

# The Waverley

VOLUME III ISSUE 2

NOVEMBER 2011

## Shakespeare in the 21st Century



Krier's class at the show.

**"...overall, the incredible imagination...and the sheer aesthetic beauty...won us over."**

By: Andrea Wilhelmi '14

There's no better time to stage Hamlet than in the fall. After all, it's the time of year when many cultures look ahead to the colder months with foreboding, imagining ghosts and rituals to appease them. So on this warm October afternoon, when the upwards of twenty literature enthusiasts in Theresa Krier's Shakespeare class piled into a bus, we expected our autumnal sensibilities to be tickled at the theatre. We expected to watch the ambiance of our seasonal surroundings seep onto the stage of the Jungle Theatre, we were surprised to see Hamlet's ghost appear in the guard tower of the Danish palace.

Director Brian Boehlke achieved the cold, austere look of this "ultra-modern" production of *Hamlet* with indoor set-

tings. Every set piece flowed from scene to scene just as beautifully as the actors. The set in combination with a low, growling orchestral soundtrack and 21st century multimedia technology (Hamlet's play is accompanied by a slideshow, while Polonius carries a laptop), gave the play the feel of a slick spy movie. The actors did a beautiful job of adapting Shakespeare's language to a modern lilt. Hugh Kennedy, in particular, transformed Hamlet's dreamy verse to a rhythm very much akin to slam poetry. He gave Hamlet the youthful, overconfident swagger that Shakespeare intended. He displayed the young man's oscillations between mania and fear as he begins to realize his own power.

Afterward, we Shakespeare enthusiasts crowded into a room on the fourth floor of Old Main

to share pizza, apple cider, and our thoughts on the production. We mostly agreed that Ophelia's character was a little overlooked and Hamlet's famous "to be or not to be" monologue was a little underdone.

Overall, the incredible imagination of the artists behind this production, and the sheer aesthetic beauty they managed to create, won us over. Now, in preparation for English 115's next adventure in tragedy and the supernatural, I'm about halfway through *Macbeth*. As Halloween approaches and the air is heavy with the brisk tension between fall and winter, I'm anxious to see what fantastic ways Professor Krier and Mr. Shakespeare will come up with to make me appreciate the season.

## The Inland Sea: Macalester's Fall Play

What happens when Asquith Brown (John Bennett '14) is given a chance to fill his more successful brother's (Rob Gelberg '14) shoes in the tumultuous world of 18th Century English Landscaping? Come see blood, tears, class struggle, and lots and lots of DIRT in *The Inland Sea*, Macalester's fall play.

It features the English Department's own Will French '13, Zoe Rodine '13, Jeesun Choi '13, and Willie Gambucci '12.

Come see this groundbreaking play, of earth-shattering proportions, in it's U.S. premier on the Theatre Department Main Stage. Things might get messy.



John Bennet '14  
And Zoe Michael '13.

Show dates are November 11, 12, 17, 18, and 19 at 7:30 p.m.

There will also be a matinee at 2 p.m on November 13th.

# Life After Graduation

By: Jamie Lucarelli '13

"What am I going to do with an English major after graduation?" was a question many first year students asked during the Majors Fair in October. The current economy fosters a great deal of uncertainty about the usefulness of a liberal arts degree in the humanities. However, many Mac English majors have a remarkable track record post-graduation.

Stephen Smith, class of 1982, is now the executive editor and host of American RadioWorks. "[My English degree] absolutely prepared me for my career," said Smith. "Studying literature is excellent preparation [for journalism], as is learning how to write."

Smith started his journalism career his sophomore year at Macalester, when he joined the Mac Weekly. Writing for this student-run publication, or any newsletter on campus, is a great way for an English major to gain real world experience. Smith advises students to "practice the craft" as much as they can. Any form of writing that is applicable outside of school will help prepare students for success in the future.

"If you do it well, writing for radio needs to be clean and spare but vivid. Ultimately it's writing that connects with the audience on an emotional level," said Smith. "Radio is good storytelling."

Working with professors who were great editors was another way in which Smith devel-

oped his ; one name he mentioned in particular was Robert Warde. "To the best of your ability find the great professors and study with them," said Smith.

Many students focus on topics when choosing courses, Smith believes focusing on the professor yields better results. He remembers a *Physics for Poets* class which he loved because the professor, Sun Kyu Kim, was so engaging. "That's what's great about Macalester, the major was great and so was everything else," he said.

The summer after graduation, Smith worked at a local Newspaper in Waconia, MN. He had one more job, writing about politics and the environment for the Worthington Daily Globe (also a Minnesota paper), before joining public radio.

Though some forms of journalism, such as newspapers, are struggling with longevity, Smith is not concerned about the future of American RadioWorks. It is the second largest public radio company in the nation. Smith said the company is financially sound and he is not concerned that support for American RadioWorks will dry up.

"We do important reporting on substantive topics," said Smith. "Some [pieces] have helped changed laws [or] put people in jail."

Recently, American RadioWorks created a documentary series entitled "Tomorrow's Colleges." One installment of this series was the piece "Who Needs an English Major?" It focuses on

the current state of liberal arts colleges and degrees in the humanities.

"In creating [this project] I spoke with many English majors and none of them said they wished they had majored in something else," said Smith. One person he interviewed for the documentary was President Brian Rosenberg.

"One of the fundamental principles of a liberal arts education is that you get breadth as well as depth... allowing [students] to find and pursue their passion...it's that opportunity for choice that's an important part of the way we structure things," said Rosenberg. Even if you don't have an interest in journalism, studying at a Liberal Arts school prepares you for a life of learning and curiosity. "Any education is better than none," joked Smith.

Furthermore, though many students view an English Degree as impractical, Smith believes it is a "perfectly reasonable choice [in preparing] for life, not just a job."

The bottom line from Smith on why a student should be an English major? "They should be doing it because they like it."

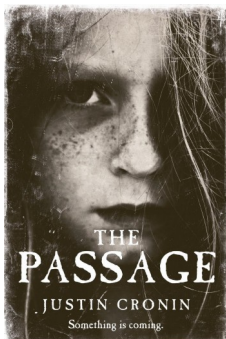
*"[My English degree] absolutely prepared me for my career."*



Stephen Smith '82

**To find out more about American RadioWorks, or to listen to the three broadcasts from the "Tomorrow's Colleges" series, visit <http://americanradio-works.publicradio.org>**

# Reading Recommendations from a Professor



*The Passage*  
by Justin Cronin

*"It's Twilight for intellectuals"*  
-James Dawes

## Majors Outside the Classroom

What do English Majors do when they aren't buried in a book or writing brilliant papers?

The Sirens, the all female a capella group on campus features several English majors: Grace Fowler '13, Andrea Wilhelmi '14, Jamie Lucarelli '13, and Juleit Wilhelmi '14. They recently hosted a major fall concert, Acapelloza. The event was over two hours of vocal music featuring groups from Macalester, Carleton, and the University of Minnesota.

*The Sirens at  
Acapelloza  
2011.*



## Poetry Corner

Untitled

By Kerry Alexander '12

the sky is too good for us,  
knuckled down in white pine.  
sap is stained glass on my boot straps,  
two hundred years ago.

(I wanted to start with matter.)

hull presses down against the state of things.

the map is where I drew us,

but I have no sense of home.

so, thirty one miles,  
we are southward and bound,

calling out to no-man,

flipping national geographic.

[I flew for the first time and knew we'd won.

Lewis and Clark and the loaded gun.

There is snow on the mountain, and fire in the sun.

The West was Romantic, but never much fun.]

sugarless tea, we see

the trees from backstage.

black against the sunbloom,

lit like a Civil War.

(battles have been fought here. river shakes in bed.)

don't touch the things you want to,

they are poison turning red.

# Canoe Trip Reflection



*On Friday, September 9, students from the course “Mind and Matter” met outside of 77 Mac at 6am, piled into two large vans and drove north six hours to the headwaters of the Mississippi in Itasca, for a week-end-long canoe trip. “Mind and Matter” is a course co-taught by professors Ping Wang and Lin Aanonsen and combines creative writing with biology and neuroscience. “Mind and Matter” explores relationships between humans and our surroundings, and between the brain and the body. The focus of “Mind and Matter” as listed in the course guide, is to examine “the underlying concept of the interconnectedness of all things.” In that light, what better way to kick off the semester than with an opportunity to travel to a place that most of us had never been to, and get hands-on with Mother Nature?*

## Itasca

By: David Jacobson '13

A tired airplane  
Moseys across the lonely sky  
Its white trail lingers.

I look up at the sky and my imagination wanders. What does the river look like from above? Perhaps a small intestine, and we in our eight canoes are the newly swallowed nutrients, winding along as the river digests us. Or maybe we're riding on the back of a scrawny snake. Basking in the sun, he lazily curves 22 miles toward our campsite. No - we're trapped in a watery labyrinth and somewhere, just around the next bend maybe, there's a Minotaur licking his heathen lips and waiting to devour us - lifejackets and all. I keep waiting for the screams from the canoe in front of us. I imagine myself sprouting wings like Icarus and flying away with the packet of Oreos. I'll land in a tree and munch them one by one, as I contemplate life's mysteries. "What happened to the Oreos?" John the Guide will say. "Where's David?" Dan will ask. "Where are the Oreos?" John the Guide will say again.

I slather sunscreen  
On my face, arms, neck, scalp,  
My eyes - then, I cry.

The toughest part of the weekend was definitely the SPF 50 sunscreen that ravaged my eyes all day Saturday. The devastation was total. I cried, poured water on my face, screamed, beat the water with my paddle. Nothing helped. Then, during the late afternoon snack break, I chewed some beef jerky and dunked my head under the Mississippi with renewed vigor. I came up out of the water and...I could see! Reeds never looked so good. I remember at that moment having a newfound appreciation for my eyesight.

Dan, Fiona, Me.  
Mississippi explorers,  
Laugh. Joke. Pee. Often.

Saturday morning I drink too much coffee and water and I have to pee practically nonstop. "I gotta go again," I say, and Dan and Fiona patiently paddle our canoe up to the weedy bank. I hop out with no time to spare. Dan sits several feet to my left in the front of the canoe. Considerate as always, he looks away, while I hold a one-sided conversation with the reeds. Just then, Fiona takes her paddle and splashes water on Dan's unprotected back. Dan screams like someone just kidnapped his firstborn child. That's a little extreme I think, it's only river water, but then I realize that Dan doesn't know what kind of watery substance splattered his back! The canoe rocks with laughter as we paddle downstream.

Chicken Burritos!  
Hell yeah! I pitch the tent quick  
Line up. Seconds please?

**“The canoe  
rocks with  
laughter as  
we continue  
downstream.”**

Coming into camp Saturday night was raw. I'm pretty sure I speak for more than just myself when I say that Saturday was a long day. Enjoyable yes, but long. As the sun sets, we're still paddling on the river; three more miles, John the Guide says. My feet are sopping wet and I definitely have a mosquito in my nose. When I hear other canoes howling and yelling I embrace my inner wolf and join in. It feels good to cut loose. Even the pungent smell of rotting fish couldn't hold back my appetite now. We unload the canoes in the dark, and I'm surprised by how quickly everyone works to set up camp.

Three quarters water  
That's me! And you too! Drink deep.  
Stay thirsty my friends.

*"We are guests at  
Mrs. Mississippi's  
house."*

If you pour out a bucket of water in the woods of Itasca, the water molecules will not only survive and thrive, but they'll also flow downhill and maybe even make it to the Mississippi. My body is 75% water, but if you put me in the same place (all alone with no provisions) I wouldn't make it out alive. No ifs, ands or buts. I guess water by nature has more sense than most humans despite the fact that we're capable of thought.

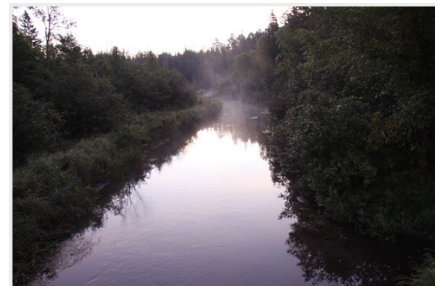
We are guests at Mrs. Mississippi's house. We brought her gifts of Tobacco and accept her gracious hospitality, but we live by her rules. We must follow the course that the river has chosen, we cannot choose our own way. "Do you take the path of least resistance?" Fiona asks me. I don't know about me, but this river does, and it's long as heck.

It's funny to think that the same water molecules that carried our canoes downriver last weekend are now a hundred miles downstream, and in three months those same molecules may exit into the ocean. On Saturday, I lost my \$5 CVS Aviators in the Mississippi and I wonder how far they've floated downstream. Maybe a sniffer dog will find them and follow my scent all the way to St. Paul to return them.

I'm grateful to have had the opportunity to take this canoe trip. I've never felt so close with a class after only one week.

John and Erik say  
Leave no trace; wash the dishes.  
We do as we're told.

Awake in the dark.  
My dream: felt like, smelt like I  
Was on a river.



## T-shirt Contest!

We are now accepting submissions for a new English Department T-shirt Design. Designs that are literary in nature are preferred, but the best design-whatever it is-will win! We'll be accepting submissions until Friday, December 9. There will be a glorious prize awarded to the creator of the winning submission. Please send a jpeg of your design to Jan Beebe. <jbeebe@macalester.edu>



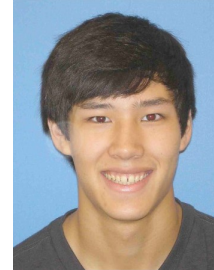


# English Majors Abroad

*Live vicariously through these English Majors' adventures.*



Peter Tanyan '13 is in Florence, Italy through the Syracuse University Abroad program.



Paul Runge '13 is in Madrid, Spain through the CIEE program.



Piage Schaefer '13 is in Granada through the SIT program.



Sean Ryan '13 is in Belgrade, Serbia through the SIT Balkans program.



Olivia Nichols '13 is in Sabat, Morocco, through the SIT program.



Graham Sutherland '13 is in Cochabamba, Bolivia.



If you are considering study abroad programs, visit the Institute for Global Citizenship (Markim Hall) for information on programs or to speak with a Study-Abroad advisor. You can also speak with your academic-advisor and other students that have gone abroad to get help making plans.

Also, Professor Jarrin in the English Department is the designated Macalester Representative for the ACM (Associated Colleges of the Midwest) abroad programs in Florence and London. If you are interested in studying the arts in these areas feel free to contact her. <[cjarrin@macalester.edu](mailto:cjarrin@macalester.edu)>



# Birthday Babes



- Nov 1 - *Stephen Crane* (1871-1900), American novelist, reporter, and poet, author of The Red Badge of Courage (1895)
- Nov 7 - *Albert Camus* (1913-1960), French existentialist essayist, novelist, journalist, author of L'Etranger (The Stranger, 1942) and La Peste (The Plague, 1947)
- Nov 8 - *Bram Stoker* (1847-1912), Irish creator of Dracula  
- *Kazuo Ishiguro* (1954-), Japanese/English novelist, author of Never Let Me Go (2005)
- Nov 11 - *Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.* (1922-2007), modern American writer, author of Slaughterhouse-Five (1969) and Breakfast of Champions (1973)
- Nov 12 - *DeWitt Wallace* (1889-1981), Minnesota-born magazine publisher, co-founder with his wife of *Reader's Digest* (1922), name-sake of our library
- Nov 16 - *Chinua Achebe* (1930-), Nigerian fiction writer, essayist and poet , author of Things Fall Apart
- Nov 18 - *Margaret Atwood* (1939-) Canadian novelist, poet and short-story writer, author of The Handmaid's Tale (1985)
- Nov 21 - *Voltaire*, born *Francois-Marie Arouet* (1694-1778), French philosopher and author of Candide (1759)
- Nov 22 - *George Eliot*, aka *Mary Anne Evans* (1819-1880), Victorian novelist
- Nov 28 - *John Bunyan* (1628-1688) English cleric and author of The Pilgrim's Progress (1684)  
- *William Blake* (1757-1827), revolutionary English poet and painter of the Romantic Movement
- Nov 29 - *Louisa May Alcott* (1832-1888), American author of Little Women  
- *C. S. Lewis* (1898-1963), English essayist and author of The Chronicles of Narnia  
- *Madeleine L'Engle* (1918-2007), American novelist, author of A Wrinkle in Time (1962)
- Nov 30 - *Jonathan Swift* (1667-1745), English satirist, author of A Modest Proposal (1729) and Gulliver's Travels (1726)  
- *Mark Twain, aka Samuel Clemens* (1835-1910), American humorist, author of The Adventures of Tom Sawyer (1876) and The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn (1885)  
- *David Mamet* (1947-), American playwright, screenwriter and director, creator of numerous plays and films such as Speed-the-Plow (1988) and Oleanna (1992)



 Reader's  
Digest



# ENGLISH

## Macalester College English Department Newsletter

Senior Editor  
Jamie Lucarelli

Student Editors  
Madeleine Disner  
David Jacobson

## Happenings

Nov 11th - 7-8:30 p.m. in JBD, the SPEAK! Nationally acclaimed spoken word poet Sarah Key performs.

Nov 12th - MacSlam! 8 p.m. in 10K (The Basement of Dupre)  
Slam poetry performance (and open mike opportunity)

Dec 9th - T-shirt designs are due!

Wednesdays are Treat Nights 4:30-7 p.m. in the Literary Lounge!

### **DON'T FORGET!**

#### *The Inland Sea*

Show dates are November 11, 12,  
17, 18, and 19 at 7:30 p.m.

There will also be a matinee at 2  
p.m on November 13th.

### ATTENTION ANYONE WHO DOES ANYTHING INTERESTING!

We are hoping to make the newsletter much more interactive. Email one of the editors or post a note on the facebook page about what you have been doing, about anything you have been doing. Maybe you went to a Chanter meeting, play basketball, sing, organized a fundraiser, or went abroad. Let us know! All you have to do is give your name and what you did to an editor, in person, by email or online. Just one sentence! We can follow up with an email or interview to minimize the work you have to do. Stop by the English office or Treat Night! Someone is always around to hear your story there.

...we won't stop eating until we hear from you.



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