Periodicals, not current, whether bound or unbound, may be kept one week and may not usually be renewed.

RULE 3. Such reference works as are permitted to be removed at the close of library hours shall be returned by 8:30 a.m. of the following day. Fine on each volume overdue, five cents per day. This applies also to current periodicals, any of which may be removed.

RULE 4. A student may have two volumes from the library at one time. This does not apply to reference books and current periodicals.

RULE 5. The library is designed for silent, individual reading and study. Conversation should be avoided, and the utmost practicable quiet maintained. Studying together and quiet conversation is permitted in the chapel—always, however, with careful regard to those who are using the library.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE.
On a first murder: Sakakura-san

“But then, suddenly, from the village, a group of fifteen, sixteen people jumped out. And at that time I had never even seen the Eighth Route Army [the primary military force of the Communist Party of China], what our enemies looked like before. And I didn’t know what sort of people these were, so I quickly dropped down on my stomach. Because lots of people had come out. And then the general said: “Fire!” He said, “Shoot them all!” And so I—I shot too. The bullet I fired hit. “It actually hit,” I thought. And most of the people, they dropped like flies, you know?
New York-based photographer Adam Nadel first conceived the idea of photographing and interviewing remorseful Japanese war criminals. At the time the interviews were done in 2008 and 2009, the surviving men were in their 80s and 90s.
After they went down, then—there was a sorghum field, it was right in the middle of June, so it was big. The sorghum had grown, grown up to here. [He gestures.] And everyone fell into that, or ran into it, all sorts of things. I ran right off after them. And where I went, in the sorghum field, there was a collapsed person. I looked, and it was a housewife. The housewife, she had fallen over dead. And I thought, “Okay, a housewife. Nothing I can do about that,” I thought. I started to go, and from under the housewife’s arm, there was a small baby, you see. A small baby stuck his head out. And his hand—[silent] well, he was touching the woman’s breasts, you know, looking for them, touched them, you know. And then he looked at my face, and he smiled at me. And this really shocked me. After that, I found I couldn’t really walk, you know? And then, uh, more than scared, it was. . . . I felt a shiver up my spine. And then, although I tried to go, I couldn’t walk. And really, the older soldiers came in from behind, came in; we were being chased—“Run away!” they said. And then I left it just like that. We ran away, and then, so, after that, I thought about it, that child, with nobody around, would just die like that, I thought, and that was the most—of the war—my actions, for the first time—that sort of, to me, disgusting sort of feeling—that feeling really hit me, you know? So that’s one thing that happened.

That is the middle of Sakakura-san’s story. When it begins he is a civilian; when it ends he is a perpetrator.

At the time Sakura-san told me about the baby, he was near death, and he was trying to make sense of his life. He had spent many years in prison camp—and many more years in social exile—examining the things he had done and the things done to him. He had committed atrocities, caused incalculable suffering, but he had also experienced trauma. Indeed, he had experienced his own crimes as trauma. He felt the closeness of death now, he said, like a kind of “pressure.” “I don’t have a future. . . . if I don’t hurry up and talk now—if I died, there’ll be nobody to tell these stories.”
On torture:

Douglas Johnson was until recently the executive director of the Center for Victims of Torture in the Twin Cities. When international controversy over U.S. torture in Abu Ghraib was at its height, he gave a public lecture that I attended. In it he discussed the intelligence value of torture and the famous “ticking time bomb” scenario.

The “ticking time bomb” is a thought experiment designed to torment people who are moral absolutists about torture, who condemn it without exception. What if there’s a bomb somewhere in New York City, about to go off? Would you torture the person who knows where it is and how to defuse it? What if the bomb will kill 100 people? Is a terrorist worth more than 100 innocent lives? Is your moral purity worth more than 100 lives? What if it will kill 1,000 people? Is a terrorist worth more than 1,000 innocent lives? Is your moral purity worth more than 1,000 lives?

And so on. There is a number where every sane absolutist breaks down and hypothetically authorizes torture.

But this is science fiction, Johnson explains. This is not how torture works. Let me give you a more realistic case. There is a bomb at a nearby shopping mall. If it goes off, it will kill 100 or more people. Johnson pauses and looks around the lecture hall, as if searching for something among the 50 or so spectators. Then he locked his gaze on the first row.

We know that somebody in the first row knows something about this bomb.

Looking back to the rest of the audience, he asks: Would you be willing to torture them all to find out who that person is, and what he or she knows?

I am not sitting in the first row.

He continues: OK. Let’s imagine this. We know somebody in the first two rows knows something about this bomb. Would you be willing to torture them all to find out who that person is, and what he or she knows?

The first three rows?

This lecture hall?

And so on.

There is a number where every sane torture-defender breaks down.

In 1942, writes Yuki Tanaka, operatives of the Kempeitai, a special Japanese military force, raided a home in Banjarmasin and found a radio transmitter that they believed locals were using to communicate with Allied Forces. In the investigation that followed, 257 people were tortured and murdered. While this was happening, “a groundless rumor” of a radio being used in Pontianak popped up. Eventually more than 1,500 civilians were arrested, and most were tortured and killed.

This is a common pattern: torture produces bad information and a lot of it. Torture one innocent and you will eventually get a list of names. The person you are torturing will say anything to make you stop, and she thinks you want names. So now you have a handful of names. These people are of course innocent, but you cannot know that, so you will torture them, too. Some will take longer than others, but eventually you will find that each of these people also has a list of names to give you. Now you have a conspiracy unraveling in front of you; you are onto something. Security resources are scarce, and occupied elsewhere—but this is important. Resources will simply have to be redirected.

But torture doesn’t only produce bad information; it also shuts down good information. Executive Director of Human Rights Watch Kenneth Roth claims that, among intelligence personnel, it is widely agreed that the best source of information comes from cooperative communities providing information and tips. And in Iraq, he explains, Muslim communities stopped cooperating with the United States once it became clear we were using torture. Why would anybody provide information about peculiar or suspicious activity, if that might lead to cruel and inhumane treatment of Muslims or to the torture of innocents? Who would want that on their conscience? Best to keep quiet.


Author James Dawes on writing Evil Men

English professor James Dawes, author of Evil Men (Harvard, May 2013), is also the founder and director of the college’s popular concentration in Human Rights and Humanitarianism. Macalester Today editor Lynette Lamb interviewed him last winter about his book.

How did you come up with the idea for this book?

The human rights world is quite small, and within that world I’ve been involved with lots of photographers, survivors, field workers, etc. A photographer named Adam Nadel got connected with this group of Japanese war criminals and wanted to bring a writer along. He knew about me from my earlier work and figured that someone like me should come along to take these men’s confessions. In other words, this project kind of fell into my lap back in 2008. It turns out that photographers are sort of like travel agents: They have to be really good at getting anywhere in the world on a moment’s notice. Adam did everything—arranging airline tickets, hotels, and transportation, hiring an interpreter.

What was interviewing war criminals like?

I’ve worked in the field of human rights for many years now and thought this would be the same as any other project. But it wasn’t the same at all. It was much harder. First there was the fundamental shock of meeting these people. They’re old and frail and dying and look like it, and they’re sorry, and you meet their kids and grandkids, share food and gifts, and feel kind of attached to them. And all that’s happening at the same time that you’re talking about historically monstrous acts they committed—that as part of their coherent identity they over many years raped, killed, and tortured people. To reconcile these old men with their truly unforgivable crimes made me feel guilty in two directions—toward their victims because I was sharing kindnesses with these men, and toward the men themselves because I was feeling judgmental toward them and perhaps they deserved some compassion.

How did these particular Japanese men come to regret their actions?

They were subjected to reeducation—which the U.S. would call Communist brainwashing camps—for five years and Siberian prison camps for another five years. There they were taught to be pacifists and evangelical Communists, that it was wrong to do what
“These men are old and frail and dying and they’re sorry. . . at the same time you’re talking about historically monstrous acts they committed.”
—James Dawes, author of Evil Men

they did, that Imperialism was wrong. The only reason they get up in the morning these days is to atone for their actions. That’s why it was disturbingly easy to become fond of these men.

How did they behave during the interviews?
They were painfully open—their primary goal is to have people hear their stories. In Japan, many people don’t want to listen to these tales of war crimes. There is still a strong denial movement there. Even among average Japanese there’s often not much interest in knowing about this part of their country’s past. Some of these men have been threatened and ostracized for admitting their war crimes and for espousing Communism. They were very enthusiastic about a Western writer telling their story.

You don’t speak Japanese. How did the language gap complicate the interview process?
Working with a young female interpreter certainly added to the complexity of the dynamic. Many of the men particularly wanted to talk about crimes they’d committed against young Asian women; it was harder to get them to talk about killing children. So here we were having a three-way conversation with me as a foreigner by way of this young woman. But our interpreter, a graduate student, was amazing. She handled the whole thing with grace and courage.

How did you, as an English professor, come to specialize in human rights work?
My first book was straight literary criticism, but I was personally involved in the human rights community and it soon became clear to me that these were amazing stories. Basically human rights work is the work of storytelling—getting stories out urgently in a way that moves people. So I began gathering those stories and my 2007 book, That the World May Know, is a collection of them.

Was this research truly distressing?
You know, during interviews one must be open to the other person in their full humanity. You have to drop judgment and be present to who they are, which involves some degree of erasure of self. There’s a kind of intimacy that develops when people share with you these painful things they may not have shared before. It’s powerful.

What do you hope readers will take away from your book?
I hope they’ll understand the feelings I had going through this process, of the deep internal confusion I experienced in those moments. I also hope they’ll understand that it’s good for people to be brought to existential doubt, which is an antidote to the fanaticism that produces this kind of evil in the first place. I hope my readers will experience the vertigo of being intimate with evil.
Mark Mandarano has ideas—big ideas—for Macalester’s renovated music facility. Just one among many: a monthly midnight vinyl session in the music building’s Hewitt Hall. “You’d choose a classic album like Pink Floyd and get the vinyl in there and play it like we did in the old days—just sit around in the dark and listen,” he explains. “We have boxes and boxes of vinyl in storage that may never be used again. It could be a real treat to go back to that crackly sound.”

If you think it sounds as if he’s having fun settling into his first year as Mac’s orchestra conductor, you’d be right. “Fun is a big part of it,” says Mandarano, who concluded his tenure as the Moscow Chamber Orchestra’s principal guest conductor just before moving to Minnesota last fall. “We work hard, but we’re musicians. We have to play.”

Putting his own stamp on the orchestra and chamber ensemble has been the focus of Mandarano’s initial year. That focus includes developing a new culture—and a more nuanced style for orchestra rehearsals. “Sometimes people want to just get together and play, but I really want to stop and fix things—to alert them to what’s going on in the music, how the individual parts are put together and relate to each other,” he says. He concedes that may not be as satisfying as playing for 20 minutes straight, but believes that it leads to the group taking great strides musically and each musician gaining a deeper understanding of his or her individual part.

In addition to adjusting to Mandarano’s conducting style, more than 50 students tackled a fall concert repertoire that included works by Schubert, Beethoven, Bach, Martinu, and Dvorak. This year was also their first rehearsing and performing in the newly renovated and expanded music building. Mandarano arrived just in time to set up his office in the new space. “This is spectacular,” he says. “We have an absolutely gorgeous state-of-the-art facility, everything you could want.”

Although he’d previously taught part time at Lehman and Bard Colleges and California State University–Fullerton, this career step toward full-time teaching represents a move away from his previous work as a professional conductor. Mandarano has worked with orchestras such as the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Houston Symphony, and the New Jersey Symphony, and has conducted performances at Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall. He’s also the founder and artistic director of the Sinfonietta of Riverdale in New York City.

That experience impressed Mandarano’s colleagues during the hiring process. “He’s a truly professional conductor with many years of experience in front of professional groups,” says Music Department chair Mark Mazullo. “His presence on our faculty and in front of our ensembles will help get the word out about music at Macalester to the Twin Cities community and beyond.”

Despite that impressive resume and a graduate stint at Peabody Conservatory, Mandarano wasn’t always focused on a music career. In fact, he studied both music and the sciences as a Cornell University undergraduate. “A music career wasn’t a given for me from the age of five or six the way it is for a lot of musicians,” he says. Because of his background, he can easily identify with Macalester’s liberal arts students: “There are multiple paths, and it seems like Macalester is in many ways good for people who are still discovering what’s right for them.”

The result is an orchestra made up of a diverse group of students—political science majors, football players, a clarinetist learning to play the oboe—passionate about music as well as the rest of what Mac has to offer. “This is a good place for discovery,” he says. “You have a great facility, fellow students who are doing the same thing you’re doing, and the possibility to take music as seriously as you want to—or just have it be one of many things you take part in while you’re here.”
Conductor Mark Mandarano directs the orchestra in a Mairs Concert Hall performance.
strong choirs are known for their music, not their silence. But singing in Macalester’s Concert Choir takes more than simply hitting the right notes. As Mac’s new choir director Mike McGaghie has settled into his first year on campus, he’s been working on helping his students listen—and in the process, connect with the music and each other. “One of my major goals is to teach students how to use their ears,” says McGaghie, who conducts both the Concert Choir and the Highland Camerata. “When they listen with real awareness, they learn a lot about ensemble, the voice, and musical styles from different eras. They learn about cooperation, about give and take.”

Just as important as listening is connecting with one another. Choir members call their group close-knit, thanks to activities like the annual fall retreat. Last autumn the group drove two hours north to a Brainerd, Minnesota, retreat center to spend a long weekend rehearsing, relaxing, and getting acquainted.

Students learn the value of a strong community, too. As Alejandro Cervantes ’16 (Bay City, Mich.) explains, choir members quickly see that even just one singer missing a single rehearsal can negatively affect the entire ensemble.

For McGaghie, the retreat was a perfect opportunity to get to know his singers better as individuals and help them bond as a group. “Bonding experiences are very important for a choir, because our instrument is our being,” McGaghie explains. “The voice is inextricably tied to one’s personality, so letting students feel comfortable with each other and with me enables them to use that instrument to their full capacity.”

McGaghie arrived at Macalester with that philosophy already well defined, thanks to his experiences as the Boston Conservatory’s director of choral activities, assistant conductor of the Harvard Glee Club, and music director of the Concord Chorus. With a bachelor’s degree from Harvard and a doctorate of musical arts from Boston University, he has taught courses in choral literature, Renaissance and Baroque performance practice, and aural skills.

The new director’s wide musical range was obvious during his first semester on campus, when his ensembles tackled a repertoire that exposed the members to a variety of compositions, from Italian baroque to 20th century pieces. To his delight, McGaghie discovered that Macalester students possess a similarly diverse range of interests, with only a minority of them majoring or minoring in music. “I love their curiosity,” he says. “Because they all study such different fields, they come to rehearsal able to talk about things like religion or politics or linguistics or physics in addition to music. But naturally we talk a lot about the music, too: the composers, the language, and the politics that created the music.”

Even by mid-year, members of his choirs were uniformly praising McGaghie’s leadership. “He has this way of connecting with us,” Cervantes says. “I did not expect—at a liberal arts college like this, with such a small student body—that we’d have such an amazing choir. There’s a focus and an energy that’s irreplaceable. He can be fun and relatable, but then he gets up on the podium and gets work done.”

The result of that energy, says Kohei Hisakuni ’15 (Hastings, Minn.), is a thriving group of singers. “Mike is a great motivator,” Hisakuni says. “He’s an inspiration to us all.”

REBECCA DEJARLAIS ’06 is a staff writer for Macalester Today.
Choir director Mike McGaghie leads a dress rehearsal in Mairs Concert Hall.
GLOBAL SCHOLARS

Many of Mac’s international students come from the United World College program. UWC and Mac make a great match.

BY MARLA HOLT
PHOTOS BY DAVID J. TURNER
Left to right: Bassem El-Remesh ’16, Iva Djurovic ’13, Luiza Montesanti ’15, and Sophors Khut ’14
Macalester is known for embracing internationalism, so it’s no surprise that it’s a leader in enrolling Davis United World College (UWC) Scholars, a program that supports more than 2,500 undergraduates from 146 nations studying at nearly a hundred American colleges.

Nearly half of Mac’s 259 international students are Davis UWC Scholars, hailing from such countries as Lebanon, Lesotho, Argentina, Denmark, Thailand, Russia, Serbia, Zimbabwe, and the Czech Republic. Like all of the college’s international students, the Davis UWC Scholars are committed to open-mindedness and global awareness and eager to study the liberal arts.

“These students meet Macalester’s mission so well in that they are committed to service, internationalism, and multiculturalism,” says Aaron Colhapp, director of international student programs. “They’re very bright and their intercultural learning has sped along during the two years they spent at United World Colleges, so when they come to Macalester they’re poised to succeed.”

The 12 United World Colleges, located worldwide and founded in 1962, are two-year International Baccalaureate boarding high schools designed for students interested in gaining leadership and cross-cultural skills in a global context. UWC students are selected by national committees in their home countries and sent to a UWC of the committee’s choosing.

With its internationalism emphasis, Macalester—which has enrolled UWC graduates since the late ’80s—was a natural fit to partner with the Davis Foundation in 2004, soon after the foundation began offering scholarships to support UWC graduates who attended certain American colleges and universities. The grants provide each Davis UWC Scholar with $20,000 a year. Macalester provides additional aid as needed.

Mac’s first class of Davis UWC Scholars in 2004 comprised 34 students, enough to earn the Davis Cup awarded annually to the college with most first-year students in the program. Since 2008, between 17 and 32 Davis UWC Scholars have graduated from Macalester each year.

The program is an excellent recruiting tool, says Steve Colee, director of international student recruitment. By visiting a handful of UWCs—as opposed to the more expensive option of traveling to many countries—Colee and colleagues can connect with international students gathered in one place, thus attracting well-qualified applicants from a broader array of countries.

“The Davis UWC program, quite frankly, has enabled Macalester to maintain the international diversity we’re known for,” says Colee, “by supporting students who are wonderfully equipped for success at a residential liberal arts college.”

Four of Mac’s Davis United World College Scholars spoke to us recently about their journeys from home to UWC to St. Paul.

→ Bassem El-Remesh ’16
Hometown: Ketermaya, Lebanon
United World College: Red Cross Nordic, Flekke, Norway

Being a Davis UWC Scholar is the best thing that’s ever happened to him, says Bassem El-Remesh. “Without the scholarship, my life would be so much harder. It’s a privilege to be with ambitious people who want to make an impact in our world.”

As the youngest of six children growing up in a poor family in Lebanon, El-Remesh was determined to find a way to pay for his schooling. He started working in a shop at age 13 and by 15 was working six hours or more each day in a supermarket, which allowed him to help his family while attending a larger high school in a neighboring town.

UWC was a dream come true for El-Remesh, who was struggling to fit in work, sleep, and schoolwork. “I really wanted time to dedicate to academics,” he says.

One of El-Remesh’s keenest UWC memories is the opportunity to interact with people from around the world, which changed his perception of people from differing backgrounds. “In Lebanon, we’ve always been at war with Israel, and all you see about that country is a military that kills people,” he says. “At UWC my whole view changed because I learned that there are students just like me who are not associated with this fight. I could stand in someone else’s shoes to understand them. I appreciate that the world is beautiful, that we are all people regardless of where we come from, what language we speak, or what religion we practice.”

First-year student El-Remesh wasted no time getting involved at Macalester. He is a member of the Institute for Global Citizenship’s student council, chair of the Middle Eastern Student Association, and a member of the student government’s financial affairs committee.

El-Remesh plans to major in economics and possibly political science and to earn a concentration in international development. He’s considering a career in international law, dreaming of someday giving back as others have helped him. “I hope one day to do what the Davis program does,” he says, “because providing education is one of the most powerful ways to impact and change the world.”
Luiza Montesanti ’15

Hometown: São Paolo, Brazil
United World College: Li Po Chun, Hong Kong SAR, China

The youngest of three girls, Luiza Montesanti led a happy childhood in São Paolo, Brazil, attending Catholic school, taking part in theater and soccer, and serving as a youth leader for a children’s organization promoting cross-cultural understanding. She also volunteered at a community center, helping with activities for children living in a shantytown outside São Paolo.

Montesanti’s supervisor at the center thought she’d be a good fit for a UWC and encouraged her to apply. “I’d thought of doing a school exchange, but this seemed like so much more,” Montesanti says. Although initially anxious about their daughter living so far away, Montesanti’s parents have ultimately supported all the opportunities UWC has afforded their daughter, including the chance to attend Macalester.

Once at the UWC, says Montesanti, it felt as if she didn’t sleep for two years as she tried to keep up with multiple activities plus schoolwork. She monitored local coral reefs to collect data for a marine preservation group, participated in a therapeutic theater group, led a conflict management and resolution group that traveled to the Philippines to work with children, and traveled to China and Cambodia to study human trafficking and leprosy. “What I did and witnessed at UWC completely changed my life,” Montesanti says. “My entire family is engineers, and if I’d stayed home I probably would have gone to engineering school, too.”

Instead, Montesanti is majoring in political science and French, with a concentration in international development, and plans to study in Paris. She hopes to eventually return to Brazil to use her liberal arts background, as she puts it, “in a way I haven’t quite figured out yet.”

Although involved in the African music ensemble and the Global Ambassadors admissions program, Montesanti finds her academic work the most engaging part of college. “Studying politics is an ideal mix of theory and practice,” she says. “My background at UWC has helped in my studies. The knowledge I gained through living with an incredibly diverse group of people makes me willing to discuss issues that might be sensitive or complicated.”

“What I did and witnessed at UWC completely changed my life. My entire family is engineers, and if I’d stayed home I probably would have gone to engineering school, too.” —Luiza Montesanti ’15
Iva Djurovic ’13

Hometown: Belgrade, Serbia
United World College: Adriatic, Duino, Italy

Iva Djurovic’s experience at UWC opened her eyes to the world. Having grown up in Serbia, she never imagined befriending someone from Bosnia or living with girls from the Ukraine, Wales, and Syria. “Every conversation, every interaction was with someone from another country,” she says. “You couldn’t read a book without having absolutely different opinions from others who were reading the same book.”

Developing a love of independent travel, Djurovic traveled throughout Europe, something that would have been impossible from her native Serbia, with its visa restrictions. “I learned to be unafraid of the unknown,” she says.

Although her education at home had focused on the sciences, UWC helped her discover other areas to study. “I started thinking on a much more global scale with respect to art and biology and economics,” she says. Now she’s exploring development economics with a minor in Spanish and a focus on global health. In doing so she has traveled to Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay.

Occasionally in classes Djurovic shares personal experiences from her childhood in war-torn Serbia. “I question everything more than does the average U.S. student,” she says. “It changes the dynamics to hear different perspectives. I speak about the Communist economy I grew up in—the hyperinflation, the complete embargo, waiting in line for hours and hours for a bottle of milk.”

Volunteering to help Native American children learn the Lakota language has been an interesting local involvement for Djuorvic. “Helping them reconnect with their origins was fascinating,” she says. “They also learned from me, a person from such a completely different culture from their own.”

Last spring Djurovic was one of 20 students selected to participate in the World Health Organization’s Neglected Tropical Diseases Conference held at Macalester. Afterward she spent the summer working for the World Bank in Washington, D.C., researching issues related to infant and maternal health and mortality.

Djurovic dreams of many possibilities for her post-Mac life: consulting for the World Bank, earning a PhD, conducting fieldwork in women’s health in Latin America, helping change the Serbian health system. What her future holds—what the future of any of these multitalented UWC Davis Scholars holds—is a mystery. But it’s sure to be an exciting one.
Both of Sophors Khut’s parents died before he was 16. About a year after his father’s death, Khut—who’d known several UWC students from his high school—decided the time was right for him to apply. “Without parents, I needed to find a way to continue my education on my own,” he says. “Also, in Cambodia it’s hard for students to study outside the country. UWC seemed like it could change my life.”

Khut was accepted to the Red Cross Nordic UWC in Norway, one of several hundred students from 90 countries. The school was welcoming, says Khut, and encouraged him to learn not just from textbooks, but also from the people around him. “We all have different opinions and ways of thinking,” he says. “If we can learn from that, we can avoid war and work toward making peace.”

Khut has carried those lessons with him to Macalester, where his UWC experience helps him interact easily with a wide variety of people. “Before judging anyone, I try to see things from their perspective,” he says. “Something that may be wrong or unacceptable to me may be acceptable to others. I don’t use my culture to judge others.”

A computer science and mathematics major, Khut has enjoyed the discussion-based classes at Macalester, as well as the familiarity and accessibility of the professors. “In my culture we must address them as ‘teacher’ or ‘professor,’” he says. “Here—and at UWC—I can call them by name.”

Last summer Khut worked closely with computer science professor Libby Shoop, conducting research on parallel computing using a computational cluster called Littlefe—six motherboards networked to operate as a single cluster computer. Later he wrote online instructional materials for the cluster for use in computer science courses at Macalester and elsewhere. Outside of class, Khut is a member of the Asian Student Alliance and plays intramural soccer.

Continuing his computer science studies in a U.S. PhD program is one of his hopes, though eventually he’d like to return to Cambodia or elsewhere in Asia to teach computer science. “I dream of opening a school for poor students,” he says, “For those who don’t have enough money to pay the college fees.”

MARLA HOLT is an Owatonna, Minnesota, writer.
Boston-based tech entrepreneur TJ Mahony started the vacation rental site FlipKey.
There’s a plaque in the Leonard Center recognizing basketball players who scored 1,000 points or more during their Macalester careers. The name of TJ Mahony ’99 is not among them. Now the CEO of FlipKey, a vacation rental website recently sold to TripAdvisor, Mahony tells the story: “I got 998 points in my college career. In my last game, the coach wasn’t aware how close I was to the milestone, so he took me out with two and a half minutes left.” Although Mahony admits he’s “a little bitter” about his near miss, he says with a laugh that “it makes a good story to tell on myself.”

Striving for the goal but never taking himself too seriously: That aptly describes Mahony, who has experienced some dramatic career ups and downs. He remembers moving to Boston to work at ZEFR, an Internet consulting company. “It was a classic dot-com story arc,” Mahony says. “The company grew from 5 employees to 700 in two years, and shrank back to 50 the next year. I collected unemployment and worked construction jobs, riding my bike to Beacon Hill and working in these really nice homes,” says Mahony, adding, “I now own a home on Beacon Hill, so I guess it all came full circle.”

The rise from bike-riding unemployment to entrepreneurial success story has been marked by Mahony’s love of critical thinking and strong desire to understand what drives the marketplace (“I don’t use my economics degree every day,” he jokes, “just every other day.”) His mindset is evident when he describes the company he founded in 2006, a vacation rental site that features 170,000 properties in 8,000 cities. Mahony sees something beyond the stats: “FlipKey is really a model of collaborative consumption,” he explains. Citing examples such as eBay and Zipcar, he says, “The idea is that what you own can be shared and turned into a productive asset. And what better asset is there than your home?”

Once Mahony warmed up, both literally and figuratively, he got his new company off the ground. Mahony and partners raised half a million dollars through friends and family. Macalester economics professor Karl Egge and some Macalester alumni were early investors, he says, noting that they “realized a significant return in a relatively short period.”

Egge describes Mahony as “intense, hard working, and fun loving,” adding that with the success of FlipKey, “he hit a home run.” Says Egge, “I think of TJ as both among my top 25 favorite former students and a friend.” Says another Mac investor, Fernando de Oliveira ’99, senior vice president for investment firm Brown Brothers Harriman, “I wish I’d invested much more in FlipKey. At the time, TJ told me that he wanted the amount to be small enough so that if he lost the money, our friendship wouldn’t be impacted. Too bad I listened to him.”

FlipKey was acquired last year by TripAdvisor—for an amount Mahony will only describe as a “positive exit”—and its founder will step down as CEO later this year. “It’s the fun cycle of being an entrepreneur,” Mahony says. “Now I get to pick my next opportunity.” He hopes that whatever it is, it will, like FlipKey, be a good place to work (the company enjoyed a 95 percent employee retention rate). “We spend over half our waking lives at work,” says Mahony. “To create jobs that people love, so their personal and work lives blend together seamlessly and painlessly, is something greater than creating a company.”

Last year was a big one for Mahony, who spent 2012 getting engaged, starting a family, buying a house, and selling his company. He and his fiancée, Jessica McKillop, who teaches sixth grade English, have a baby due in May and a wedding planned for June 2014. “I guess by then I’d fallen in love with Macalester,” he says.

Mahony’s entry into life at the college he now loves was challenging. “I came from Boulder, Colorado, where winters are warmer, and my first year, 1995, was brutal,” he says. “I was so homesick and cold that I requested transfer papers. But I never completed them because by then I’d fallen in love with Macalester.”

Once Mahony warmed up, both literally and figuratively, he got “my first exposure to truly independent thought. It was not just one professor or class, but the entire ecosystem, and the peer group that surrounded and pushed me, too. I’ve been working in Boston for almost 15 years now, and I’d put Macalester grads head-to-head against people from MIT, Harvard, and Amherst.”

Mahony still visits the Macalester campus when he drops in to talk to Egge’s “Deals” class. When he lectures, he always shares two bovine-themed business observations. “First, I say, you need to be the purple cow in the field of ordinary cows. If you’re going to do something, do it better than everyone else and stand out—don’t blend in.” And then, in the spirit of a man who has already created and sold one highly successful company, he tells the students this: “If you want the cheddar, you have to own the dairy farm.”

Julie Kendrick is a Minneapolis writer and a regular contributor to Macalester Today.
In the fall of 2011, Tom DeCaigny ’96 paid a visit to Coit Tower, the slender white-concrete cylinder that sits atop San Francisco’s Telegraph Hill. Built in 1933, the landmark structure is known for its panoramic views of the city, the bay, and beyond, as well as for its Depression-era murals, painstakingly crafted by dozens of artists. As DeCaigny and his partner, Seth Goldstein ’98, took a closer look at the colorful frescos depicting California life during the New Deal, one detail caught their attention. In the corner of one tableau was a man reading a newspaper that bore the headline: “The Arts Commission Awakens from a Deep Sleep.”

DeCaigny had recently applied to work as director of cultural affairs for the City of San Francisco, essentially serving as the chief administrator for the municipality’s once-slumbering arts commission. Established in 1932, the 15-member panel oversees a yearly budget of more than $19 million that supports the symphony, four cultural centers (dedicated to Latino arts, African American arts, film, and opera), and the development and preservation of numerous public art projects and landmarks, including the Coit Tower murals. The cultural affairs director manages that budget, connecting with artists and communities across the city, and promoting the arts as a cultural magnet and economic engine within San Francisco.

After much vetting, DeCaigny got the job—a role he views as vital to the Bay Area’s future. “Arts and artists offer great value to our city,” he says. “They’re often at the forefront of creativity and innovation. They’re an undervalued asset.”

But many artists and city residents had grown disenfranchised with the commission prior to DeCaigny’s appointment. The former director had resigned after allegations surfaced that he was spending a significant amount of time in Brazil. And members of the arts panel were harshly criticized when it was revealed that a finalist for one major commission had killed a dog for a film project.

His first order of business, DeCaigny knew, was to reassure his staff and the community that he could tame the chaos and get things working again. “It was important to build trust,” he says. He solicited the ideas and opinions of artists and community leaders. He attended public meetings, one of which revealed to him that he had been spending a significant amount of time in Brazil. And members of the arts panel were harshly criticized when it was revealed that a finalist for one major commission had killed a dog for a film project.

DeCaigny traces his passion for the arts back to high school, where he developed an interest in theater that led him to Macalester—and thus transformed his life. “In northern Minnesota, theater was really the first chance I had to see a different future for myself,” he says, recalling trips to Minneapolis’s Guthrie Theater with the Cloquet High drama club. “The theater director at my school encouraged me to go to college, which made a huge difference. I was the first in my family to attend college.”

At Mac, DeCaigny focused on directing, staging plays in the black-box theater and mounting a production of Richard Foreman’s avant-garde play My Head Was a Sledgehammer. “The directing program developed my critical thinking skills in a way that was applicable to doing arts administration,” he says. “It taught me the administrative and organizational skills as well as the overall rigor it takes to move the ball forward.”

DeCaigny says he’s pleased with what he’s accomplished during his first year on the job. He recently attended the unveiling of a Ned Kahn sculpture installed on the façade of the new public utilities facility, funded by a city ordinance that requires 2 percent of all building project funds be earmarked for public art. He also recalls with pride his encounter with a 60-year-old artist who sells leather handbags on a public plaza. The woman told him she’d begun crafting and selling the bags with her mother more than 40 years ago, when the city decided to encourage, rather than harass, street artists. “It reminded me how vital our mission is,” DeCaigny says. “We’re giving artists space to do their work, whether that’s space on the street to sell their wares or space for them to perform.”

Even the most challenging parts of the job seem to engage DeCaigny. Last spring, a group of citizens proposed a ballot measure that would help finance the restoration of the Coit Tower murals, which have been damaged by decades of exposure to sea air and insects. DeCaigny supported the restoration, but worried that the measure—though non-binding—could hamstring the commission’s ability to direct resources to other projects. He found himself at odds with neighborhood groups, with one San Francisco resident calling the commission’s decision to oppose the measure “bizarre” in the local newspaper.

Last June, over DeCaigny’s objections, city residents voted to pass the measure. But their arts czar has no hard feelings about the matter. He views such dialogue as healthy—a sign that citizens care about their community and the art that graces their city. “That the neighbors organized and took the initiative to preserve a cultural asset known the world around is something we should welcome. It’s something we should celebrate.”

Joel Hoekstra is a Twin Cities writer.
Tom DeCaigny ’96, San Francisco director of cultural affairs, poses in front of the city's iconic Keith Haring sculpture in the SOMA neighborhood.
Mac Weddings
1. Emily Dunn ’09 and Jakob Wartman ’08 were married on August 4, 2012, near Madison, Wisconsin.

2. Ben Freeman ’06 and Alexa Class were married at La Push, Wash., on Sept. 8, 2012. Joining them were (from left): Lauren Hill Daumueller ’06, Jonah Bull ’06, Jedediah Fix ’05, Alex Grant ’06, and Alex Freeburg ’05.

3. Elizabeth Everson ’05 and Jonathan Roy were married on Aug. 5, 2012, in New Holstein, Wis. Pictured (from left): Elizabeth Lostetter ’05, Sudha Setty ’05, Andy Haug ’06, Flannery Clark ’05, Mike Ring ’04, the bride and groom, Evan Kennedy ’05, Chris Engelhard ’06, Paul Schulzenenberg ’05, Emily Davidson ’05, and Tara King ’05.


5. Sarah Newton ’96 was married to Francesca Pisa on July 14, 2012, in Buskirk, N.Y. Joining them were Meara Bierne ’96, Kim Ferencik ’96, Laura Raymond ’96, Dan Moore ’96, Migdalia Loyola ’96, Camille Holmgren ’96, Sam Hanson Willis ’96, and Jeremy Hanson Willis ’96.

6. Alex Rubenstein ’05 and Keri Piepgras ’08 were married on Aug. 11, 2012 in St. Cloud, Minn. Shown here are (back row, left to right): Cormac Seely ’05, Michael Merrill ’05, Paul Odegaard ’04, Joel Breitening ’04, Gus Leinbach ’08, Zach Johnson ’08, Richard Archer ’08, and Jake Disch ’08; (middle row, left to right): Clark Boyes, Kate Seely ’04, Carley Frizzetti ’04, Christine Soma ’04, Ashley DeMinck ’07, Alex Rubenstein, Keri Piepgras, Ashton Troia ’08, Marc Rodwgin ’05, and Shane O’Neill ’05; (front row, left to right): Betsy Jorgensen ’05, Lucas Schuft, and Emily Gerteis ’08.

7. Grace Elliott Tydings ’06 and Basil Tydings were married Dec. 21, 2012, in Chicago.
From *Memories of the Great American Ice Shows* by Jimmy Lawrence ’50 (AVAILABLE FROM AMAZON, 2013)

My amateur skating performances came to the attention of Ice Capades management. Shortly thereafter Ice Capades president John Harris told my father they were interested in hiring me.... Harris proposed I go on the road with the show when I was 16, which was barely a year away, and mentioned a figure that was more money than my father could imagine. I pleaded with my dad to agree and finally we made a deal: I’d go with the show at 16, stay for three years, then return to St. Paul for college....

It was 1942, but the fact that I became the male lead in the Ice Capades because of the war didn’t register with me at the time. My trip to join the Ice Capades in Hollywood was the start of many adventures to come. I had my first glimpse of palm trees and first heavenly smell of oranges when the train stopped in San Bernardino, California...When I walked into the rink at the Pan Pacific Auditorium, the spectacle of so many great skaters together in one place was thrilling. Even better, most of them were attractive young women....I was a stranger in a strange land, and it was grand.
The Macalester Reunion is an all-school festival with separate activities for anniversary classes, reunions of specific groups, and celebrations of all things plaid. There will be music on the lawn, interesting lectures, food trucks, performances, water balloons, Mac the Scot, dancing in the tent, and plenty of interesting people who have a lot in common with you. Make your plans and get back here.

Top 10 Reasons to come back to Mac for Reunion 2013

1. The new library is 25 years old and having a birthday party. There might be cake.
2. Bagpipe band on the lawn
3. Interesting lectures, no quizzes, no papers
4. Beer school—there might be a quiz. Study required.
5. Drama Choros returns and younger alumni find out what they missed.
6. Alumni of Color Reunion—celebrate diversity at Macalester!
7. Discuss with President Rosenberg one of the best books of 2012, *The Art of Fielding* by Chad Harbach.
8. Salsa dancing in the tent, lessons available
9. Breakfast with Brian [Rosenberg]
10. Hugging old friends—you can't do that on Facebook.

For more details go to macalester.edu/reunion.

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IS FOR...
MACALESTER REUNION!

June 7–9, 2013

ALUMNI OF COLOR
Reunion 2013
In Memoriam

1933
Marion Flad Hutson, 100, of Coronado, Calif., died Jan. 12, 2012. She was a social worker in St. Paul for 11 years. She later served as a Girl Scout leader and evaluated prospective adoptive parents for Children’s Home Society of San Diego. Mrs. Hutson is survived by a daughter, a son, sister Betty Flad Tiffany ’42, and brother George Flad ’35.

1934
Eve Lott Furseth, 99, of Minnetonka, Minn., died in April 2012. She is survived by a daughter, a son, 9 grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren.

1936
Melissa Mitchell Herzog, 96, of Eagan, Minn., died Aug. 25, 2012. She worked in newspapers in Minnesota and Iowa and served as a bookmarks librarian. Mrs. Herzog is survived by two daughters, a son, two grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and brother William Mitchell ’39.

Mary Calhoun Pribyl, 98, of Tracy, Calif., died Oct. 6, 2012. A native of Albert Lea, Minn., Mrs. Pribyl moved to California in 1944 with her late husband, David Pribyl. They traveled extensively through the years, including to Iran and Venezuela. She is survived by two sons, two daughters, five grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

1941
Janet Buscho Lee, 93, of Jamestown, N.D., died Jan. 2, 2013. She taught high school biology in Odessa, Minn., and science and math in Willmar, Minn. She also received statewide recognition for her successful experiments with soilless tomato growing in 1941. Mrs. Lee is survived by her husband, Forrest, two sons, 4 grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren.

Dorothy Snyder Sanders, 93, died Jan. 15, 2013, in Aiken, S.C. She retired in 1982 as director of the Child Development Center. In 1984 the South Carolina Department of Mental Retardation named a community residence after Mrs. Sanders. She is survived by a daughter, two sons, and a grandson.

1942
Kermit D. Holmquist, 93, of Buffalo, Minn., died Dec. 16, 2012. During World War II, he served in the U.S. Army Air Force in Italy, Sicily, North Africa, and India. He worked in the grocery business with his father and brothers for more than 40 years, retiring in 1985. Mr. Holmquist is survived by two daughters, eight grandchildren, two sisters, and a brother.

1943
Marjorie Wall Eklund, 90, of North Oaks, Minn., died Feb. 27, 2012. She is survived by her husband, Chet Eklund ’43, a daughter, two sons (including Richard Eklund ’69), three grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

John W. James, 91, died Oct. 5, 2012. He is survived by his wife, Virginia, two daughters, and five grandchildren.

1944
Lenore Eicher Grann, 88, of Perth, N.D., died Jan. 17, 2013. She taught grade school in Morgan and Forest Lake, Minn. Mrs. Grann is survived by her husband, John, 3 daughters, 3 sons, 14 grandchildren, a sister, and a brother.

1945
Mary J. Bartholomew, 88, died Feb. 16, 2013, in Madison, Wis. One of the first women to study at McCormick Theological Seminary, she was ordained in 1980. She served churches in Ohio and Illinois and spent 26 years with Westminster Presbyterian Church in Madison, Wis., first as director of Christian education and then as minister. She retired in 1989. Ms. Bartholomew is survived by sister Marion Bartholomew Amundson ’47.

Jean Hurst MacDonald, 88, died Jan. 4, 2013. She was head nurse in the operating room at St. Joseph’s Hospital in St. Paul, worked in the Panama Canal Zone, and was a registered nurse at the University of California-San Diego Medical Center until her retirement in the early 1980s. Mrs. MacDonald is survived by two sons, four grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

1946
Olive Sanford Anderson, 88, of Winona, Minn., died Dec. 5, 2012. She worked for the YWCA in Fargo, N.D., Honeywell in Minneapolis, and the Winona City Welfare Department. She was also director of the Senior Citizens Center in Winona. Mrs. Anderson is survived by her husband, James Anderson ’48, two daughters, a son, a granddaughter, and a brother.

1949
AroDella Krone Hagquist, 85, died Dec. 10, 2012. She is survived by a sister.

1950
Jack L. Gibson, 83, died Feb. 11, 2013. During his 34-year career in education, he taught in Cass Lake, Minn., supervised student teachers at Bemidji State University, and served as superintendent of the Akeley, Minn., Public Schools. He retired in 1984. Mr. Gibson is survived by his wife, Alyce Falconer Gibson ’49, a daughter, two sons, and two grandchildren.

1951
Marilyn Borseth Fialkowski, 84, died Nov. 29, 2012. She taught junior high and high school vocal music, English, and French in Sioux Falls, S.D., for more than 30 years, retiring in 1989. Mrs. Fialkowski is survived by a daughter, three sisters (including Ramona Borseth Carpenter ’52), and a brother.

Patrick Greene, 86, of Battle Lake, Minn., died Feb. 12, 2013. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and retired in 1986 after a career as an executive in outdoor advertising. Mr. Greene is survived by his wife, Melanie, four children, four grandchildren, a great-grandson, and two brothers.

Charles J. Schiller, 83, died July 29, 2012. He retired after a 35-year career as a high school English teacher. Macalester presented Mr. Schiller with its Distinguished Citizen Award in 2001, citing him as a pioneer in introducing students to minority writers. Inspired by Macalester Professor Mary Owen Owen, he also directed a Drama Choros of high school students. Mr. Schiller is survived by his wife, Janine Smith Schiller ’51.

1952
Ann Silvernale Bowden, 81, of Seattle died Oct. 4, 2012. She taught in Minnesota, California, Michigan, and Washington before retiring in 1992. She also served on Seattle’s school board and was active in the League of Women Voters for many years. She is survived by a daughter, a son, two grandchildren, and a brother.

Joaanne Deutschman Caldwell, 82, of Monticello, Minn., died Dec. 28, 2012. She is survived by her husband, Bill Caldwell ’51, two daughters, and two grandsons.

Herbert A. Elstrom, 84, of St. Paul died Jan. 25, 2013. He served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War and was a longtime certified public accountant. Mr. Elstrom is survived by his wife, Sandy, a daughter, two sons, six grandchildren, and a sister.

Marguerite Saufferer Mahoney, 82, died Aug. 11, 2012, in Glendale Ariz. Survivors include a son.
In Memoriam

1953
Norbert M. Ellington, 93, died Nov. 22, 2012. He was a veteran of World War II and a schoolteacher. Mr. Ellington was survived by his wife, Vivian, a daughter, two sons, many grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and a brother.

Frank Y. Nishio, 92, of Fresno, Calif., died Nov. 29, 2012. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II and the Korean War. He practiced optometry in California and was named Optometrist of the Year. Mr. Nishio is survived by his wife, Karen, a son, and a grandson.

John C. Sutherland, 84, of Minneapolis died Nov. 18, 2012. He served in the U.S. Army in Japan following World War II and was a social worker with Hennepin County for three decades. Mr. Sutherland accompanied the author Robert Fisig on the motorcycle trip recounted in the book *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*. A lifetime member of the Twin Cities Musicians Union, Mr. Sutherland played drums with the group. Jazz by Fosse. He is survived by his former wife, Sylvia Sutherland, four daughters, four grandchildren, and a brother.

Beverly Wildung Harrison, 80, died Dec. 15, 2012, in Brevard, N.C. She was an associate campus minister at the University of California at Berkeley in the 1960s and served on the faculty of Union Theological Seminary from 1967 until her retirement in 1999. A pioneer in the field of Christian feminist ethics, Ms. Harrison was the author of the books *Our Right to Choose and Making the Connections: Essays in Feminist Social Ethics*. She received honorary doctorates from Macalester and Chicago Theological Seminary. Ms. Harrison is survived by her life companion, Carter Heyward, and brother Hal Wildung ’56.

1955
Marilyn C. Benson, 79, died Feb. 12, 2013. She taught special education in the St. Paul Public Schools for more than 25 years. Mrs. Benson was a generous donor to Macalester, as well as to St. Olaf College, the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, the Minneapolis Orchestra, and the Minneapolis Foundation.

1956
Arlene Heywood Howes, 77, of Longmeadow, Mass., died Feb. 28, 2013. She served as organist and choir director for Calvary Presbyterian Church in Enfield, Conn., for 38 years and performed with the Springfield Symphony Chorus and the St. Michael’s Players. Mrs. Howes is survived by three daughters and three grandchildren.

Fenwick Taylor, 79, died Feb. 15, 2013. He was a high school teacher in Illinois and taught physics, chemistry, and astronomy at Moraine Valley Community College for 25 years. He was also commanding officer of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary at Great Lakes and retired with the rank of captain. Mr. Taylor is survived by a daughter, two sons, and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

1957
Katherine S. Morrow, 75, of Red Wing, Minn., died Feb. 21, 2013. She was an accomplished weaver and a lifelong Presbyterian. Ms. Morrow is survived by a cousin.

Ann Bangsund Grussing of Brainerd, Minn., died Dec. 15, 2012. She taught in public and private schools in Roseville and Downers Grove, Ill., and worked on literacy initiatives at the University of Chicago. Mrs. Grussing is survived by her husband, Paul Grussing ’53, a daughter, a son, six grandchildren, and four siblings (including sister Karen Bangsund Meslow ’61).

1960
Lyle R. Johnson, 81, of Sioux Falls, S.D., died Aug. 17, 2012. After working for Paper Calminson Company in Bismarck, N.D., Mr. Johnson started a steel center in Sioux Falls with the Egger Steel Company. He retired as senior vice president in 1996. Mr. Johnson is survived by his wife, Sally Fick Johnson ’53, three daughters, three grandsons, a sister, and a brother.

1961
The Reverend Susan M. Adams, 73, died March 17, 2013, in Carmel, Calif. Ms. Adams taught English in Pakistan before enrolling at Garrett Theological Seminary in Evanston, Ill. She served as a pastor for 10 years at the UCC Church in St. Louis Park, Minn., and as a hospital chaplain at Methodist and Fairview Southdale Hospitals in the Twin Cities. She also worked for the UCC Mission Board in Japan before retiring in Carmel. She is survived by three children, two sisters, and a brother.

Wanda Kuhl Crader, 72, of Hot Springs Village, Ariz., died Dec. 3, 2012. She was a medical research technician at City of Hope and the Scripps Research Institute and the author of more than 100 publications. Mrs. Crader is survived by her husband, Carl, 4 stepchildren, 15 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren, 3 great-great-grandchildren, 2 sisters, and 2 brothers.

1962
Meri P. Carlstedt, 76, of Cleveland, Tenn., died Dec. 27, 2012.

Alexander B. Johnson, 72, of Bloomington, Minn., died in September 2012. He was a retired car salesman. Mr. Johnson is survived by a sister.

JoAnn Campion Pruitt, 72, died Jan. 4, 2013. She was a pianist, coach, teacher, and artist. Mrs. Pruitt is survived by her husband, Nathaniel, and three children.

1963
John E. Callahan, 70, died Oct. 26, 2012, in Marshfield, Wis. He spent his career in law enforcement, corrections, and social work throughout Wisconsin. In retirement he volunteered for Meals on Wheels and a wildlife refuge, among other groups. Mr. Callahan is survived by his wife, Sharon Sauter, a daughter, and a sister.

Robert N. Lund, 76, died Jan. 16, 2013. After working as a salesman for 3M and as a claims adjuster for Travellers Insurance, Mr. Lund flew with Northwest Airlines as an airline captain for 28 years. He also served as an officer in the National Guard and cofounded the Afghan Hound Club of Hawaii. Mr. Lund is survived by two children and a sister.

1964
Barbara Gjertson Jones, 69, of Hermantown, Minn., died Nov. 16, 2012. She was a registered nurse and worked in the labor and delivery department at St. Luke’s Hospital for many years. Mrs. Jones also formed numerous Lyme disease support groups in Minnesota and Wisconsin and ran the counseling practice Concepts in Caring until June 2012. She is survived by a daughter, two sons, seven grandchildren, a sister, and a brother.

Margaret Boyer McCready, 73, of St. Petersburg, Fla., died Dec. 31, 2012. She was a registered nurse at Millard Filmore Hospital in Buffalo, N.Y., and a manager with the Visiting Nurses Association. Mrs. McCready is survived by her husband, Terence, three sons, six grandchildren, her mother, and a sister.

Paul R. Moe, 70, of Prescott, Ariz., died Nov. 25, 2012. He was an insurance executive until his death.
retirement in 1995. Mr. Moe is survived by his wife, Patricia, and two sons.

1965
Russell N. Nahorniak, 69, of Gold Canyon, Ariz., died Jan. 19, 2013. He was a science teacher and coach. Mr. Nahorniak is survived by his wife, Kay, a daughter, two sons, and six grandchildren.

1966
Carole Swanson Lloyd, 68, of Cambria, Wis., died Jan. 1, 2013. She taught elementary school in Pennsylvania and Minnesota. After her ordination as a Presbyterian minister, Mrs. Lloyd served as a pastor in North St. Paul, Minn., and a chaplain in Pennsylvania, Iowa, and Minnesota, retiring in 2007. She is survived by her husband, Neal Lloyd ’66.

Muriel Haslam Palecek, 91, of Winona, Minn., died Dec. 1, 2012. She taught high school in Vermont and Wisconsin and at a Japanese-American internment center in Topaz, Utah. She was also an English instructor at the College of St. Teresa from 1965 to 1980 and taught part time at Winona State University. Mrs. Palecek is survived by 2 daughters, 3 sons, 9 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren, and a sister.

1969
Eric Chevalier Swanson, 65, died in Minneapolis on March 5, 2013. He is survived by his wife, Bonnie Matson, his mother, three sisters, and a brother.

1971
Gene R. Nelson, 63, died Jan. 27, 2013, in Goa, India. He was a doctor of naturopathy. After suffering a stroke in 2010, he lived with his sister, Britt Nelson ’77, in Oregon, where he relearned how to read, write, and do math. He lived in a healing community in Goa for the past five years.

1972
LaMar Laster, 51, of Houston died in July 2012. An executive in numerous business ventures, Mr. Laster served as president and chief operating officer of Tracey Technologies, Biovision Ag Switzerland, and Visitome, was owner and chief executive officer of Lamarz Interests, Inc., and was managing director with Versailles Capital Partners. Mr. Laster is survived by his wife, Patricia Flowers Laster ’73, and three children.

1973
David M. Paisley, 60, of Lakewood, Ohio, died March 5, 2012. He is survived by his wife, Cherie, a daughter, a son, three grandchildren, and a sister.

David A. Plouffe, 61, of Montpellier, Vt., died Jan. 18, 2012. He is survived by his wife, Kathy, his father, a sister, and two brothers.

1975
Daniel T. Ramquist, 59, of International Falls, Minn., died Jan. 4, 2013. He was a staff physician at clinics and medical centers in Virginia, Minn., and International Falls. Dr. Ramquist is survived by his wife, Robin, a sister, and a brother.

Julia Pheiffer Walski, 59, of Westchester, Ill., died Nov. 27, 2012. She worked in bookselling and publishing for B. Dalton and retired from Contemporary Books as senior vice president. She then worked for the Farm Foundation. Mrs. Walski is survived by her husband, Fred, her mother, and a brother.

1976
Eric M. Hollins, 58, of St. Charles, Mo., died Nov. 11, 2012. He worked for Boeing for more than 30 years. Mr. Hollins is survived by a daughter, two sons, his mother, and four siblings.

1980
Andrew J. Sommer, 54, died Dec. 19, 2012. He taught high school Spanish in Woodbury, Minn., for 24 years. Mr. Sommer is survived by his partner, Greg Dahl, his parents, John Sommer and Donna Meddaugh Sommer ’50, and a brother.

1984
Barbara A. Heers, 50, died Feb. 20, 2013, in Rochester, Minn. She cofounded the law firm of Heers & Heers in 1991 and served as president of Heers Corporation, her family’s home building and land development business. Ms. Heers is survived by a brother.

1990
Devora Anne Miller, 46, of Minneapolis, died on Feb. 28, 2013. She was an artist who created beauty through photography and installation works that were presented at several Twin Cities area galleries. She is survived by her husband, Andy McQuigg, a son, her parents, three sisters, and four brothers.

2006
Ana M. Strandemo, 29, of Minneapolis died Jan. 26, 2013. She received a psychology degree from Augsburg College in 2012. Ms. Strandemo is survived by her parents, her grandmothers, a sister, and her boyfriend.

2007
Mara Forsythe-Crane, 27, of Portland, Ore., died unexpectedly on Dec. 18, 2012.

Laura J. Zeccardi, 28, of Minneapolis, died Feb. 24, 2013. She had a master’s degree from New York University and worked as a program specialist for the History Day Program at the Minnesota Historical Society in St. Paul. She loved education, her work, and preserving moments in history, as well as cooking and knitting. Ms. Zeccardi is survived by her parents, two brothers, a grandmother, and her partner, Andrew Marzoni.

2008
Edward V. Doyle III, 27, of Columbia, Maryland, died Feb. 14, 2013. He worked for Wegmans in that city, having started his career with the grocery chain in 2003. Doyle is survived by his father and stepmother, a sister, a brother, and a grandmother.

2011
Ella K. Bandes, 23, of Montclair, N.J., died unexpectedly on Feb. 4, 2013. She was completing an internship at the Columbia Psychiatric Institute and working at the Weight Watchers corporate office. Ms. Bandes is survived by her parents and a brother.

Other Losses

Duncan H. Baird, professor of political science at Macalester from 1961 to 1988, died Feb. 7, 2013. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and pursued a brief career in law before entering academia. Mr. Baird also taught jurisprudence at William Mitchell College of Law after retiring from Macalester. He is survived by two daughters, three granddaughters, and a brother.
BY LARA AVERY ’10

Recently I chose which shade of yellow I wanted to use in a presentation. The difference between goldenrod and marigold wasn’t important at first, but the very idea that there was a choice between them—the concept that there isn’t just one yellow we are granted at birth—means that a choice among hues will affect something, somewhere, or it wouldn’t be a choice.

The evolved biology among most of us allows for the minuteness of differences of light for a reason, and whether humans are choosing which berries are ripe enough to eat or following their whims to buy certain products, color matters. It shouldn’t have surprised me as much as it did, then, to discover that someone was making money off this fact.

Pantone, based in New Jersey but with offices in three hemispheres, has made color its business. From the website: “Pantone LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of X-Rite, Incorporated, is the world-renowned authority on color and provider of color systems.” From paints to plastics, Pantone colors permeate most of the brands, materials, and media you see every second of every day.

Pantone grew from its commercial printing roots to a company committed to standardizing color among many materials and media. The Pantone Color Matching System, or PMS, has labeled and numbered almost every conceivable hue on the color spectrum. The burgundy used in Macalester College materials, for instance, is Pantone 187-U.

This system not only ensures uniformity among all that is mass produced, it also gives Pantone a wealth of data with which to hone its expertise about which colors are most often used, which products and ideas traditionally go with which colors, and, to be frank, which colors make people want to buy things. PMS and the color “formula guides” have even influenced government materials and countries’ flags.

When I discovered the expansive reach of Pantone’s system, I became overwhelmed by the simultaneity of its presence in something so visible as color, and the invisibility of its profit among the color-seeing public. Pantone’s control over the colors we see every day is best reflected in its “Color of the Year,” an annual practice the company started in 2000 in which a selective, anonymous international group of color experts from various fields meets to discuss which color will echo through next year’s products.

The color for 2013 is Pantone 15-5641 Emerald, and there’s nothing you can do about it. It is, according to the company’s promotional materials, “Lively. Radiant. Lush...a color of elegance and beauty that enhances our sense of well-being, balance, and harmony.”

As a critical thinker, my first reaction was to find it somehow hegemonic that an elite group would determine one color that would in turn infuse the public’s way of seeing. Pantone has no interest in a democratic process of choosing the color of the year, and you can’t always decide to look away or “un-see” Emerald, can you? The color of the year illustrates the lack of inherent rules that make up aesthetic taste; what may seem natural about visual culture is but a filter built by the power of dominant discourse.

As a writer, however, I thought differently. How poetic that each year should have its own tint. Unlike language, which has systems of reference and syntax with clear roots in history, humans perceive color before there are words or even, arguably, an identification of the self.

Babies’ first books are full of the labels of color and shape, because before we learn anything else, we must learn what is bright and dull, living and feeling—the qualitative differences among all that occupies space. Before there were words in the way we now know them, we knew from nature that red meant hot, burnt, hurt, and stop, and that green meant growth, food, water, and prosperity. Colors are feelings, with or without labels. Pantone just takes the thought and care to put them together. There is something lovely about that.

I wish I could go back to the infancy of my color knowledge, back to hues without labels, without “Color of the Year.” I wouldn’t know 2013 was 15-5641 Emerald, but if my life in 2013 was awash with “well-being, balance, and harmony,” might I feel it was 15-5641 Emerald? To look at 15-5641 Emerald is pleasurable to me. It might cover this year’s products, but I don’t have to buy them.

Can I forget my knowledge of Pantone’s profit, and just see those vivid green blenders, T-shirts, and billboards with the same pleasure I would take in seeing 15-5641 Emerald in its purest form in nature—in a jungle or a lake?

Somewhere soon, Pantone’s experts will gather to agree on next year’s feeling. Whether you want to buy the Color of the Year on a coffee mug or black it out, you can’t escape it. In that case, let’s hope it’s a good one.

Lara Avery ’10, who was profiled in the Summer 2012 issue of this magazine, is the author of the young adult novel Anything But Ordinary (Disney Hyperion, 2012).
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Students were nothing if not enthusiastic while playing the annual Founders Day game of pushball on a snowy March afternoon.