Macalester Today

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We have an app for that.

Been wanting to access Macalester Today on your iPad? Now you can. Just go to the App Store and search for Macalester Today. You’ll enjoy all the stories from the print edition plus video, audio, and photo extras.

ON THE COVER: Rebekah Wineburg ’99 at Napa Valley’s Buccella Winery, where she is winemaker (photo by Robin Lietz).
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Letters

MILF—really?

I generally enjoy Macalester Today, and find it a really good mix of interesting articles and healthy boosterism (as it should be) that both reflects (and reflects on) Mac well. But I’m confused about something in your recent article on Kickstarter (“Not-So-Risky Business,” Winter 2013), specifically the inclusion of the business name “MILF and Cookies.” I find MILF an offensive term, at best objectifying and at worst crass and ugly. I get that the business owner chose the name herself—and that it fits her whole sassy/edgy/erotic food writer persona—and so perhaps it could be seen as somehow empowering. Nevertheless it still disturbs me that you chose to feature it in our alumni magazine, especially given Mac’s reputation as an institution that is socially progressive/gender conscious. I am disappointed that this made it into Macalester Today.

Jennifer L. Frisch ’92
St. Paul

Corrections

• The proper credit line for the book excerpt found on pages 16 to 21 of the Spring 2013 issue should have been as follows: Adapted from Evil Men by James Dawes. Copyright 2013 by the President and Fellows of Harvard College. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

• The photo caption on page 45 of the Winter 2013 issue was incorrect. Rhodri Williams ’92 is the man shown on the right and Ted Bradford ’91 is shown on the left.

RIP Professor Baird

It was with great sadness that I learned of the passing of Professor Duncan Baird in the most recent issue of Macalester Today (Spring 2013). Professor Baird was an enthusiastic educator, leader, and mentor. He encouraged many Mac students to pursue their passion in the law, including me, my husband, Tim Pramas ’90, and many of our colleagues and friends. He was instrumental in connecting our liberal arts education to the unique analytical thought process of a lawyer. He shared great insight about public service and the law, earning repeated reelection as Mayor of Sunfish Lake (with the comical slogan “Don’t be Funky, Vote for Dunky!” emblazoned on a T-shirt he wore each election day). He selflessly continued teaching after his formal retirement, partly for personal fulfillment and partly at the behest of those of us who truly needed his wisdom and perspective. His 30-year service to the college and the community left an indelible mark, deserving of a far more fitting tribute than the one published in Macalester Today. He has been, and will be, missed.

Jennifer L. Frisch ’92
St. Paul

Sweet TWEETS

When 2,287 anxious seniors learned last spring that they were among the 34 percent of applicants admitted to Mac, they showed their enthusiasm the 21st century way: through Twitter. Here are a few of our favorites:

KC Skeldon @KCSkeletor
The $300 deposit goes to pay for my personalized kilt, right?

Mary Warren Dickens @dickensmw
It came. It finally came!

Rachel Schroeder @RachelSchroedy
Well shoot, I got accepted to Macalester?

KC Skeldon @KCSkeletor
My mom texted me. I am silently joy-crying at work. Thank you, Mac!!!!!!! It is a postal miracle.

Chief Kiffy @KiffyTaha
Can I legit call myself a MAC now?
Acceptances feel amazing (:)

Daniel Abramowitz @diabramowitz
So how much longer until I can go to Mac?

Ilana Budenosky @ilanablablaba
I now officially know where I am going to college! Macalester College will be my home for the next four years!

LETTERS POLICY

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

BY BRIAN ROSENBERG

President Brian Rosenberg delivered the following remarks to the Class of 2013 at their May 18, 2013, Commencement.

AFTER two decades of formal education and three decades in academia, I have come to the conclusion that there are two canonical texts within which most of life’s essential lessons are captured: Seinfeld and The Mary Tyler Moore Show. This is not to say that either sitcom fully plumbs the murky depths of human experience, but rather that if one were dropped from the sky with no knowledge of this peculiar and perplexing world we inhabit, one could do worse than begin with the reminiscences of George Costanza, Lou Grant, and their companions.

It was Jerry Seinfeld, for example, who observed that “sometimes the road less traveled is less traveled for a reason,” about as good a bit of advice for new college graduates as I have heard in a long time. And then there’s Ted Baxter, whose philosophical stylings included the following: “It’s actually tomorrow in Tokyo. Do you realize that there are people alive here in Minneapolis who are already dead in Tokyo?”—a conundrum with the philosophical purity of a Zen koan.

By the way, I should note that it is a source of wonderment to me that most of today’s graduating seniors were born the year Seinfeld debuted on television and know Mary Tyler Moore, if they know her at all, only as the woman with the botoxed face who appears on late night infomercials. This tells me that I am old, and that seems somehow fundamentally wrong.

The particular passage I want to cite this afternoon is drawn from an exchange between Lou Grant and Ted Baxter just before Ted’s marriage to the inestimable Georgette. Ted is seeking advice from Lou about how to live happily within a committed relationship. Lou pauses, stumped momentarily by the question, and then begins the following exchange:

Lou: Here’s the most important piece of advice I can give you. If you’re gonna get married, you’re gonna have to stop acting the way you do.
Ted: What way?
Lou: The way you act. Ted, what I’m trying to say is…you gotta become different.
Ted: Lou…I, I don’t think I understand.
Lou: Look, you know how you always are?
Ted: Yeah?
Lou: Don’t be that way. Now trust me, this is profound stuff. I don’t think Lou is telling Ted that he should not be true to himself. (Well, maybe in this case he is, since Ted is a self-centered idiot. But let’s assume for the sake of my charge to the graduating class that he is not.) Let’s assume that what he is actually saying is that if we are to successfully engage in relationships, communities, problem-solving, and meaningful work, we must possess the ability to step out of ourselves, at least for a time, and see the world in ways that may seem deeply unfamiliar.

It is not always enough merely to “be yourself,” which may be among the most over-used and misused pieces of advice ever given. Being yourself is relatively easy: You have had lots of practice and it isn’t much of an imaginative stretch. Sometimes it is more important to “be,” or grasp what it is to be, other people with other perspectives, other beliefs, other ways of apprehending the world. Our greatest moral philosophers and artists and humanitarians have been telling us this for a long time. It is what John Keats meant when he spoke of the poet’s gift of “negative capability,” that is, the power to temporarily negate the self and experience life through another’s perspective. It is what Kofi Annan meant when he defined what he called “a citizen of the world in the fullest sense—one whose vision and culture gave him a deep empathy with fellow human beings of every creed and color.” And it is certainly what the wonderful novelist Ian McEwan meant when he wrote, “Imagining what it is like to be someone other than yourself is at the core of our humanity. It is the essence of compassion, and it is the beginning of morality.”

If there is a single trait with which I hope you leave Macalester, if there is a single ability I hope we have fostered and strengthened, it is the capacity for empathy. With it you can resolve even passionate disputes; without it you will speak only to yourself and those who agree with you. With it you will treat others with respect and compassion; without it you are liable to become trapped within the echo chambers of on-line communities that are anything but truly communal. With it you can form deep connections; without it you run the risk of contracting what Kurt Vonnegut called “the terrible disease of loneliness.”

It is easy, with all the opportunities you have been afforded, to understand things. It is harder to be understanding. And the hard things tend to be the valuable ones.

In the spirit of negative capability, I should end by acknowledging that there is another perspective on all this—what one might call the Seinfeld perspective. It was Jerry Seinfeld who defined the “true spirit of Christmas” as “people being helped by people other than me,” and a perplexed George Costanza who asked, “Why would we want to help somebody? That’s what nuns and Red Cross workers are for.”

Your life. Your choice. I know you will make the right one. Just…be yourself.
MacMail: This spring, Mac alumni congratulated the Class of 2013 on joining their ranks by sending them graduation postcards. The college received—and passed on to seniors—621 postcards from 166 alumni in the classes of 1956 through 2012. Postcards came from 27 states and 5 countries outside the U.S. Says Alumni Relations associate director Neely Crane-Smith ’02, who organized the blitz, “It’s an easy way to help people feel good about Mac.” At Reunion in June, one recent grad even got to meet his Class of 1963 correspondent. Now they are Facebook friends.
Art Prof Honored

IN HER PRINTMAKING, Professor Ruthann Godollei addresses issues ranging from war to the recession, and in her courses art students learn to express their own cultural commentaries. Last spring Godollei received the 2013 Thomas Jefferson Award, which has honored an outstanding Macalester faculty member since 1961. The following interview is excerpted from one Amy Lebowitz ’15 conducted with Godollei for The Mac Weekly (March 1, 2013).

Talk a bit about your background.
I have been an artist since I was a little kid. Someone looked at my portfolio and said, “Well, you draw very nicely. Have you thought about printmaking?” I hadn’t, but I fell in love with it. Printmaking is etching, lithography, screen-printing, relief printing, letterpress, and, these days, computer prints. I enjoy the process of it as well as the ability to use it for something I really think needs to be said. Some people would call me a political artist.

How do you balance your individual work with teaching?
I get a lot of energy from my students, but I don’t want them to just do what I do. I’m not trying to make clones of myself, but I am trying to use the academic setting as fuel for my personal practice. For example, I’m teaching a new course called Dissent this semester. That came out of the things I’ve been thinking about lately: the Occupy movement, the environmental concerns over fracking. So when my students talk about those issues, I explore them too.

Do you teach classes that involve community interaction?
In our final assignment for Dissent the students are directed to work with a community, to put the community’s concerns first and put the graphics in service of those concerns. It’s one thing to have personal expression and another thing to work with a community and not just helicopter in and say, “Oh, here, we’re going to plop some graphics on you.”

What’s your favorite part of teaching?
I love my students—I get energy from teaching. Sometimes you put up stuff in an art show and don’t hear a peep from the public. But students are willing to talk to me about what they see going on in art or the world, which is so helpful to the kind of practice I do. I’ve made student friends I’ve kept for decades. One of my former students just got a Fulbright to India to teach printmaking there. She’s going to send me postcards and tell me how she does it, and that’s going to open a whole new field for me to think about.

Ideas, plans, hopes for the future?
I just had a book come out on do-it-yourself printmaking techniques. I’m in a show at the University of Minnesota’s Nash Gallery called “The Dance of Words” and recently curated a show of contemporary printmakers at a gallery in Minneapolis. And I just got work accepted into the Portuguese Biennial of Printmaking. I figure they might appreciate some work about recession policy. I guess that’s proof that I’m managing to teach and still make my work and make the two of those help each other.

Math whizzes
Success for New Applied Math & Statistics Program

DATA IS EXPLODING in every field, but it’s worthless if not appropriately organized and examined. Many math majors are preparing to do just that, and after graduating from Mac are being admitted to top statistics, biostatistics, and other graduate programs—from Harvard to Stanford.

The graduates in such demand are math majors who have chosen the Applied Mathematics and Statistics (AMS) track. Last spring the department graduated 18 AMS majors with plenty more in the pipeline—27 additional students have declared the major. This reflects robust growth for a program that graduated its first majors just four years ago.

“The AMS major appealed to me because I could address real-world questions and support my thoughts with quantitative results,” says Taylor Rasmussen ’13 (Eagan, Minn.). “The professors in the department are not only incredibly intelligent, but also willing and able to help.” After graduation, he hopes to work in marketing.

“Our department has a long and strong tradition of ‘mathematics in service,’” says Professor Karen Saxe, department chair from 2007 to 2013, “but the program would not be nearly as strong without support from, and constant collaboration with, our colleagues in economics, biology, and others in the natural, physical, and social sciences.”

Sasha Indarte ’13 (Minneapolis) used her knowledge to model the Spanish economy, bringing home the “best paper” award from Carroll Round, a prestigious international economics conference in Washington, D.C. This fall she enters a PhD economics program at Northwestern University.

“Macalester students are interested in addressing the world’s big problems, such as disease eradication and sustainable energy development,” says Saxe. “The ability to interpret large amounts of data and create mathematical models is essential.”

The department is especially strong, says Saxe, because it’s a joint one, bringing together faculty with PhDs in mathematics, statistics, and computer science with colleagues whose backgrounds are in engineering and applied math—unusual in a liberal arts school, Saxes adds.
Words of Wisdom

In their last weeks on campus, graduating seniors in the Class of 2013 reflected on their four years here and shared their after-Mac plans. They also had some advice for the Class of 2017.

“Make friends with older students.”
—Zoe Michael ’13
Santa Fe, N.M.

“Don’t be concerned that everyone around you already has it figured out because most of us haven’t.”
—Brigid Warnke ’13
Long Beach, Calif.

“Try to form as many meaningful relationships as possible with professors.”
—Michael Costigan ’13
Schnecksville, Pa.

“Take a bus and get lost.”
—Ezequiel Jimenez Martinez ’13
Salta, Argentina

“You’re not going to not find your path.”
—Anna Graziano ’13
St. Paul

IT’S ANYBODY’S GUESS which skills will take Brian Utz ’16 further in his collegiate tennis career: his physical talent or his character. The top player on Mac’s team as a freshman, Utz (Rochester, Minn.) impressed the coaching staff immediately—and hasn’t stopped. “Right off the bat, he had all the intangibles,” says head coach Jason Muhl. “He’s one of the most exceptional players I’ve ever met.”

Though Utz’s tennis résumé included a high school state championship, playing at the collegiate level was still an adjustment, especially given that the competition includes top athletes in the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC), one of the nation’s strongest tennis conferences.

Nearly all of Utz’s matches this year were close, requiring new levels of concentration and dedication—and perspective. “The reality is that you’re going to have bad games,” Utz says. “You can’t get hung up on a few of those. You have to trust yourself, and as the year went on, I gained more of that.”

Even in a fiercely competitive atmosphere, Utz lived up to his coach’s initial assessment of his character. “He’s a great ambassador for sportsmanship in collegiate tennis,” Muhl says. “He gives 100 percent and leaves it all out there on the court, then shakes hands with his opponent and moves on.”

Utz attributes that attitude to his appreciation and respect for his opponents, the high caliber of MIAC competition, and the supportive culture built by his teammates. His behavior hasn’t gone unnoticed: He was named by his coaches and teammates to the All-MIAC sportsmanship team and elected to serve as next year’s captain, a rare honor for a sophomore. The economics major also serves on Macalester’s Student-Athlete Advisory Council.

The future is bright for both Utz and Macalester’s tennis program. This spring he helped recruit a student whom Muhl expects will be a key addition to next year’s team. Utz will compete at the top of the MIAC next year, Muhl predicts, and may be nationally ranked by his junior year. “There’s no ceiling for a guy like Brian,” Muhl says. “There’s nothing that this guy can’t achieve.”

Photos: Christopher Mitchell

Tennis

PRO

Words of Wisdom
FULBRIGHT AWARDS WERE GRANTED last spring to Kelsey Austin-King ’13, Wren Brennan ’13, Sarah Horowitz ’13, Sarah Koehler ’13, and Elizabeth Nelson ’13, as well as Julia Hechler ’11, to work in Columbia, Brazil, China, Sri Lanka, Germany and France. Austin-King (Menlo Park, Calif.), an English and educational studies major, will teach English to university students in Bogotá, Colombia, and engage in a social or community outreach project. Her fellowship starts in August and lasts 10 months. Afterwards she hopes to work in education in the San Francisco Bay Area and apply to graduate school.

Brennan (Seattle), an anthropology and English major, will teach English in Brazil, developing and leading language learning activities and promoting U.S. culture through cultural and social programs. She’ll be abroad from March to November 2014; while there she’ll also research local perspectives on inland and coastal water sources. When she returns to the U.S. she hopes to write and tutor.

Horowitz (Pelham, Mass.), a Chinese and geography major, received a grant to investigate peri-urban (surrounding a city or town) agriculture in China. Through case studies in Wuhan and Beijing, her Fulbright project will investigate two interrelated questions: How are urban and peri-urban agriculture being integrated into city planning and policy, and what economic opportunities do these new forms of agriculture provide to farmers and migrant laborers? Horowitz’s Fulbright, which starts in September, will last 10 months. Later she hopes to earn a graduate degree in political ecology or development studies, possibly continuing to research sustainable agriculture and rural development in China.

Koehler (Ames, Iowa), an anthropology major, will study classical Kandyan dance in Sri Lanka for nine months, intensively studying the dance technique as well as interviewing dancers and instructors about the role of Kandyan dance in their communities and country. When she returns, Koehler hopes to conduct workshops in Kandyan dance and attend graduate school in anthropology or South Asian studies.

Nelson (Grand Rapids, Mich.), an economics and German studies major who previously studied in Vienna, will teach English in German schools. She looks forward to integrating into a new community and dialect and experiencing a different aspect of Germanic culture. Her future plans may include teaching, nonprofit management, or community economic development.

Julia Hechler ’11 (Seattle), a French major, received a Fulbright grant to produce a documentary film about a form of language spoken by thousands of French youths, many of them of immigrant descent. She will interview the youths, their family and friends, sociologists, linguists, and people in France who speak standard-French. After her nine months in France she hopes to continue working in documentary film.
EXAMINING METEORITES for clues to the planets’ origins is all in a day’s work for Cosmochemistry students. “Most geology focuses on the evolution of the earth,” says geology professor Karl Wirth, who taught this new class. “This course extends that inquiry to the origin and evolution of the solar system.”

In developing the course, Wirth asked the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History if he could borrow samples of some of their 35,000 meteorites. From their list he chose a variety of meteorites, which students studied and identified over the course of the semester.

Rather than chunks of rock, the meteorites arrived as slices on slides, roughly one inch in diameter. In the first weeks students learned about the formation of the elements and their abundances in the solar system. Then came the major project: Each student received a meteorite to study and, in groups of two, the 18 students began their investigations.

The class drew students from chemistry, physics and astronomy, and economics as well as from geology. According to Wirth, a collaborative approach is not only more effective for learning, it’s more similar to the ways in which modern scientists actually work.

“I was drawn to this class because I wanted to learn the chronology of our solar system—what formed when and how do we know these ages? I find it fascinating how much information can be extracted from a small rock that landed on the Earth’s surface,” says Clara Thomann ’13 (Corvallis, Ore.), who majored in geology and physics/astronomy.

Using an optical microscope with up to 400x magnification, students imaged the meteorites and identified regions for further investigation. By employing polarized light to differentiate the minerals by color, the students ended up with samples resembling stained glass windows. In the Keck lab—a well-equipped Macalester facility open to students and faculty in all the sciences—students used a scanning electron microscope to produce maps of the mineral compositions, with the amount of a given element—say, aluminum—reflected in the height of its graphed peak. The electron beam that scans the meteorite surface produced x-rays that enabled students to identify the elements present in the specimen.

A portion of meteorite that is only 1 mm x1 mm can be seen as a 10x10-inch image. Wirth spent hours with each student team, familiarizing them with equipment and helping them interpret results.

In designing this course allowing students hands-on experience with Cosmochemistry concepts and techniques, Wirth was inspired by his graduate work with noted astronomer Carl Sagan, says geology major James Lindgren ’15 (Marshalltown, Iowa), who adds, “Cosmochemistry is a unique and wonderful course that I wish everyone could take.”
TWO MACALESTER STUDENTS—Andrew B. Keefe ’13 (Minneapolis) and Zachary W. Avre ’14 (Sioux Falls, S.D.)—were named 2013 Truman Scholars. Truman Scholars are elected on the basis of leadership potential, intellectual ability, and the likelihood of “making a difference.” Scholars are given up to $30,000 for graduate study and receive priority admission and supplemental financial aid at premier graduate institutions. They also receive leadership training, career and graduate school counseling, and special internship opportunities within the federal government. Recipients must be U.S. citizens with outstanding leadership potential and communication skills, committed to careers in government or the nonprofit sector.

“I want to dedicate my life to closing the racial and socio-economic achievement gaps that pervade the U.S. education system,” says Keefe, who majored in linguistics and media/cultural studies. “Sociolinguistic bias in education is partially responsible for these gaps because policies don’t offer enough serious recognition of non-English speaking communities.” Keefe will begin his career teaching Spanish at several public schools in St. Paul and interning at the Minneapolis Latino Economic Development Center. Next he hopes to earn a PhD in Race, Inequality, and Language Education at Stanford University.

Avre, a geography major, says, “I am excited to join a community of passionate and engaged scholars committed to enacting change in our world. I’m inspired by the faith and confidence the foundation has invested in me to live out a life of public service.” After graduation Avre plans to earn dual master’s degrees in planning and public policy at the University of Southern California.

Keefe and Avre are two of 62 students named Truman Scholars this year.

New student lounge: Students piled into The Loch, Macalester’s expanded student lounge, on its April 16 opening day. The Loch, located in the lower level of the Campus Center, features an enclosed video game area, a student performance stage, a Bon Appetit food bar selling pizza and Izzy’s ice cream, and plenty of seating, including booths. Popcorn, the hallmark of the old lounge, is still free in The Loch.
Nearly 1,500 alumni, together with their family and friends, returned to campus for Reunion June 7–9.
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AWARDS

2013 Distinguished Citizens
Nat Sloane ’75
Sarah Wovcha ’89
Holly Elwood ’90
Karmela Galicia ’98

Young Alumni Award
Christy L. Haynes ’98

Alumni Service Award
Nancy Slaughter ’58

Charles J. Turck Global Citizen Award
Richard Johanson ’63

Catharine Lealtad Service to Society Award
Minerva Perez-Lopez ’92

M Club Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees
Allan Anderotti ’60, baseball and football
David Fenn ’77, soccer and track & field
Brian Nichols ’60, football and track & field
Kate Ryan Reiling ’00, soccer
1959 Men’s Track & Field team
LOOKING AHEAD TO REUNION 2014
JUNE 6–8, 2014

Milestone Years
1964
1969
1974
1984
1989
1994
2004
2009

Golden Scots
1959
1954
1949

WEB CONNECT: macalester.edu/reunion
“What are some slang words for experiencing a mental illness?”

When Sue Abderholden ’76, executive director of NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Minnesota, poses this question, she hears “Crazy,” “Psycho,” “Nuts”—the list is endless.

But when she asks for slang terms for cancer, the group’s silence makes her point: There’s a stigma unique to mental illnesses. Since assuming the helm of NAMI in 2001, Abderholden has worked to change that.

Around the world, mental illnesses are the leading cause of disability, according to Abderholden, citing the World Health Organization. “Once your illness is disabling, it severely limits your ability to finish school or work, often resulting in poverty,” she says. “Yet people with mental illnesses face discrimination in coverage by insurers.”

Abderholden’s skillful handling of NAMI has brought it notable success at the state capitol. In 2007 the organization worked closely with the legislature and a broad coalition of stakeholders to pass the Minnesota Mental Health Initiative, which promotes community-based treatment and support for people with mental illnesses and their families. It was the largest mental health initiative ever passed in Minnesota.

Half of adults with a mental illness have symptoms of that disease by age 14, says Abderholden, and on average people experience symptoms for 10 years before seeking treatment. Thus, she says, it’s critical to provide services to young people before their illness progresses, threatening their education, livelihood—their very happiness. She was back at the state legislature last February advocating for more mental health funds for schools.

Recent incidents, such as the school shootings in Newtown, Mass., underline the need for such early intervention. Although violence rarely accompanies a mental illness, when it does, the results can be tragic. Minnesota’s worst workplace tragedy occurred in September 2012, when Andrew Engeldinger took a gun to work at Accent Signage Systems in Minneapolis. He killed five people and wounded three others before killing himself.

Desperate to help their son, Engeldinger’s parents had recently taken a NAMI course on dealing with mental illness. But because he was an adult with no known violent inclinations, there was little they could do. Abderholden spent the day after the shootings with Andrew’s family, acting as their spokesperson. It was, she says, “the hardest day of my career.”

In an attempt to educate the public, Abderholden—together with other Twin Cities mental health professionals—has developed educational posters promoting the use of sensitive language around mental illnesses and featuring gifted people—such as Abraham Lincoln and Isaac Newton—who experienced schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, or major depression.

Abderholden also recently consulted with Minneapolis’s Mixed Blood Theatre when it produced the play Next to Normal, which deals with bipolar disorder. The production was directed by Mixed Blood Theatre’s founder Jack Reuler ’75, who has worked with Abderholden on other projects as well.

All these successful initiatives have led to a wall full of plaques from the National Association of Social Workers, the governor, and the Minnesota Psychiatric Society. Yet Abderholden, ever a pragmatist, isn’t resting on her laurels. “We need more housing and more employment support for people with mental illnesses,” she says. “No one gets better sitting in their apartment watching daytime TV and smoking cigarettes all day.”

JAN SHAW-FLAMM ’76 is a staff writer for Macalester Today.
Steve Kotok ’92 is CEO of a successful upstart newsweekly. And he began his journey there selling hummus for Old City Café.

BY GENE REBECK  ➔ PHOTO BY EVAN SUNG

Steve Kotok ’92 has never attended graduate school in business or journalism. But that hasn’t stopped him from becoming CEO of The Week, a publication that has thrived amidst the ruins of the newsmagazine industry. What Kotok lacks in postgraduate sheepskin he has more than made up for with an eclectic mind and a knack for profiting from whatever has come his way.

At Macalester, the only college the Rochester, New York, native applied to, Kotok majored in economics, minored in philosophy, and took more courses in English than in either of those disciplines. During his senior year, he worked full time for the now-defunct Old City Café at Grand and Snelling, selling the café’s Middle Eastern food products to supermarkets throughout the Twin Cities. “I barely graduated,” he says. “I’d go to class covered in hummus.” Upon getting his diploma, he decided on a whim to move to Prague.

“I’d never thought about a career or anything like that,” Kotok recalls. “I just showed up,” knowing neither a soul in the Czech capital nor a word of the language. That didn’t prevent him from landing a restaurant job and, in time, opening his own dining spot. A couple of years later, he moved to New York City. “I thought it would be a good place to go for a year while I figured out what to do next,” he recalls. He’s still there. Kotok worked for a scholarly book publisher for a few years, then in 1996, answered a help-wanted ad in the New York Times seeking a business manager for a new magazine.

Thus, Kotok first crossed the threshold into the Felix Dennis publishing empire, perhaps best known for launching quintessential “lad mag” Maxim in 1995. A year later, Dennis started Blender, a pop-culture multimedia publication produced on CD-ROM. “As we now know, CD-ROMs were not destined to take over the world,” Kotok wryly notes. Blender morphed into a music magazine, and Kotok took on other jobs with Dennis. In 2001, Dennis launched The Week; six months in, Kotok was asked to help the new magazine improve its marketing and business plan. What Kotok expected to be a short assignment has stretched to 12 years and counting. In 2007, he was named The Week’s president, becoming CEO a few years later.

Kotok describes The Week as a magazine for “people who are very busy, who don’t have time to read everything.” It primarily glean information and insights from other publications: “We read everything for them and bring them diverse perspectives in a very concise way around what we think are the important issues.” A print-based aggregator of other publications isn’t a new idea: Readers’ Digest and Utne Reader, among others, cleared that trail long ago. And breaking down big news stories into smaller bites is as old as Time. But unlike those magazines, The Week is on the march. It has been profitable since 2010, at a clip of about $4 million per annum. Circulation, which has grown 25 percent in the last five years, is currently at around 550,000, with subscription revenue doubling since 2008.

Meanwhile, Newsweek has disappeared, U.S. News has shrunk, and Time seems to be running down. Kotok believes that The Week has thrived in part because when it launched, “there was already an Internet. We knew we wouldn’t be bringing people the news. Most of our stories—you’ve kind of heard about the events that we’re discussing.”

The people who read The Week, says Samir Husni, director of the University of Mississippi’s Magazine Innovation Center, are looking for a literate time-saver. “In the midst of the technology we’re using and in the midst of satellite and cable 24-hour news, The Week summarizes everything in a very intelligent and witty way,” Husni says. Though aggregation was supposed to become a forte of the Internet, the digital superhighway has only added to the traffic jam of information. The Week, Husni says, offers “a very skillful editorial weaving that takes place in the condensation” rather than “a disjointed summary.”

Two years ago Dennis acquired Mental Floss, a magazine specializing in the kind of “random, amazing” information that has become an Internet staple: [fill-in-number] things you should know about a topic. Mental Floss focuses on smart stuff rather than titillating trivia. (Example from February 2013: “18 Complicated Scientific Ideas Explained Simply”) Dennis’s financial backing has boosted the circulation of Mental Floss 50 percent to about 150,000. Kotok is also CEO of Mental Floss.

His work involves “finding great people for each department or initiative we’re doing,” says Kotok, rather than doing the hands-on editing himself. E-commerce has been keeping him particularly busy. Mental Floss’s online shop, which sells its own brand of board games and educational card sets, now accounts for 30 percent of the publication’s revenue.

Kotok’s professional journey may seem almost labyrinthine. But he does believe there’s a thread running through it. “The things I love about The Week and Mental Floss is they’re about discovering and celebrating new and interesting ideas,” Kotok says. “That’s something I got from Macalester. I definitely see consistency between what I do now with the person I was then.”

GENE REBECK is a Duluth, Minnesota-based business writer.
Steve Kotok '92 in his office at The Week, where he is CEO.
Sara Peterson ’72 may be a big city corporate lawyer with an apartment on San Francisco’s Nob Hill, but her true home is in wine country.

There she lives on a 193-acre ranch in the Sonoma Valley, purchased in 1937 by the parents of her late husband, Charlie Cooke. And there she oversees the care and nurture of ten acres of grapes used to make some very fine Zinfandels for Ravenswood and Bedrock Wineries.

Cooke planted the vineyard in 1980, says Peterson, at a time when “there weren’t many hillside vineyards” in the area. Cooke and Peterson were early proponents of organic growing, eschewing chemicals, and could get away with it, she says, because of the vineyard’s steep site that enjoys regular breezes.

The rockiness of the site, Peterson speculates, also leads to a long-lasting wine that doesn’t mature as quickly as other Zinfandels. “Our wine is still beautiful ten years or more later,” she says. “I think it’s the rock that gives it that structure.”

Cooke is a low-yield vineyard, producing less than a ton of grapes per acre compared to the five or more tons per acre produced by many

Given its Midwestern location, Macalester doesn’t come immediately to mind as an educator of vintners. Yet our small Minnesota college does have a presence in northern California’s wine-growing region, we discovered recently. Following are the stories of a handful of Mac grads whose worlds revolve around winemaking. Nice work if you can get it, right? But it’s not all chardonnay sipping and golden grape fields. Read on to learn of the rigor as well as the romance.
valley vineyards in the same area. After many of years working closely with Ravenswood, producing the well-respected Cooke Zinfandel, Peterson now sells her grapes to newcomer Bedrock, owned and operated by the son of Ravenswood’s founder.

Family-owned wine businesses are important to Peterson, who is also on the board of Napa Valley’s Heitz Wine Cellars. “It’s a very interesting industry,” she says. “Yes, the wine industry has its corporate giants, but there are still lots of small family-run businesses—and these people truly love what they do.”

Devotion to the legacy of the Sonoma wine industry as well as to the future of the county’s natural environment led Cooke to help found Sonoma Valley’s Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District. A small county sales tax increase has helped the district purchase property and development rights, ensuring that some of the land will remain in vineyards rather than ending up like the Santa Clara Valley—now known as the Silicon Valley—where once bountiful orchards have been replaced by housing developments and high-tech headquarters. “Charlie’s idea was to bring together the agricultural people and the environmentalists,” says Peterson. “He was a very forward thinking person.”

Although Cooke died five years ago, Peterson plans to continue growing Zinfandel grapes on the land for many years. The attraction of the wine world, she says, is simple. “There’s something very fundamental about having a glass of wine and a meal with friends. It’s why people are attracted to the wine industry—it’s something basic about life.”
The Legacy: The Nalle Family

No one in the Nalle family takes himself very seriously. Their wine club membership is called the Squirrel Club and their most recent brochure, titled “Barrels of Zinfandel,” features a photo of their dog sniffing grape skins, with the caption “elite organoleptic evaluator.”

What they do take seriously is making great wine, which has been a passion for this family for 30 years. Doug Nalle, father of Sam Nalle ’05, started Nalle Winery in 1984 on land that had been in his wife Lee’s family since 1927. He and Lee, together with their older son, Andrew, continue to run their business today in the Dry Creek Valley outside Healdsburg, California.

Through the years the business model has changed—distributors having given way to direct sales—but the wine itself remains: European-style Zinfandels and Pinot Noirs, lower in sugar, alcohol, and oak than the recently fashionable products out of the neighboring Napa Valley.

“A whole generation of wine judges and wine drinkers believe that a big soft juicy red is the ultimate in the wine world,” says Doug. “But when you’re having a bottle of wine with food, everything is different. There are standup wines and sit-down wines—ours is a sit-down wine, one that matches well with food.”

Long before sustainability was a watchword in the wine industry, the Nalle family was working that way. In 1990 Doug Nalle erected an above-ground cave out of a half cylinder structure and retaining walls, covering it with five feet of dirt planted with rosemary. Just as in traditional caves, this unconventional one maintains a regular temperature of 55 to 60 degrees and a constant humidity of 75 percent or greater—ideal for winemaking and aging.

Their winery has also dispensed with the fancy foil caps found atop most wine bottles—they’re unnecessary, says Andrew, used only for show. (Real corks, however, he says, do make the wine better, recent trends notwithstanding.) Nalle also uses much lighter, recycled bottles for its wine; the heavy ones, again, are impressive but unnecessary for making a great product.

Lee and Doug live on the 20 acres of vineyard that Lee inherited from her family, in a modern home about a third of a mile from the winery.

Closer to the road is the older house where Lee’s grandparents once lived. Plans are in the works to remodel it soon for Andrew and his girlfriend, who now live in town.

Because direct sales are vital to any small winery’s financial health, Nalle—like many of its competitors—is open for tours. Tourists are often surprised to find this winery housed in a kind of herb-covered Quonset hut rather than in a classic Spanish-style hacienda, says Andrew. “They drive in here and they’re shocked it’s so funky,” he says. “But we’re authentic: We’re a small family really making and selling our own wines. For us it’s about the quality of the wine, not the drive up to the door.”
The Scion: Sam Nalle ’05

He may have grown up in a vineyard, but when pressed, Sam Nalle ’05 admits he prefers beer. Which is not to say he doesn’t appreciate the benefits of having grown up amidst the grapes. Nalle, now a postdoctoral fellow in research oncology at Genentech, is a member of the Nalle family of California’s Dry Creek Valley. His parents, Doug and Lee Nalle, founded Nalle Winery in 1984 just outside Healdsburg. The lifestyle was idyllic, he now says. “It’s really beautiful there, of course, but owning the business also gave my parents more flexibility. My Dad coached sports and my Mom could be home with us. They were always there.”

Although as a boy Nalle focused on school and sports—later majoring in biology and playing baseball at Macalester—he worked at the winery after school and in the summers, sorting grapes, bottling, labeling boxes. Even more memorable were the trips his family took around the country and the world, visiting distributors and other wine contacts. The independence of a family business influenced him profoundly, Nalle says. In college he found that lifestyle replicated in biology professor Paul Overvoorde’s lab, where Nalle did research. “Working in Paul’s lab inspired me to apply for graduate school,” says Nalle. “I loved doing research with him and found that independent environment was one that I craved.”

After several years in graduate school at the University of Chicago, Nalle now works happily—and independently—in his South San Francisco lab. He and his wife, Stefani, recently relocated to the Bay Area to be closer to his family. On many weekends they head back to Healdsburg, where there have been plenty of changes since Nalle’s 1990s boyhood. For one thing, his brother, Andrew, is now in charge of the family business. And Healdsburg itself, once a sleepy agricultural town, has become another tony tourist destination, with high-end inns and restaurants opening downtown.

Yet despite the glitz, says Nalle, the wine business remains as it has always been, rewarding, yes, but also hard work. “People don’t realize how difficult it is to run your own small winery,” he says. “You have to do everything for the business—buying or growing grapes, producing it, marketing it, shipping it. It’s not just sitting around waiting for wine to ferment.”
A visit to the Napa Valley as a teenager first ignited Rebekah Wineburg’s interest in the wine industry. After a family friend gave her a tour, talking about the chemistry and fermentation of wine, she remembers, “It gave me the idea for something really interesting I could do with science. And the idea just took hold.”

The notion that first took root in the Napa Valley 20 years ago is fully flowering there today. Wineburg works as winemaker for a small Napa vintner called Buccella (mouthful in Latin), which produces 3,000 cases of Cabernet and Merlot a year and for whom she is one of just five employees.

The trajectory of Wineburg’s career was laid out for her years earlier by chemistry professor emeritus and wine enthusiast Truman Schwartz. “He really encouraged me and helped me figure out a career path,” says Wineburg. Schwartz suggested she intern at a winery and then earn a master’s in viticulture and oenology at the University of California-Davis. “And that,” she laughs, “is what I did!”

Founded in 2002, Buccella isn’t located at the end of a scenic, grapevine-laden lane. Instead, like many of the valley’s recent arrivals, it’s a garagiste or warehouse winery. Never open for tours, it’s based in a suburban office park. “This is how you start a winery if you’re not a billionaire,” Wineburg laughs.

Once inside though, you know you’re in a winery: there’s the destemmer, the crusher, the fermenter. And across the parking lot lies the barrel vault, where floor-to-ceiling casks of red wine spend 22 months in oak before being bottled. These “big reds” then spend another nine months aging in bottles before they’re released to the public.

Winemaking, then, is a patient person’s business. Although Wineburg began at Buccella in 2009, her first vintage wasn’t sold until 2012. Relationships with vineyards are equally long lasting. Like most small wineries, Buccella doesn’t grow its own grapes, instead leasing vineyards and overseeing the grape growing and harvesting at fields throughout the Napa Valley.

Wineburg loves this part of her job, visiting each vineyard throughout the growing season and daily at harvest time, directing the farming and controlling yields and picking dates.

Once harvest time comes, every day is 12 to 14 hours long—picking starts as early as 3 a.m.—and there’s no such thing as a weekend. “I do 70 percent of my work between Labor Day and Thanksgiving,” she says. “It can be tough and really draining. There are no sick days—the grapes and the wine won’t wait.”

After harvest comes fermenting, pump-overs, putting wine into barrels, more fermenting, racking, tasting, blending, bottling—the toil never ceases. But Wineburg enjoys the variety. “I like doing a little of everything and not getting pigeonholed,” she says.

Given the physical nature of the work and her T-shirt and jeans wardrobe, it’s clear that working at a winery “is not as glamorous as people think,” says Wineburg. “I spend a lot less time at tastings and a lot more time driving a forklift and getting sweaty in vineyards.”

Tastings, however, are a part of Wineburg’s work life. She conducts regular ones at Buccella and belongs to three outside groups as well. “You have to keep your palate trained,” she points out, “and avoid having what we call a ‘house palate.’”

Whatever the task at hand, Wineburg never loses sight of her ultimate goal. “At a small winery it’s about quality, not marketing,” she says. “I’m just trying to make the very best wine possible.”
It’s all about aging in oak barrels for the high-end red wines produced by Buccella, the Napa Valley winery where Rebekah Wineburg ’99 is winemaker. Opposite: Wineburg in her mini-chemistry lab at Buccella’s warehouse headquarters.
Justin Lee '08 shown amidst the large-scale barrels and presses of one of the dozen wineries owned by Kendall Jackson, where he works as sustainability coordinator.
It was a love for the environment rather than a love for wine that led Justin Lee ’08 to his job at Kendall Jackson. Now a sustainability program manager for the five-million-case-a-year company, he first discovered his passion for the environment while in Chile, studying the policy implications of establishing a national park system.

Upon returning to Mac, Lee was chosen—thanks in part to having once run his own painting business—as project manager for the just-purchased EcoHouse. “I was given the keys to the house, a $50,000 budget, and told to figure it out by August 16,” he says. He managed it beautifully, thanks to help from building maintenance manager Mike Hall and mechanical systems manager Curt Stainbrook (“To this day when I come back to Mac, it’s those facilities guys I visit first,” he says.)

After the successful completion of that project, Lee took on a student job in which he explored energy-saving ideas for the college—such as recycled toilet paper, new fluorescent bulbs, etc.—followed by a one-year post-graduate job helping newly hired sustainability manager Suzanne Savanick Hanson get up to speed.

A few months later, following a cross-country bike trip, he found himself in San Francisco, sleeping on a friend’s window seat. Thanks to his rich experiences at Macalester, however, Lee wasn’t couch-surfing for long. He was soon working as a consultant for green building firm Integral Impact Inc. Jackson Family Wines (the holding company for Kendall Jackson) was a client, and before long they had hired him away.

As sustainability coordinator, Lee’s projects have ranged from installing the nation’s largest rooftop solar generator to ensuring that all 10,000 acres of Kendall Jackson vineyard are certified as sustainable wine-growing areas.

With twelve wineries, three office buildings, eight tasting rooms, a bottling plant, and a distribution plant, Kendall Jackson is a huge operation, and Lee admits he and his small team could never do the job alone. “We’ve worked with at least 50 different people at our various sites,” says Lee. “Maintenance managers, cellar masters, growers—they all believe in what we’re doing. We can only get this all done through partnering.”

Lee also does a lot of employee engagement, holding workshops and contests and writing blogs to “create a culture of sustainability.” Given that a third of Kendall Jackson’s employees speak Spanish, he is helped immeasurably by his fluency in that language.

Kendall-Jackson’s sustainability team also does research and development that benefits the entire industry, says Lee, such as inventing a new water filtration system that reduces water use up to 90 percent. Although he admits that bringing a sustainability focus to the gigantic California wine industry is “a bit like turning the Titanic,” he remains optimistic. “The more I work in it, the more hopeful I am,” he says.
GUIDING A POET'S PRESS

Jeffrey Shotts '96 in the Graywolf Press Minneapolis office.
Editor Jeffrey Shotts ’96 is the force behind the recent success of Minnesota’s Graywolf Press.

Jeff Shotts’96

A night, after his young sons have gone to bed and, hopefully, to sleep, Jeff Shotts ’96 gets busy. He pulls a sheaf of typescript from his work bag and spreads the pages across the dining room table. He uncaps his green pen—green, because it is a more soothing color than fierce and angry red. He bends over the pages and begins to read intently. Every now and then he makes a tiny note, followed by a question mark. Is this the right word? Does this line need one more beat? Should this stanza be moved up?

Questions, always questions.

In the past five years, authors published by Minneapolis’s Graywolf Press have won just about every major literary award there is: The Pulitzer Prize. The Nobel Prize. The National Book Critics Circle Award. Awards from the American Academy of Arts and Letters and the PEN Foundation and the Lannan Foundation. The names of the writers vary and their tones range from lovely to enraged, but in each case one thing was the same: Shotts was their editor.

You have to have a certain temperament to do what Shotts does, editing some of the most important voices in contemporary American poetry: You have to be confident; tactful yet forceful, thick-skinned yet sensitive, and with an almost insane devotion to the written word.

You pretty much have to be Jeff Shotts.

Poetry is such a personal art—thoughts distilled to their essence, cloaked in mystery, camouflaged in metaphor—that the idea of editing it is daunting, and many poetry editors do not try. They acquire work, and they publish it. But that is not how Shotts views his job. “A huge part of my job is reading and evaluating manuscripts, encouraging submissions, being part of a conversation,” he says. “The other, larger, function is working with writers to make the best possible book.”

He does this, he says, by attuning his ear to each poet’s particular music. “Do they write in lines? Do they write in prose blocks? Do they use rhyme and meter as a regular function of their poetry? Is their syntax fairly open and readable and accessible, or is it contorted and tortured and loud?”

He works with writers by email and phone call and sometimes by fax; he works with them for years and knows their work thoroughly. “Jeff is devoted to Graywolf’s poets, and they know it,” says publisher Fiona McCrae. “They want to work with him again and again.”

This was not how the process worked at Wesleyan University Press, where D.A. Powell published his first books. “At Wesleyan, it felt like somebody prints your book and then anything else you do have to do on your own. It was pretty dismal,” says Powell, who lives in San Francisco.

Shotts lured Powell to Graywolf in 2002. “I think the first thing that drew me was just the sense that somebody was going to be listening to me,” Powell says. “Somebody was going to have a conversation with me about the shape of the book.”

Powell has now published three books with Graywolf and has won a number of awards, including the Kingsley Tufts Award and the National Book Critics Circle Award. Working with Shotts “is like having a second brain,” he says. “I can’t say for sure that Jeff is the best because there are other fine editors I know, but for me, he’s absolutely the best.”

St. Paul poet Leslie Adrienne Miller appreciates Shotts’s thoughts throughout the process. “In the early stages, he’s really trying to give you a sense of what he finds most valuable, so you can do more of it,” she says. “I’ll hold onto his conversations for months.”

Both poets praised his tact, as well as his keen eye. “Obviously, as an editor you don’t want to kill the creativity of someone else,” Powell says. “You want to preserve and protect that. Some editors don’t get that. They think their job is to make these large cuts through the forest. Jeff isn’t like that. He’s more like—he’s like a therapist.”

Shotts, 39, grew up in McPherson, Kansas, “a place of farms, and oil wells, and church steeples.” His father was a real estate agent, his mother an expert in early-childhood education. As a boy, Shotts walked the fields with his grandfather, Otis Ray Griggs, a county extension agent whose job was to test the quality of wheat. Griggs wore a bolo tie and a straw hat under the hot prairie sun, and he always solemnly chewed and spat a sample of wheat before passing his judgment.

Griggs had hoped that Jeff would go off to college and then come back to Kansas, perhaps to work with genetically modified crops. But he inadvertently sent his grandson in a different direction one year by presenting him with a tattered volume of Tennyson.

“My grandfather was not a poet or a reader of great literature,” Shotts says. “I don’t know that he even knew what he was doing, giving me that book. What was I, 12, 13 years old, reading the heights of Victorian verse in the middle of Kansas. But that sensibility was something I responded to deeply at that age. That was an extraordinary moment.”

Shotts did leave Kansas, to attend Macalester, where he studied classics and English, but he didn’t return home. He landed an internship at Hungry Mind Review, and then, in 1996, a job as editorial assistant at Graywolf. He left to earn an MFA in poetry from Washington University in St. Louis, but in 2002 McCrae asked him to come back as poetry editor. Shotts, now executive editor, also edits essays and literary criticism, and he works with novelist Charles Baxter ’69 on a series of books about the craft of writing.

But when he talks about his job, it’s all about the poetry.

Shotts approaches a poem slowly, reading it over and over, immersing himself in the poet’s intent and meaning and voice. His green-ink
notations are merely suggestions. “I never know that I’m right,” he says. “The author is the only one who can ever be right.”

He looks at the manuscript both as its parts, and as a whole. “I’ve done significant edits, from title changes to cutting individual poems to resectioning books—the organization of a poetry book is extremely important,” he says. “Why is that first poem first? Why is that last poem last? I look at things like diction—are there words that stand out, and should those words stand out? If a writer is creating a kind of casual, colloquial tone, but there’s suddenly a 10-dollar word, is that intentional? It might be, because that tonal register shift can be a huge pleasure, too.”

He looks at how the poem appears on the printed page, and how the left-hand page looks in relation to the right-hand page. He double-checks spellings and foreign phrases and historical references and slang. “That’s a place where I can sound really dumb, or, in some cases, really white,” he says. “Thomas Sayers Ellis’s Washington, D.C., neighborhood vernacular is probably different from the vernacular I used growing up in central Kansas, to say the least.”

When President Obama chose Graywolf poet Elizabeth Alexander to write the poem for his first inauguration, Shotts edited her “Praise Song for the Day” with an ear toward how it would sound when read aloud. Some of his green marks Alexander agreed with, some she did not. “What I love is when the author welcomes the suggestions but also says, ‘Here’s an alternative to this concern, but all the other stuff you’re saying, that’s where I draw the line,’” Shotts says. “If I’ve gotten an author to the point where they can define that line, I feel that’s perfect.”

The best poetry, Shotts said, shakes people up. Recent Graywolf collections have dealt with race, terrorism, and living in a post-9/11 world. “We pride ourselves on taking on some poets who are controversial,” he says. A collection by actor James Franco, to be published in 2014, “is a fascinating view of how we, as a culture, are fascinated by fame.” The poems in Ellis’s Skin, Inc. are “at times a song, and at times a punch in the face,” Shotts says. “These are poets who have something to say about what we’re trying to do as human beings. That’s the poetry that I love and get affected by—jarring us out of our complacency, jarring us out of what we think we already know.”

There is, of course, a third party involved in all this work: the reader. Books, even slender books of difficult poetry, are written to be bought, and read. “We’re not interested in throwing books down a well,” Shotts says. “I feel very much in a tradition—a tradition of editors that go invisible, and should be invisible, helping to bring something beautiful and necessary and artful to the world.”

Reprinted with permission from the Star Tribune (April 13, 2013).
students new to Macalester College’s geography department are sometimes assigned to create “cognitive maps” of their campus life, outlining where they live, the streets they know by name, the routes and routines of their daily lives.

For many first year students, that natural habitat extends about as far north as Summit Avenue, south to the St. Clair Broiler, east to Dunn Bros., and west to the Mississippi. By the time students return for their second year, the familiar terrain may be enlarged to include an off-campus apartment on Portland Avenue, an attraction or two in Minneapolis, and a Super Target accessible by bus. Even so, says Matt Hyde ’13, “If you ask most sophomores where Randolph Avenue is they have no idea.”

Hyde’s own perspective on Macalester’s metropolitan setting was just as limited when he arrived as a freshman from Barrington, Illinois. But after four years at the college, Hyde graduated in May with a sense of community that extended from St. Paul’s West Side (where he taught English as a Second Language at the Guadalupe Alternative Program) to the neighborhoods along Minneapolis’s Lake Street (where he tutored at a Native American magnet school) to St. Paul’s Frogtown area (where he and his geography classmates studied the effects of the foreclosure crisis) to the suburb of Prior Lake (where he studied sustainable land use design as a Chuck Green Fellow). “The Twin Cities initially felt really small to me, but it doesn’t anymore,” says Hyde, who starts an internship with National Geographic this fall. “Having so many experiences around the city gave me a better sense of the community—and a better idea of what I want to do.”

Expanding the cognitive map of Macalester’s wider community may be a matter of pride for geography majors like Hyde, but it has also become a growing part of the school’s mission says Paul Schadewald, associate director of the Civic Engagement Center. “One of the things that makes Macalester distinctive is that we’re located in the heart of a metropolitan area that provides so many possibilities for learning,” he says.

Though Mac’s urban setting has always been a selling point to prospective students and faculty, Brian Rosenberg’s arrival as president in 2003 signaled a new commitment to making the most of community connections and resources across the Twin Cities. When Rosenberg arrived, says Schadewald, he asked every department to describe how they were using the urban context as part of their teaching and service learning, and then to imagine other ways they could take advantage of the college’s urban environment. Although many departments already had decades-long relationships with nonprofits, public schools, and other community resources, the president’s charge, says Schadewald, “gave us a spark to start thinking about how we train students to go into the community, and what they could accomplish.”

Today, nearly 60 course offerings across 21 disciplines include some type of community-based learning component, ranging from Urban Geographic Information Systems classes analyzing data for neighborhood nonprofits to senior seminars requiring students to intern for public health and policy groups. During the 2011-12 academic year, 94 percent of Macalester students volunteered, donating nearly 87,000 hours in the community. Last year Mac students took on more than 350 different off-campus internships, many of which offered credit or allowed them to earn work-study dollars by working with a community partner or nonprofit.

Encouraging Mac students to seek experiences beyond the confines of the 53-acre campus is critical to creating the ethic of global citizenship that is part of the college mission, Schadewald says. “We know that having direct involvement in the community builds a lifelong sense of citizenship, and teaches lessons that can be transferred to lots of situations, like learning how to build community, how to address inequality, themes that come up in academic settings that are directly related to what’s happening in the Twin Cities,” he says. “As an institution rooted in the city, we also have a responsibility to be good neighbors, and to model that for our students.”

Building on strengths “Community-based learning” may be a millennial trend in higher education, but it’s been a tradition at Macalester for more than a century. In fact, the Neighborhood House on the St. Paul’s West Side has welcomed student volunteers from Macalester since the early 1900s, as it has served successive waves of immigrants, from Jews fleeing Russia at the turn of the last century to Somali refugees in the 2000s. Each generation of Macalester students has helped to grow
the campus’s ties to the community, by doing such things as tutoring in St. Paul public schools and starting nonprofits like Family Tree Clinic.

“Higher education has a long history of going into the community, but often it was about counting up the city’s problems,” says Civic Engagement Center director Karin Trail-Johnson. Rather than viewing the Twin Cities as a living laboratory for one-way research, she says, “our goal is to build respectful connections and long-standing partnerships with the Jane Addams philosophy that everyone is a teacher and everyone is a learner. We teach students how to look at a community’s strengths and help build on them.”

For instance, the center collects into digital archives the results of student research about community issues such as affordable housing and public health so that “the next group of students can take it to the next level and move the issue forward,” she says, rather than descending on the same community partners “to ask the same questions year after year.” Trail-Johnson and her staff also teach students how to make their community service work more meaningful for both parties. That means Bonner Scholars, who earn their financial aid by tutoring St. Paul’s public schoolchildren, are encouraged to tell those kids—who see them as role models—what it’s like to be a first-generation college student. “We make it clear, ‘Don’t just help kids with their math—tell them your story, too,’” says Trail-Johnson. “Those are the community connections that will fuel you over four years.”

For the faculty, the center hosts an Urban Resources Colloquium every summer to introduce professors—many from outside the region—to resources and potential partners among the state’s more than 30,000 registered nonprofits and NGOs. Those connections have been critical for Professor Roopali Phadke, who teaches an environmental studies leadership practicum. Hers is a six-credit course that requires students to intern at an environmental nonprofit, returning to campus for weekly reflections about connecting classroom theory with real-life challenges. “Not only do these experiences open students’ eyes to the variety of potential occupations, for those interested in the social sciences and policy issues, being in the city can be a fantastic laboratory for seeing how it really works,” says Phadke. “Last fall, we placed students at 22 different organizations—something that’s only possible when you have an active environmental community like ours in the Twin Cities.”

Connections that stay close to campus

The network of Macalester alumni who have maintained close campus ties has been critical to creating fresh community-based learning opportunities for current students, says geography professor Laura Smith ’94. “One of the first assignments I gave my students was to research the students living off campus, and as an offshoot of the project we ended up mapping alumni in the neighborhood,” Smith says. Her class discovered surprisingly large concentrations of alumni living within walking distance of their alma mater, with a broad age distribution. “It was striking visual evidence of Macalester’s influence on the surrounding neighborhood,” she says, “which speaks to the idea that students here really do become invested in the community.”

In fact, the community-based learning project her Urban GIS students tackled last spring was suggested by Joan Bennett ’05, a geography major finishing up a graduate degree in urban planning. When Bennett came across new data she thought might help measure the effect of revitalizing efforts along Minneapolis’s Mississippi riverfront, she got in touch with Smith and Kathleen Boe ’73, interim executive director of the Minneapolis Riverfront Partnership (MRP). Over spring semester Smith’s students did a deep dive on the available data, creating a framework for measuring the economic and social development of the riverfront.

In May, the class presented its findings at the Federal Reserve Board before board members and MRP staff. “Community groups are notoriously underfunded and overworked, so when you bring in 15 bright, driven Macalester students, they produce wonders,” says Jacob Wasca-lus, a Federal Reserve Board community development project manager who attended their presentation. “The impact goes way beyond being a feel-good effort for college students and the community. They gave us a viable, useful product.”

Harry Kent ’13 (Columbus, Ohio), a geography major who contributed to the study, says experiences like this one helped make his coursework feel more relevant and worthwhile. “College can feel like such an individual experience that even though it’s meant to broaden your horizons, in other ways it can narrow them,” he says. “Getting off campus to see how the community really works made me feel part of something much bigger.”

Course correction

Another discovery students make while moving from classroom to community is what they don’t want to do. Discerning which career paths to avoid “is an important thing to learn early on so you can do a course adjustment,” says internship program director Michael Porter. “If you’re taking advantage of opportunities to explore those questions, you’ll graduate with a much stronger sense of what you’re good at and where you want to take those skills.”

Creative writing major Rebecca Schultz ’13 (Chicago) started that refinement process last year during a summer internship at The Loft Literary Center in Minneapolis. At her exit interview, she asked her supervisor to suggest other ways she could connect with the Twin Cities creative community, a request that led to credit-earning internships at literary magazine Paper Darts, nonprofit publisher Coffee House Press, and brand identity firm Capsule. “I can’t imagine my Mac education without those experiences,” says Schultz, who by graduation had landed a job as publicist for Milkweed Editions. “Kind of miraculous,” she calls getting hired to do work she loves. “But I think the lesson is if you connect with the community and stick around, you’ll find your way in.”

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LAURA BILLINGS COLEMAN is a frequent contributor to Macalester Today who enjoys listening to the bagpipes from her front porch.
During football season, Mary and Toni Karlsson and their kids can hear the sound of air horns and cheering from Macalester Stadium at their home on nearby Jefferson Avenue. By spring, pulsing music, starter pistols, and speakers signal the start of baseball and track season. Through the summer, the skirls and pounding drums of pipe band practice waft through the air most Wednesday nights.

Living within earshot of a busy liberal arts college can be challenging, but the Karlssons say the school adds to their sense of community in the Macalester-Groveland neighborhood, thanks in large part to the regular updates they receive from the High Winds Fund office. “They’re good about letting us know about construction projects that might be an inconvenience or campus events that are going on,” says Mary Karlsson, a planning analyst at the Metropolitan Council. She was thrilled when Garrison Keillor relocated his Common Good Books to a High Winds property on Snelling Avenue and applauds that street’s new traffic-calming medians the fund helped provide. Even the occasional raucous Scots sports crowd is cheering to Karlsson, who says, “Hearing people have fun like that warms my heart.”

Creating a friendly bond between the college and its surrounding community is one of the missions of the High Winds Fund, which was established in 1956 with a $300,000 gift from DeWitt Wallace with the aim of improving “the beauty, serenity and security” of the neighborhoods surrounding Macalester. “One of the motivations at that time was to avoid becoming another Columbia University—a beautiful ivory tower in the midst of a deteriorating neighborhood,” says Tom Welna, director of the fund, which functions, as he puts it, as “a cross between a community development agency and a foundation with a locally invested portfolio.”

Its mission allows High Winds to make grants toward such longstanding neighborhood projects as the Macalester Block Nurse Program, which helps keep seniors in their homes, and new initiatives like the Hour Car hub, a car-sharing co-op that’s proven popular with Mac students and neighbors. The High Winds office also actively recruits community-minded tenants for college-owned properties, encouraging businesses such as Patagonia, the St. Paul Cheese Shop, and the French Meadow Bakery to set up shop on Grand Avenue. “We’re trying to encourage the businesses around Grand and Snelling in a very purposeful way that spurs more good things to grow,” says Welna.

The local real estate market has always been a high priority for High Winds, which back in the 1960s and ’70s owned nearly 200 single family homes in the area, a commitment that helped prevent surrounding streets from tipping toward student rentals owned by absentee landlords. Today the fund owns only four homes, but still plays an active role in maintaining the character of the historic Mac-Groveland neighborhood by offering “walk to work” incentive loans that encourage faculty and staff to live within a mile of campus. “We have a $40 million payroll, and nearly 40 percent of those employees live in the surrounding neighborhoods,” Welna says. “That means that almost half that payroll is going back into mortgages in this area and shopping at local businesses. The idea is to harness the economic power of the college through people’s living choices, and help create that fabric of community. In terms of community relations, when you have alumni, faculty, and staff living on virtually every block around here, it means everyone’s invested.”

The High Winds Fund also sends regular mailings to about 1,500 of the college’s closest neighbors, updating them on construction projects, inviting them to concerts and plays, offering them neighborhood memberships at the Leonard Center, hosting an annual summer ice cream social, and encouraging neighbors to use the campus like a park—for walking dogs, running the track, and teaching kids to ride bikes. “The campus is much more secure because so many people feel a sense of ownership,” he says, adding that neighbors regularly tell him how glad they are to be on the guest list.

That’s one reason the High Winds Fund doesn’t measure its returns by focusing on the bottom line. “As a mission-driven business, you have to measure profitability in multiple ways,” Welna says, “and when it comes to building a strong community, I think we’ve had a pretty high return.” —LAURA BILLINGS
Global Images
A few of our favorites from the Study Away Photo Contest
Brazil
Photo by Rachel Harrington-Abrams ’14
Hometown: Berkeley, Calif.
Major: International studies
Study abroad program: C.V. Starr Middlebury: Brazil, Rio de Janeiro

Cameroon I
Photo by Mackey Borg ’14
Hometown: Honolulu
Major: Economics
Study abroad program: SIT Cameroon—Social Pluralism and Development, Yaoundé

China
Photo by Ashley Mangan
Hometown: Little Rock, Ark.
Major: Chinese
Study abroad program: China Studies Institute, Beijing

Cameroon II
Photo by Sasha Lansky ’14
Hometown: Amherst, Mass.
Major: International studies and anthropology
Study abroad program: SIT Cameroon—Social Pluralism and Development, Yaoundé
India I
Photo by Merita Bushi ’14
Hometown: Chicago
Major: Geography
Study abroad program: Contemporary India—Development, Environment, and Public Health, Pune

India II
Photo by Merita Bushi ’14
New Zealand
Photo by Audry Kohout ’14
Hometown: Park City, Utah
Major: Economics and Applied Mathematics
Study abroad program: New Zealand—University of Otago, Dunedin

Morocco
Photo by Tanur Badgley ’14
Hometown: Topeka, Kansas
Major: Media and cultural studies
Study Abroad Program: Morocco-SIT Field Studies in Journalism and New Media, Rabat
Although he wasn’t sure when exactly it had happened, sometime between his first routine cleaning and the last of his two porcelain crowns, Nils Templeton had fallen in love with his dental hygienist. Her name was Echo, and she had eyes that matched the lavender exam gloves she used to tenderly probe the inside of his bacteria-laden mouth. At first, Nils was certain she wore contact lenses—no one’s eyes could be that purple, could they?—but in the course of his multiple appointments, he’d searched for the barely visible border between silicone and eyeball, that slight convex edge that domed the iris in violet, and he had never found a trace.

He knew, deep down, it was a little creepy to feel this way about a dental professional. His sister, who had majored in Women’s Studies at a better college than he’d attended, had explained to him all about “emotional labor” and the unfair sexualized gender roles women were forced to play in the workplace. But despite his attempts to be enlightened, Nils could not disregard his yearnings. Echo was not just attractive—though, yes, she was quite pretty with high cheekbones and a hygienist’s luminous smile—she had also guided him through a rocky hell-scape of gingivitis and calcification, showing nothing but patience and aplomb in the face of his unspeakable tartar.

Nils was also willing to admit that he was a bit on the emotionally vulnerable side of late. At the age of thirty-four, he was still flailing in the wake of an unexpected divorce, and since his wife had left him, he’d often been nervous (and freakishly sweaty) around women he didn’t know. But in Echo he had found a woman too self-assured to make him anxious. Without blinking, she had reached into the ugly depths of his face and tended to his ailing teeth with the calm attentiveness of a paleontologist. She had spritzed away his nervous tension with each cold rinse and quieted his soul with every incidental squeak of her latex-free glove across his lips.

“I love you,” he said to her now. “I love you, Echo.”

But he spoke into the chasm of a deafening, spit-sucking straw, and what came out were mostly vowels. She gave the straw a tug and it popped from his mouth.

“What was that?” she asked.
He moistened his dry lips.
“I was just saying thank you,” he said. “For all your help these last few months. With everything.”

She gave him a perfunctory, close-lipped smile, and placed the straw back in his mouth. Then she opened his file on a sleek desktop monitor and tapped in some notes about his gum levels. Her tight brown ponytail bobbed while she typed, and he noticed she had trouble reaching the delete key with her delicate pinky finger.

“You’ve come a long way,” she said.

This kind of fleeting conversation was usually the best part of his visits. Most of the time, it was only a minute stolen here or there, but with frequent appointments, the time added up. And over the course of these micro-conversations, Nils had managed to learn some essential facts about his hygienist. For instance: 1) She did not like smokers or tobacco chewers. 2) She was raised Catholic, though she mostly went to mass on holidays. 3) She was prone to dizzying migraines that sometimes caused her to hallucinate. And most importantly 4) She was, it appeared, unhappily married to a hot tub salesman named T.J. who didn’t read books, didn’t like to travel, and enjoyed shooting game birds out of the passenger seat of a moving jeep.

Nils didn’t have to pry much to loose these facts from her. During a cleaning or while assisting a procedure, Echo was all business, but when the work was over, she often relaxed into a calm chattiness. And while he sat there recovering, his gums pulsing or his cheeks numbed and cotton-stuffed, he asked her short, non-judgmental questions and stored away each of her answers like a rare coin.

Today, however, he was halfway through his appointment, and he was not feeling its usual therapeutic effects. In fact, as Echo shut down his dental history and moved the glaring spotlight over his face, he felt his pulse beginning to jump. The hard fact of the matter was that, after today, his next visit to the office was six months away. One hundred and eighty-four days to be exact. It hardly seemed possible. But as the result of his four fillings, two crowns, and the repair of one chipped incisor, Nils’s mouth had finally passed inspection. He was cured. And now he could return to the land of the bi-yearly cleaning like the rest of those lucky enough to be insured.

Read more from Peter Bognanni: The House of Tomorrow (Putnam, 2010)
Travel with Macalester Alumni on one of these trips!

- Costa Rica’s Natural Heritage
  - March 2014

- Mongolian Adventure
  - August 2014

- Reykjavik International Film Festival with film critic Colin Covert ’74
  - October 2014

Contact Gabrielle Lawrence, lawrence@macalester.edu, for more information.
1. Pakou Vang ’06 and Kav Ly were married Sept. 30, 2012, in Hastings, Minn. Grace Awantang ’06 and Dianna Seng ’06 attended the wedding.

2. Lucy Marincel ’10 and Will Howell ’08 were married on May 26, 2013, in Neskowin, Ore.

3. Molly Bowen ’07 and Eli Wykell were married Jan. 5, 2013, in Chicago.

4. Allison Berman Anderson ’09 and Alex Anderson were married on Aug. 18, 2012, in Las Vegas, Nev.
5. Simon Eisenberg ’08 and Marina Test ’10 were married on May 24, 2013, in Washington, D.C.

6. Jessica Bullen Kinard ’05 and James Kinard were married Sept. 1, 2012, in Ashland, Ore.

7. Eve Selver-Kassell ’02 and Jason Mears were married July 23, 2011, in Milan, N.Y.


9. Rachel Bunkers-Harmes ’08 and Takafumi Katsuura were married Feb. 17, 2013, in Berkeley, Calif.

10. Christina Gray Wilkie ’03 and Joe Wilkie were married on July 21, 2012, in Minneapolis.
Minerva Perez-Lopez ’92 wasn’t motivated by money when she chose to practice medicine in the place where she grew up—California’s Salinas Valley—where she returned for her residency, then joining the staff of the medical center there.

For more a decade now she’s been working at the very hospital in which she was born, Natividad Medical Center in Salinas, California. The challenges are legion. She’s working with a largely Latino population of immigrant seasonal farm laborers, most of whom have no insurance and limited resources. Teen pregnancy rates are high, as are rates of gang violence. And then there’s the ongoing stress of families separated because of immigration issues.

Despite the difficulties, Perez-Lopez has persevered, spending much of her time as a family practice doctor working in obstetrics, delivering babies. Besides her more-than-full-time work, Perez-Lopez regularly has teenagers shadow her at the hospital and frequently returns to her old high school as a guest speaker.

In acknowledgement of the vital work she’s doing providing direct patient care in a region short of health-care professionals, Perez-Lopez was last year given a Steven M. Thompson Physician Corps Award to repay most of her medical school loans. It was just recognition for a woman who has chosen to spend her career giving back, reaching out, and making a difference in her community.

Nancy Slaughter ’58 graduated 55 years ago, but even then it wouldn’t have been hard to predict she’d be an active Macalester alumna—after all, The Mac Weekly archives from her time on campus frequently mention her leadership roles on behalf of commissions, clubs, and campus events. But it would’ve been hard to imagine the range and depth of her involvement. By the time she was honored with Macalester’s Distinguished Citizen Award in 1983, she had already served as a trustee, Alumni Board president, Annual Fund chair, and interim alumni director.

Since then, Slaughter has continued to be an invaluable asset to Mac in roles from 50th Reunion chair to Annual Fund letter-signer and phonathon caller to trustees emeriti chair. In addition, she has generously supported the college’s campaigns, renovation projects, and scholarships.

Slaughter studied elementary education and social science and went on to earn a master’s degree in education, working first as a teacher for 20 years and then as a publicist and development consultant.

In the decades since college, Slaughter’s service has touched nearly every sector of the state’s nonprofit network. She has volunteered on numerous boards, including the Women’s Foundation of Minnesota, Minnesota Humanities Commission, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Friends of the Minneapolis Public Library, Dale Warland Singers, and Presbyterian Homes and Services. Our communities—at 1600 Grand and beyond—are stronger because of her leadership and support.

Holly Elwood ’90 has advocated so much for sustainable technology purchasing policies that the Washington Post has nicknamed her “the green electronics lady.” Making it products more environmentally preferable is Holly Elwood’s mission—and last year alone, her team's work at the Environmental Protection Agency was projected to prevent 36 million tons of air emissions.

Now one of the global Green IT movement’s leaders, Elwood began thinking creatively about sustainability back in St. Paul, when she wrote about the ozone layer for one of Professor Chuck Green’s assignments. A political science major, she credits two internships—including one in which she helped pass the first municipal plastic-packaging ban in the nation—with guiding her career. “Looking for innovative solutions has been one of the most important things I've done at the EPA, and Macalester really helped me prepare for that,” Elwood told Macalester Today in 2007. She went on to earn a master’s degree in environmental sciences and public policy at Johns Hopkins University.

At the EPA, Elwood helped create the most extensive rating system for sustainable electronics. Federal purchasers must now buy computers, imaging equipment, and televisions listed on a global registry based on standards she helped develop. Elwood has been honored by the EPA and the White House, and was nominated for a Service to America medal, the highest ranking federal civilian award.

Karmela Galicia ’98, senior chef instructor of the award-winning Chicago’s Community Kitchen, has combined her longtime interests in the culinary arts and helping others. In 1999 she joined the Greater Chicago Food Depository as associate director of agency relations, fostering collaboration among the agency and more than 650 food pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters.

After five years, Galicia left to pursue a culinary arts degree at Kendall College, but her goal wasn’t to work in Chicago’s elite eateries. “Rather than four-star restaurants,” wrote colleague Kate Maehr ’89, “Karmela returned to a life of public service, first at Chicago’s renowned Inspiration Café, where she worked with homeless individuals, and in 2009 back at the Food Depository, where she joined our award-winning Chicago’s Community Kitchens program.”

CCK is a 14-week workforce development program that provides food service training for un- and underemployed adults, many of whom have checkered pasts. As one man put it, before CCK, “The only thing I had ever completed was a prison sentence.”

Galicia is responsible for all aspects of their training, from making a vinaigrette to performing culinary math. While learning, students produce meals for up to 2,000 low-income children every weekday. “They leave the program with pride in what they’ve accomplished,” says Galicia.

Nat Sloane ’75, by applying his financial expertise to venture philanthropy, cofounded a company that in just a decade has raised 20 million pounds for UK charities reaching more than 300,000 people each year.

After two decades as an entrepreneur, venture capitalist, management consultant, and social investor, Sloane cofounded Impetus Trust in 2002. The UK’s
venture philanthropy pioneer, Impetus funds carefully selected charities to accelerate their growth—rather than supporting specific projects—by building a sustainable infrastructure for long-term growth and impact. “I didn’t want to just write checks,” Sloane told The Christian Science Monitor. “I wanted to find a way to get involved and use my business skills.”

Sloane’s groundbreaking work at Impetus isn’t surprising. After growing up with a global outlook and commitment to social responsibility (thanks to his parents), Macalester was a natural next step. He majored in anthropology and linguistics before attending graduate school in Boston and Geneva. His successful banking and business career included a role at First Chicago Bank that sent him to Mexico City and then to Bain & Company in London. Eventually Sloane worked at Accenture in venture capital with early stage technology companies. All these experiences jumpstarted his ability to think creatively about venture philanthropy.

Sloane was recently appointed England Chair of the Big Lottery Fund, the UK’s largest distributor of lottery money to social causes. “He is recognized in the UK as being one of the country’s foremost thinkers on philanthropy and social innovation,” writes Dave Deno ’79, who nominated Sloane. “His unique vision for combining business skills and philanthropy is helping to change the face of charity in the UK.”

Sarah Wovcha ’89 didn’t have to think twice about her college decision. “I knew since eighth grade that I wanted to go to Macalester and be in a place where community involvement mattered,” says the Michigan native, who studied international studies and political science.

Wovcha still cares deeply about community involvement. She’s active in several Twin Cities organizations, serving on the board at Native American youth shelter Ain Dah Yung and as the Wedge Community Co-op’s board president. A breast cancer survivor, she has also mentored young women with cancer.

Wovcha has blends education with real-world experience, first as a social worker and later as a legal services attorney focusing on family and Indian law. She worked with the Twin Cities’ Native American community on a range of public health issues, which inspired her to pursue a master’s in public health from the Harvard School of Public Health and Kennedy School of Government in 1989. In 2001, she became executive director of the Minnesota nonprofit Children’s Dental Services (CDS).

Today Wovcha pushes for reform through her work at CDS, which provides dental care and advocacy for low-income and uninsured children and pregnant women. A shortage of dentists and lack of access to basic preventive dental services ratchet up costly emergency room visits, she says. Wovcha was a key player in 2009 legislation that made Minnesota the first state to license mid-level dental providers, dentistry’s corollary to the nurse practitioner. “We need to move toward integrating oral health and general health,” she says. “Systemic change gives us the most hope for expanding access.”

Macalester in Nigeria, thus setting the course for his career. That fateful summer, Johanson took part in a Student Project for Amity Among Nations (SPAN) project studying the social consequences of Hansen’s disease, then called leprosy. Then one day a Nigerian teacher told him about problems compounded by rural-urban migration, and how education was a key solution.

That conversation changed Johanson’s life. Soon he joined a program at Harvard, one of the first students to enter the new field of educational planning for developing countries. Johanson’s first job in educational development was in Jamaica for USAID. Since then, he has worked in 70 mostly low-income countries, helping design educational investment programs. He is proud of contributing to many educational investment projects, including pushing the World Bank to include support for primary education and helping plan major educational reforms in Korea and Hungary.

Now in his 70s, Johanson is still working, taking half a dozen international trips a year; recently he traveled to Gaza, China, and the Philippines for the World Bank and UNICEF. He has also written about skills development in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

International education’s three major goals—getting all eligible children in school, keeping them there, and seeing that they learn something useful—are as compelling today as they were when Johanson set off for Jamaica 48 years ago.

In 2012, Popular Science magazine named Haynes one of their “Brilliant 10” young scientists. She also received the American Chemical Society’s Nobel Laureate Signature Award, presented for the country’s most outstanding PhD thesis. Her other awards include the National Science Foundation’s CAREER grant; a National Institute of Health’s New Innovator Award; the Joseph Black Award from the Royal Society of Chemistry; and an Alfred P. Sloan Fellowship.

Haynes and her husband, Charles Burdick ’99, have two children, and their commitment to the next generation doesn’t stop there. Haynes has appeared on PBS’s Dragonfly TV science education program for kids. She organizes an annual Chemistry Day for urban families in St. Paul and has presented “Energy and Us” shows to more than 9,000 children per year, encouraging them to consider science careers.

**TURCK GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP AWARD**

Richard Johanson ’63 spent the summer before his senior year at Macalester in Nigeria, thus setting the course for his career. That fateful summer, Johanson took part in a Student Project for Amity Among Nations (SPAN) project studying the social consequences of Hansen’s disease, then called leprosy. Then one day a Nigerian teacher told him about problems compounded by rural-urban migration, and how education was a key solution.

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**YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD**

Christy L. Haynes ’98 is an oft-honored researcher and chemistry professor whose Haynes Research Group at the University of Minnesota applies new methods in analytical chemistry to the fields of toxicology and immunology. Haynes has helped develop the field of nanotoxicology, in which she investigates the environmental and biological impacts of newly engineered nanomaterials. Little study has been done on nanomaterials, which are used in thousands of products from suntan lotion to stain-resistant clothing.

Haynes began her research career in Professor Becky Hoye’s lab. She earned a PhD at Northwestern University, where she published 27 articles from her graduate work with chemist Richard Van Duyne. In 2005, Haynes began her independent research career at the University of Minnesota, where her research group now includes 16 graduate and undergraduate coworkers.
It has been a year since I returned to campus to work in Alumni Relations, and yes, the transition from alumnus to staff member can be a bit weird at times.

But while I was prepared to feel déjà vu on campus and to flood Facebook with resurfaced Macalester memories (sorry, friends!), I’d forgotten what it was like to be around Macalester students. I’m happy to report that although fashions have changed, today’s students have the same passion and curiosity that I remember from my own time on campus. With the changes in the world economy, however, students of today are facing more pressure than ever before to think about their career paths after Macalester.

Here is where we, as alumni, can make a big difference. When we talk to students about our career paths and the ways we’ve applied the skills and knowledge we gained at Macalester, it carries a different weight than does advice given by parents or professors. Alumni can also set up students for success by introducing them to the larger Macalester community. In a world in which personal connections can make all the difference, a major benefit of attending a college like Mac lies in gaining access to its network of more than 26,000 alumni across the world. Unlike larger institutions that graduate tens of thousands every year, our smaller alumni community allows for faster connections and stronger relationships.

That’s why Alumni Relations continues to collaborate with academic departments and offices across campus—including the Career Development Center and the Civic Engagement Center—to support meaningful opportunities connecting students and alumni. These programs form the core of the alumni volunteer initiative called Macbassadors. From hosting Exploreships to providing feedback on student papers, from writing postcards to graduates to visiting classrooms, Macbassadors model alumni engagement for students and open their minds to life’s post-college possibilities.

But becoming a Macbassador doesn’t just benefit the students. Each time I speak with a student I’m reminded of the energy and enthusiasm that brought me here a decade ago. A lot of hard work goes into a place like Macalester, where dedicated faculty and staff create a safe, intellectually challenging, and transformative space. Out in the “real world” there are few places you’ll find the same encouragement and resources. So when students tell me about their favorite classes, their internships, or the issues that motivate them, it rekindles that spark in me. Interacting with Mac students challenges me to look at the world in a different way.

It also reminds me why I came to Macalester in the first place—not just for a diploma but also to learn more about the world and myself, to be part of a motivated and vibrant community that pushes me to become a better person. Whether you live a block from campus or across the world, you’re still part of that community. And by becoming a Macbassador, you strengthen it and insure that your learning never ends.

To join the Macbassador program and receive updates on volunteer opportunities you can complete the Macbassador sign-up form on the Alumni section of the website, activate your Career Helper badge on your MacDirect profile, or just send me an email. If you’ve volunteered in the past to be a Macbassador but haven’t heard from us, know that we haven’t forgotten about you. In the months to come we’ll send information to our Macbassadors about volunteer opportunities and the impact of our initiatives on the Macalester community.

It has truly been a pleasure to be back on campus and immersed once more in the Macalester community. I look forward to working with you.
MAC in the City (Macalester Alumni Connect in the City) is happening in cities worldwide on Thursday, October 3. It’s a great opportunity to connect and reminisce with Macites in your region and share tips about your city. Watch for an email invitation in August.

To view a full list of participating cities and register: macalester.edu/alumni/events

To update your address: macdirect.macalester.edu
1939
Henry A. Daum, 95, of Monticello, Wis., died Feb. 25, 2013. He served in the Navy during World War II and was a professor of social work at St. Olaf College, the University of Wisconsin, and Mississippi State University. Mr. Daum is survived by his wife, Suzanne Sherk Daum ’42, three children, five grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and sister Barbara Daum Butler ’48.

1941
Marion Thias Brown Eklund, 93, of Vancouver, Wash., died Jan. 24, 2013. She was a full-time mother and homemaker who volunteered with her church and with civic organizations. Mrs. Eklund is survived by a daughter, two sons, seven grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

1943
Artline Walter Fobes, 91, of West St. Paul, Minn., died March 2, 2013. She is survived by three daughters, including Allison Fobes Brower ’69, two sons, nine grandchildren, and a great-granddaughter.

1944
Mary Rogers Flinn, 90, died March 9, 2013, in Naples, Fla. She was a substitute teacher and a real estate agent in the Flossmoor, Ill., area. She retired to Naples in 1985. Mrs. Flinn is survived by four children and six grandchildren.

1945
Glen A. Hemrick, 89, of Olalla, Wash., died March 9, 2013. After serving in the Army as a radio operator from 1946 to 1947, Mr. Hemrick worked on agricultural research programs in the United States, Venezuela, Italy, and Guatemala on such subjects as submarine gardens, growing and feeding algae to Japanese quail, and developing new varieties of carnations. After his retirement from Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in 1993, Mr. Hemrick continued teaching organic gardening techniques and volunteered on clean water projects in Puget Sound and nearby states. He is survived by his wife, Thelma, three daughters, and three grandchildren.

1948
Barbara Palmer Heavenston, 86, of Claremont, Calif., died March 16, 2013. She owned and operated a Mobil Oil distributorship in Pomona, Calif., for many years with her husband and son. She also played violin in the Claremont Symphony Orchestra for more than 30 years. Mrs. Heavenston is survived by two daughters, two sons, two grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and sister Peggy Palmer Colman ’52.

1949
Stanley P. Hazen died April 12, 2013. He served in the Navy during World War II and later served in the Navy Dental Corps. Mr. Hazen was a postdoctoral research fellow at the Eastman Dental School, a committee member for the American Academy of Periodontology and the American Association of Dental Schools, served as president of the Periodontal Research Group, and had nearly 60 research publications. He retired as dean of the Georgetown University School of Dentistry. Mr. Hazen is survived by his wife, Evelyn Edwards Hazen ’48, 7 children, 15 grandchildren, and 5 great-grandchildren.

1950
Harland M. DeBoer, 87, died April 24, 2013, in Escondido, Calif. He served in the Navy in the Pacific during World War II. He was a psychologist and superintendent with the ARAMCO Schools in Saudi Arabia and worked for school districts in Minnesota, Iowa, and California. He was also associated with Florence Crittenton Services, Olive Crest Group Homes and the Association for Retarded Citizens. Mr. DeBoer is survived by his second wife, Virginia Nelson-DeBoer, three daughters (including Diane DeBoer ’70), a son, seven grandchildren, a great-granddaughter, sister Hermine DeBoer Markman ’59, two brothers (including Glenn DeBoer ’62), and cousin Carol DeBoer-Langworthy ’64.

1952
Milton L. “Laf” McGee, 87, of St. Paul died March 28, 2013. He served in the Navy and retired after 41 years with the United States Post Office. Mr. McGee is survived by his wife, Bernadine, and two sisters.

1953
Audrey C. Hansen, 93, of Richfield, Minn., has passed away. She was a veteran of World War II and a retired schoolteacher.

1955
Lawrence E. Leis, 84, died Nov. 16, 2011. He served in the Navy in San Diego during the final year of World War II and worked at Leis Motors Incorporated. Mr. Leis is survived by a daughter, two sons, four grandchildren, and a brother.

1956
Douglas A. Peterson, 84, died May 2, 2013. He served as vice president of Marquette National Bank, Minneapolis, and sang with the American Swedish Institute Male Chorus for 20 years. He also traveled to Sweden and hosted U.S. gatherings of a Swedish choral group. Mr. Peterson is survived by his wife, Lois Wndt Peterson ’51, a son, a daughter, and eight grandchildren, as well as by his twin sister, Gwen Peterson Grady ’50.

1959
Miriam Pearson Johnston, 83, of Red Wing, Minn., died May 8, 2013. She was a schoolteacher until her retirement in 1994. Mrs. Johnston is survived by four brothers.

1960
Marjorie Miller Larson, 74, of St. Paul died Jan. 4, 2013. She retired in 1998 after a career as a medical technologist at Miller Hospital and United Hospital. Mrs. Larson is survived by her husband, James, and a brother.

1961
Susan M. Adams, 73, of Carmel, Calif., died March 17, 2013. She was a pastor at numerous churches and served the United Church of Christ congregation in St. Louis Park, Minn., for 10 years. She was also a chaplain for hospitals in St. Louis Park and Edina. Mrs. Adams also worked for the UCC Mission Board and taught English in Japan at Kobe Jogakuin University and Niigata University. After retiring in 2004, she volunteered with the Asian Rural Institute in Japan.
1968
Ross A. Dahlin, 66, died April 18, 2013, in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. He worked for Andersen Inc. for 35 years, retiring in 2005 as general manager of the international division. Mr. Dahlin is survived by his wife, Sandra, three daughters, six grandchildren, and sister Sandy Dahlin Wagner ’59.

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

1973
William G. Gillies, 62, of Davenport, Iowa, died April 5, 2013. He entered the law profession in 1977 and had practiced in the Rock Island, Ill., area since 1984. Mr. Gillies is survived by his wife, Eliza Lewis Gillies ’73, two daughters, two sisters, and a brother.

1974
Patricia Schaeffer Jordan, 60, died April 10, 2013, in Nashville, Tenn. She was a lawyer in the attorney general’s office in Helena, Mont. After moving to Nashville in 1999, she cofounded Platetone Printshop. Mrs. Jordan is survived by her husband, Stephen, her mother, and two sisters.

1976
Steven J. Braverman, 59, of Minneapolis died March 26, 2013. He is survived by two children, two sisters, and a brother.

1982
Thomas F. Michelson, 55, of St. Paul died April 21, 2013. He is survived by his wife, Laura, a daughter, a son, his parents, and two sisters.

1990
Deborah A. Miller, 46, of Minneapolis died Feb. 28, 2013. She was a photographic artist whose notable works included the solo installation with projection “Accretion” at ARThouse New London in 2009, the large-scale interaction projection “MURMUR” presented in the first Nuit Blanche Festival in 2011, and “I’m not me, she’s over there,” an exploration of twinnship exhibited at the Susan Hensel Gallery in 2013. Mrs. Miller is survived by her husband, Andy, her son, her parents, and seven siblings.

2008
Edward V. Doyle, 27, of Columbia, Md., died unexpectedly Feb. 26, 2013. He worked for Wegmans. Mr. Doyle is survived by his father, stepmother, grandmother, a sister, and a brother.

Other Losses
Christos Papatassos, a World Press Institute fellow at Macalester from 1964-65, died Sept. 21, 2011, in Athens, Greece. He is survived by his wife, Mary Winterer-Papatassos ’65, son William Papatassos ’92, and two grandchildren.

Margery Walker Pearce, wife of Macalester anthropology professor Jack Weatherford, died June 7, 2013, at the age of 66. After studying under Julia Child and Anne Willan at the Ecole de Cuisine La Varenne, Ms. Pearce began a career in television, film, and video. In 1979, she was named the first coordinator of women’s activities at the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. She also worked for the Public Broadcasting System, produced a current affairs program for the ABC affiliate in San Diego, worked with Osmund Studios and Charlton Heston on the official documentary of President Ronald Reagan’s inauguration in 1981, and volunteered for human rights organizations. Besides Professor Weatherford, Ms. Pearce is survived by a daughter, a son, six grandchildren, her mother, and two sisters.

From Blessed: A History of the American Prosperity Gospel by Kate Bowler ’02
(OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2013)

What does the prosperity gospel offer to its believers? Why
has it become so successful in so many places? We must not
think that it is simply the lure of financial success. The
prosperity movement offers a comprehensive approach to the
human condition. It sees men and women as creatures fallen,
but not broken, and it shares with them a “Gospel,” good news
that will set them free from a multitude of oppressions. The promise offered by a Chicago-based Latino congregation—Santidad, Salvacion, Santidad, Liberacion (Santification, Salvation, Healing, Deliverance)—is one that all believers can claim.

On one level, the appeal of prosperity theology is obvious. The faith movement sells a compelling bill of goods: God, wealth, and a healthy body to enjoy it. But it is the enjoyment, the feelings that lift believers’ chins and squares their shoulders, that is its fundamental achievement. The first step in accessing this good news is the belief that things can get better. The prosperity gospel’s chief allure is simple optimism.
Starting college in 1973 is a bit like kissing your sister. She’s nice and everything, but those braces.

We were, in the early to mid-’70s, post-hippies and pre-punk. Though the moniker was bestowed later, we were already a few sizzling years into the Me Decade. With sit-ins, Jimi Hendrix, the Stonewall Riots, and the '68 Democratic Convention in Chicago behind us, what did we have to look forward to? Donna Summer? Progressive rock? The Sting? Gerald Ford?

Thank Goddess for the Macalester Black Students Association. Soon after I arrived on campus that fall to take up residence on fifth floor Doty, they occupied 77 Macalester Street, the college’s administration building, and unfurled a giant African flag from a second-story window.

This created some semi-dangerous excitement on our small campus, complete with rumors of doors barricaded with file cabinets, and meals brought to the occupiers by sympathizers under cover of night. I imagined a fierce hunger on the part of the protesters, and hoped they weren’t settling for dining hall food. A taco salad of Fritos topped with ground beef, lettuce, and grated American cheese seemed wrong for the situation.

Elsewhere, things were not altogether dull and hopeless. I was away from home for the first time, tasting freedom, drunk (at least on intellectual ferment), making friends, openly smoking cigarettes, and living (sort of) on St. Paul’s magnificent Summit Avenue, just like F. Scott Fitzgerald. Plus two-tone lace-up platform shoes were available at the Midway shopping center for $4 a pair.

Fashionwise, I thumbed my nose at the straight and narrow, making big mistakes as I always had. (Ask me later how debuting checkered bell-bottoms in junior high earned me a chipped tooth.) At Macalester I favored jeans tight on top and elephant-belled below the knee, entirely covering my Frye boots or man-clogs. Paired, naturally, with a too-small red turtleneck sweater. Had I become a Bay City Roller?

At Janet Wallace I discovered my appalling lack of artistic talent, even as I sat spellbound by the amusing, enlightening slideshows of art history professor Donald Celender, a Pop Art lover who favored slim double-breasted suits and worked up Conceptual Art projects based on outrageous suggestions he made in correspondence with corporate CEOs. A later visit to his International Style house proved his commitment to the art—and interior design—of the day. He had a big Warhol in the living room and lots of thick shag carpet.

Eventually, in the non-hierarchical fashion that flowered mid-decade (and found me living off campus and volunteering as a cheese-wrapper at Merri-Grove co-op on Selby), I was part of a seven-member collective that edited the Mac Weekly.

Our first order of business was to ditch the Pep Club-sounding “Mac” in favor of the multi-syllabic full name of the school. The Macalester Weekly, it may be safely said, was the most ridiculed and despised student paper in the college’s then 100-year history. We based at least half our decisions on things we figured would infuriate someone, whether it was Miss America 1977 Dorothy Benham ’78, Bicentennial patriots, sports lovers, or “the administration.” Collectivism was fun, as we were all good friends, but since every decision had to be debated by the full Editorial Workers League, we discovered that it also took roughly seven times longer to accomplish anything.

We never finished a single issue without pulling a Thursday to Friday all-nighter. Bleary-eyed, we would slump across Snelling Avenue for eggs and coffee at the Greasy Spoon, tired but confident that we had just put out our best issue ever, midway through what we decreed could be the Us Decade.

Claude Peck ’77 has worked as a journalist since graduating from Macalester with a major in U.S. history and a core in English. He is currently arts editor of the [Minneapolis] Star Tribune.
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