MACALESTER COLLEGE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

# The Waverley

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# Major's luncheon

An Editorial by David Jacobson '13

On Thursday September 22, English majors and professors descended on Smail Gallery in Olin Rice for the annual Major's Luncheon. If you couldn't make it, you missed out on the best lunch that most of us students have eaten in weeks, and that's no idle chatter either!

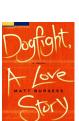
Really though, how can you go wrong with fancy cheese and crackers, assorted wraps, chicken kebobs, sparkling lemonade and sunflower-decorated cupcakes — that matched the table cloths — for dessert? You can't. And to top it off, our new department coordinator, Jan

Beebe, snagged us some free water bottles from the Sustainability Office as party favors! Sometimes five stars just isn't enough. Style points to Department Head James Dawes (jokes) and coordinator Jan Beebe (glass plates and real silverware).

Professor Matt Burgess gave an entertaining reading from his new book: *Dogfight, A Love Story* – a finalist for the Minnesota Book award in 2011. The novel's protagonist struggles with a pregnant girl friend, a brother's release from prison, drugs, and stealing a dog for the homecoming dog fight.

If you enjoyed the fine food and delicious company of

fellow English lovers at the Luncheon, you won't want to miss Treat Night. It happens every Wednesday from 4:30-7pm in the Literary Lounge. See you there!





Matt Burgess

#### Meet Keri

A wonderful new appliance
has arrived in the English Department. Keri the Keurig is
ready for student and faculty use
everyday in the Literary Lounge
for students, which is on the
second floor of Old Main.

You can make hot chocolate, coffee (black and pre-flavored), and tea with Keri. We try to keep take-out cups on hand if you want to take your caffeine to class.

Instructions on how to operate Keri are posted on the wall above her head, but if you need help, pop into the English office and someone will assist you.

We are open to suggestions on flavors of coffee or tea that you would like to have available to make with Keri. Contact Jan Beebe with flavor suggestions at <jbeebe@macalester.edu>. Stop by Old Main 218 anytime and give her a spin!



Keurig is a brand of single-serve coffee makers. It uses "k-cups" of pre-packaged grounds to brew single servings of joe.

an excerpt from a creative piece By: Jeesun Choi '13 **English Major** 



#### Itasca

Before the words something builds water to flood rain to shower hope to prayer.

Before the sound shh a thought runs along the streams across fields to a no man's land of raised eyebrows curved mouths.

Before the pause dumb touch aweless inspiration ha

before the silence it's the loudest it's been ear to ground eye towards horizon all sink all pressed dense.

There are some thoughts that you cannot quiet. When you lose the way it once was, the memories flood your mind to fill the void, and the thoughts that you hold firmly start to slip away. It takes courage to lessen the grip and open the palm.

My head has been the noisiest it has been in years. A plague of odd clinks, pats, whams and whoops prod into the corners of my mind. No one will take these noises away from my head. The only place that they can go is the river.

Nothing can drown out the sounds in my head, but the river breathes into it. Like waves churn to add air into the water, the river breathes air, space and new scents into my thoughts. The painful warbling, crowded and crammed, slowly opens up with each breath. And soon, they open up, each sound distinctly separated from one another, their unique rhythms revealed to my own mind. I can hear the pulse, lapse and trips in each sound.

Meanwhile, the world around me constantly moves to create space in the cramps and close in the gaps.

Hush Child Don't wait for time to carry you away from pain

Be unsettled never rest tongue the tastes to give life to words that matter to matter

Draw in to push away momentum Don't lose what controls the core what travels upwards and pulls down

Imitate all that you see because the world will not cease

Pay attention to all that curls that's where heat resides

Hush Child Don't wait for time to carry you away.

But believe hold dear the embrace and exhale.



More students' excerpts on p. 6

# Birthday Babes

Tim O'brien - Oct. 1 1946

"Fiction is the lie that helps us understand the truth."

Mahatma Ghandi - Oct. 2, 1869.

"Hate the sin, love the sinner."

Sherman Alexie - October 7, 1966.

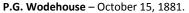
"Do you know why the Indian rain dances always worked? Because the Indians would keep dancing until it rained."

Eleanor Roosevelt - October 11, 1884.

"It is not more vacation we need - it is more vocation."

E.E. Cummings - October 14, 1894.

"If a poet is anybody, he is somebody to whom things made matter very little - somebody who is obsessed by Making."



"I know I was writing stories when I was five. I don't know what I did before that. Just loafed I suppose."

Oscar Wilde - October 16, 1854.

"An idea that is not dangerous is unworthy of being called an idea at all."

Pablo Picasso - October 25, 1881.

"When I was young I could draw like Raphael, but it has taken me my whole life to learn to draw like a child."

Zadie Smith - October 25, 1975.

"I myself have never been able to figure out precisely what feminism is. I only know that people call me a feminist whenever I express sentiments that differentiate me from a doormat."

Sylvia Plath—Oct. 27, 1932

"There must be quite a few things that a hot bath won't cure, but I don't know many of them."

Fyodor Dostoevsky - October 30, 1821.

"The formula 'Two and two make five' is not without its attractions."

John Keats - October 31, 1795.

"Heard melodies are sweet, but those unheard are sweeter."

# What are we reading?

#### David Jacobson '13

#### Top 5 books

- 1. A Streetcar Named Desire Tennessee Williams
- 2. Five Novels Daniel Pinkwater
- 3. *Tartuffe* Molière
- 4. *Drown* Junot Diaz
- 5. Where the Wild Things Are Maurice



Johnny Komisar '12

Man's Search For Meaning Viktor E. Frankl





"The Old Guitar Player" -Picasso 1903

### In the Real World

What can you do with a degree in English from Macalester College?

Grace Geiger, an English Major who graduated in 2010, is now a contributing writer for the premiere English-Language online periodical in Chile. It's called the Santiago Times and they run an issue 5 times a week. You can read Grace's bio on The Santiago Time's website, at <a href="http://www.santiagotimes.cl/about-us/our-staff">http://www.santiagotimes.cl/about-us/our-staff</a>, to hear about the other writing gigs she has had since graduation. A link to her most recent article for The Santi-

ago Times is below, check it out!

http://www.santiagotimes.cl/opinion/features/22510-sleepless-in-santiago-discovering-the-citysferias



# Congratulations to Will Dhonau!

The National Football Foundation (NFF) & College Hall of Fame has announced the 127 candidates for the 2011 NFF National Scholar-Athlete Awards, presented by Fidelity Investments. Included on this list is Macalester senior defensive lineman Will Dhonau (Fond du Lac, Wis.). He is one of just 30 Division III players so honored.

Each college can nominate only one student for the award. The criteria for nomination are academic achievement (GPA of 3.2-4.0), outstanding football ability as a first-team player, and strong leadership and citizenship.

The 127 nominees also comprise the list of semifinalists for the 2011 William V. Campbell Trophy, endowed by HealthSouth, which recognizes an individual as the best scholar-athlete in the nation.

16 nominees will be awarded the William v. Campbell Trophy, which comes with an \$18,000 scholarship for post-graduate studies. Winners are announced on Wednesday October 26th. We wish you luck, Will!

The English Department is proud to support its majors in all areas of achievement. Please inform us of any and all honors you or your peers receive.

# Meet Jan Beebe: Our New Department Coordinator!

This summer, Anna Brailovsky (our former Department Coordinator) took her leave of the Macalester English Department, taking a position at the University of Minnesota. While her presence in this department will be missed, we now get to welcome a new member of the English Department team, Jan Beebe!

There are truly not enough good things to say about Jan. As a former social worker, student activities coordinator at Nova Classical Academy and a caring mother of four "wild children," Jan fits right in to the vibrant community of the Macalester English Department.

She is fun and outgoing, plunging head first into the overwhelming process of learning all the ins and outs of this department with a smile, and sometimes even pizza bread!

Her delicious Treat Night entrees and amazing snacks ensure that students and professors never go hungry while her sidekick Keri makes sure we aren't thirsty or uncaffeinated (see page 1). She truly cares about the students and faculty of this department, taking the time to learn the names of everyone that she encounters in the department.

Help her get settled and feel as welcomed as she would like you to

feel by stopping by the English Department and introducing yourself.

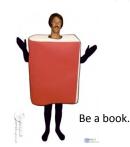
"Please stop by and visit the Literary Lounge and explore the treasures it holds. I would love suggestions on what would make student life better for students in the English Department. Also, I live in the neighborhood so I hope to see you while out on a walk."



-Jan Beebe

### Costume Ideas

For those of us who struggle with lit-themed dressings





Break out your tights.



Tons of books on this guy, being a child underneath is optional.



..there have been books with elephants...



Kaija Bergen '11 and Katherine Willingham '11 dressed up as a heroic couplet. Top that.



## Poetry Corner

Excerpts from students' pieces created from the canoe trip this fall with Ping Wang

Full Circle '14

Emily Geris '14

Pike,
more like
SPIKE
through my gut,
arm, leg, head,
and heart.
Mighty waters continue
her flow, even though
my moon bleeds red,
the giant diamond
gleams white below.

M-I-S-S-I-S-S-I-P-P-I
Elementary halls ring with
sing-song, over chicken nuggets
we sing it backwards,
I-P-P-I-S-S-I-S-I-M.
Then: how to remember
the spelling of a river
for Thursday's quiz.
Now: division between Twins,
receiver of tobacco gifts,
make-shift mother, tangible
when mine is not.

"I can't canoe. I can't. I can't. I can't." Have I learned anything in these 365 days?

"...arms burning after the first dozen strokes. All I can see is the end, as I implore it to arrive. Peeling off clothing and feeling red infuse my cheeks, something shifts. Hot blood pumps. Arms still nag, but core takes over. I'm in control."

Remember the core's strength, call on it in times of need; it never fails.

"I'm so strong. Like in the canoe. I made it, I kept up, I'm worthy."

Not only like in the canoe but in life poetry

poetry relationships missing you discussion Your worth is all around you, if you'd just *look*.

More next month on the canoe trip!



Turning my head to the left
I see silhouettes of trees
Highlighted by oranges, yellows, and reds.
Turning my head to the right I see a colorless sky
Lightly shaded with blue.
This transformation pushes the color of the day
away
It is with the night the day remains







# Games page



#### The Ultimate Halloween Word Search



batwings blackcat bones broom caldron coffin costumes creepy crypt dracula frighten frogeyes ghosts ghoul goblins grave groans halloween haunted hoot how1 jackolantern

lizardfeet moans monster moon mummy night owl potions pumpkin scary screech skeleton spider spirits spooky tombstone trick or treat vampire webs werewolf witch zombie

y f t i s p i d e r c r y p t m i k r g h o u l h b t h g i n u n s p o o k y s s t i r i p s m h n g b g n i k p m u p n o o m c a g l w e r e w o l f o t x y r o n i z z y l t i j g r i b v e m e n c s b e w a a i d o d a e o t s e m u t s o c j l n r m p n h n b r o o m k k k a s a p y i g a w m p n o t o w c h c i r f i o l i o r s a l x a a u r a f r r q l t n s e a u j e l e c o f g z r o c s g n i w t a b s c r e e c h w h t t o o h r u l i z a r d f e e t e i b m o z z s t s o h g d h e r r h o w l t p g t o m b s t o n e v a r g



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#### **Happenings**

Macalester College English Department Newsletter

Senior Editor Jamie Lucarelli

Student Editors

Madeleine Disner

David Jacobson

Treat Nights every Wednesday from 4:30-7 in the Literary Lounge!

Oct. 10th: "My Letter to the World: Narrating Human Rights" is a day-long series of talks and panel discussions on the personal narrative voice, literature and human rights, hosted by the University of Minnesota Human Rights Program and Creative Writing Program. All events are free and open to the public. The capstone event features author and foreign correspondent, Philip Gourevitch, who will discuss writing about the aftermaths of the Rwandan genocide, and atrocities from Abu Ghraib. The talk is entitled: "Salvage: Writing About Aftermaths from Rwanda to Abu Ghraib and Beyond."

Held at the University of Minnesota in the Theatre Coffman Memorial Union. Events are free and open to the public, they start at 8:15 a.m. and go until 7:30 p.m. https://events.umn.edu/014645

October 21st: Acapellooza! A free concert in Kagin at 9 p.m. Featuring all the A capella groups from Mac and some from the U of M, Carleton and more!

Oct 31st: English Halloween party at 4:30 in Old Main Literary Lounge!

#### A note from the esteemed editing team

We are very excited to see all of your lovely faces again! (Bet you couldn't tell.) Tell us about your summers, internships, creative works, graduation plans (sorry to scare you seniors)—we want to know! Email us with updates so other majors can become inspired by your stories, or consoled by learning others are struggling too.

Plus, you have got to come check out the new set up in the English office. New department coordinator, Jan Beebe, has made delightful additions to our nook of Old Main (including candy, a Keurig machine, and new study spaces). Come say hello, and have free coffee, any-



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