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Macalester Today

FALL 2013

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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.
Loved last issue
I am writing to commend you on an outstanding Summer 2013 issue of Macalester Today. The articles, from “Mental Health Advocate” to “The Winemakers” to “Guiding a Poet’s Press,” were varied and fascinating—so much so that I read the issue from cover to cover in one sitting. I also enjoyed the high-quality photographs that illustrated the articles, the photos from Reunion and the global images from the Study Away Photo Contest. What a wonderful showcase of the accomplishments of the greater Macalester community.

Erika Reich Giles ’70
Mercer Island, Wash.

Watch your plurals
Not the first time you have done it, but perhaps the most ironic. In the short piece on “Math whizzes” (Summer 2013) you again failed to correctly use data as a plural form. I suppose this is a losing battle as even NPR fails to use data in the plural.

Frank Cerny III ’68
East Aurora, N.Y.

More winemakers
After getting the latest Macalester Today cover story (“The Winemakers,” Summer 2013), we thought we should mention that two older alumni have a winery in Eastern Montana, growing University of Minnesota grapes and making all kinds of interesting wines. Check us out at tongueriverwinery.com.

Bob Thaden ’70 and Marilyn Urban Thaden ’70
Miles City, Mont.

Love The Week
I just read your article about Steve Kotok ’92 (“Making it Through The Week,” Summer 2013) and had to laugh, thinking of my introduction to that magazine. I had subscribed to Time for more than 50 years and had come to the point of giving it up, but I found at other newsmagazines but found nothing I wanted. At that time I was reading a novel in which the main character had health issues that meant she could no longer read the New York Times, so she cancelled her subscription and started getting The Week. I had never heard of it, so I went to the library to find if there really was such a magazine. There was, they got out a few back issues for me, and I’ve been reading it ever since. So hurry for Steve Kotok and The Week. To discover his link with Macalester was a real plus.

Virginia Leach Mouw ’42
Tumwater, Wash.

Frosh loves Mac
This op-ed appeared in The Mac Weekly (Sept. 27, 2013) and is excerpted with permission of the author.

Okay, I’ll admit it. I never planned on actually attending Mac. To be honest I only applied because of the name. Applying to Macalester added a sense of refinement to the long list of colleges to which I applied. It worked out fabulously for me: I’m now in the throes of love for Dear Old Macalester.

The food’s great, my classes challenge me, and I wouldn’t change a single thing about any of my three professors. The wide variety of clubs and student orgs that vied for my attention at the Org Fair left me in awe.

The diversity here is wonderful. I love the variety of viewpoints and the sense of community I feel here. Also, Mac students say what they mean and how they feel. The consensus occasionally leans too far left for my tastes, but it is refreshing to meet other opinionated people who aren’t afraid to let others know that they actually have opinions.

At Mac I’m able to engage in conversations that actually interest me, conversations in which I can learn through a variety of lenses and perspectives.

After being here for just a month, I’m able to say I consider myself lucky to attend Macalester.

Cole Yates ’17
Owensboro, Ky.

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.

Fall TWEETS
A selection from Mac’s Twitter account

Tim Nelson @tnelson_mpr
Macalester makes HuffPost list of “Colleges Most Obsessed With Squirrels”: http://blogs.mprnews.org/ncampus/2013/09/is-macalester-college-obsessed-with-squirrels

James Lindgren @JMasonL
You know you like geology when you volunteer your weekends to camp in freezing weather and love it!

Annie Burks @annaagigieburks
Macalester College offers free bagpipe lessons available to all students.

Anthony Granai @AGR802
Roll off bed, food, class, food, class, homework, basketball, food, homework, food, sleep. Repeat Monday-Friday.

Naomi @umwhatthe
Painted the rock! Cross that off my bucket list :) ...

Brennan Meier @bmeier831
Was reading a book and realized that the author used hegemony wrong.

Daniel Casey @winslowbobbins
Hey, Macalester College’s chant made it in here! I love that chant! “7 Memorable Sports Chants” http://shar.es/yxx38

Anna Cavallo @beatreaderwriterun
A college course on THE HUNGER GAMES as a window to modern social issues? Well done, Dear Old @Macalester.

Sarah @SSilbz
Do you think Macalester would notice if I secretly kept a micro pig in my dorm? This is a serious question.
Ten Years

BY BRIAN ROSENBERG

After ten years in my office, I decided recently that it was time to do a bit of housecleaning.

The drawers and cabinets yielded some mildly interesting pieces of accumulated flotsam: something called a “musical can kilt,” for those occasions when one wants to hear “Scotland the Brave” while downing a cold one; a Charles Dickens action figure, probably in anticipation of The Avengers II; and two Karl Egge bobblehead dolls, because, really, just one Karl Egge isn’t enough. I discovered, too, that I could wear a different Macalester–themed item of clothing every day for the rest of my life without ever doing laundry.

I have the paint bucket trophy claimed annually by the winner of the Macalester–Hamline football game, a tartan deer-stalker cap given to me by John B. Davis, and a vuvuzela, or plastic horn, presented to me by our “Afrika!” student organization and which I am forbidden to play, either at home or at work.

My years at Macalester are exhaustively documented in photographs: in a nightcap, a headband, and a football jersey; with Kofi Annan, Paul Farmer, Chris Kluwe, and a cow; smiling, eating, and staring into the distance as if contemplating the mysteries of the cosmos. Truly, I have done it all.

More interesting than any physical memorabilia I encountered were the virtual treasures in my email inbox. Searching for the word apoplectic, I found 54 items; outraged yielded 137; furious turned up 186. I confess that I did not check to see how many times these words appeared multiple times in the same message, so my count might include some repeats. Surprisingly, fulminating appeared only twice. Four syllables are a lot to spit out when one is apoplectic.

I had forgotten—or chosen to erase from my memory—the pithy message that skipped all niceties and simply began with this forceful greeting: “You politically correct %#!@!#$!@!$!” This particular gentleman, so far as I can tell, had no previous relationship with Macalester, though I seem to have given him a reason to establish one.

I don’t mean to make light of anyone’s fury—well, maybe I do—but the truth is that after a decade in a college presidency one becomes surprisingly inured to these sorts of sillades. Presidents get both credit and blame for many things with which they had little to do, and the key to maintaining one’s sanity and humility is to remain relatively unaffected by either praise or criticism: to separate the president from the person and to focus not on the response to what one did yesterday but on the opportunities to do better today and the day after that. That has always been and remains the way I approach my work at Macalester.

It is also important to recognize what an enormous privilege it is to be part of an institution with the history and mission of a great liberal arts college. For nearly a century and a half, skilled and dedicated people have educated students from around the world to become successful and make a positive difference in the lives of others. Generous donors and volunteers have supported that work with gifts of resources and time. We live in an age when cynicism and even despair come too easily, but to fail to be inspired by this is to fail to appreciate the best of which human beings are capable.

Three items in particular, all visible as I sit at my desk in Weyerhaeuser Hall, speak powerfully to me of my good fortune. One is a photo of the members of my senior staff. Granted, in this particular image their heads are photoshopped onto the bodies of the Starship Enterprise bridge crew, but still, there they are, reminding me how much I have benefited from the talents of my coworkers.

The second is a black-and-white photograph, probably taken around 1940, of Charles Turck at work at his desk in Old Main. He is smiling, and pressed to his ear is the handset of a black rotary telephone. Absent President Turck’s principled and visionary leadership for nearly two decades, Macalester would be a different and lesser place and my job much less rewarding.

And the third is a handwritten letter from Vice President Walter and Joan Adams Mondale, thanking me for my service to the college. With apologies to our archivist, the original of that one will always stay with me.

To the Mondales, my colleagues, and all in the community at whose pleasure I serve Macalester College: thanks for the chance.

BRIAN ROSENBERG is the president of Macalester College. After 10 years, and much urging from the Board of Trustees, he is spending the fall on sabbatical.
OLD MAIN WATERCOLOR

At Highlander Bookstore last summer we were delighted to find this watercolor (right) of a detail from Old Main. Imagine our surprise at discovering the artist was none other than Cora Trout ’16 (Columbia, Mo.), a French major who has been an artist “ever since I could hold a pencil.” Trout—with her mother, Carlynn White Trout ’82, as business manager—started her own line of greeting cards a year ago. So far Old Main has been Trout’s only Macalester subject. But that could change, she says, as she has time to tackle more Mac architecture.
Sustainable landscaping: Many areas of campus are being converted to attractive, sustainable landscaping that incorporates more native plant species and minimizes the use of fertilizers and pesticides. The planting of drought-tolerant and low-water use plants is reducing the use of potable water in landscaping, while greater use of pervious pavements is cutting down on storm water runoff.

Kai Wilson ’14 (West Hartford, Conn.) never took part in student government in high school, but he’s now the president of the Macalester College Student Government (MCSG).

How did the political science major’s interests take such a turn? It goes back to Wilson’s first year at Macalester, when he decided to join MCSG “to understand the workings of the college and find a way to be a part of it.”

An initial involvement eventually led to his becoming part of last year’s finance group, where Wilson was heavily involved in determining—with student input—how to spend the extra fee money MCSG found itself with.

A vote determined the most popular project to be an outdoor ice rink, which ultimately proved controversial with facilities staff as well as with some students. Nevertheless, Wilson and other student leaders saw it through, and the ice rink opened last February on Shaw Field.

Ironically, Wilson never skated on the rink he worked so hard to build: It opened the day he left for a study abroad semester in Turkey.

With any luck he will get to enjoy the results of the other, smaller projects that MCSG hopes to complete this year with remaining rollover funds. Among the possibilities: campus murals, grills outside the Campus Center, more bicycle racks, and improved student org websites.

Whatever MCSG accomplishes this year, Wilson hopes it can first change its “image as gatekeeper.” He says, “We’re not an extension of the administration. We try to use our best judgment and get student input in how funds are used. It’s all about compromise and consensus with MCSG.”
FOOTBALL AND TRACK STAR Konnor Fleming ’15 (Charlotte, Vt.) went into last month’s Travis Roy Wiffle Ball Tournament expecting to continue a six-year family tradition and have a fun weekend.

Then, with his team one out away from sealing a 3-0 victory and a fly ball hit deep to center field that looked like it was going over the wall, Fleming made a desperate flip-over-the-fence catch. His teammates mobbed him in celebration. and over the following days media would mob him as well. It turns out that Fleming’s “amazing game-ending catch” was caught on video, which went #2 on SportsCenter, garnered more than 750,000 YouTube views, and became the talk of the country thanks to Huffington Post, USA Today, CNN, and The Today Show.

Held every August in Vermont’s Little Fenway—a miniature replica of the Boston Red Sox’s hallowed grounds—the Travis Roy Wiffle Ball Tournament serves as a fundraiser for the Travis Roy Foundation. That foundation supports spinal cord injury research and patients.

The ongoing success of the event is reflected by an expanding tournament field (over more than 30 teams competed this summer) and a significant increase in the amount of money raised. This year’s tournament raised over $500,000, an event record. Fleming says he considered the attention his catch drew an opportunity to bring further awareness to the cause.

“I’m happy to have had my 15 minutes of fame, I suppose,” he says. “And happy that it hasn’t been just for me but also to benefit the Travis Roy Foundation.”

Assistant football and track coach Marc Davies says he was not shocked by Fleming’s catch and subsequent humility. “I thought it was really cool, but I also was not surprised,” he says. “I mean it’s typical Konnor. Nothing gets in his way. Not a wall, nothing.

“He thinks anything is possible. He goes after anything that he sets his mind to. He was one of our top recruits because of his character and personality. He’s a phenomenal leader.”

Reprinted with permission from The Mac Weekly (Sept. 13, 2013).
Political science major Emma van Emmerik '14 (Amherst, Mass.) spent spring semester in Pune, India. There she took part in the Alliance for Global Education's Contemporary India program, which includes an internship as a core part of its requirements.

Van Emmerik's research focused on the information married adolescent women are given about sexual and reproductive health. She took classes at Fergusson College, where the program is based, lived in a nearby home, and had many other adventures. The following excerpt is from early in her stay, when she met a group of adolescent girls living in a nearby slum. (To read more, go to studyabroadpune.tumblr.com.)

On Saturday morning I joined a Minnesota acquaintance on a visit to ASHA, a small Pune organization she supports that works with girls living in a slum to help them stay in school.

We headed off to the slums by the Parvati Temple. This visit was one of the most extraordinary experiences of my life. We went to the homes of three girls who have passed the 10th standard to meet them and their parents. The walk through the slums up to the homes was steep, the houses building off one another.

We entered the first home and I was barely able to hide my shock at the size of the living space. It was about as big as one of my bathrooms back home—and four people live there. It was extremely tidy. The mother, brother, and the girl stood against the kitchen wall, while we visitors sat on the one bed two feet away. One of the ASHA directors began by asking the girl how old she was, what grade she was in, what her favorite subjects were, and what she wants to be when she grows up. She answered: Sixteen, loves English, and wants to become a doctor.

Then she asked the translator to thank the girl's mother for supporting the girl in her studies. It was a powerful moment to see the pride on the mother's and girl's faces when they saw that we understood the significance of her determination and success in pursuing her education. I could not believe that I was witnessing such an important moment in her life.

While we walked among the girls' homes, we developed quite a following of children. Girls approached me, sticking out their hands for a handshake and asking me my name. Young boys yelled out, "How are you?" and an elderly woman asked me in English how I liked India. At times I felt as if I was intruding on their lives and homes, but my curiosity and pure enjoyment from these interactions surpassed those feelings.

We made our way back to the temple where the girls meet weekly, and there they were, playing and laughing. Once we entered they started asking me my name and smiling at me. Did I mention that they are gorgeous? They wear beautiful colors, have glossy hair, bright eyes, and smiles that I can't stop thinking about.

The girls sat in a circle, with individuals standing up to do small performances for us. One girl began with singing—she had a lovely voice and was so brave to sing in front of strangers. Then a small 11-year-old girl stood up and began twisting her hands and hips in a beautiful dance. Many others followed, beaming with pride as we applauded them, amazed at their talents.

My Minnesota friend asked me if I’d be interested in volunteering with the girls’ group as an English tutor. After meeting them I can’t imagine not going back.
IN AN UNEXPECTED PART of their summer research, a couple of biology students found themselves driving two coolers of frozen gazelles from Wichita, Kan., to Macalester’s histology lab.

McKenna Bernard ’14 (Mt. Vernon, Iowa) and Samantha “Sam” Zimmerman ’14 (Northampton, Mass.) had spent the summer working with biology and geology professor Kristi Curry Rogers, a vertebrate paleontologist best known for her study of dinosaur bones.

But this particular summer Curry Rogers and her student researchers were instead studying the bones of modern animals, from a gazelle to a skink. “We’re working on modern animals for their insights into dinosaurs,” says Bernard. “By studying the bones of modern animals, we get a better idea of how accurate our theories of dinosaur growth may be.” The modern animals they studied came from a zoo, where they have good records of each animal’s age. When an animal dies at a zoo—in this case, the Sedgwick County Zoo in Wichita—the carcass is frozen and may be released for research to qualified laboratories.

Histology is the study of bones at the microscopic level. To be prepared for histological study, the animal carcasses were first taken to the Science Museum of Minnesota, where the flesh was removed by flesh-eating beetles. That took several weeks, depending on the animal’s size.

Back in the lab, Zimmerman and Bernard took thin slices of various bones to study, noting growth rates, periodic cessations of growth (marked by lines in the bones similar to tree rings), and the relative abundance of blood vessels, as recorded by holes in the bone.

When the zoo called to offer the gazelle, Zimmerman and Bernard volunteered for a quick road trip to Wichita to pick up the animal—and a few surprises. As they were packing up, the zoo veterinarian looked up from the deep freeze to ask, “Would you like a flamingo?”
MACALESTER LOST nearly a century’s worth of institutional memory last summer when longtime employees Dan Balik, Jimm Crowder, and Mark Dickinson wrapped up their Macalester careers. All three had been college employees for more than three decades. (Dickinson tops the list with 37 years—41 years, if you include his four years as a student.) Balik, the former registrar and director of international research, and Crowder, who led Macalester’s international recruitment program, both retired. Former facilities services director Dickinson took a new position as manager of the Becketwood Senior Cooperative in Minneapolis.

Construction on the studio art building should be complete by January, allowing faculty and staff to move into their offices before Spring 2014 classes begin. The project involves an extensive renovation and expansion of existing classroom and studio space and the addition of a new third floor. The building will feature a terracotta design on its east wall facing Shaw Field.
An environmental studies degree led <strong>Erin Rupp ’04</strong> to a career producing honey and educating kids about the importance of bees.

TEXT & PHOTOS BY <strong>REBECCA DEJARLAIS ORTIZ ’06</strong>

It’s a sunny August morning in Minneapolis, and deep in a Theodore Wirth Park meadow, Erin Rupp ’04 is leading the search for a missing queen.

After several unsuccessful leads amid mounting uncertainty, her group spots the queen. “There she is—you found her! She’s huge!” Rupp says. The five students in her class are equally excited. “That’s so wonderful,” says one, her relief palpable.

When a beekeeper like Rupp goes into a honeybee hive, tracking down the all-important queen bee is always a priority. “We check our hives every 7 to 10 days to make sure the queen is still alive,” she says.

The Wirth Park location is part of the network of eight host sites and 45 hives that Rupp helps maintain through her work at The Beez Kneez, a Minneapolis-based business that provides honey and honeybee delivery, production, and education. A self-described “informal science teacher,” Rupp is a firm believer in experiential education: the more people she can persuade to put on beekeeper suits, the better she’s doing her job.

She developed that philosophy while studying geography and environmental studies at Macalester, and today it defines her work at The Beez Kneez, which she runs with partner (and Beez Kneez founder) Kristy Allen. For Rupp, hands-on learning—watching the bees at work inside their hives—is the best way for students to understand both the intricate structure of how bees live and the significance of their role in our food system.

As most people know, that role is now in peril. Honeybees pollinate a third of everything we eat, and while much of our food system has been mechanized, machines can’t replace bees. Commercial agriculture farming practices mean the number of North American acres needing pollination is at an all-time high, yet the number of hives has declined significantly. Large fields of homogenous crops make it impossible for bees to pollinate one location year-round, leading commercial beekeepers to move hives around the country from crop to crop. With hives thus concentrated, diseases spread more easily among bees often already weakened by pesticides.

In Rupp’s words, it’s a stressful time to be a honeybee. “They’re in trouble,” she says. “They do such important work for us. To have the whole system rely on something so tiny is fascinating. If honeybees die, we lose reasonably priced fruits and vegetables.”

Hence Beez Kneez’ mission: to revive the hive. Rupp and Allen met and honed their mutual passion for beekeeping at western Wisconsin’s Foxtail Farm, though so far their own work has been centered in Minneapolis. It’s a surprisingly rich environment for bees, Rupp explains, because the city’s many gardens, flowers, and urban green spaces provide a diverse habitat in which bees can flourish.

There’s also a growing interest in beekeeping. New Minneapolis ordinances make beekeeping easier by allowing residents to maintain hives on their roofs without getting neighbors’ approval. Enrollment has surged, too, in a University of Minnesota beekeeping course that Rupp herself took a few years ago. Those trends are steps in the right direction, says Rupp. “With increasing numbers of people growing food in the city, we need to talk more about that ecosystem,” she says. “Pollinators are a critical part of it.”

Awareness is best raised through inquiry education or teaching through doing, says Rupp. Through Community Bees on Bikes, the educational component of Beez Kneez, Rupp teaches students of all ages. (“Anyone over age five can put on a bee suit,” she says.) With each class she goes over the basics before heading into a hive, so the group is ready to recognize a drone from a queen or a worker bee.

To ease neophytes’ nerves, she runs through standard safety precautions: wearing a protective beekeeper suit, using a smoker to mask the bees’ communication with each other, and encouraging students to step away from the hive if they need a break. “Erin is very genuine and welcoming,” says Allen, “so people are able to work in the beehives with more comfort and ease.”

Along with teaching, Beez Kneez also opened a honey house in Minneapolis this summer, funded by a Kickstarter campaign that raised nearly $40,000. Beez Kneez’ honey sales—all delivered by bicycle—support its programming and host sites, so owning a honey house will allow the organization to boost its production and expand its reach. They’ll also rent out extracting equipment to hobby beekeepers.

Given the many projects in store for Beez Kneez, it’s no surprise that Rupp recently decided to leave her day job teaching at the University of Minnesota’s Bell Museum of Natural History to focus full time on her new enterprise.

It’s a leap, but during the transition there’s one certainty: The nearly four dozen hives—with 50,000 bees—will keep her busy. Each hive produces roughly 120 pounds of honey per season, so in the summer Rupp has her hands full teaching classes and maintaining hives. During the winter and spring she develops and advertises classes, fulfills honey orders, applies for grants, and maintains the organization’s yellow and black bike fleet.

New educational partnerships and audiences—including potential collaborations with Minneapolis Public Schools—are also being developed. Her eventual goal, says Rupp, is to use bees as a teaching tool in as many academic fields as possible. “Basic honeybee curriculum is mostly experiential and scientific, but there are also connections with math, literacy, and geography that I’m excited to develop,” she says. “I want to set up more opportunities for kids to succeed with learning—through bees.”

REBECCA DEJARLAIS ORTIZ ’06 is a staff writer for Macalester Today.
Macalester is enjoying a bumper crop of new tenure-track faculty members this year. Eight assistant professors began work this fall, with one more to join the faculty in January. In the interest of getting to know these nine better than their vitae might allow, we asked them some probing questions. As you will read, they’re a typically fascinating Macalester bunch.
Morgan Adamson
Media and Cultural Studies

How did you first get interested in your academic field?
As a junior at UC–Santa Cruz, I took an introductory film studies course and was hooked. I became obsessed with studying film traditions outside the Hollywood norm, such as documentary and avant-garde cinema. These cinemas opened up new worlds for me, and I started to look at film as an art form.

Why were you drawn to a teaching intensive position?
For me, teaching and research are never entirely separate practices. While teaching I gain insights into my research that I would never have seen without the dialogue created in the classroom. The reverse is true as well. It was important for me to be at an institution that values undergraduate education, and I was drawn to Macalester because of the opportunity to work closely with talented undergraduates.

What’s your favorite app and why?
My favorite app right now is called “Freedom.” It actually turns off your Internet connection for a limited period. Although social connectivity is a wonderful thing, sometimes I find it’s important to turn off all the noise in order to focus.

What is one of your favorite books and why?
One of my favorite academic books is Ian Baucom’s *Specters of the Atlantic: Finance Capital, Slavery, and the Philosophy of History* (Duke, 2005), a wonderful piece of cultural criticism that weaves together history, politics, and philosophy into a beautiful work of nonfiction. Moreover, it’s an excellent example of the kinds of insights a humanities scholar can bring to some of the most pressing issues of our time.
How did you first get interested in your academic field?
It happened at Macalester College. I had been writing for myself since I was a kid, but I never had the courage to share my work until I took Intro to Creative Writing with Wang Ping. The professors I studied with at Macalester taught me that writing didn’t have to be something I just did for fun; it could be a meaningful act of communication with the world. Of course, it also didn’t hurt that my mother was a librarian. I think she checked out half the fiction section for me before I left for college. I remember staring at the stacks of books in our house and thinking “I want to make those.”

Do you have a first day of school ritual?
I like to wear a tie on the first day (complete with tie bar). If I’m a little rusty in the classroom, there’s a chance the students will be distracted by my aura of sartorial authority. Also, when I first started teaching as a graduate TA, I was often mistaken for a student. The tie was a key part of my “teaching costume.” At this point, it’s half talisman, half security blanket.

Describe the most interesting object in your office.
Hanging majestically from my thermostat is the medal I won at Literary Death Match. LDM is a live writing competition, and my victory there is the closest I will ever get to becoming an Olympian. My hope is that it’s intimidating to all who pass through my door.

What is one of your favorite books and why?
The book I have re-read more than any other is Slaughterhouse Five by Kurt Vonnegut. I love it for its breadth of imagination, its dark humor, and its enduring social consciousness. It proves that the only real rules for fiction are the ones you make yourself.
How did you first get interested in your academic field?
I grew up in a Russian-speaking immigrant family that fled the Soviet Union as refugees when I was eight. We settled in Connecticut and for years I tried to assimilate. At Wesleyan University I took classes in Russian literature and worked as a Russian teaching assistant. After graduation I worked as a translator in Moscow during an unstable but fascinating time of transition there. I felt an urgent need to study this land so I could create a little island of understanding for myself.

Why were you drawn to a teaching intensive position?
At Wesleyan I had amazing teachers who inspired me; a lot of my teaching methodologies I learned from them. People often put teaching and scholarship in opposition to one another, but when I was a grad student at Harvard my scholarly work really took off once I started teaching. I got a new sense of purpose and felt more energized.

Do you have a first day of school ritual?
I hand out index cards and ask students to write down what they hope to learn in the course as well as a favorite quotation or book title. This helps me learn something personal and meaningful about them right away; plus, I’m a big fan of in-class writing as a way to generate ideas and this gives students writing practice.

Describe the most interesting object in your office.
An IBM Selectric typewriter, which sits on its own little table along the north-facing wall. It was in my office when I arrived, and I cherish it as a kind of museum piece, a haunting material trace of an obsolete technology. Maybe it’s also my own little gesture of defiance addressed to the culture of novelty and disposability in which we live.
How did you first get interested in your academic field?
Since high school I’ve been interested in thinking about what makes a behavior right or wrong and how we can know the truth of the matter. Philosophers have been thinking about these questions for millennia, but the intractability of the philosophical questions seems too great—I’m pessimistic about being able to solve the question of what really is (im)moral. I’ve also long been interested in thinking about everyday decision-making, or how we all weigh information and make judgments about our own and others’ behavior. Pursuing the field of social and moral psychology was a natural way to blend my interests.

What’s your favorite app and why?
Yelp. It’s a great way to get a rough snapshot of people’s opinions about all sorts of businesses. It makes it much easier to explore a new city or neighborhood. The only downside is that once you become reliant on it, as I have, you begin to doubt your own intuition.

Tell us one unexpected thing about yourself.
I’ve run two marathons. After each one I told myself that I wouldn’t run another. If I’m foolish enough, I might try another one next year.

What is one of your favorite books and why?
A Clockwork Orange by Anthony Burgess because it poses deep and continually relevant questions about morality, punishment, and the balance between individual- and societal-level control of behavior. You wind up unsatisfied at the end of the book, which is perhaps unsurprising given that these questions have no easy answers.
How did you first get interested in your academic field?

I got my bachelor’s degree in literature but after graduation I ended up teaching at an international high school in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. My class had students of 20 different nationalities and I soon came to realize that their complex cultural identities were as much a part of their readings as was the Shakespearean text in front of them. This realization led me to cultural anthropology.

Why were you drawn to a teaching intensive position?

I was told that Macalester hires teacher scholars. Because I am a social scientist and don’t need a lab, I don’t feel like I’m choosing between teaching and research. I became very excited about the opportunity to teach Macalester students because I’m impressed by how self-motivated they are and by the tremendous array of experiences they can have on campus and around the world.

Tell us one unexpected thing about yourself.

When I was a child one of my favorite games was playing school with my younger sister. She has forgiven me, she says, for always casting her as the student and myself as the teacher, for making her wear a uniform for our “classes,” and even for having her sit in rows of chairs otherwise filled with stuffed animals. Somehow we both wound up becoming educators. Today we regularly talk about our students and how we can make our courses better.

Describe the most interesting object in your office.

On my office wall are two photographs taken last June by photographer Gülsin Ketenci during the Gezi Park protests in Istanbul, Turkey. Gülsin is part of the Nar Photography Collective, an independent photo agency in Istanbul that specializes in social documentary photography. These two photographs remind me to think about how international news is constructed and for what purposes it gets mobilized. Who shapes how different audiences see “the world as it is” and why does it matter? This is one of the core questions behind my scholarship.
How did you first get interested in your academic field?
As a freshman at Columbia I enrolled in Chinese 101 out of curiosity. I loved the class—I’m still in touch with the professor—but after a year I still couldn’t express myself clearly. So I signed up for second-year Chinese. One thing led to another, and soon I found myself living in Shanghai, then Taipei, drawn onward by a growing fascination with Chinese language and culture.

What’s your favorite app?
The Chinese dictionary Pleco

Tell us one unexpected thing about yourself.
I haven’t had a professional haircut since age 16: I cut my own hair.

What is one of your favorite books and why?
My favorite book is *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* by Muriel Spark. I first read this book in middle school and have reread it several times since. Miss Jean Brodie is a charismatic teacher at a girls’ school in Scotland. The students hang on her words, inspired, transfixed. But she is a Fascist. And as the girls fall under her spell, troubling ethical and political questions emerge, as does a conflict with the school’s principal. I love this book because it considers different views on teaching and makes the reader both identify with and criticize each point of view. In my own teaching, I try to inspire students as did Miss Brodie, but whereas she provided pat answers, I aim to incite my students to ask questions. By introducing them to Chinese literature and culture, I hope to stimulate students to rethink their ingrained habits of mind and to raise questions and seek meaningful answers.
Arthur Mitchell

Japanese

How did you first get interested in your academic field?
Though my profession is Japanese literature, I only became a reader in college. I initially wanted to major in philosophy and computer science, but ultimately found that literary study was a way to pursue the abstract questioning and analytical rigor of these disciplines within the context of social problems and human predicaments. I chose Japanese literature because the language is fascinating.

Tell us one unexpected thing about yourself.
I was born in Tokyo, Japan, almost 7,000 miles from where I grew up in Westchester, New York.

Describe the most interesting object in your office.
I have a print of Japanese carp on my wall. Carp—or koi—is a traditional Japanese motif, but this print was produced by a Muslim artist in Hawaii, so has a subtly foreign flavor to it.

What is one of your favorite books and why?
Right now I’m reading Tricia Rose’s Black Noise (Wesleyan, 1994), one of the first academic studies of hip-hop culture. I love the edginess and originality of her scholarship.
Marcos Ortega
Biology

How did you first get interested in your academic field?
Teaching has always interested me because my mother taught elementary school for 30 years and she influenced my life profoundly. I envisioned myself becoming a teacher like her until I attended Grinnell College and began to ponder pursuing a career in academia. I felt that entering academia would not only allow me to influence students as she did, but also to show them how an education can change the trajectory of one’s life.

Why were you drawn to a teaching intensive position?
Ever since Grinnell, I had considered pursuing a teaching intensive position following graduate school. I changed paths slightly during my graduate and postdoctoral careers because I loved the challenges of research, but soon returned to my roots by teaching at Harvey Mudd College. There I felt re-inspired, working with motivated students in the classroom and the lab. That experience sealed the deal for my return to a liberal arts college.

What’s your favorite app and why?
The only apps on my phone are from when my son hijacks it, thus all my apps are for toddlers. I do enjoy playing Star Wars Angry Birds though. Love me some Star Wars.

What is one of your favorite books and why?
One of my favorite books is *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein. My mom read that book to me when I was little and it reinforced that she would always be there for me, regardless of the situation or her sacrifice. I would not be at Mac if not for my mom.
How did you first get interested in your academic field?
I’ve loved math since I was in kindergarten, but my specific interests continue to evolve around a number of different application areas (e.g., electrical engineering, operations research, economics) that all use some form of mathematical modeling.

Why were you drawn to a teaching intensive position?
Primarily for the increased interaction with students and the value placed on education. I went to a boarding high school where I had small, interactive classes with teachers who were also my athletic coaches, debate team and community service advisors, and house counselors. The impact they had on me was indelible.

What’s your favorite app and why?
A podcast organizer called Downcast. I’m a huge consumer of podcasts of all types. My subscriptions include multiple podcasts each on sports, news, politics, science, technology, cooking, and photography. They’ve been a nice way for me to stay more connected with American culture while living abroad for the past three years.

Describe the most interesting object in your office.
In my home office I have a series of personalized autographed pictures from Ted Williams, Carl Yastrzemski, and Ray Bourque, three Boston sports legends.
Like many college students, Jesse Russell '14 (Eden Prairie, Minn.) logs onto Facebook several times a day. He posts status updates, sends messages to friends, and uploads photos and videos. But he’s careful to monitor what he and others post on the social-media site—and who in his network can see his activity. For example, though Russell is 21, the legal drinking age, he says, “I don’t want a lot of pictures of me on Facebook holding a beer.” He reviews everything that others post on his timeline and controls who can access each post (friends see party pix; Grandma doesn’t).

“I grew up around technology,” says Russell, a political science major. “I love computers and how much they can help people. I love that we can use digital technology to improve communication and even save lives. But we also have to be careful with how we use it.”

As digital technology seeps into every aspect of modern life—from cell phones to cars, entertainment to cooking—our ability to maintain the privacy of personal information is increasingly threatened. We no longer assume our Google searches are anonymous. We never know exactly who views our Tweets or YouTube videos. Some of us worry that marketers are mining our data for commercial purposes—or that government officials are reading our emails. Hackers lurk everywhere.

Privacy may indeed be under attack. But where did our notions of privacy originate? What’s a reasonable level of privacy to expect in the digital age? And shouldn’t we acknowledge that often the biggest threat to our privacy is, well, ourselves?

Shouldn’t we acknowledge that often the biggest threat to our privacy is, well, ourselves?
"Privacy isn’t about whether the information is out there. Privacy is about what gets done with it." —Jesse Russell '14

WHAT ORWELL DIDN’T PREDICT
Assaults on privacy routinely make headlines in the media. But reaction among the general public has been harder to gauge. When reports were published last May indicating that the National Security Agency was monitoring, among other things, international communications made by private U.S. citizens, many Americans reacted with concern rather than outrage.

Days later, news broke that the U.S. Postal Service routinely photographed every piece of mail, capturing information about the addressee and sender, if not the actual contents inside. The postmaster general suggested such information was in fact collected, but rarely analyzed. Again, public reaction was muted.

George Orwell, author of the dystopian novel 1984, warned us decades ago about the dangers of the government tracking personal information. But the writer failed to anticipate that our behaviors and movements might someday be assiduously followed by commercial ventures as well. Last spring the New York Times reported that the high-end retailer Nordstrom was using customers’ cell-phone connections to its Wi-Fi network to track buyers’ paths between departments. The information, though tracked anonymously, according to Nordstrom, monitored how much time customers spent in each area. (The retailer has since ended the surveillance, according to news reports.)

And cell-phone data isn’t the only information companies are eager to assess. In 2012 the Times revealed that mass merchandiser Target could mill digital data from past purchases at its stores with enough accuracy to predict when a particular customer was pregnant, linking such information to their Guest ID so that coupons would automatically be dispensed for related goods such as baby food and maternity wear.

“Most of us don’t like the idea of someone tracking our data and collecting our information,” says philosophy professor Diane Michelfelder, who teaches a course on ethics and the Internet. “We worry that our data may be used to harm us in some way.” Says Russell, who participated in Michelfelder’s course last fall, “Privacy isn’t about whether the information is out there. Privacy is about what gets done with it.”

A RIGHT TO PRIVACY?
Changes in technology have given rise to privacy concerns for more than a century, says political science professor Patrick Schmidt. In 1890 Boston lawyers Samuel Warren and (future Supreme Court justice) Louis Brandeis published a persuasive essay in the Harvard Law Review arguing that individuals who had not sought the spotlight had a legal right to privacy, or, as Brandeis later put it, a “right to be left alone.” (Some scholars believe the article was written in response to the rise of both photography and yellow journalism and their potential intrusions into people’s lives.)

“What courts defended in the 19th century was essentially a ‘your home is your castle’ kind of doctrine,” Schmidt says. “At home, you could expect privacy—from the public and from the government.” Photographers couldn’t nose a lens through your curtains. Reporters—and the government—couldn’t enter your home without permission or a police warrant.

That view prevailed until the 1960s and 1970s, when Americans began to realize the many ways their privacy was affected by what happened outside their homes. Then nation was rocked by revelations that President Richard Nixon was using the government’s resources to spy on civil rights demonstrators and Vietnam War protestors. Certainly some citizens saw that as a legitimate reason to encroach on privacy—an effort to protect the nation from radicals. But Idaho Senator Frank Church thought otherwise, leading an effort to investigate a shadowy government entity that few Americans had ever heard of, the National Security Agency. Peter Fenn ’70, a staffer on the Senate Intelligence Committee led by Church, remembers, “People did feel violated. They didn’t think their mail should be opened. They were worried about people listening in on their phone conversations.”

The Church Commission ultimately led to government curbs on information gathering. But neither Church nor anyone else anticipated the Internet age and its potential privacy perils, according to Fenn, now a political-communications consultant based in Washington, D.C. “We didn’t even consider digital technology,” he laughs. “That wasn’t even part of our vocabulary. We were only concerned about the Postal Service reading our mail and people tapping pay phones.”

Nixon failed to persuade most Americans that sometimes privacy must be sacrificed for the public good. (Few citizens liked the idea of spying on Americans—even if those people disagreed with their political views.) It would take 9/11 to reshape that view: The war on terror, the public agreed, occasionally necessitated some infringements on personal privacy and liberty.

TRADING PRIVACY
In the wake of 9/11, federal officials argued that privacy rights needed to be balanced with security needs. Privacy is important, went the line of reasoning, but the fight against global terrorism occasionally requires some trespass on privacy rights. So now we surrender to searches at the airport. And when we discover that the U.S. Postal Service photographs every piece of our personal mail, we only shrug. We’ve willingly traded some rights of privacy for the possibility of security.

In fact, giving up privacy often has public and personal benefits. Philosophy professor Martin Gunderson points to public health as an arena where, in recent years, privacy rights and the public weal have been reevaluated and rebalanced. Prior to the spread of HIV/AIDS in the early 1980s, many bioethicists focused on patient rights, arguing that those rights were sacrosanct. “Privacy was pitted against public health,” Gunderson says.

As HIV ripped through the gay community, however, officials at the Centers for Disease Control and elsewhere argued that getting access to information about patients was vital to stopping the spread of the disease and educating the very community being decimated by the plague. GLBT advocates worried that collecting patient information would result in the “outing” and persecution of closeted gay men. But ultimately, Gunderson says, CDC officials managed to protect personal privacy and access the data they needed to track HIV.

More recently, Google has used web search data to help health officials predict the spread of influenza across the United States. Private anonymous searches are being used to benefit the public at large. Public health officials can respond with vaccines and PSA. A net gain, right?
Giving up privacy can benefit us personally, too. Making your profile public on Facebook allows old high school friends to find you—possibly resulting in reconnection, a social gain. Allowing Google to track your searches can result in browser ads serving up deals on the very products or services you’re seeking—a potential money- or time-saver.

The pros of sharing personal information on Facebook and Twitter outweigh the cons for English major Michael Abramson ’15 (Atherton, Calif.). In fact, his experience interning at two tech startups—one in Palo Alto and another in St. Paul—suggests that digitally sharing information may be essential to his future employment. “Having a developed social media presence is a very valuable thing,” Abramson says. “If you’re someone my age and you’re not doing social media, that can be a detrimental. It’s a job skill at this point.”

Abramson regularly posts controversial articles as a way of provoking discussions among his friends—timing his posts to maximize visibility and click-throughs—so the popularity of his posts can be measured. Does he worry that a prospective employer may someday sift through those posts and scrap his resumé based on his views? Nope. “If a future employer is unwilling to hire me because of my opinions, I’m okay with that,” Abramson says. “I would rather stand by my morals and let my views be out there than censor myself.”

More and more, we’ve come to understand that online privacy is an illusion. Once we’ve hit “send” on the email, posted the video to YouTube, submitted the online comment, or uploaded the document to Dropbox, we’ve essentially relinquished control: Our private information is now subject to the vagaries of weak passwords and murky privacy policies. The information can be forwarded, copied, analyzed, and—thanks to improvements in digital-storage technologies—potentially accessed for generations.

“I think most first-year students are aware that what they post to Facebook will live forever,” says computer science professor Shilad Sen. Services like Snapchat, which allows users to send photos that disappear within seconds of reaching the user, are increasingly popular, Sen notes, precisely because they lack permanence.

But what about the data we don’t share, the information about our behaviors and habits that we don’t want disseminated? Analysis of cell-phone data could reveal that you travel to Las Vegas at least once a month—a precious morsel of marketing data that might be sold to a hotel chain desiring your patronage. Cars are now outfitted with computers that can track speeds and other driving details, notes philosophy professor Michelfelder. Should your insurance company have access to such data? What if you were in an accident caused by a speeding driver? Would that change your mind? What if sharing your driving data could lower your premiums? Trading privacy can pay handsomely.

There are plenty of reasons to welcome the spread of digital technology and the miracles it has wrought. Amazon knows what we like to read. Facebook automatically tags photos of our friends so we don’t have to. Someday our coffeemakers may switch on the second they sense we’re stirring in bed, and our medicine cabinets may call the pharmacist when our prescriptions are getting low. But for the time being, no technology can accurately read our minds. No technology can match the spark of intimacy that occurs when two humans connect and reveal their private thoughts and opinions.

“I like talking to people more in person these days, especially with all the NSA stuff,” says Russell, the political science major. He’s less interested in cultivating Facebook friends. “If someone wants to get to know me,” he says, “I hope they want to get to know me in person.”

JOEL HOEKSTRA is a writer based in Minneapolis. He profiled San Francisco cultural affairs director Tom DeCaigny ’98 in the Spring 2012 issue of Macalester Today.
Zachary Avre ’14 (inset) and Andrew Keefe ’13 won Truman scholarships for graduate study.

Fall at Macalester

SCENES FROM TODAY, IMAGES FROM YESTERDAY

Freshmen handbooks from 1931 (blue) and 1956; current campus fall scenes.

A Freshman Guide to Macalester College
Clockwise from right: Freshmen orientation early 1960s; Orientation 1965; Student handbook 1892; Earl Bowman ’60, who later served as Macalester’s Dean of Students.
Clockwise from top: 1890 football team; pin won by members of 1925 football team, only Mac team to ever win the MIAC championship; 1945 football schedule; early 1900s photo of C.L. Koons and Clarence Baker; Orientation 1972; Homecoming pin 1967; 1909 football team
1945 MACALESTER FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Oct. 6 Augsburg .................. Here
13 St. John's ...................... Here
20 Eau Claire ..................... Here
27 Augsburg* .......... South High Field
Nov. 3 Concordia .......... at Moorehead

*Homecoming Game October 27

THE HUEBENER PRESS
Quality Printing
1794 SAINT ANTHONY AVENUE
SAINT PAUL 4, MINNESOTA
NEstor 6772 -:- Midway 6840
From top: Fall scene 2012; students arriving for Freshmen Week 1939; undated photo of football team playing on former field behind Old Main
From top: 1926 football game on the old field, showing the former gymnasium; Homecoming pin 1933; Orientation 1965.
In the soft light of the vast Cinema Ballroom, Jon Chen ’11 and partner Nadine Messenger are putting the finishing touches on their performance for an upcoming ballroom showcase. Chen, in a ragged black tank top, wide-legged dance pants, and Cuban heels, sharpens his back-spot turns, crossovers, and rondés as his partner, a fellow dance instructor, does the same. A competitor in the American rhythm category, Chen focuses on the cha-cha, rumba, East Coast swing, bolero, and mambo. His performance is smooth and powerful, and for Chen, it’s serious business. With strong performances in ballroom competitions across the country, he and Messenger are beginning to attract attention. “I eat, breathe, and sleep dance,” Chen says. “If you want to be successful, that’s what you’ve got to do.”

Although he’s now a rising star in the world of ballroom, Chen had no real dance experience when he arrived at Macalester from Danville, California—unless you count watching the TV show So You Think You Can Dance? His first year in college he joined Bodacious, Macalester’s hip-hop team, but by sophomore year he longed for more. Cinema Ballroom, just steps from the Macalester campus, seemed like a perfect opportunity. “I couldn’t say, ‘Oh, it’s too far,’ because it was right across the street,” he says. “There was no excuse.”

He was a quick study, though admittedly undisciplined at first. But by his senior year Chen realized that with a bit more effort, he could turn a hobby into a full-time pursuit. Once he’d landed a teaching position at the studio he began funneling his earnings into competition costs—Latin shirts and pants, entry fees, travel expenses.

Soon he and Messenger were competing monthly from California to Florida. In competitions, they perform on stage with several other couples and are evaluated by judges on everything from posture and timing to “line”—the stretch of the body from head to toe.

Competing has involved a steep learning curve, says Chen, both for the performances themselves and for the rigid expectations for each aspect of a dancer’s appearance. “Your hair needs to be shellacked, essentially. You’re expected to tan. Guys need to wear a specific type of clothing appropriate for the material—for Latin dances, for example, the clothes must be tight and revealing; we’re expected to be dressed to the nines,” he says.

Appearance is important in part because judges must make snap decisions, scoring dancers whom they may have seen for only minutes. Given the choice between two pairs who perform equally, they’ll happily choose the duo that has put real effort into their appearance.

The pair’s best performance came in August, when they won top prize in the “Professional Rising Star American Rhythm” category (and third in the more rigorous “Open Professional” division) at the Heart of American Dancesport Championship in Kansas City. They’ve also made the finals in the “Open” category at both the San Francisco and California Opens. Chen’s next big challenge comes in November, when he and his partner head to Columbus for the Ohio Star Ball. He expects they’ll continue their upward trajectory there.

Although serious about improving his skills, Chen is just as excited about teaching. Working one-on-one with students (including some Macalester faculty) and watching their progress is rewarding for both parties. “Students have so many excuses about why they can’t dance—too old, too fat, two left feet,” he says. “But when I help them check something off their bucket list or do something they never thought they could do, it makes me incredibly happy.”

Chen credits his Macalester education—where he earned a political science degree—for helping him hone his teaching. “I gave so many presentations and participated in so many discussions that I really learned how to repackage information for diverse audiences,” he says. So today, whether his clients are 14 or 84, preparing a wedding dance or just learning a new skill, he wants them to come away feeling they’ve truly accomplished something.

Many might scoff at his work, Chen acknowledges, given that competitions rarely lead to riches. Even a victory barely nets the dancers $1,000. But for him, the long hours and demanding work is worth it—not just for those moments in the limelight but for the many opportunities dance has given him to make a difference in people’s lives. “There are people who make lots of money,” he says. “I don’t, that’s true. But I’m so happy doing this. It’s one of the most rewarding things I’ve ever done.”

ERIN PETERSON is a regular contributor to Macalester Today.
Jon Chen '11 and dance partner Nadine Messenger practice for competition at St. Paul's Cinema Ballroom, where Chen also teaches lessons.
Beth Bergman ’73 combines her creative and entrepreneurial sides as owner of Wet Paint.
Beth Bergman ’73 and her Wet Paint store are beloved Grand Avenue fixtures.

INTERVIEW BY JAN SHAW-FLAMM ’76 PHOTO BY DAVID J. TURNER

Owner: Beth Bergman ’73

Business: Wet Paint Artists’ Materials and Framing, 1684 Grand Ave., St. Paul

Years as owner: 29

Number of art materials at Wet Paint: 35,000

Favorite art supply: Must she choose just one? “Paint, of course, and I love paper. Paper can be a work of art in itself. There are subtle differences between a paper made in a mill in Montreal and one made in Italy or Asia. And brushes! A handle that’s weighted just right with a beautiful finish and just the right hair with the perfect ‘snap.’ It’s very tactile and you miss out on that if you buy online.”

Industry honors: Bergman was inducted into the International Art Materials Association Hall of Fame at this year’s annual conference, held in Minneapolis.

Mac in the ’70s: “It was the [late art professor Jerry] Rudquist era. Studio art was a nice blend of learning techniques and developing subject matter and what you wanted to say. It was meant to nurture your art and teach you how to see.”

Evolution from art major to art materials: After graduating, Bergman spent eight years working for a Fortune 500 company in St. Paul while spending her evenings painting in a shared studio space. At 30 she decided to work for Hugh Huelster ’74, founder of Wet Paint. “So it was only natural that when Hugh was ready to sell a few years later, I would buy the business.”

Giving back: Bergman has donated money to the Studio Art renovation and expansion project in the Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center, so that future student artists will have great facilities in which to learn and create.

JAN SHAW-FLAMM ’76 is a staff writer for Macalester Today.
1. Reed Andrews ’08 and Anna Chastain Andrews ’08 were married on June 1, 2013, in Morton, Ill.

2. Gretchen Wolf ’02 and Chris Burgess were married on May 18, 2013, in Minneapolis. Mac alumni in attendance were Jack Stuckmayer ’57, Nicholas Berning ’02, Edward Chidothe ’03, and Haris Aqeel ’04.

3. Arlonda “Loni” LaRaux-Addison ’86 and Terry Addison, a former Macalester administrator, were married on June 29, 2013, in Modesto, Calif.

4. Sylvia Ferguson ’12 and Samuel Kidder were married on June 22, 2013, in St. Louis Park, Minn.
5. Thomas Martin ’76 and Susan Hughes were married June 28, 2013, in Maine.

6. Jane Turk ’02 and Brendan Themes were married Oct. 13, 2012, in Stillwater, Minn. Jacob Gelfand ’02, Kelsey Wolf ’02, and Allison Veen ’03 attended the ceremony.

7. Elizabeth Hutchinson ’05 and David Kruger ’04 were married June 8, 2013, in Minnetrista, Minn. Macalester Chaplain Lucy Forster-Smith officiated, and many Mac alumni attended the celebration.
In Memoriam

1935
Ann Cussons Schrader, 98, of Anoka, Minn., died Aug. 16, 2013. She had retired from a career in education. Mrs. Schrader is survived by two daughters, two granddaughters, two great-grandsons, and a brother.

1937
Jean Reynolds Thompson, 98, of Boulder, Colo., died June 7, 2013. She was activities director at the Guardian Angels Senior Care Center in Elk River, Minn. Mrs. Thompson is survived by two daughters, six grandchildren (including Jonathan Oltmans ’95), and 10 great-grandchildren.

1938
Lucille Mason Heaton, 95, died May 21, 2013. She was a schoolteacher in St. Paul and Williams, Minn., and taught English to immigrants after her retirement. Mrs. Heaton is survived by three daughters, a son, 19 grandchildren, 34 great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren.

Virgil A. Olson, 96, of Cambridge, Minn., died June 4, 2013. He was a minister, a seminary professor at Bethel Seminary, dean of Bethel College, and executive secretary of the World Mission Board Baptist General Conference. Mr. Olson is survived by his wife, Alma, two daughters, a son, and many grandchildren.

1939
Victor G. Lowe, 98, of Mahtomedi, Minn., died July 17, 2013. He worked at the St. Paul Companies and was manager and chief executive officer of the Minnesota Rating Bureau. Mr. Lowe is survived by a daughter, a son, eight grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren, four great-great-grandchildren, and a sister.

1940
Hazel Harvey Lawton, 94, of Fairmont, Minn., died June 17, 2013. She taught music and English and also assisted her husband in his ministry for 45 years. Mrs. Lawton is survived by two sons, six grandchildren (including Darren Plath ’89), and eight great-grandchildren.

1941
Donald O. Spaeth, 93, of St. Paul died June 24, 2013. He served in the U.S. Navy Air Corps during World War II. After working in sales and merchandising for Northwestern Jewelry Co., Mr. Spaeth formed the Don Spaeth Co. in 1954. He was serving as president of the Roselawn Cemetery Board of Trustees at the time of his death. Mr. Spaeth is survived by his wife, Barbara, a daughter, and a son.

1942
John A. Hanner, 93, died July 24, 2013, in Bayport, Minn. He served in Europe during World War II and retired in 1981 after 28 years with 3M. He also owned a farm in Wisconsin, where he raised cattle and grew crops and pine trees. Mr. Hanner is survived by his wife, Doris, a daughter, two sons, seven grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Charles H. Ludwig, 93, of Seattle died June 16, 2013.

1943
Charles D. Cannons, 92, died May 28, 2013, in Edgewater, Fla. He is survived by a daughter, four grandchildren, and a great-grandchild.

Robert B. Tubbesing, 92, of Red Wing, Minn., died July 16, 2013. He served overseas in the Air Force during World War II and worked for the City of Red Wing for 30 years, rising to the position of clerk-treasurer and retiring in 1984. Mr. Tubbesing is survived by his wife, DeLoris, three daughters, a son, four grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

1946
Margaret Johnson Kiriluk, 88, of Bloomington, Minn., died recently. She was a teacher for 34 years.

Andrea Walsh Wieland, 88, died May 6, 2013, in Rochester, Minn. She taught kindergarten in Rochester for nearly 30 years, raised funds for P.E.O. charities by operating a bed and breakfast in her home, and organized and managed a camp for youth with disabilities. Mrs. Wieland is survived by two daughters, a son, and two grandchildren.

1947
Phyllis Martin Enright, 87, of Sautee Nacoochee, Ga., died March 14, 2013. She was a homemaker and taught remedial reading. Mrs. Enright is survived by her husband, Jack, three daughters, three sons, 12 grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Ruth MacDougal McCartin, 86, died Nov. 4, 2012, in Dana Point, Calif. She worked in department store and newspaper display advertising and taught first-grade and alternative charter high school students. Mrs. McCartin is survived by four sons, nine grandchildren, and a great-granddaughter.

Audrey Croft Sincerny, 82, of Ashland, Ore., died April 7, 2013.

1948
James H. Anderson, 92, died July 24, 2013, in Winona, Minn. He served in the Army during World War II and fought in the Battle of the Bulge. He retired in 1985 after 25 years as executive director of the Winona YMCA. Mr. Anderson is survived by two daughters, a son, a granddaughter, and a sister.

Carol Nelson Nichols, 86, died Aug. 19, 2012, in Colorado. She is survived by two daughters, four grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, a sister, Mary Ann Nelson Anderson ’62, and a brother.

Howard W. Wegner, 89, of Waconia, Minn., died July 22, 2013. He served in the Army in the Pacific during World War II, attaining the rank of sergeant. He taught at several schools in Minnesota, coached basketball and football, and was a middle school counselor and driver’s education instructor in Little Falls, Minn., from 1966 until his retirement in 1984. Mr. Wegner is survived by his wife, Doris, a daughter, and a sister.

1950
Elizabeth Holdhusen Butzer, 84, of Mankato, Minn., died July 24, 2013. She volunteered with numerous organizations, including MRCI, hospice, and Kids Against Hunger. Mrs. Butzer is survived by six daughters, six sons, 29 grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren.

J. Robert French, 89, of Roseville, Minn., died April 24, 2013. He served on a destroyer in the Pacific during World War II and was assistant principal of White Bear High School from 1957 to 1985.

Jean Meyer Hoisington, 82, of Shoreview, Minn., died June 12, 2013. She retired in 1995 as on-site program manager for the Executive Development Center at the University of Minnesota’s Carlson School of Management. Mrs. Hoisington is survived by her husband, Bob Hoisington ’50, three daughters, a son, 21 grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and a sister.

Margaret R. Nelson, 86, of Sun City West, Ariz., died April 22, 2013.

George A. Sincerny, 87, of Ashland, Ore., died Sept. 1, 2012.

Jerome E. Wagner, 89, of Roseville, Minn., died June 15, 2013. He served with the U.S. Navy in the Pacific during World War II and later in the Navy Reserves. Mr. Wagner taught biology at Anoka High School for 40 years, worked for several years for the Science Museum of Minnesota, and served on the board of the Minnesota Zoo. He is survived by his wife, Barbara Lindeke, five daughters, six sons, 29 grandchildren (including Amelia Nielsen ’08), 11 great-grandchildren, a sister, and a brother.

1951
Spencer B. Schuldt, 83, died July 29, 2013. A senior scientist at Honeywell Research Center for 30 years, Mr. Schuldt held several patents and received the Swett Award. He was also a published composer and arranger. Mr. Schuldt is survived by his wife, Norma, five children, 10
grandchildren, a sister, and a brother.

1952
Jerome S. Emerson, 85, of Sun City West, Ariz., died June 25, 2013. He was a junior high school principal with the North St. Paul, Minn., schools for 32 years. Mr. Emerson is survived by his wife, Margery Rock Emerson ’52, a daughter, and a son.

Harry Hanson, 84, of Bloomington, Minn., died recently. He is survived by two daughters, a son, six grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and two sisters.

William R. MacMillan, 83, died Feb. 24, 2013, in Dallas. He is survived by his wife, Becky, seven children, and two grandchildren.

Thomas G. Phillips, 82, died April 28, 2013. He was a former rector at the Episcopal Church of the Ascension in Stillwater, Minn. Mr. Phillips is survived by his wife, Priscilla, two daughters, two sons, nine grandchildren, and a great-granddaughter.

Claire Buckeye Warrant, 83, of Kasota, Minn., died June 9, 2013. She worked at, and later came to own, Bonnie’s Apparel. Mrs. Warrant is survived by her husband, George, three daughters, two sons, 14 grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

1953
Harriet Dunning Silver, 80, of Plymouth, Minn., died Aug. 10, 2011. She was a schoolteacher in Wayzata, Minn., before her retirement. Mrs. Silver is survived by five daughters, three sons, 17 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

1955
Alice Hunter Tannehill, 79, of Delaware, Ohio, died July 5, 2013. She was a kindergartener, nursery school, and Head Start teacher. Mrs. Tannehill is survived by her husband, Robert, two daughters, a son, seven grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, two sisters, and a brother.

1956
Bette George Gates, 79, of Spokane, Wash., died Aug. 8, 2013. She was a schoolteacher, a military wife, and a member of the National Association of Legal Secretaries. Mrs. Gates is survived by her husband, Tom, a daughter, two grandchildren, and sister Mary George Hood ’53.

Edward P. Klucking, 84, died Aug. 1, 2013. He served in the Navy during the Korean War and taught at Central Washington University, retiring in 1994 after 34 years. A specialist in paleobotany, Mr. Klucking developed a method of identifying fossilized leaves based on their venation patterns. He is survived by two daughters (including Sara Klucking ’91), two sons, five grandchildren, three sisters, and a brother.

Lawrence A. Schlick, 82, of Wauwatosa, Wis., died June 14, 2013. He won many awards for photography during his 12 years as photo editor at the Worthington Daily Globe. He taught at Brookfield Academy from 1969 to 1996 and at Mercy Academy for several years. Mr. Schlick is survived by his wife, Patricia Cramer Schlick ’57, two daughters (including Mary Schlick Pevo ’87), a son, Michael Schlick ’84, and seven grandchildren.

Joan Michelson Thorsen, 78, of Mound, Minn., died May 16, 2013. She taught kindergarten in the Minneapolis Public Schools for more than 30 years. Mrs. Thorsen is survived by her husband, Floyd, a daughter, two sons, seven grandchildren, and a sister.

1958
Richie A. Olson, ’76, of Virginia, Minn., died Sept. 5, 2013. In 1960, during his first year as a coach, Mr. Olson led the Edgerton, Minn., high school boys’ basketball team to the state championship. Although the Flying Dutchmen were competing against much larger schools from across Minnesota, the team emerged undefeated at the end of the season. Mr. Olson also coached basketball and served as an athletic director in Virginia, Minn. He is survived by a brother.

Oliver G. Titrud, 86, died March 22, 2013. He taught college courses in science, botany, and nutrition at numerous institutions and was the author of several books. Mr. Titrud is survived by three daughters, four sons, 16 grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, and a sister.

1959
Leslie Reinhardt Reindl, ’76, died May 14, 2013. She is survived by her husband, Wilhelm, two daughters, and seven grandchildren.

Barbara Terp, 83, died July 9, 2013, in Kailua, Hawaii. She taught in Minneapolis and in the Miami-Dade, Fla., Public Schools. She also founded Camp Coco, a summer camp for underprivileged youth. Mrs. Terp is survived by three children, six grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and a sister.

Margaret “Peg” Page McCubbin, ’75, of Chisago Lakes, Minn., died July 13, 2013. Peg was an elementary school teacher, a farmer, and a tutor in the Chisago Lakes, Minn., school district for many years. She is survived by a brother.

Sandra Soderman Smith, ’74, of Grand Forks, N.D., died July 15, 2013. She was an English teacher and a stay-at-home mother. Mrs. Smith is survived by three children and six grandchildren.

1960
JoAnn Hurd Chapman, ’73, of Waterloo, Iowa, died June 20, 2013. She was vice president of nursing and patient care services at Covenant Medical Center until 1989 and served as executive director of the Visiting Nurses Association. Mrs. Chapman is survived by two sons, three grandchildren, a great-grandchild, a sister, and a brother.

Richard W. Mannillo, ’72, died July 12, 2013. He served as a lieutenant in the Air Force, worked as a certified public accountant and controller, and became involved in nursing home administration, emergency medical services, and nursing later in his career. Mr. Mannillo is survived by his wife, Joanie, three stepchildren, nine grandchildren, and a great-granddaughter.

1962
Charles R. Hanson, 68, of Minnetonka, Minn., died May 18, 2013. During a 40-year career as a golf professional, he worked at Oak Ridge Country Club and Minnetonka Country Club. Mr. Hanson is survived by his wife, Alice, three stepchildren, nine grandchildren, and a great-granddaughter.

Virginia Moyle Pezalla, ’57, of Minnesota’s waterways. He is a member of the North St. Paul, Minn., schools for 32 years. Mr. Titrud is survived by a brother.

1964
Alice Maki Lanyk, 70, died May 4, 2013, in Casper, Wyo. She founded the business Heartfelt Designs, taught fiber arts, and created pieces that were exhibited at the Nicolaysen Art Museum and sold around the country. She also taught in Montessori schools and retired from the Natrona County School District in 2012. Mrs. Lanyk is survived by her husband, James, two daughters, two sons, and four grandchildren.

1966
Richard W. Mannillo, 68, died July 25, 2013, in Boston. He was an entrepreneur who launched a variety of small businesses. Mr. Mannillo is survived by his wife, Paula McKibbin Mannillo ’66, two daughters (including Lynn Mannillo Anderson ’91), a son, three grandchildren, and a brother.

1967
Charles R. Hanson, 68, of Minnetonka, Minn., died Nov. 29, 2012. He did wildlife and plant research for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, retiring in 2003. Mr. Lake received an award from the Minnesota Native Plant Society for his research on rare plants, and was also active in efforts to improve the quality of Minnesota’s waterways. He is survived by a son and a sister.

1968
Virginia Moyle Pezalla, ’66, of Oak Park, Ill., died Nov. 6, 2012. During a 40-year career she taught science to high school and college students, retiring in 2012 after 18 years at Robert Morris University. She wrote an influential paper on the thermoregulatory behavior of dragonflies as well as the textbook Animal Behavior: Conflict.
Cooperation, and Communication. Mrs. Pezalla is survived by her husband, Paul, three daughters, two grandchildren, a sister, and two brothers.

1972

1973
Sally Purintun Savage, 61, of Pullman, Wash., died July 11, 2013. She was a senior assistant attorney general with the Washington State Attorney General’s Office. She served Washington State University for nearly 30 years in a variety of administrative positions, including chief legal counsel, university counsel, and vice president in the areas of administration, university relations, and advancement. Mrs. Savage also served as president of the Washington State Bar Association Foundation. She is survived by her husband, David, three children, two grandchildren, two sisters, and a brother.

1975
Kathleen Troxell Sellew, 60, of Falcon Heights, Minn., died Aug. 22, 2013. For more than 30 years, she devoted her career to strengthening higher education in the developing world. She worked with agencies in Latin America, Africa, and Papua New Guinea and led development projects sponsored by Harvard’s Latin American Scholarship Program, the Asia Development Bank, and the U.S. Agency for International Development. Mrs. Sellew worked as associate director of the Office of International Programs at the University of Minnesota until 2008 and the next year received the university’s Award for Global Engagement. Mrs. Sellew is survived by her husband, Philip Sellew ’75, a son, her mother, and a sister.

1977
Karlynn Goltz Rayment, 58, died June 12, 2013. She is survived by her husband, Andrew Rayment ’75, and two sons.

Other Losses

Mary Lee Dayton, 88, former chair of Macalester’s Board of Trustees and a generous donor to the college, died Aug. 21, 2013, at her home in Wayzata, Minn. Mrs. Dayton was a community leader and philanthropist who chaired the boards of the Minneapolis Foundation, the Minneapolis YWCA, and Planned Parenthood of Minnesota. She also cofounded the Minnesota Women’s Fund, served on the boards of numerous foundations, educational institutions, and other organizations, and took an interest in women’s and environmental issues. “She was a very gracious woman and unpretentious,” says her nephew, Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton. “Her father was a prominent minister at Westminster Presbyterian Church so she comes out of that sense of faith and service. She just exemplified that. She was so selfless.” Macalester College President Brian Rosenberg discovered her kindness firsthand 10 years ago while enduring a series of nerve-wracking interviews, one of which included dinner at her brother-in-law Bruce Dayton’s house. “She knew it was a pressurized situation. She did everything to make me feel relaxed and at ease. I never met anyone who was so consistently kind and modest,” Rosenberg says. “In my job, you get to know a lot of generous people. But even in that group, she really stood out as so happy to do good.” Mrs. Dayton is survived by four daughters and nine grandchildren (including Theodore Clement ’06).

Ronald A. McKinley, 64, former coordinator of American Indian Programs at Macalester, died July 21, 2013. Mr. McKinley founded a number of nonprofits, including the Minnesota Minority Education Partnership, which promotes racial equity in education. He also chaired the board of Mixed Blood Theatre, helped connect the philanthropy community with the Native American community, and mentored emerging leaders, including MMEP’s current executive director, Carlos Mariani Rosa ’79. Mr. McKinley is survived by his wife, Devin, two daughters, and two granddaughters.
The Anxious, Empathic Writer

BY ANDY STEINER ’90

LAST SPRING I LAY MY DOCTOR’S EXAM TABLE, hooked up to an ECG machine. Embarrassed, anxious, even a bit tearful, I rapidly explained to the kind doctor, and then to the nurse, as she affixed a handful of sticky probes to my chest, “I’m writing this book and I interviewed a young woman who had a heart attack. She’s fit, around my age, a marathoner, but she had a heart attack, and her symptoms weren’t typical at all. I know it’s probably just heartburn but I keep thinking I’m having one, too…” My words faded off, uselessly.

I was making a scene, and when my ECG results came back normal, as in “Take some antacid,” instead of feeling relieved I felt even more embarrassed. I blew my nose, thanked the doctor for her time, and slunk out of the clinic, feeling as if I were wearing a scarlet H for hypochondriac.

Turns out, the experience was all in a day’s work.

For most of the last year I’ve been researching and writing a book that tells the stories of people who have lived through significant life challenges, including the loss of a job or home, serious chronic illness, the death of a child, or (see above) a major heart attack. The people I interviewed have been open and forthcoming, exhaustively detailing their traumas, and, most importantly, explaining how they’ve managed to incorporate these losses into their lives and keep going.

Despite having been a journalist long enough to know better, I entered this project blithely, convinced everything would be fine, confident in my ability to play the objective reporter. Yet there were times in the midst of my research when I felt as if I’d been sucked into the vortex of my subjects’ situations, witnessing the crushing pain of the grieving parent or the depressing disorientation of life with a malfunctioning heart.

Then tragedies in my own life and the lives of my loved ones began to add to my stress. Within a span of months my beloved father-in-law and niece both fell ill and died. Thinking about their deaths still makes me feel hollowed out and sad.

In the muddle of my own grief there were days when working on the book left me depleted and exhausted. But as I continued to transcribe interviews and write, a sense of peace began to seep in. My subjects’ honest accounts of how they imperfectly yet bravely faced down life-shifting events were both awe-inspiring and comforting. These were real people who found they could thrive despite major traumas. If they could do it, then so could I.

Even armed with that knowledge, though, there were times—such as during my anxious doctor’s visit—when I stumbled in the face of tough realities. I’m human and fallible, after all. Then, as evidence of my own fallible life continued to build, as I witnessed some of the saddest moments I could imagine, I noticed that I’d begun to develop a different awareness of life’s difficulties. Some of that awareness, I know, comes from my own experiences; the rest comes from empathetically witnessing the pain of others.

Sure, life would be easier if we could just sail through it, free of struggle or sadness. Like most people, that’s the kind of life I once hoped for. And there’s still a part of me that wishes that life for my daughters. But lately I’ve come to believe that an unblemished life is incomplete.

I recently came across a quote from Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, author of On Death and Dying: “The most beautiful people we have known are those who have known defeat, known suffering, known loss, and have found their way out of the depths. Beautiful people do not just happen.” I love that sentiment because it says what I’ve believed for years: The most compassionate people are those who’ve struggled.

Even the most amazing lives have some ugly edges. Back in college, I gave the man who is now my husband a copy of The Velveteen Rabbit, a favorite childhood book in which a once plush stuffed toy becomes real only after having his whiskers loved off. Life wears us down. It’s inevitable. But that’s what makes us beautiful—and real.

ANDY STEINER ’90 is a St. Paul–based writer and editor. Her latest book, How to Survive: The Extraordinary Resilience of Ordinary People, will be published in 2014 by Think Piece Publishing.
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