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ON THE COVER: From left: Students working on their projects in the new light-filled painting studio in the Joan Adams Mondale Hall of Studio Art are (from left) Vincent Siegerink ’14, Julia Sillen ’14, Anna Van Voorhis ’14, and Carina Lei ’15. (photo by David J. Turner)
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What I Learned

BY BRIAN ROSENBERG

As a sabbatical is intended as a time for restoration and reflection. Ideally, one should return from this interregnum with a new and richer understanding of oneself and one’s relation to the world. A suntan is a nice addition but less essential.

For me, this period of sustained tranquility has been unprecedented. My only other sabbatical occurred 22 years ago, when my wife Carol was working six or seven days a week and my older son, Adam, was a year old: the list of things on the agenda at that time did not include much solitude and self-scrutiny. I wrote most of a book on Dickens, changed many diapers, and pretty much never left Erie, Pennsylvania—not my first choice of a place to spend free time.

I am of course keenly aware that most people in most professions work their entire lives without having a sabbatical (helpfully reminded, from time to time, by my spouse). I feel most fortunate to have had this gift of freedom. I wish our society embraced the understanding that we would collectively be healthier and more productive if more people were granted a similar gift. Many Europeans, for instance, seem to regularly incorporate a sabbatical into their working lives. They call it “August.” And yes, they do seem to undermine the notion that sabbaticals and productivity are directly correlated, but I am convinced nonetheless that there can be a happy middle ground between the American—particularly the male American—pride in working to exhaustion and the Italian custom of the three-hour lunch.

Here are some things I learned during the past few months.

My friend Judith Shapiro, retired president of Barnard College, has said if you’re going to spend the rest of your life inside your own head, you’d better make sure it’s an interesting place to be. I learned that my head, gray and balding as it is, is not uninteresting, at least to its owner. I spent surprisingly little time between September and mid-December thinking about Macalester, I paid almost no attention to the news, and I was just fine. Better than fine, actually: I was relaxed, curious about the things around me, and more focused than ever before on the present rather than the past or future.

I learned that one of life’s hidden pleasures is driving long distances through beautiful and relatively isolated places with no need to be anywhere for an appointment. It helps if one is driving a car that can go really fast, but any reasonably reliable vehicle will do. California is by far the most populous state in the nation, but it is also huge, and I managed at times to drive 20 or 30 miles through heavily wooded hills without passing another vehicle.

I explored every possible route between the town of Sonoma and the Pacific coast, driving long stretches of that coastline on roads that seemed designed by an imaginative child playing with Legos. I listened to all my favorite music from college. I stopped for coffee in Bodega Bay, where Alfred Hitchcock filmed The Birds and where, this being America, there is a Birds Café and a life-sized replica of Hitchcock outside a grocery store. I found a bakery and a cheese shop in Freestone (population 50) that rival anything in New York. (Another highlight of Freestone is its famous Osmosis Spa, specializing in the Cedar Enzyme Bath. I did not indulge.)

I also learned that another of life’s pleasures is not driving in Italy. As my friend and guide Guido Fratini says of his homeland, “One country, one highway.” Every other road is narrow, winding, and pretty much unnamed. Throw in a traffic circle every 50 meters, the inability to connect with GPS, hundreds of crazed motorcyclists outfitted like Arnold Schwarzenegger in Terminator 2, and the occasional cinghiale (wild boar) wandering across the pavement, and you have a recipe for mayhem. But the views: magnificent.

I learned to admire the craftspeople of the world, particularly those who produce with dedication, passion, and honesty the
things we eat and drink. I listened to people who make cheese and chocolate and wine—how’s that for a nutritional pyramid?—and was struck by the almost spiritual seriousness with which they approach their labor. Those of us who work chiefly at desks tend to underestimate the difficulty and the beauty of transforming a giant pod into a piece of chocolate that improves a bad day or grapes into a wine that lingers in the memory for years. The people who do this at the highest level are both gifted and smart.

The winemakers, unsurprisingly, captured my imagination with special force. There’s Michele Satta, making brilliant wines in Bolgheri, who likens his role to that of an orchestral conductor. “Same music, same musicians, different conductors, different sound. Same grapes, same land, different makers, different taste.” Hard to argue. Steve Law, from Edinburgh, worked as an electronics engineer for Hewlett Packard before quitting to make cool-climate, French-style Syrah in Sonoma. (I tried to convince him to change the name of his wine, Maclaren, to Macalester, but learned that clan members, unlike baseball players, cannot become free agents.) Doug and Lee Nalle have been making Zinfandel, some from pre-Prohibition vines, in the same refined style for 30 years, regardless of changing markets or fashions. If not for the fact that I don’t like to get dirty, hate bugs, am impatient, and prefer to live within walking distance of a good latte, I could see myself doing this stuff.

One of the skills I have honed during my decade as a college president is what might be called “shmoozeability”: the capacity to be at ease when conversing with new acquaintances and to ask questions that encourage them to talk about their interests. I learned that this skill is transferable to other settings and makes traveling considerably more enjoyable and instructive. My father was a master at this, and his endless string of conversations with total strangers used to embarrass me. Now I know what he was up to and why he returned from every vacation with new friends.

I learned, or was helpfully reminded, of the truth that there remains a BR separate and distinct from PBR. It is not the case that my presidential persona is in any way inauthentic; like Popeye the Sailor, I am what I am. Rather, the picture of me as President of Macalester is only a partial representation: not photo-shopped, but cropped. After a decade of inhabiting an all-consuming role, I began to wonder if all the non-presidential sides of my personality had been consumed. I have been reassured that this is not the case. For better or worse, and with all its flaws, the essential me remains.

Finally, and most importantly, I learned that the most complex, nuanced, and interesting California Pinot Noirs come from coastal vineyards, though they require the maturity that comes with age to reach their full potential. This is a lesson we should all remember.

**BRIAN ROSENBERG**, President of Macalester College, spent the fall semester on sabbatical in New York, Italy, and Sonoma, Calif. You can contact him at rosenbergb@macalester.edu
THE POPULAR public radio show *A Prairie Home Companion* will celebrate its 40th anniversary this July just where it started: on the Macalester campus.

Highlights of the action-packed July 4–6 weekend include a Friday concert, an extended Saturday evening radio broadcast, and a Sunday community sing-a-long with PHC host Garrison Keillor. Most events will take place on the college’s Great Lawn; food and drink will be for sale throughout the weekend.

Some tickets will be sold by *A Prairie Home Companion* for the concert and radio broadcast; all other anniversary activities will be free of charge.

*A Prairie Home Companion*’s first live radio broadcast was made from Macalester’s Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center on July 6, 1974.

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**Summit to St. Clair**

**CAMPUS NEWS SUMMARY**

**PRAIRIE HOME AT MAC**

ILLUSTRATION: MARCELLUS HALL
PAUL FARMER RETURNS

Clockwise from top: Paul Farmer in Haiti in 2009 with President Bill Clinton; treating a young patient in Haiti; in his Harvard Medical School office.

FOR THE CLASS OF 2014, this year’s Commencement ceremony will provide an especially neat bookend to their Macalester education. Partners in Health co-founder and global public health expert Paul Farmer, who spoke at opening convocation four years ago when they had just arrived at Macalester, will deliver their Commencement address on May 17.

Macalester’s increased focus on global health has truly influenced this group’s four years on campus. The 2013 International Roundtable was dedicated to the topic, and last fall’s Mac Reads book was Tracy Kidder’s Mountains Beyond Mountains, which details Farmer’s work in Haiti. The community and global health concentration, formed shortly before the Class of 2014 arrived on campus, continues to be the college’s most popular one.

“Our priority is preparing our students to address global challenges in the years ahead, and Paul Farmer’s work resonates powerfully with that mission,” President Brian Rosenberg says. “We look forward to welcoming him back to campus, this time to send off this year’s talented graduating class.”
WITH SPECIALTIES that vary wildly, from the javelin toss to the 10,000-meter run, track and field athletes naturally tend to cluster with teammates from their own events. This year, however, Macalester’s new head coaches are trying to fight that tendency—and build team unity—by having the team spend more time together.

That means all-team stair workouts, group sessions with guest speakers, even a group run through the downtown St. Paul skyways one winter weekend. “Our number one priority is to unify the team so both coaches and athletes view it as one program,” says new co-head coach Matt Haugen.

The best teams are those that gather to root for their teammates, co-head coach Betsy Emerson has observed. Therefore, she and Haugen decided to reduce the frequency of shuttles departing meets, and are instead encouraging their athletes to stay after their own events are over in order to support teammates.

Because Haugen and Emerson were already coaching cross-country and the track program’s distance runners, one of their chief challenges has been building rapport with the team’s other athletes—the sprinters, jumpers, and throwers.

When nearly 90 student-athletes are involved, say both coaches, overseeing practice schedules can feel like controlled chaos. Fortunately, the transition has been a true team effort in its own right. Assistant coaches and student workers have helped with recruiting, older athletes have helped build the new culture, and associate athletic director Vanessa Seljeskog has stepped in to take care of the administrative matters surrounding track meets. (The college will determine the program’s long-term leadership structure later this year.)

Those efforts will help the team move toward one of its biggest goals: seeing more athletes qualify for the conference championships in May. But midway through the season, Haugen had already noticed a small, intangible victory. “We really are a team now,” he says. “You can see it. You can feel it.”

CAMPUS NEWS SUMMARY

Summit to St. Clair

LUCY FORSTER-SMITH, Macalester chaplain for 20 years, has left the college to become the Sedgwick Chaplain of the Memorial Church at Harvard University. Most recently, Forster-Smith served Macalester as chaplain of the college and associate dean for religious and spiritual life. A farewell reception in February drew a crowd of well wishers to Hill Ballroom to express their appreciation for all she has done for them and for the college.

“The remarkably brilliant, creative, joy-filled energy that shines through this college’s students, faculty, staff, and alumni has been a gift to me over the past 20 years,” wrote Forster-Smith in her farewell. “Religious and spiritual life at Macalester is a light under a grand bushel basket that flares out when it is least expected. I’ve caught a glimpse of it and hope the next chaplain is warmed by its energy and fullness.”

Forster-Smith earned master of divinity and doctor of ministry degrees from Princeton Theological Seminary and is ordained in the Presbyterian Church. She also edited the book College & University Chaplaincy in the 21st Century (Skylight Paths Publishing).
FOUR MACALESTER STUDENTS committed to science research careers will now get substantial financial support, thanks to a three-year $104,000 grant from the Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation. Those selected as Beckman Scholars will receive a stipend for two summers and one academic year, as well as funds for research supplies and travel to scientific meetings. The Beckman Foundation chose 12 colleges in the 2014 competition.

Charles Benck ’15 (Minnetonka, Minn.) is Macalester’s first Beckman Scholar under this grant. He will work with his research mentor, biology professor Devavani Chatterjea, investigating immune cell dynamics in allergic skin lesions to better understand the interplay of chronic allergies and pain conditions.

Macalester’s Beckman Scholars will complete an honors thesis based on their research, present their findings at professional meetings, mentor younger Mac students interested in research, arrange to use resources at the University of Minnesota, and host a guest speaker at a departmental seminar.

The Beckman grant is an extraordinary opportunity for students planning research careers, says chemistry professor and program coordinator Kathryn Splan. “The science faculty is very excited to participate in a program that offers such a valuable experience to our students,” she says, “and we’re pleased that the strong tradition of undergraduate research at Macalester has been recognized by the Beckman Foundation.”
SHOULD YOU VISIT CAMPUS on a Sunday evening and hear music that is definitely not the skirl of bagpipes, it might be Zabumba, a new Brazilian drumming group. Directed by co-founder Egzon Sadiku ’16, Zabumba—named for a bass drum used in Brazilian music—began rehearsals in February.

“Although Brazilians adopted the zabumba as their own drum, it’s very similar to the davul from Southeast Europe,” says Sadiku, who grew up in Kosovo. “I learned to play the instruments in a band called Banda Berimbau while attending the United World College of the Adriatic in Italy.”

Sadiku, a resident assistant this year, discovered that some of his hall residents were percussionists intrigued by this new form of drumming. One of them, Jonah Lazarus ’17 (Oak Park, Ill.), was particularly interested and brought with him a more formal music background.

After being chartered by the student government the group received funding to buy instruments such as the surdo (round bass drum), timbau (tall three-toned drum), the high-pitched tamborim and repinique, caixa (snare drum), agogo (cowbell), and triangle. The drums are played with sticks, hands, and mallets. Sadiku teaches his fellow band members all the instruments during two-hour Sunday rehearsals, where attendance has been as high as 25.

“At Zabumba we try to provide a safe, comfortable space where everyone can hang out, freely express themselves, and learn about a new culture through music,” says Sadiku. Among the group’s members are a native Brazilian and several students who have lived in Brazil; they share their knowledge of the country and its regions’ various rhythms. Students are welcomed to join the band regardless of musical expertise. Sadiku hopes that Zabumba will eventually present its own concerts, including singing and movement. “It’s fun to play—I like to make people dance and smile,” he says.

AFTER MORE THAN A DECADE as an independent team, Macalester football has joined the Midwest Conference (MWC), which provides championship intercollegiate competition for liberal arts schools in the Midwest.

Says head coach Tony Jennison, “It was clear to our coaching staff and administration that aligning ourselves with like-minded institutions would be a positive step because it would mean competing with teams that have similar rosters in terms of size and talent.”

The MWC, which began in 1921, now has 12 institutions in its two divisions: Beloit, Carroll, Lawrence, Macalester, Ripon, and St. Norbert in the North Division; Cornell, Grinnell, Illinois College, Knox, Lake Forest, and Monmouth in the South Division.

Macalester’s football program left the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference in 2001. The college remains committed to MIAC membership in all other sports.
PEACE PROJECT

FIRST-YEAR STUDENT Ngan “Jasmine” Nguyen has received a $10,000 Davis Projects for Peace grant to bring computer skills training to 60 students in rural Vinh Phuc Village in Vietnam, her home country. Her project was one of 127 nationally selected for funding that will be implemented this summer.

Nguyen will be partnering with a youth NGO that receives support from the United National Development Programme Vietnam, which focuses on grassroots education and community building. In addition to establishing an Interactive Learning Center, she will host workshops to prepare students for job placement.

In her proposal Nguyen wrote, “The knowledge and skills students will acquire from the Interactive Learning Center are the keys to success in a world that relies heavily on technology. The students will also be provided vocational guidance through workshops to nurture their dreams and sow seeds of hope for a bright future.”

Davis Projects for Peace began as a celebration of the 100th birthday of the late philanthropist Kathryn Wasserman Davis, mother of Shelby M.C. Davis, who funds the Davis United World College Scholars Program.

WHERE TO?

MACALESTER HAS NEVER BEEN an easy campus for newcomers to navigate. That’s changing this summer as more than 50 signs go up all over the college, including some with maps, arrows pointing to parking lots, and building names.

“The small white signs we’ve long had in front of buildings were no help for first-time visitors or for those attending cultural and sporting events,” says communications director David Warch, who spearheaded the project with facilities director Nathan Lief. Adding to visitor anxiety was the fact that parking lots were located on the interior of the campus and thus difficult to find.

The new signage, designed by Visual Communications and manufactured by Archetype, both of St. Paul, “respects the look and feel of the campus,” says Warch. Steel bottom sections on permanent signs will allow staff to hang temporary magnetized signs directing visitors to special events such as Commencement and Reunion.
Innocents Abroad

In the 1960s, a groundbreaking international work program allowed many Mac students to travel overseas for the first time.

The Cold War had an iron grip on global politics in the early 1960s. Middle-class Americans rarely traveled overseas, and a film based on the best-selling novel *The Ugly American* was playing both at home and abroad.

These dynamics—and the distorted picture of American citizens they painted—were shaping worldviews when several extraordinary programs emerged at Macalester College, designed in part to counter that negative image of Americans. Two of those programs—the World Press Institute (WPI) and Ambassadors for Friendship, which brought international journalists and students, respectively, to the U.S.—have been previously covered in this publication.

The third program—the Student Work Abroad Project or SWAP—initiated in 1963, sent U.S. students overseas to work alongside local people. The St. Paul Pioneer Press, which ran several articles about the program, called it “a first for an American college.”

Unlike today’s popular study abroad programs, SWAP stressed cultural exchange and geographic exploration over academic endeavor, matching Macites to jobs and living situations in nearly 20 different countries—even paying their airfares in the early years. Over the next decade, SWAP sent abroad more than 700 Mac students—mostly rising juniors and seniors—to work for two months while staying in homes with families or in hotels with coworkers, and then to travel on their own for a month. Virtually all were traveling abroad for the first time, and some—dependent on summer jobs to earn tuition—received grants to help finance their trips.

Even today, 50 years later, they vividly recall those first trips overseas. “It was a remarkable experience that equipped me with tools to deal with the unknown and gave me self-confidence and courage,” says Jeanne Schilling Messersmith ’68, who waitressed at a hotel on the
Firth of Forth in Scotland. "It has had a lifelong impact. I still seek that thrill of exploration," says Connie Eckhoff Charles ’64, who worked as a clerk at the Nile Hilton in Cairo, Egypt. Adds Jon Walton ’69, who was a parish worker at a church in Edinburgh, "The program was really important to our education. A large number in every graduating class participated. We were helping to overcome Midwestern parochialism." The program also helped strengthen Macalester’s reputation for internationalism, says Lew Becone ’68, who worked in a 3M warehouse in Oslo, Norway. Throughout the 1960s, international programs such as SWAP increasingly drew students to the college. "Its international focus was the reason I came to Macalester," says Judy Brown Marquardt ’66, who spent a SWAP summer working as a sous chef at the Rotterdam [The Netherlands] Hilton. "The Peace Corps had just been formed and Americans were starting to look beyond their borders."
INTERNATIONAL DREAMS

The seeds of all three of Mac’s international programs were sown in the context of the college’s growing global outlook. A young man named Harry Morgan had captured the attention of DeWitt Wallace, Class of 1911, Reader’s Digest founder and Macalester benefactor, with his ideas for combatting negative propaganda about Americans. During a year spent in Holland, Morgan had heard unfavorable views of Americans, said Kathy Kinnear Rodger ’66, a secretary at the Madrid Hilton who knew Morgan. He feared that wealthy American travelers were giving the U.S. a bad rap worldwide and decided to create a means by which the world could get to know “real” Americans.

When Wallace brought Morgan to Macalester, he had free rein to implement his ideas. After founding Ambassadors and WPI, which enabled foreigners to appreciate Americans in the U.S., Morgan realized that the college also needed a program to enable students to appreciate people in other lands. The next step came about when Morgan met an official at Hilton Hotels, then a WPI sponsor, recalls Jim Toscano, who took over international duties at Mac from Morgan in 1964.

Soon Mac students were working in Hilton hotels across the globe, especially between 1963 and 1965, when the program was in its prime. Conrad Hilton—then the world’s most famous hotelier—was eager to help his country fight the Cold War by opening hotels in strategic sites, some suggested by the State Department. “We think we’re helping out in the struggle that is going on in the Cold War today with world travel,” Hilton told Time magazine in 1963. Because the SWAP concept fit into that vision, he made a three-year commitment to hire Macalester students in his overseas hotels. (Other colleges apparently later tried unsuccessfully to convince Hilton to offer the program for their students.)

OH, THE PLACES THEY WENT

Staff at overseas offices of Reader’s Digest often helped SWAP staff find employers, recalls Dave Rodger, who ran the program from 1966 to 1968. Messersmith, the Scottish waitress Swapper who later helped match students to jobs, remembers that forging those connections was labor-intensive work. “If you were from a farm, we might try to place you on a Swiss farm. If you were interested in business, we tried to place you in a company.”

Although program expenses were high, Wallace provided the major funding, recalls Toscano. He was particularly keen to give international experiences to students who had never been abroad and might otherwise spend their summers at home working to earn tuition dollars.
Many of those young people came from middle-class families for whom international travel was then virtually unknown. "My folks had never been overseas," says Marquardt, "but it was my dream to see the world."

WHERE GLOBAL HARMONY MET GOODWILL

The SWAP rhetoric reflected the innocent idealism of the early '60s era. Did the participants meet the lofty cross-cultural goals envisioned by the founders? Most believe that they did. "We fostered goodwill among young people," says Mike Moeller '64, who spent his summer working as a steward in the Rotterdam Hilton.

In the 1960s participants were required to attend orientation sessions stressing language and culture. "The college was intent on culturally sensitizing us," says John Chamberlain '69, who worked as an American Express clerk in Amsterdam. He recalls that a book called On Understanding Other Cultures was required reading at the time.

Once abroad, some Swappers lived with families; most befriended coworkers. "The Dutch were gracious about inviting us home even though they had tiny living spaces," remembers Marquardt. "Europeans had seen wealthy New Yorkers and Texans by then but hadn’t met many students yet. We were still a bit of a curiosity in the '60s—another voice of America—enthusiastic, optimistic, innocent."

For a few Swappers, making close connections was part of the job description. Walton did outreach to parish families and youth for an Edinburgh church. "In the evenings, I'd hang out with the street toughs at fish and chip shops. They didn't like my American accent and were suspicious of my motives," says Walton. For the most part, however, he so thrived in the job that it confirmed his decision to enter the ministry when he returned to the United States.

If Swappers did not always rise to the program’s high intercultural ideals, they certainly grew in their appreciation of other peoples as well as in their self-reliance and maturity. "That was a time when I grew up," says Mark Nelson '73, who worked as a doorman at an Oslo hotel. "I'm not sure it would have happened as well any other way."

As the '60s progressed and the times became more turbulent, Europeans challenged young Americans with questions about race riots and the war in Vietnam. Political science professor Ted Mi tau advised the Swappers about how to respond to anti-American sentiments abroad. "What a backdrop to our travels," says Messersmith, "the Arab-Israeli conflict, Vatican II, free love—so many norms and mores were being challenged."

That experience allowed them to figure out what they really thought about various political issues, says Beccone, the Oslo warehouse worker. "I began to solidify my beliefs. It was a chance to experience the world without being bombarded by American media. When we got questions, we had to think, ‘Who am I and what do I believe?’"
One major lesson was that most of the world—including Europe at that time—did not live with the same luxuries routinely enjoyed by middle-class Americans. "When I returned from living abroad I was flabbergasted at the excesses in American life," says Thelma Lancaster ’74, who waitressed at a hotel located on a Norwegian fjord. Some—used to regular hot water and plenty of bathrooms—even found it hard to keep clean while living abroad in that era. Judith Strom ’70, who worked at the Cambridge [England] Daily, needed to reserve the tub in her landlady’s kitchen several days before each bath.

Too, weekly pay did not always cover expenses, some Swappers found, necessitating scrimping on meals and writing home for money. Terence Nadler ’73, who sold Ferris wheel tickets at the Battersea Fun Fair in London, twice had to ask his parents for cash to make it through the summer. American Express clerk Chamberlain didn’t earn enough to pay his rent. "I ran out of money and my dad sent a bank money order that never reached me," he recalls. Messersmith’s farm family had to scrounge to find money so she could take part in the program.

In the 1960s long-distance phone calls were expensive, so letters home were the only means of communication. "Back then you existed more in the space and the time right around you," says Strom. An important lesson for many Swappers was the realization that they could face hardships and emergencies on their own and be just fine, she adds.

**INFLUENCING LIFE CHOICES**

Some SWAP participants said that the experience influenced their life choices. Paula Wolfe ’70, who clerked at an art school in Amsterdam, later left the Midwest to establish her career in Boston because it reminded her of the European cities she had learned to love. An experience working as a cafe hostess in the Tokyo Hilton led Penny Bren Johnson ’65 to teach overseas for 13 years, two of them back in Japan. "The SWAP experience became part of who I am," she says.

For Don Mackenzie ’66, a SWAP summer working as a lifeguard at the Nile Hilton in Cairo led to even more profound shifts in worldview. Observing his Sudanese co-workers’ devotion to Islam that summer impressed him deeply, he says, ultimately leading him, a Protestant minister, to post-9/11 interfaith work with a rabbi and an imam. Among the outcomes of that work have been media appearances, many presentations and articles, and two books.

**EUROPE ON $5 A DAY**

After the work portion of the summer came several weeks of travel through Europe for most Swappers. They hitchhiked, rented VW vans and bugs, or used Eurail passes to get around. "We stayed in hostels with other youth from all over Europe, meeting people as we traveled," says Clare Lacher Carlson ’67, who repaired elderly people’s homes with a college-aged work crew in Bordeaux, France.

Because it was so expensive at the time to visit Europe, many Swappers felt compelled to make the most of what might be their only opportunity to travel there. "I figured I’d never get to travel again," said Margo Holen Dinneen ’65, who worked at various assignments at the Hong Kong Hilton.

The students pushed boundaries and took risks. "Every day was an adventure," says Phil Fabel ’64, a reception clerk at the Berlin Hilton. "On many nights we did things we shouldn’t have. We’d go up on the rooftops on the west side of the Berlin Wall and through binoculars watch the East German guards watching us through their binoculars."
Memories of a Long Ago Middle East

Sonya Anderson ’65, now of St. Paul, spent a SWAP summer in Iran living with two elderly aunts of a coworker, commuting to a job at the Tehran Hilton. Following are excerpts from an interview with her.

• When we first walked into the house, the two aunts were wearing chadors and were seated on the floor smoking Iranian cigarettes—like little blowtorches—watching Bonanza on TV.

• Only older women wore the chador then. When later the Revolution came and all the women had to wear it, I thought to myself, this will never last because the Iranian women are so elegant, beautiful, and fond of fashion.

• Their home was walled off from the busy streets all around it. We ate and slept outside on wooden beds under mesh to protect us from bugs.

• When the flies started buzzing in the morning, it was time to get up. Then the vendors came by with long flat loaves of wonderful fresh bread slung over the backs of donkeys.

• After the aunts decamped to their summer place in the Elborz Mountains of northern Iran, we rode donkeys up to visit them. It seemed like a hovel but we loved it. We returned on foot and I remember running down the mountain—so much freedom and openness and joy.

• It was a rich experience being integrated into the daily lives and special events of this extended family—the Iranians were beautiful, generous, kind, and interesting people who gave so much to us.

Soon after she wrote this, Anderson found a photo from her stay in Iran with a note on the back written in Farsi by her Iranian father. It reads: “During the time that Miss Sonya Anderson, student of the University of Macal- ester in the U.S., stayed with us in June and July 1964, there was a certain love and closeness that was created between her and my family which is unforgettable. I would ask for her health and success in life from God.”
Moeller, the Rotterdam steward, outfitted a VW van with a bed for a solo trip through Europe. He recalls awakening one morning in Stockholm as angry Swedes rocked his vehicle. Apparently he had parked illegally in a workplace lot the previous night. A couple Swappers wound up in European hospitals, thanks to various ailments picked up during their travels. They learned to rely on their own judgment and ingenuity to survive those situations.

Independent travel also led to other unexpected outcomes, including a few marriages. Cairo lifeguard Mackenzie and his wife, Judy Petterson Mackenzie ’66, who worked as a secretary at the Athens Hilton, traveled together in Greece after their respective work experiences. On an all-night boat to Crete they shared stories of their summers and became engaged, marrying the following spring. Swappers Lynn Clutter Holmes ’66 and Jack Holmes ’65 met while learning Farsi from history professor Yahya Armajani in preparation for their work assignments at the Tehran [Iran] Hilton. They, too, traveled together at summer’s end, even surviving an accident on a narrow road near Rome that totaled their Fiat.

SWAP itself began to reflect these trends of blending travel with academic and career interests. The college began referring to SWAP as the Study/Work Abroad Project. Andrea Fell-Moody ’73, who later did scientific research, took care of lichen colonies for a professor at the University College of North Wales. Strom, who interned at a British newspaper, was headed toward a career in journalism. Lancaster, who waitressed at a Norwegian hotel, joined SWAP in part so she could stay longer in Europe following a year of study in Yugoslavia.

Today international student programs are also far more regulated and supervised. Many Swappers have adult children who studied abroad during their college years, “but they were so closely monitored,” says one-time French construction worker Carlson of her sons’ study abroad experiences. “What I liked best about SWAP is that we were completely on our own.”

Macalester officials rarely checked up on Swappers at their job sites. Neither were students required to report on their experiences when they returned to campus, although a handful did speak with the media or at convocations. Lancaster, the former Norwegian waitress, was among those who wished there had been more follow up to her experience. “When we got back we had no more interactions with anyone related to SWAP,” she says. “There were no expectations to share.”

Scottish waitress Messersmith remembers that the cultural transition was hard. “We plunged right back into our senior year at Mac so fast,” she says.

With the evolution in expectations of overseas programs, SWAP had run its course. Interest in the program dwindled and it was ended in 1973. After 1968, SWAP records are incomplete, so it’s impossible to determine exactly how many students participated in the program over the years. Today approximately 60 percent of Mac students study abroad at least once during their college years. In 2011–12, Macalester was ranked ninth among all baccalaureate institutions for the number of its students studying abroad on semester-long programs.

Some of the college’s renown for internationalism—now so fundamental to its reputation—goes back to those pioneering SWAP students. The program unlocked the doors of foreign travel for many Macalester students, regardless of income, opening up the world to them and empowering them to become confident world citizens.
Clockwise from top left: Swappers in Rome, 1964; Swappers with Richard Nixon at the Berlin Hilton were (from left) Dave Brandt ’63, Peter Malen ’64, Kathleen Jones Lansing ’63, Cynthia Wells ’64, Phil Fabel ’64, and Chuck Naumann ’64, 1963; Karen Kunzman North ’64 at a Hong Kong market, 1964; Sonya Anderson ’65 (right) and Gay Eggen Tempas ’65 (middle) at the sea near Athens, 1964; Sonya Anderson’s host ZeZe Gefhari (left) with her brother and his wife, Iran, 1965.
LAST YEAR, STUDIO ART MAJOR Julia Sillen ’14 (Amherst, Mass.) watched through the window of a nearby classroom as construction continued apace on the studio art building. This semester she has her own brand new workspace in that building’s senior studio.

Her desk in the studio, one of several distinctive features of the newly expanded and remodeled building, is crowded with stacks of library books and National Geographic magazines and clippings bound for a collage. Over the course of spring semester, Sillen and 11 other senior studio art majors are assembling their final Macalester project: the senior art show.

The space they’re happily working in today is quite a contrast to the previous building—where seniors would grab any open space they could find in the hallways—and indicative of the thoughtful, intentional way that the project’s plans came together. According to Sillen’s advisor, art professor Ruthann Godollei, faculty and staff members worked together closely with architects to incorporate generous spaces and cutting-edge technology. “This is the best possible building we could have gotten,” Godollei says.

That means flexible spaces that blend studying art and practicing it—and enough room to accommodate professors and art majors and minors, as well as the many other Macalester students enrolled in art classes each year. A 2D design suite on the new third floor is the most technologically advanced space on campus, and the printmaking studio hosts a laser stencil cutter. Updated ventilation systems and the newest safety equipment are incorporated throughout the building.

Although Sillen will spend only a single semester in the new building, she and her classmates have settled in quickly. “I’m already so used to this,” she says, standing in the senior studio next to floor-to-ceiling windows overlooking Shaw Field. “And it’s going to be great for future art students to have this beautiful space.”
Printmaking Studio

The printmaking studio has a dedicated space for each step of the process. A few feet away from a 19th century etching press are a high-tech unit for silk-screen and a laser stencil cutter connected to a computer. "Printmaking alumni should know that a lot of their favorite equipment is still here," art professor Ruthann Godollei says. "But now, thanks to their support, we're using that equipment side by side with 21st century technology, and in a lot more space."
Student Lounge & Gallery

The casual gathering space at the building’s entrance (below) flows into a student gallery space (above) that will feature both student work and smaller short-term exhibits. Having their own dedicated gallery space will allow students to develop their curating skills. The lounge and gallery draw in community members, an intentional part of the building’s design. Says art professor Ruthann Godollei, “We designed the building to be visited.”
Ceramics Studio
The ground-floor ceramics studio has plenty of workspace plus large windows, sixteen wheels, and six kilns.

Painting Studio
From LED lights to ventilated drying racks, the painting studio showcases the high level of detail involved in each room designed to improve energy efficiency and update technology.
Scattered throughout the drawing studio at their easels, students can easily see a large projector screen on the studio’s wall. The drawing resource room is full of accessible props, and there are previously undreamed of quantities of storage space. Each of these features was part of a wish list drawn up by the Art and Art History Department faculty.
Senior Studios

Among the advantages of the dedicated senior studio space, says Julia Sillen ’14, is the interaction it allows among art majors. Some of Sillen’s classmates know her work well, and those who don’t can offer a new perspective. This year’s group is focused on a wide range of projects. “They can talk to each other across disciplines,” art professor Ruth-ann Godollei says.
Custom Easels

Art professor Chris Willcox (left) worked with Wisconsin-based company Richeson to design the easels in the painting studio. They’re built with longevity in mind, Willcox explains: her hope is that the easels will outlast the building.
The 2D design suite on the building’s third floor is the most high-tech classroom on campus. It includes four clusters of 27-inch iMacs, each with its own 80-inch LCD screen to facilitate group work. With five LCD screens, a professor can set the same image on each or vary the images based on group projects. Students in multimedia courses such as digital photography now enjoy top-of-the-line equipment and software.

Sculpture Studio

Downdraft tables in the metals studio whisk welding fumes away.
At Christie’s, *Jason Carey ’06* combines longtime interests in finance and paintings in a fascinating job.

**BY ANDY STEINER ’90**  
**PHOTOS BY EDWARD HOPLY / EDWARDHOPLY.COM**

In his sophomore year, economics major *Jason Carey ’06* signed up for an art history topics course—"Romanticism, Realism and Impressionism." Everything since then has followed from that class.

"On the first day, we looked at Manet’s *Olympia,*" Carey recalls. "It’s a really important, revolutionary painting, which changed the perception of the artist’s role in the 19th century, paving the way for Modernism." The class, led by Robert Warde, associate professor of English, also viewed *Rain, Steam, and Speed — The Great Western Railway* by J.M.W. Turner, a preeminent precursor to the Impressionists. "Seeing those two paintings and really talking about them and their impact on society had a tremendous effect on me," Carey says.

The class was a true turning point: While he appreciated hearing Warde’s description of the paintings’ cultural impact, Carey also enjoyed just basking in their beauty. "I realized that day," he recalls, "that in the fast-paced world we live in, I loved nothing more than sitting in a dark room, looking at slides and talking about pictures. It brought me calm."

Despite his newfound passion, the ever-practical Carey didn’t want to abandon his study of economics. So, in classic liberal arts fashion, he devised a way to combine his interests, adding an art history minor to his economics major. Each semester he’d fill out his economics-heavy schedule with one or two art history courses. "I felt like I was engaging different parts of my brain," says Carey. "I like numbers. I like deals. I’m interested in finance. But I need to engage the aesthetic part of my brain to feel balanced. Art does that for me."

Professor emeritus of economics Paul Aslanian remembers Carey from his Economics of Nonprofit Organizations class. "He was a really attentive, interested, and interesting student," Aslanian says, "a humanities kid in an econ class." At the beginning of each semester, Aslanian administered a one-page survey to help him get to know his students. "I always threw in a wild-card question: What is something about you I would never guess?" Carey’s answer summed up his career ambitions: "I’m interested in combining fine arts with economics."

Aslanian, then on the board of the Schubert Club, and Carey, a classical pianist, discovered a shared passion for music. The following summer Aslanian helped Carey line up an internship with the development department of St. Paul’s Ordway Center for the Performing Arts. The experience helped expand Carey’s conception of arts-based careers.

During his junior year Carey studied in London at the University of Westminster, where he again took courses in economics and art history. He also interned at a financial firm, but "I didn’t love it," he says. The experience only made him more determined to forge a career focused on art.
Jason Carey ’06 at Christie’s with a Monet.
While studying in London, Carey met his Spanish partner, Felipe Poveda Palacios. The following summer Carey returned to London, where—after some persistence on his part—he landed an unpaid internship in Christie’s prints department. “It was when I witnessed my first auction that I figured out that this is what I want to do, where I want to be,” Carey recalls of that first Christie’s experience. “I was basically just sealing pictures in plastic for eight hours a day, but I liked the company. It felt like the right place for me. It combined the finance element with the art world, and I was determined to return somehow.”

Back in St. Paul for his senior year, Carey redoubled his efforts at reaching his goal, developing a presentation for economics professor Gary Krueger’s econometrics course in which he explained the annualized rate of return for paintings. For this required course Krueger suggested Carey choose a subject that truly interested him, thus this topic. He researched paintings that have been sold repeatedly at public auction, compiling data for various pools of artists and comparing their appreciation to that of commodities and the financial markets.

Through his research, Carey concluded that investment in a selection of “blue-chip” artists with established markets, such as a Picasso or a Monet, could easily compete with and often outperform the S&P 500 over the long term. He presented his research to Krueger’s class, and then to an art history class. “Both audiences were quite interested in what I had to say,” he laughs. “For different reasons.”

After graduating in 2006, Carey and Poveda returned to London, partly because of the UK’s legal recognition of their partnership. There they rented a tiny studio apartment and began looking for work. Soon Carey landed a job as a porter at Christie’s, unloading art from trucks, hanging pictures, and moving furniture. “After earning a Macalester education, that’s what I started out doing,” Carey says. “But I was happy. I realized that is what I needed to do at a company like this. I liked the idea of learning the ropes from a hands-on perspective.”

At the 250-year-old, hierarchy-bound Christie’s, “learning the ropes” often means working your way up from the bottom. Although some employees have connections that give them a leg up, not so the St. Paul-born Carey. And yet he was hungry to make the auction house his home. “I wanted to understand everything there was to know about the company,” he says. “Starting as a porter was a good way to do that.”

After lugging and lifting for four months, Carey applied for a paid graduate internship in Christie’s most high-profile, competitive department—Impressionist and Modern Art. “It was my period of interest, and the only internship I wanted. Here I was, a porter, interviewing for this graduate position, a job that often goes to connected candidates with master’s degrees or even PhDs,” he recalls. “When I interviewed for the position, I talked about the papers I’d written in college, and about my presentation on repeat sales regressions and the annualized rate of returns for paintings. They were impressed that a mere porter knew and loved pictures and also had this business acumen.”

Carey landed the job, and since then his rise in the company has been nothing short of meteoric. After completing the three-month internship, he moved up to the position of cataloguer, researching and cataloguing artwork in preparation for Christie’s biggest sale, the Impressionist and Modern Art Evening Sale. Soon afterward he was named head of two different auctions specializing in Impressionist and Modern works on paper, oil paintings, and sculpture. More recently, he’s been appointed a director of the company and senior specialist of the high-profile Evening Sale.

In this position Carey oversees production of the sale’s catalogue, traveling around Europe to meet with prominent collectors and institutions, offering them valuations and discussing the market conditions for acquisitions and potential sales. Twice yearly Carey and his colleagues amass a multimillion-dollar Evening auction of artworks—most recently holding a record-breaking £176.9 million sale in February. “I am responsible for advising clients on both the buying and selling sides, and generally managing relationships,” he says. “The expertise comes with experience, but as with most careers, it really comes down to working with people, and the trust and integrity involved.”

There’s no doubt that Carey finds all the travel and high-stakes responsibilities exciting, but he never forgets where it all began—in a quiet, dark room staring at paintings on a screen. “I feel lucky that I’ve found a career that balances my interests so naturally,” he says. “The finances are fascinating and even a little glamorous, but for me it’s really still all about the art.”

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

“It was when I witnessed my first auction that I figured out that this is what I want to do, where I want to be.”

Jason Carey ’06 (on phone in center) at a recent Christie’s auction.
A foundation started by Maxine Wallin ’48 and her late husband helps hundreds of Twin Cities kids pay for college.

BY REBECCA DEJARLAIS ORTIZ ’06 PHOTO BY DAVID J. TURNER

As true for Macalester alumni from many eras, Maxine Wallin ’48 has among her most cherished memories those late-night college dorm conversations with friends. Seven decades ago—over Cokes from the new vending machines and cheese cooled on Wallace Hall windowsills—the young women of Macalester discussed Brave New World, the Nuremberg Trials, and the newly formed United Nations until lights out. For Wallin, those debates—and the intellectual curiosity they fostered—are just as memorable a part of college as any classes she took.

Now, many years later, Wallin and her late husband, Win, have helped thousands of Twin Cities students access formative educational experiences all their own. The Wallin Education Partners has provided college scholarships for more than 3,300 students with financial need since 1992, when it supported its first students at Win’s alma mater, Minneapolis South High School. In the 22 years since, the Wallin scholarship program has expanded to support students from more than two dozen Twin Cities area high schools, a growth funded by corporations, foundations, and individual donors. Most scholarship recipients are first-generation college students.

For Matt Dehler ’14 (Ramsey, Minn.), the Wallin scholarship expanded his options in a life-changing way. “I’m in college because of this program,” says Dehler, one of 12 current Macalester students who receive Wallin support. “The only reason I knew I could attend Mac was because of this opportunity.”

For a college like Macalester, which promises to meet the full financial need of each admitted student, outside scholarship programs provide additional important assistance, says financial aid director Brian Lindeman ’89. “Macalester does a lot, but our resources aren’t unlimited. We need the help of generous benefactors like the Wallin Education Partners.”

Although the Wallin program provides each student up to $16,000 over four years, its support extends beyond the financial. Throughout college, scholarship recipients work with a professional advisor who helps them assess their needs and learn to advocate for themselves. As Dehler prepares to graduate, the music major is regularly communicating with his Wallin advisor, seeking advice and perspective on his capstone research and post-Macalester plans.

Thanks in part to that support structure, Wallin students across their various colleges have a six-year graduation rate of 75 percent. Those numbers show the program’s impact, says President Brian Rosenberg, who serves on Wallin’s board: “The program addresses what is arguably the greatest social and economic need in Minnesota: to provide higher education to students who, by virtue of their economic situation, would otherwise be at a disadvantage when it comes to completing college.”

Decades have passed since Win and Maxine first began dreaming of a scholarship program, but those students with financial need are just who they had in mind. After Win served in the U.S. Navy Air Corps, he could only afford college because of the GI Bill. “We realized there were other people in his situation who didn’t have any government assistance to attend college,” Maxine says. “There are a lot of young people now who need help to go on to school.”

Win met Maxine at the University of Minnesota, where she had finished her degree in international relations and added a graduate degree in library science. He went on to have a long career as an executive at both Pillsbury and Medtronic, playing a leadership role in shaping both corporations. He died in December 2010.

Seventy years after staying up late in Wallace Hall, Maxine continues to be a lifelong learner. She’s an avid traveler (she studied French and Spanish at Macalester and the college’s Mexican Caravan program launched her international travel) and a voracious reader, keeps up with current events, and is a big fan of both Antiques Roadshow and Downton Abbey. She reads all the scholarship recipients’ files and meets many of them at their colleges, including some at Macalester’s annual luncheon.

Dehler attended his last Wallin luncheon this winter, this time as the student speaker. As he nears graduation, he’s taking stock of the opportunities that shaped his four years at Macalester—singing in the concert choir, DJing at WMCN, taking part in student government—and most importantly, the staff and faculty members who influenced him so greatly that he’s considering a career in student affairs. “I am who I am today because of the relationships I’ve formed at Macalester,” he says. “The Wallin program is the reason I’m here and the reason I’m getting these opportunities. It’s a huge, amazing honor.”
Wallin Scholars at Macalester

Matthew Dehler ’14 Anoka High School, Issa Ali ’15 Columbia Heights High School, Hana Sato ’15 Southwest High School, Minneapolis, David Baldus ’16 South High School, Minneapolis, Luciano Guzman ’16 Central High School, St. Paul, Lia Hansen ’16 Como Park High School, St. Paul, Emily Sylvestre ’16 South High School, Minneapolis, Hawi Tilahun ’16 Coon Rapids High School, Ye Vang ’16 Harding High School, St. Paul, Kalia Xiong ’16 Edison High School, Minneapolis, Milliecia Lacy ’17 South High School, Minneapolis, Lisa Levoir ’17 Blaine High School
A WALK THROUGH THE CUBICLES of the Lampert Building reveals an ordinary set of Macalester College offices. In this everyday space, two women working for the Annual Fund became colleagues, then friends. Soon they were talking a lot about education and how they might be able to do something—something significant—to close the widening performance gulf between white and minority students. Today, 10 years later, they’re watching their dream come true, right on the corner of Raymond and University Avenues in St. Paul.

The first step toward that dream began with a book-signing conversation between Holly Muñoz ’02 and author Dave Eggers, which led to them becoming what Muñoz describes as “sporadic pen pals.” When Muñoz later learned about the tutoring and writing centers Eggers was expanding nationwide, she wondered why the Twin Cities didn’t have one. “We’re a literate, highly educated community, yet we have a huge opportunity gap. I thought, someone should tackle this problem,” she says. Muñoz, a committed advocate for education and the first person in her family to attend college, says, “I feel like I won the lottery by getting the education I did at Macalester.”

The more she considered the situation, the more she wanted to act. Her first call was to Riddle, then director of Macalester’s Annual Fund, now vice president for advancement at Augsburg College. “Holly said, ‘I have an idea,’ like she always does, and I grew very interested,” says Riddle. “I already knew our community was rich in people who want to get involved and make a difference, and it was such a good idea.”

We all thought, “How hard could it be?” Muñoz laughs, recalling many meetings in the Ruth Stricker Dayton Campus Center with early board members, including Peter Ahn ’87, Colin Kennedy ’04, and the Pohlad Family Foundation. After officially organizing as a nonprofit in 2009, the board chose Rock Star Supply Co. as their organization’s name. Muñoz says, “Heather and I are both music lovers, and we figured that anyone who wanted to improve educational outcomes for students was pretty much a rock star.”

Still, says Riddle, that rock-star caché turned out to be well deserved. “At Como High School one day, I met a new group of volunteers—two Mac alums and two Mac students. They had crazy hair, lots of piercings, great boots—they looked like a really cool rock band. As I walked them through the hallway, all the kids stopped and stared. When the ninth graders to whom they’d been assigned met them, the kids’ jaws dropped. ‘These are our tutors?’ ‘Yes they are,’ I told them, ‘and this one is fluent in Spanish, and this one is an algebra genius, so you’re in luck’,” Riddle recalls.

After operating for five years in St. Paul’s Midway neighborhood, Rock Star Supply Co. (RSS Co.) was recently chosen by the Eggers group to be part of a first phase center, with the goal of eventually developing into a national 826 tutoring site. This summer it will re-launch under a new name—the Mid-Continent Oceanographic Institute. The 826 tutoring centers—the first of which was founded in 2002 by veteran teacher Nínive Clements-Calegari and Eggers, author of A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius—are named after the original San Francisco site at 826 Valencia.

The concept then continues today: to offer free drop-in tutoring, field trips, workshops, and in-school programs for students ages 6 to 18, all based on the belief that great leaps in learning can happen with one-on-one attention, and that strong writing skills are fundamental to future success.

Because the original San Francisco location was zoned as retail, its founders hit upon the idea of including a storefront space billed as “San...
ROCK STARS TO OCEANographers: Chad Kampe ’04 and Ariel Sehr ’13 lead an innovative St. Paul tutoring site for at-risk kids.
Francisco’s only independent pirate supply store.” Serving as the tutoring site’s entry, the store sells items such as eye patches, compasses, and secret treasures. After that first success, 826 expanded, always incorporating that original crazy store-in-front design. For example, there is Superhero Supply Co. (Brooklyn), Liberty Street Robot Supply & Repair (Ann Arbor, Mich.), and the Greater Boston Bigfoot Research Institute. St. Paul’s Mid-Continent Oceanographic Institute is on track to become the ninth national site.

“The store is more than just a way to diversify the revenue stream,” says Muñoz. “It de-stigmatizes tutoring and helps attract a diverse community of volunteers: educated people with flexible schedules who are interested in being civically engaged.”

Managing all this amiable chaos in St. Paul is Chad Kampe ’04, a classroom teacher with a master’s degree in educational leadership from Columbia University. After graduate school and a five-year stint teaching at St. Paul’s Friends School, he saw a posting for the first full-time executive director of RSS Co. He called his friend Muñoz, who thought he’d be a perfect fit. Kampe will celebrate his one-year anniversary with the organization in July, right before RSS Co. re-launches as Mid-Continent Oceanographic Institute.

Kampe “keeps the plates spinning” as he manages the details of student interactions, volunteer recruitment, and nonprofit administration. He also hopes to get an occasional turn at the periscope, which will be installed this summer.

One of those spinning plates is the complete rebranding and renovation of the physical site and retail store. Local agency KNOCK, inc, whose other clients include Caribou, Perry Ellis, and Target, is heading up the effort. To no one’s surprise, there’s yet another Macalester graduate on the creative team: KNOCK account producer Diana Ross-Gotta ’04. “Our passion for 826 runs deep at KNOCK,” she says. “I’m proud that our local chapter is so inspiring, smart and dedicated.”

Kampe is aided by a single employee, AmeriCorps staffer Ariel Sehr ’13, who credits Macalester with giving her many chances to volunteer, thus helping her gain skills that today help her recruit and support volunteers. “We have an awesome network, many of whom are connected to Macalester, who put in tons of hours of organizational help and volunteering with our students,” says Sehr. “The commitment to both the organization and the individual students is incredible.” Some of those volunteers travel to three area high schools every Friday for tutoring sessions, while others work at the drop-in tutoring sessions held weekdays at the storefront.

RSS Co. also organizes school field trips and Saturday workshops, mostly focusing on creativity and writing. Right now center volunteers tutor more than 20 students a day at afterschool drop-in sessions, but with support from 826, “We hope to build those numbers considerably,” Kampe says.

Recently RSS Co. had a big success with a Monster Writing Workshop it offered, conducted by National Book Award winner William Alexander. “We’re hoping to engage more members of the local literary scene as volunteers,” says Kampe.

By this fall, he adds, ”It’s going to be a very fun place to be. I mean, we’re going to have a periscope, so good times are pretty much guaranteed.”

JULIE KENDRICK is a Minneapolis writer and a regular contributor to Macalester Today.
TUTORING TIME (clockwise from upper left): Hanan, a second grader at Cherokee Heights Elementary School in St. Paul, tackles a homework assignment with help from volunteer Charlie Cheesebrough and RSS Co. staffer Ariel Sehr ’13; Sumaya (fourth grade, Cherokee Heights) and Idman (third grade, Lakeville Elementary) work on reading with tutor Marissa Gruber and RSS Co. director Chad Kampe ’04; Hanan and Sehr; Sumaya.
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If Korean adoption emerged as a natural consequence of war, then why does it still persist nearly sixty years later? If it was a by-product of postwar conditions, then it should have ceased, considering that South Korea is no longer a developing country. Instead, the adoption of Korean children by Americans continues long after the warlike conditions have subsided. Thus, I suggest that rather than a natural consequence of war, Korean adoption emerged from the neocolonial relations between the United States and South Korea.
Bhutan is a remote and beautiful country, surrounded by the Himalayan Mountains and governed by a benevolent king who measures his country’s success by its Gross National Happiness. It’s just the kind of place Macalester alumni love to visit, which is why 14 of us were exploring it together last September.

Most of us were old enough to remember where we were when JFK was shot, but three patient young women reduced our group’s average age and cheerfully fixed our electronic devices when we were stumped. It was a group of free-spirited, interesting, generous people who quickly bonded as travel and life experiences were shared—along with cookies, cortisone cream, and magazines.

We found a Bhutan unspoiled by heavy industry, pollution, or the plastic-bag litter that defines so much of the undeveloped world. But it is also a country with rocky roads and few modern conveniences. Buddhism is the state religion and that gentle spirit permeates the culture; all life is sacred and the people are compassionate. One traveler saw a hotel desk clerk lure a mouse outside by dangling food in front of it.

The government is trying to preserve Bhutan’s unique culture while cautiously opening its doors to more tourism. The people dress in a traditional style that involves carefully folded and pleated garments. The traditional wooden architecture is elaborately painted and carved with ferocious demons and serene Buddhas.

The natural beauty is breathtaking. We found places of perfect stillness, glacial rivers that flow unimpeded from mountaintops, sparkling waterfalls, and families of curious monkeys. We saw brilliant birds and faded prayer flags. We traveled to old monasteries and to temples perched above rivers, and tried to keep track of the many Buddhas we encountered. At one temple we were blessed by the resident monk, a blessing that was punctuated by a bonk on the head with a wooden phallus. Much giggling ensued. We rafted down a grey-green glacial river, clutching onto our raft while the guide shouted, “Hold on NOW!”

The end of our trip took us to the Gangtey Valley, a serene glacial gorge where rare black-necked cranes, protected as a national treasure, winter. We heard the eerie sound of chanting monks floating up from a nearby monastery, a drone like loud bumblebees.

We were on an easy walk through the hills when I slipped off a muddy log and fell, catching my leg at an awkward angle, dislocating my ankle and breaking bones. I was carried out of the forest and arranged in the back of a van for a six-hour trip to Thimpu, Bhutan’s largest city. After x-rays and an orthopedic consult, my leg was stabilized in a plaster cast and I made the 35-hour journey home. I had surgery in St. Paul and have been recovering ever since.

That might be the end of the story, except it’s not. It turned out to be the beginning of a new journey, one I’d never planned to take. Broken bones can be fixed with screws and hardware, but the collateral damage—increased strain on the other leg, soft tissue trauma around the ankle, and various crutch-related maladies—take much longer to heal. So too has my self-concept. I had long thought of myself as a fearless, independent woman, but that self-image was shaken when I abruptly became dependent on others and confronted a new fear of falling.

But the scariest part of all was the newfound feeling that there was a rift in the universe, a seam that had opened up, whereby all the things that never happened to me now could happen. I was instantly aware of the possibility that bad things could come to me—or to the people I love.

But there also have been great gifts along the way. I have been humbled by the concern shown by my Macalester colleagues and the alumni community, especially my fellow Bhutan travelers, whose generosity and kindness gave me strength for the journey. I have a new appreciation for small victories, like standing on my own two feet, and a new resolve to treasure the ordinary every day.

See you at Reunion.
Travel with Macalester Alumni on one of these trips!

Mongolian Adventure with Geography professor Holly Barcus
Aug. 6 – 21, 2014

Reykjavik International Film Festival with film critic Colin Covert ’74
Sept. 29 – Oct. 3, 2014

Contact Daymond Dean ’91, Associate Director of Alumni Relations
ddean1@macalester.edu for more information.

Contact Neely Crane-Smith ’06, Associate Director of Alumni Relations
ncranesm@macalester.edu for more information.
In Memoriam

1942
Roger A. Rohrbacher, 93, died Jan. 12, 2014. During the 1940s, he worked on the Manhattan Project at the University of Chicago and Hanford Engineer Works, and eventually retired after a career as a nuclear instrument engineer. Mr. Rohrbacher is survived by a son, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and a great-great-grandson.

Eleanor Johnson Whalen, 94, of San Clemente, Calif., died Nov. 1, 2013. She worked as a medical technologist and volunteered with the USO. Mrs. Whalen is survived by three daughters, a son, and four grandchildren.

1944
Katherine Wilson Stinson, 92, of Temple, Texas, died Dec. 26, 2013. She taught in Hudson, Wis., and Rochester, Minn., was a homemaker, and gave cello lessons. Mrs. Stinson is survived by two daughters, three sons, three grandchildren, and a great-grandchild.

1945
Marilyn Mahe Post, 89, of Fort Dodge, Iowa, died Dec. 23, 2013. She was a kindergarten teacher and farmer. Mrs. Post is survived by three daughters, a son, 20 grandchildren, and many great-grandchildren.

1946
Patricia Gebhard Wright, 88, of Center Valley, Pa., died Sept. 29, 2013.

1948
Richard E. Barnes, 88, of Aurora, Minn., died Nov. 29, 2013. He was a veteran of the U.S. Navy in the South Pacific during World War II. He practiced medicine in Aurora for 37 years. Dr. Barnes is survived by his wife, Pat, three daughters, two sons, seven grandchildren, and a sister.

Carolyn Anderson Dick, 86, died Feb. 2, 2014. She taught at Hart Ransom in Modesto, Calif., for 30 years. Mrs. Dick is survived by her husband, Abe, four sons, 12 grandchildren, and 9 great-grandchildren.

1951
James R. Kirby, 84, died Nov. 25, 2013, in Mesa, Ariz. He served in the Army during the Korean War, teaching English in Puerto Rico. He later pursued a career in education and worked as a principal. There is an endowed scholarship at Macalester in Mr. Kirby’s name. He is survived by his wife, Sheila, a daughter, and three grandchildren.

1952
James D. Armstrong, 85, of Edina, Minn., died Oct. 27, 2013. He is survived by his wife, Edith, two daughters, a son, seven grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

1953
Nancy Farrington Deiters, 82, died Dec. 13, 2013, in North Oaks, Minn. She is survived by two daughters, a son, and five grandchildren.

1954
Doris Manley Gelin, 80, of Akron, Ohio, died Sept. 15, 2012. She is survived by a daughter.

1955
Owen E. Shaffer, 80, died Jan. 19, 2014. He practiced law in Fargo, N.D., and returned to St. Paul to work for West Publishing Company from 1962 to 1996. He is survived by his wife, Veronica, a son, a sister and a brother.

1956
Vera M. Eckert, 79, of Morehead City, N.C., died Sept. 20, 2013. She is survived by a daughter and a son.
1957
JoAnn Karnuth Barnum, 78, of Issaquah, Wash., died Dec. 8, 2013. She taught elementary school for more than 30 years, mainly in the Bellevue, Wash., School District. Mrs. Barnum is survived by her husband, John, a daughter, and a son.

Jacqueline Giffin Stoa, 79, of Phoenix, Ariz., died Nov. 22, 2013. She taught at schools in Hibbing and St. Louis Park, Minn., and also served as a substitute teacher and a Montessori assistant. Mrs. Stoa is survived by her husband, Gordon, a daughter, four grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and a brother.

1959
Lutherine Lenker Bjornlie, 92, of Richfield, Minn., died Feb. 10, 2014. She taught kindergarten in Richfield for 27 years. Mrs. Bjornlie is survived by a daughter, two sons, six grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Donald D. Johnson, 83, of Brooklyn Park, Minn., died Feb. 5, 2014. He served in the U.S. Navy for four years and worked at Northwestern National Bank and Norwest, retiring in 1988. Mr. Johnson is survived by his wife, Mildred Johnson ’58, a daughter, two sons, grandchildren, a sister, and a brother.

1962
Jay R. Becklin, 73, died Feb. 8, 2014. He was an economics and finance professor and department head at New Mexico State University and had a 21-year career with the Credit Union National Association. He is survived by his wife, Katherine Johnson-Becklin, a daughter, a son, a sister, and a brother.

1963
Elizabeth Kohl Berwanger, 71, died Dec. 29, 2013, in Fort Collins, Colo. She taught at Illinois College and Colorado State University. Mrs. Berwanger is survived by her husband, Eugene, a daughter, a son, and a grandson.

Darwin P. Johnston, 74, died Jan. 15, 2014. He retired from Oneida Silversmiths as vice president of personnel after 25 years with the company. Mr. Johnston is survived by his wife, Patricia Verblaw Johnston ’63, a daughter, a son, four grandchildren, and a sister.

1964
Neal T. Thoelke, 70, of St. Paul died Nov. 6, 2012. He is survived by a brother.

1965
Patricia Paulson Rohde, 85, of Walla Walla, Wash., died Dec. 13, 2013. She retired in 1992 after more than 30 years as a kindergarten teacher. Mrs. Rohde is survived by a son, five grandchildren, and numerous great-grandchildren.

1966
Jacqueline Hess Nelson, 69, died Jan. 19, 2014. She worked as a physical education teacher and a business manager. She is survived by her husband, Jim, two sons, nine grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and a sister.

1968
Scott D. Olson, 47, of Marion, Iowa, died Jan. 26, 2014. He worked as a software engineer on aircraft and defense projects. Mr. Olson is survived by his wife, Felicia, a daughter, a stepson, his parents, and a brother.

1988
Sherri D. West, 58, of Salem, Ore., died Feb. 12, 2014. She was a staff member with the Girl Scout Council serving Minnesota, western Wisconsin, and USA Girl Scouts Overseas. Mrs. West is survived by her husband, Glenn, two daughters, a son, her parents, a sister, and three brothers.

Other Losses

Joan Adams Mondale ’52, age 83, wife of former Vice President Walter Mondale ’50, died on Feb. 3, 2014, in Minneapolis. As the New York Times put it, her “promotion and advocacy of painting, sculpture, and other fine arts earned her the nickname Joan of Art in Washington” during her husband’s vice presidency in the 1970s. “Macalester has lost an alumna, passionate champion, and friend,” said President Brian Rosenberg. “Joan’s dedication to the college, keen mind, and extraordinary heart will be sorely missed on campus, as through the rest of Minnesota. Joan was a lifelong Macalester supporter, serving as a trustee from 1986 to 2007. Known for her advocacy of the arts, she proposed the trustee practice of setting aside 1 percent of construction project budgets to be used for public art on campus. Her policy is responsible for much of the public art installed in campus buildings constructed or renovated since 2000 such as the Ruth Stricker Dayton Campus Center, Markim Hall, Alumni House, and the Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center. Joan and Walter Mondale also donated a collection of Japanese pottery to Macalester, which is displayed in Markim Hall, home to the Institute for Global Citizenship.

Joan Adams was born in Eugene, Ore., one of three daughters of the Rev. John Maxwell Adams, a Presbyterian minister, and his wife, the former Eleanor Jane Hall. Her father was Macalester’s chaplain when he married Joan and Walter in 1955. An accomplished potter who studied art at Macalester, Joan worked in galleries before moving to Washington as a Senator’s wife in 1964. While in Washington she led guided tours at the National Gallery of Art. Later she turned the Vice Presidential Mansion into a showcase of American art.

As the U.S. Ambassador’s wife in Japan, she enthusiastically promoted intercultural understanding through art, redecorating the Embassy with American paintings and organizing tours with a bilingual guide. She and Walter frequently hosted Macalester friends and guests at the Ambassador’s home. In addition to serving as a Macalester trustee she served on the board of the Minnesota Orchestra, the Walker Art Center, and the National Portrait Gallery. In 2004, The Textile Center in Minneapolis endowed an exhibition space in her honor.

Mrs. Mondale is survived by her husband, two sons, two sisters (including Jan Adams Canby ’55), and four grandchildren.

Louis Edouard Forner, 79, longtime Macalester music professor and conductor, died March 20, 2014, in Arden Hills, Minn. Mr. Forner, who taught at Macalester from 1970 to 2004, studied music and composition at Stanford University, going on to train as a conductor with Pierre Monteux in Maine, Hans Swarowsky in Vienna, and Igor Markevitch in Paris. For many years he was Markevitch’s assistant in St. Cézare sur Siagne, France. He traveled extensively in Europe, conducting in Austria, the Netherlands, and France, and directing the chorus and ensemble of the Stadttheater Rendsburg in West Germany before returning to the United States. He conducted at the University of Indiana and taught at Bemidji State University before coming to Macalester College in 1970, where he remained for the rest of his career. Mr. Forner is survived by his wife, Jan Gilbert, two sons, two daughters, and two grandchildren.
No Boots

BY ROSS BRONFENBRENNER ’14

I’m from California, I’m a senior at Macalester, and I don’t own a pair of winter boots. These facts often prove difficult to reconcile. Asking anyone from my friend group back home to point to Minnesota on a map is roughly equivalent to asking someone to play “Pin the Tail on the Donkey” with an extra-thick blindfold. One of my closest friends once asked me if I ever “pop down to Chicago” for the day. At one point, my best friend sent me a daily side-by-side comparison of the weather with a frown face covering my half. In short, explaining that St. Paul, Minnesota, is a wonderful city has proved to be an ongoing process.

My fellow student blogger Emma Pulido ’14 wrote a great blog about coming to Mac from New York City, so I figured I would add the West Coast perspective. I was lucky to grow up in the San Francisco Bay area with the Pacific Ocean a stone’s throw away and a weather report that rarely read anything lower than 50 degrees. That said, at first glance, my decision to attend Macalester seems pretty transparent. My college search culminated with a small list of similar schools across the country. As a high school senior, I knew I was looking for a liberal arts experience with rigorous academics, a strong history program, and a chance to play baseball. Macalester fit the bill, and I was blown away by my visit. On paper, my choice to attend Mac makes perfect sense.

Yet no matter how hard I’ve tried, I always get the same question: “Wait, you went from California to Minnesota?” Yes, I did. And I would make the same choice again. I came to Macalester because I knew I would be afforded opportunities here that I truly wouldn’t be able to find anywhere else. Mac has brought together a community of students, faculty, and staff that has constantly astounded me. I’ve had the chance to pursue my passions to the fullest, take leadership positions on the field and in the classroom, and explore two brand new cities. I’ve met fascinating people from around the country and the world, and Mac has lived up to my expectations in every way imaginable.

People in California often complain that it’s difficult to tell when the seasons are changing. They simply blend into one another and are maybe marked by a slight difference in temperature. That certainly isn’t the case in Minnesota, and I’ve come to love the fact that my Macalester experience changes with the seasons.

Summer in St. Paul is the Minnesota State Fair, local baseball, and a whole bucket of Sweet Martha’s cookies. Winter is a student-constructed igloo outside Turck Hall, strings of lights on Grand Avenue, and concerts at First Avenue. Spring is weeknights at the Minnesota Twins’ Target Field, home games with a barbecue, and studying on the lawn. Fall is the changing of the leaves, the first snow, and wearing flip-flops and shorts in 40-degree weather.

So, to every Californian who doesn’t own a winter coat, and to every Floridian who has never seen snow, I offer these few, humble words: It’s worth it. Sure, you may have to explain to a few wide-eyed friends back home that Minnesota is in fact located in the United States, and concerts at First Avenue. Spring is weeknights at the Minnesota Twins’ Target Field, home games with a barbecue, and studying on the lawn. Fall is the changing of the leaves, the first snow, and wearing flip-flops and shorts in 40-degree weather.

So, to every Californian who doesn’t own a winter coat, and to every Floridian who has never seen snow, I offer these few, humble words: It’s worth it. Sure, you may have to explain to a few wide-eyed friends back home that Minnesota is in fact located in the United States, but the experience you will have here is well worth the extra few minutes it takes to lace up a pair of good winter boots. Speaking of which, remind me to get around to buying a pair of those...

ROSS BRONFENBRENNER ’14, from San Anselmo, Calif., is a history major and a member of the baseball team. This piece first appeared in a student blog on the Macalester Admissions website. In recent years, the college has admitted more Californians than Minnesotans.
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His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama spoke at Macalester on March 2.