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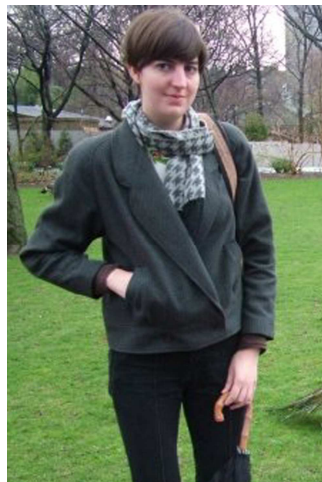
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## Alum Goes Down Independent Path

New York is a good place for self-made things. Small record labels, presses, pop-up bookstores and galleries are in abundance. It is a place where you can meet a few people and start something together.

I moved to New York the fall after graduating from Macalester, entertaining the hope of finding a job in publishing. After a lot of unsuccessful attempts, I eventually did get a job at The Sheep Meadow Press, a small poetry press run out of the publisher's house in Riverdale on Hudson. At work, my co-worker Maggie and I started daydreaming about starting our own literary endeavors. Around the same time, I also became involved in Ugly Duckling Presse, a small poetry press specializing in books with hand-made or letterpress elements. At an Ugly Duckling book release party I met Michael who was interning for Ugly Duckling



**Katie Fowley**

Presse. He needed a place to live and he came over to look at a room in my apartment. When he was there, I showed him some art books that my friend Mollie had made. He didn't take the room, but we became friends. Later the three of us—Michael, Mollie and I—would start Lightful Press.

The Sheep Meadow Press relocated to upstate New York, and I began looking for jobs in the literary world again. As I grew tired of applying and being rejected for editorial assistant or literary agent assistant jobs, I began to become disenchanted with the idea of getting a job at the bottom of a big company and struggling my way up the ladder to a point where I would have more editorial authority. I decided that maybe it would be more satisfying to do things myself. At The Sheep Meadow Press, I had worked closely with authors and seen books from beginning to completion, and this gave me some sense of what was involved in publishing small edition poetry books. Being in New York and encountering many independent presses made it seem like something that was possible. For example, Ugly Duckling Presse began as a zine created by Matvei Yankelevich

## A Fond Farewell: Ayse Çelikkol



Dear English majors,

As some of you already know, I will be moving back to my home country, Turkey, after the end of the fall semester. I wanted to take this opportunity to say thank you: I have deeply enjoyed my years of teaching here and learned so much from you. Over the years, your love of reading,

enthusiasm for critical thinking, and commitment to social justice inspired my teaching and gave me the energy to remain productive as a writer.

In Turkey, I will be Assistant Professor of English at Bilkent University, my alma mater. My own interest in literature and the humanities

took shape while I was an undergraduate at Bilkent, and I am very excited to teach there and meet my new students, even as I know I will also miss Macalester. I look forward to the opportunity to see my family more frequently. My parents live in İzmir, a coastal city by the Aegean Sea, best known in the liter-

Continued on page 7.

## Alum Goes Down Independent Path (cont.)

when he was a student at Wesleyan and over the years it turned into a successful press which publishes many books and chapbooks a year.

I joined forces with Mollie, my printmaker friend from high school, and Michael, my new friend from New York. We decided on a name, bought ISBNs (it turns out they come in packs of 10), and sent out an email to all our friends asking them to send full length or chapbook length book submissions to Lightful Press. The name was Mollie's idea (I was advocating for Marble House) and came from a Buckminster Fuller term for houses that are full of light and also lightweight and transportable. With a show at the Whitney and geodesic domes popping up all over New York, Buckminster Fuller was all the rage that summer. We also brainstormed people we might like to solicit for manuscripts, and I thought of Liz Waldner, a poet I had first read in Stephen Burt's class at Macalester. I wrote to her, told her about the press and asked her if she would consider doing a book with us. I told her that we wanted to put an emphasis on book arts and that we hoped the book would be a beautiful object. She wrote back saying that she had long had an interest in book

arts and sent us two available manuscripts. We chose *Play*, the more experimental and idiosyncratic of the two, a poetic sequence written in two voices.

At first we thought we could publish the book within a couple months, but it ended up taking much more time. The publication of the book was funded by donations and several fundraisers—a benefit show in the back room of the bar where Michael worked and a dinner party for thirty people held in a friend's apartment. I laid out the inside of the book using InDesign, Mollie did the cover art, Michael designed the cover, and we had the covers printed at a letterpress studio in Brooklyn. We solicited a fact checker friend of mine to fact check the book—it may seem funny to fact check poetry, but Liz Waldner is a poet who draws on a plethora of cultural, musical and literary sources so there were a lot of things to check. With Waldner's help, I solicited writers to write comments about the book, which we printed separately on a card that Mollie designed. We used a bindery in Michigan to print the insides and bind the books together

with our letterpress covers, and printed an edition of 500 books.

About a month ago, the book arrived. After spending so much time on it, it was exciting to behold it as a real object—no longer just an abstraction. The book is now being distributed nationally through Small PressDistribution (with the help of Ugly Duckling Presse). I have also been taking the book to bookstores in New York and asking if they will buy it or carry it on consignment. We have sent out 50+ review copies and are hoping for some reviews. We are about to have a release party at Melville House, an independent press and bookstore space in DUMBO (a neighborhood in Brooklyn), where the book will be performed by two actresses.

We hope to publish future books, including book length essays or pamphlets and books that combine art and writing (an erotic comic book is in the works). Publishing a book has been a great way to form connections with writers, artists, bookstore owners and readers across the country. It is also very satisfying to put something new into the world for people to react to and encounter.

*For more information on Lightful Press, please visit [www.lightfulpress.com](http://www.lightfulpress.com).*

### Play—By Liz Waldner

*"I began to become disenchanted with the idea of getting a job at the bottom of a big company and struggling my way up the ladder to a point where I would have more editorial authority. I decided that maybe it would be more satisfying to do things myself"*

### Nick Arciero '12 Top 5 List

*Brothers Karamazov*, Fyodor Dostoyevsky  
*The Fountainhead*, Ayn Rand  
*Infinite Jest*, David Foster Wallace  
*No Country for Old Men*, Cormac McCarthy  
*Before Night Falls*, Reinaldo Arenas



### Maya Daniels '12

#### What I'm reading now:

*Love Medicine*, Louise Erdrich



## The Six Books I Started to Read and Want to Finish But Don't Have Time to Because I'm an English Major

By Sarah Ellerton '10

*The Book of Night Women* by Marlon James: Nathan Young was reading it this summer and I thought, hey, when I'm done with *Mrs. Dalloway*, I'll read that. But classes started and I never did. Then Jeffery Shotts, professor of Literary Publishing, assigned it as an editorial project, and I took my chance. I was captivated by the first page: "People think blood red, but blood don't got no colour." I made it through four chapters before it became very necessary to start the project (late Sunday night, before our Monday night class). Despite the fact that I was able to convince the class that it was a "manuscript" worthy of our attention, money and publishing efforts, I haven't found the time to finish; I'm still wondering how Lilith and Robert Quinn ever get together. Sorry, Professor James!

*Hallelujah Blackout* by Alex Lemon: I had Alex Lemon for Creative Writing my first year, and I knew he wrote some dark and crazy things. When I saw his book in the Milkweed Editions offices, I bought it with every intention of reading it. The first fourteen poems I read on the bus back to Macalester are indeed dark and crazy. But after I got off the bus and had to run to

practice, I never got to the next thirty-eight poems. Does he turn over a new leaf? Doubtful, since the second section of poems is called Abacadaver. Somehow, I can't see that being cheerful. However, I highly recommend just based on the beginning of the book; as a recent poetry convert who used to think all poetry was love sonnets, I still have every intention of finishing *Hallelujah Blackout*.

*You Shall Know Our Velocity* by Dave Eggers: This is another book I was inspired to read this summer. Claire Eder, a fellow lifeguard, was reading Eggers' book during her breaks, so I picked it up during mine. She let me borrow it once she finished, but even though Hand and Jack's brother (the first person narrator, whose name I don't even know yet) are en route to Senegal, the first stop of a world-wide tour, and I've abandoned them mid-flight, I haven't had a second to spare between *The Great Gatsby* and BioChem problem sets. Dave Eggers is the new "it" writer, so the blurbs would have me believe ("Eggers is a wonderful writer, bold and inventive, with the technique of a magic realist"—Salon), and after 43 pages so far I agree.

*Jonathan Strange & Mr. Norrell* by Susanna Clark: I heard about this book when I was

on a recruiting trip at Brown University. My insane host told me it was the adult version of Harry Potter (those are books I have managed to read, over and over again). I picked it up despite the fact that I did not like the girl who recommended it to me, and so far I've been impressed. I can't tell you where I left off, because it's been that long, but my roommate, Anna Gajewski, borrowed and finished it this year (devoured it, actually), and really enjoyed it. It will have to wait until I graduate and truly become an adult, I suppose.

*Beautiful Piece* by Joseph E. Peterson: I found this at the Twin Cities Book Festival a few weekends ago, which I attended on the recommendation of Jeff Shotts. I was initially drawn to it because of its bright yellow cover with hot pink text, a gun and an ashtray overflowing with cigarettes (good marketing by Switchgrass Books). On the back is a woman's lower back, with low rise jeans and what looks to be a Grumpy (from the Seven Dwarfs) tattoo. In combination with its claim to be a "gritty noir novel set during a Chicago heat wave", it was impossible to resist opening it. The first person narrative is a redundant stream of consciousness that at once makes it fast-paced and hard to put down, and annoying.

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**"Each section starts with a fortune found in a fortune cookie. I'm not sure what that's about, but it's an interesting concept."**

## Notes from Abroad: Battling Stereotypes in Vienna

“Graduating Macalester with majors in English, German, and Education, I couldn’t picture a job better suited to pursue all my areas of interest.”

Have you met any movie stars?

This is the most frequent question I get from my Austrian high school students. Working as a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant includes playing the part of a walking dictionary and live pronunciation guide—but often, it also falls into the category of cultural ambassador. My first job post-Mac is to prove to a room full of students in Vienna that America is more than New York and Los Angeles. The fact the Minneapolis is about as far away as you can get from the coast, and approximately 2000 miles away from Hollywood, is pretty much lost on them.

includes photos of my home on the south side of Minneapolis (single family homes with yards are practically unheard of here), me standing knee-deep in snow in front of Old Main to demonstrate the concept of a ‘snow day,’ sail boats on Lake Harriet, pumpkin carving, and the local 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade near our family cabin in Wisconsin. My stories from high school also include book shortages, showing IDs to get into the building, and the dismal lack of windows leading to the nickname “The Prison” (think Dupre as a high school).

As I hoped, I am learning as much as I am teaching. Graduating from Macalester with majors in English, German, and Education, I couldn’t picture a job better suited to pursue all my areas of interest. I’d like to think on top of being a native speaker, my English major, would qualify me to teach the language, but I must admit to my embarrassment that I often find myself at a complete loss. There’s nothing like spending a few minutes trying to remember what we call a bulletin board, and then being unable to spell it, or saying ‘more clean’ and ‘cleaner’ several times out loud with a blank look on your face...

Comparing the school systems is a constant adventure. A diagram of the Austrian school system resembles a cross between a 12-lane traffic intersection and Chutes and Ladders, which is to say it is exceedingly more complicated than ours. Everything is about the same until you hit the 5<sup>th</sup> grade, and then it breaks into surprisingly specialized tracks. Case in point, I teach in a type of school whose name is so long it has an acronym, *Bildungsanstalten für Kindergartenpädagogik* (or BAKIP for short). Roughly translated, it’s the Educational Institute for Kindergarten

Pedagogy, which means my students decided at the equivalent of 8<sup>th</sup> grade they wanted to be kindergarten teachers. So after middle school they entered the school’s 5-year program. After graduation, at about age 19, they will be qualified to teach, or have the option to go on to college. It also means I have, on average, 1 boy in the class. On top of typical high school subjects, my students have to take music and voice lessons, an art class, and pedagogy courses. There is also a practice kindergarten adjacent to the school. It’s hard to complain about teaching at a school with constant music in the halls, art projects on the walls, and adorable children playing next door.

My answer, by the way, to their favorite question about meeting movie stars: I’ve never been to New York and it would take minimum 30 hours to drive straight to Hollywood. This realization is received with shock and awe (driving 30 hours west of Vienna would put you somewhere in the Atlantic). But I do like to brag that Josh Hartnett went to my high school and I’ve seen him walking around Lake of the Isles. It’s a hit or miss reference, but worth the squeals of the ones who get it.

Alice Gerard ‘09  
Oct. 30, 2009  
Vienna, Austria  
agerard@alumni.macalester.edu



As I write this, I’ve been on the job for a month, and I have deduced that America in the eyes of these students equates to some cross between High School Musical and Grand Theft Auto. When I ask them what comes to mind when they think of America and Americans, the answers range from McDonalds, to South Park, to MTV. I do confirm that the fabled yellow school buses exist and my high school did have cheerleaders, and I score the most points with stories of prom, limos, and cor-sages.

The non-stereotypical side of my American life I attempt to convey



# River Journal, Day 2

By Leigh Bercaw '12

*In September, students in Wang Ping's ENGL 194 went on a four-day canoe trip on the Minnesota River. This is the second day of the journal Leigh wrote during the trip. Day 1 was published in the November issue. Day 3 will appear in February.*

9.12

The thing about all this is that no matter what, it isn't this solitary paddling experience where it's just you and the trees and the boat but actually a group of people. And the thing is you have to figure out the people just as much as the canoeing part. It's rough trying to figure out what to say to everybody in the silent parts! Which is pretty much all the time.

There are so many fallentrees in this river! I've never seen a river with so many trees collapsing

beside it. The riverbank is carpeted with them; it makes it hard to paddle around them. They're all bleached, sticking up like broken bones, tearing the surface of the river. But below the water they're rotting quietly, algae creeping over.

I don't get who this river belongs to. If we're talking humanity, then should it be first come first serve, right? Even if there are far fewer Dakota people here. Health rights shouldn't be determined by majority, I mean this river is poisonous and ecologically connected to everything it touches. Here, if some people's health rights are compromised than everyone's are. But giving humans agency and ownership rights doesn't feel right either! It feels intrinsically like it should be one of those "well then everything that's alive gets rights" things. Which



means a human presence at all is violating rights. How are wildlife preserves set up? How do they keep people out and are they really saving anything? I don't get it. It seems impossible to find a right answer.

*"I don't get who this river belongs to. If we're talking humanity, then should it be first come first serve, right?"*

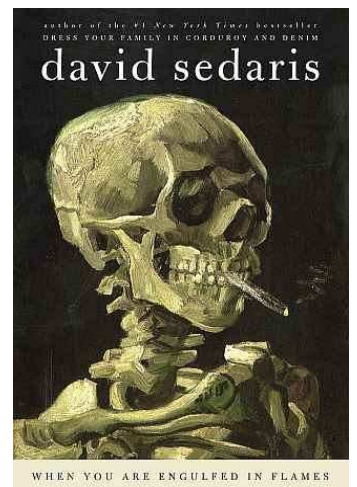
# I Shared Hand Sanitizer with David Sedaris!

By Meghan Wilson '12

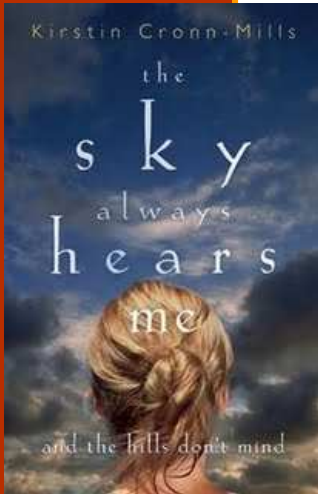
David Sedaris made yet another stop this year to the State Theatre in Minneapolis. The rather soft-spoken Sedaris had his audience in hysterics through his short stories, diary entries and overall presence. He spoke about a plethora of topics, ranging from the need for a fat and ugly Jesus to barn owls swooping down in cathedrals during weddings. Although the monologue was extremely comical, many of Sedaris' sto-

ries brought to surface many dark topics such as suicide, hiding one's sexuality and the overall pains of growing up. Sedaris engaged his audience, answering a couple of questions and personally engaging each person who waited in the book signing line. After an hour, when I got to the front of the line, he bombarded me with questions about Macalester, the English Department, my major, and swine flu. Surprisingly Sedaris has not come into contact with anyone with swine flu and asked if I

wanted to sanitize my hands with him, which I did. I cannot express how pleased I was to meet such a friendly and pleasant man. Sedaris genuinely wants to get to know the readers of his books, which makes reading his novels all the more enjoyable.



## Six Books (cont.)



I'm interested to see where it goes (read: will he ever stop talking about the "bad omen" and how Matthew Gliss "seemed like a decent guy"?); at a pretty short 201 pages, I'm feeling confident that it might get read during Thanksgiving break, homework permitting.

*the sky always hears me and the hills don't mind* by Kirstin Cronn-Mills: An-

other book I found at the TCBF, it is published by Flux, a publishing house for young adult fiction. It stuck out on their table in the middle of a lot of books about vampires and fairies with (in comparison) a toned down cover of a sky and the very long title. Each section starts with a fortune found in a fortune cookie. I'm not sure what that's about, but it's an interesting concept.

I've only read the first few pages, but the lead female, Morgan, is an engaging first person narrator with an eye for good looking men. So far, it's going to be my first choice for a day when things are getting heavy and hard to handle, and I need to be reminded that it's okay to yell as loudly as I can at mountains.

## Debriefs: Internships

### Tatiana Craine '11

Tatiana Craine is currently a junior, majoring in English and minoring in psychology. She recently spoke at the English Department Intern Panel, describing her past internship as well as her current one. Here are a couple of quick facts about both of her internships, one at Graywolf Press and her current internship at Hennepin Theater Trust.

**Internship:** Graywolf Press (January-May 2009)

**Hours/Week:** 15 hours

**Intern Responsibilities:** Marketing Intern- writing event press releases and contacting national media representatives; mass mailings; sending review/desk copies to reviewers and professors; designing promotional posters/postcards for authors and events; maintaining the Graywolf Press Facebook page; copying manuscripts; independent projects "I left Graywolf very happy and confident about my newfound skills as an intern, and I learned a lot about myself in general. Even though I promised myself I'd never work a desk job, I found that if you find an environment doing something that you like, it

doesn't matter if you're at a desk or on a mountain or at a theater. However, Graywolf did teach me that there are a lot of aspects to publishing that aren't glamorous... but that's really to be expected with any type of job. I think Graywolf gave me the professional insight to understand that no job will be absolutely perfect or a walk on the clouds, but there will be jobs that try and get close."

**Internship:** Hennepin Theatre Trust (September 2009-Present)

**Hours/Week:** 7-8 hours

**Intern Responsibilities:** Public Relations Intern: writing press releases for concerts, play and Broadway productions; assembling press kits; attending shows/productions on opening night; get press for upcoming shows; helping out/meet and greet at after-show parties; writing articles/make quiz questions for the monthly newsletter; helping with independent projects; pasting up press clippings; finding new ways to market to/access the public- making lists of blogs or finding relevant college press representatives "I think Hennepin Theatre Trust

is a little less experienced with having interns than Graywolf, which is a little tough after coming from such an intern-friendly (yet, really autonomous) place like Graywolf. Regardless, I've been given an indispensable look into public relations in the theater world. I wouldn't trade that for anything. I get to go to so many concerts and Broadway shows for free! I meet actors and directors and schmooze with a lot of very important people. Not only has this internship boosted my confidence immensely, but it's definitely let me exercise my communication skills. I've made a lot of great contacts, professional colleagues and friends all while being in a fast-paced, entertainment-centered environment that's one of a kind. It's been great!"



## English Majors Intern

We had a great turn out for our annual English Internship Info Panel. Thanks so much to Anna Joranger '10, Jeff Henebury '11, Tatiana Craine '11, and alum Julia Quanrud '09 for sharing their valuable experience with their peers. Wang Ping, Jim Dawes, and Michael Porter had some great insights about the value of internships for your academic, personal, and professional

growth and the strength of the English major in preparing you for any number of interesting internships beyond the obvious editorial ones. If you missed the panel and have questions about how to find the perfect internship for you, please do not hesitate to get in touch with department coordinator Anna Brailovsky.



Anna, Julia, Tatiana, and Jeff answer questions from the audience

## December Babes



December 1, 1935- Woody Allen

December 6, 1886- Joyce Kilmer

December 7, 1837- Willa Cather

December 9, 1608- John Milton

December 10, 1830- Emily Dickinson

December 11, 1918-Aleksander Solzhenitsyn

December 16 1775-Jane Austen

December 26 1956- David Sedaris

December 30, 1865-Rudyard Kipling

December 31. 1878- Horacio Quiroga

December 31, 1968- Junot Díaz

## A Fond Farewell (cont.)

ary world as the likely birthplace of Homer. Now that I will have the opportunity to visit İzmir on the weekends, I will take advantage of the beautiful beaches and enjoy fried sardines. While İzmir boasts a lovely Mediterranean climate, Ankara, where Bilkent is located, gets colder in the winters, with occasional snowfall in the winter. This means that that good old black Minnesotan down coat of mine will continue to be put to good use. I think one of my pleasures in Ankara is going to be walking on streets crowded with people, with small shops lining the sidewalk. Sometimes I find myself trying to guess what I will miss most about the

Twin Cities: Mac, of course, but also Lake Calhoun and uptown Minneapolis, I think.

I would love to hear from you in the future. Please do not hesitate to write to me at Bilkent if you have any academic questions you think I can help address. I do not yet know what my email address will be, but it should be easy enough to find out on Bilkent's website in the future. I hope you'll look me up if you ever visit Turkey.

Fondly,  
Ayse Çelikkol



**Bilkent University:  
Ayse's alma mater and  
new home**

# ENGLISH

## Newsletter Staff

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## Mugs for Your Mug

Announcing the long-awaited arrival of the office English Department signature coffee mug! This whimsical keepsake, featuring the Duck and Hand graphic from our department t-shirts, will be available only for English majors who have submitted a picture for the department bulletin board. So if your smiling mug is not hanging up there already, send those pictures in. Please make sure to include you graduating year, your home town, and a brief quotation, and email everything to [abrailov@macalester.edu](mailto:abrailov@macalester.edu), subject line: major photo.

## Happenings

- **Literary Study Lounge:** There will be food and drink in the Literary Lounge ALL DAY on Study Day, Wednesday, December 16, starting at 10 am
- **TREATZ:** come to the English Department Literary Lounge every Wednesday from 5-7pm for food and fun.
- **Chanter Release Party:** December 11th, Small Gallery, 7PM

## Annual Prizes

Each spring, the English Department selects or nominates students for the following writing prizes:

- Academy of American Poets Prize (\$100 to the best group of three poems written by a Mac student)
- Harry Scherman Writing Awards (\$250 for the best literary studies essay and/or creative prose piece written by a Macalester senior).
- Nick Adams Short Story Contest (4 Mac finalists selected for ultimate judging by the Associated Colleges of the Midwest; \$1000 for best story by an ACM student).

Entries are due February 8, 2010. If you wish to be considered, please keep this deadline in mind over the winter break and allow yourself time to prepare your manuscripts for submission at the beginning of the spring term.

Please see full submission guidelines on the English Department web site at [www.macalester.edu/english/contest.html](http://www.macalester.edu/english/contest.html).

## We're Only Human

Have you been stressing lately? Calling home too often? Eating an inordinate amount of carbs? Channel your stress into submissions and give them to us. Or tell us what you want to see in the newsletter. We're also available for tarot readings; we *know your future*. Contact us at [jtamang@macalester.edu](mailto:jtamang@macalester.edu), [mwilson4@macalester.edu](mailto:mwilson4@macalester.edu), [mbianco@macalester.edu](mailto:mbianco@macalester.edu).

