MACALESTER COLLEGE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT NEWSIETTER

The Waverley

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Fearless Leader of the Hegemonocle

English Majors Outside the Classroom

By: David Jacobson '13

Waverley Editor David Jacobson spoke with Alex Juffer ('13) about his contributions to the satirical student news publication, *The Hegemonocle*.

DJ: Tell me a little about yourself.

AJ: I'm a Junior English major at Macalester. I'm from Pennsylvania, and I'm a big Ryan Gosling fan – regardless of genre.

DJ: If you could spend an evening with any Macalester faculty member, who would it be? What would you do?

AJ: I'd probably hang out with Robert Warde, and we'd uh, probably play a little Wii-Fit, and kill a box of Franzia. After the Franzia, we'd probably spill a little English theory, maybe write an in-class essay.

DJ: What's the best part about being an English major?

AJ: The faculty is really strong across the board. The classes they design are really innovative and they're very passionate about their work and their teaching.

DJ: Why did you choose English as your major?

AJ: First and foremost I love books. I love talking about books. I even use books as coasters and shelving material to put more books on.

DJ: What activities/hobbies do you participate in outside of school?

AJ: Club volleyball and the Macalester Hegemonocle.

DJ: What is the Macalester
Hegemonocle? And how did you get started with the

Hegemononcle?

AJ: The Hege is THE humor magazine on campus. I joined it the spring semester of my freshman year. I became good friends with the founders of the Hege and was promoted to the editor at the end of last spring.

DJ: What do you do as one of the two "fearless leaders" of the Hegemonocle?

AJ: We lead meetings, we

Cont. on p. 2

The Artistry of Writing

By: Erin Schulz '14

I love libraries. I especially love secret or restricted places in libraries, places where the already hushed tone drops into sacred silence. Before my class field trip on February 17, I'd never been to the special collections room at DeWitt Wallace Library, but I loved it the minute I walked through the door. Our

Medieval Heroic Narrative class, taught by Professor Krier, took a day off from discussing Icelandic Sagas and Beowulf to explore pages and print of books made centuries before our campus existed.

Our guide, Ellen Holt-Werle, told us all she knew about the seven different documents we were exploring. She gave us a tour through old books



and bookbinding, then held up each of the pages and shared bits and pieces of its story. Professor Krier added her knowledge about the art of medieval writing. They shared with us a manuscript leaf with "Hufnagel nota-

Cont. on p. 2

Alex Juffer '13

Continued from p. 1, Fearless Leader of *The Hegemonocle*

lead discussions to revise new pieces, we lead production meetings to format those pieces, we're in charge of distribution and we're also a two-man, party-planning committee.

DJ: The Hegemonocle has been known to write controversial articles. What are your thoughts on this?

AJ: Since we write so much about Macalester, I think it's important that we call attention to some of our misconceptions, or things that the campus isn't as aware of as we'd like them to be. Humor can be an excellent tool at

calling attention to unrecognized issues. We don't consider ourselves to have any political leaning or agenda, but we're also not afraid to tackle issues that might be considered controversial.

DJ: Any specific examples of controversial material?

AJ: We talked about the new score board which some felt was an excessive amount of money to spend on our football team. We've done several issues on the GOP nomination process.

DJ: What do you hope to do

after college?

AJ: Probably end up going to an MFA program to continue my studies in Creative Writing.

DJ: Is there anything else you'd like to say?

AJ: I have something to say to the incoming class of 2016: Respect yourself, respect your peers, and respect the sacred ritual that is The Kagin Dance.

Continued from p.1, The Artistry of Writing

"...words that have voice, words that correctly embody the life they represent."

tion,"
which
showed a
tiny fragment of a
song,
written
with such
large
notes that

it could be read from a great distance. There was a whole page featuring a letter C enclosing a Bishop sitting outside in an outdoor courtyard.

Professor Krier and Ellen Holt-Werle drew our attention to the easily overlooked features of the artwork. They pointed out that in the background we could still see lines from the artist's initial concept of an indoor scene. Professor Krier suggested that the artist wanted to give a different impression of the bishop, or use different ink-colors, but we have no way of knowing what really prompted the change.

As we looked at the other works around the table, I started to feel taunted by the pages. They held words and pictures, symbols of things we hold in common with medieval humans. We could understand what they represented, but, in the artistry, the choices of color and design, we have so little ability to answer our questions.

The leaf that taunted me the most was an old page from the Bible with a hand-written note scrawled at the bottom in French. My French speaking friend and I bent over the leaf and tried to puzzle out the sloping letters, but we couldn't decode the message.

As we pored over the pages, Professor Krier explained that early writers were artists too. Their function was not just to set words to paper, but to capture some of the inherent life in the words that they were writing. The vibrancy of the colors, the shapes of

letters, and the work that went into thinning and smoothing each piece of vellum all work together toward the end of creating words that have voice, words that correctly embody the life they represent.

I think back on those thick, real pages and the intention that went into each stroke of the pen, as I try to capture the feeling of the experience in a typed document. I've always loved words and relied on them to convey my meaning better than any other form of communication, but after stepping into the rare books room and listening to voices echoing through sheets of old vellum, I'm wondering if we've robbed ourselves of some of the power of words by divorcing them from the artistry of writing.

The Laramie Project Opens in April



Back row, left to right: Jeesun Choi, '13 and University of St. Thomas student Mohamed Samatar '14.

Front, left to right, Naomi Madaras '15, Thalia Kostman, '12, David Jacobson, '13.

"THE LARAMIE PROJECT"

By Moisés Kaufman and the members of TECTONIC THEATRE PROJECT

April 5, 6, 7 12, 13 and 14 at 7:30 and a matinee on April 7 at 2:00

Research for the *The Laramie Project*, Moisés Kaufman's internationally successful play, began one month after a horrific crime occurred in the city of Laramie, Wyoming. In 1998, Matthew Shepard, a twenty-one-year-old homosexual student at the University of Wyoming, was tied to a cattle fence, beaten about the head, robbed, and left to die on a bitterly cold night in October.

The play is based on more than 400 interviews with about 100 Laramie residents, as well as journal entries from the members of Tectonic Theater Project and Kaufman, as they reflect on their own reactions to the crime and to the interviews they carried out. Structured as a documentary, it attempts to reenact the events that occurred on that fateful night. Was this a hate crime? Or was it a random, senseless assault and robbery? Either way, Kaufman's objective was to explore the issues of homosexuality, religion, class, economics, education, and non-traditional lifestyles through the residents' raw responses to the incident.

Includes Macalester English majors Alana Horton, Jeesun Choi, and our very own David Jacobson.

English Department Prize and Award Winners

We are pleased to announce the recipients of the English Department Prizes and Awards for 2012. Thank you to all the students for your wonderful submissions and to the faculty judges. Congratulations to the winners!

WENDY-PARRISH POETRY AWARD

For a student who exemplifies a commitment to poetry and excellence in writing:

Kerry Alexander '12

LIVINGSTON-PATNODE PRIZE

For a graduating senior who has made a special contribution as an English major:

Anna Waggener '12

HARRY SCHERMAN AWARDS FOR SENIORS

H.S. Literary Essay:

Eliza Leahy '12

Dwelling and Transcendence: the Mythological Connection Between Earthly and Cosmological Temporalities in the Poetry of Wallace Stevens Sarah Mintz '12

The Transformation of Womanhood: Hester's Social Identity in The Scarlet Letter

H.S.Creative Prose:

Madiha Bataineh '12 for This round Angus McLinn '12 for Paper Airplanes Jesse Fox '12 for The Gravedigger

H.S.Poetry:

Clara Younge '12 for Cross-Fade Emma Colon '12 for Floating

ARDIS HILLMAN WHEELER PRIZE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDY

Olivia Starkie '14 (Oxford)

Alvin Kim '14 (University of Amsterdam)

The winner of the Academy of American Poets Prize has not been decided.

Nick Adams Short Story Contest winner is Clare Boerigter from Grinnell. However, Macalester's Nina Slesinger was selected as one of five finalists. Congratulations Nina!



Jeff Henebury '11

Life after Graduation

By: Jamie Lucarelli '13

Being employable after obtaining a liberal arts degree is a concern many students have today. Especially at Macalester, where little vocational training is available, many students worry they will look underqualified after graduation. Thankfully, alum Jeff Henebury 'II, assures Mac students that prospects are good.

"In the Twin Cities, people like Macalester Students. They're smart and nice...that reputation really helps," said Henebury.

Henebury, who has an internship with Graywolf Press and works part-time at the Walker Art Museum, emphasized how his undergraduate background helped him get hired. The hiring manager at the Walker who interviewed him had a good relationship with Mac students.

He loves both of his jobs, though the Graywolf intern-

ship is unpaid and soon he'll need to find full time employment. The time at Graywolf is passed sorting through "the slush pile," an industry term for the unsolicited submissions hopeful writers send in to publishers, hoping for a break.

"[Graywolf] has open submissions and they get like thousands a year," said Jeff. It is enjoyable work though. "If I could do this for a career, it would be pretty sweet," said Henebury.

"But.. I know there's only nine people working in those [big publishing houses]...there aren't many opportunities... [you could] go to New York, work at a big publisher, live with nine people and eighteen rats, do that for four or five years and maybe it would work."

That's not Jeff's plan, but he does hope to continue having a relationship with The Walker. Jobs there are coveted and even if he only had time to volunteer, he would be extremely interested in participating.

At the Walker he helps out with customer service, ushering plays, and tour surveillance. Surprising past experience helped him get his job, like volunteering at a nursing home. "Get off campus...do as much as you can," Henebury stressed.

He stated that one cannot anticipate the varied ways in which undergrad experiences can become applicable. "Just put a spin on it," said Henebury.

Jeff will continue living in the Twin Cities and recommends this to students. "It's as good of a place as any you'll find for a job," said Henebury.

The CDC was very useful in his job search and he advises students start using them as soon as possible for resume help and job searches. He wishes everyone the best of luck!



Seamus Heaney



Maya Angelou

Birthday Babes

April 2nd: Marvin Gaye (1939-1984), R&B Singer, "The Prince of Soul."

April 4th: Maya Angelou (1928-), American Poet, Civil Rights Activist. I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings.

April 7th: William Wordsworth (1770-1850), English Romantic Poet.

April 7th: Francis Ford Coppola (1939-), Film Director. The Godfather, Apocalypse Now.

April 13th: Samuel Beckett (1906-1989), Irish Playwright. Waiting for Godot.

April 13th: Seamus Heaney (1939-), Irish Poet, Translator of Beowulf, Nobel Prize in Literature.

April 17th: Thornton Wilder (1897-1975), American Playwright. Our Town, By the Skin of Our Teeth.

April 22nd: Henry Fielding (1707-1754), American Satirical Novelist. Tom Jones, Joseph Andrews.

April 27th: August Wilson (1945-2005), American Playwright. The Pittsburgh Cycle (10 plays).

April 28th: Harper Lee (1926-), American Novelist. To Kill a Mockingbird is her sole work.

April 29th: Yusef Komunyakaa (1947-), American Poet, Pulitzer Prize for Poetry.

Important Dates for Majors

Thursday, April 5, 7:30 in the Theatre Building, Main Stage Mac Mainstage show The Laramie Project Opens

Friday, April 13, 7:00 in the Loft Literary Center at Open Book Mentor Series Reading (feat. Marlon James)

Monday, April 16, 7:00-9:00 in JBD Campus Center Honor Society Poetry Reading with Visiting Poets

Tuesday, April 17, 11:30-1:00 in Davis Court of Markim Hall Poetry Discussion and Lunch with Visiting Poets

Tuesday, May 1, 5:30-7:30 in Olin Rice Courtyard English Department Spring Picnic for English Majors



Quincy Troupe

Winner of the American book Award for Lifetime Literary Achievement Patricia Smith

National book Awards Finalist

7 p.m., Monday, April 16th John B. Davis Lecture hall, Campus Center

Sponsored by
English Honors Society and American Studies at Macalester College
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MACALESTER COLLEGE

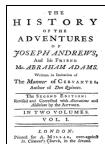


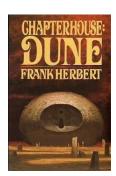
Recommendations from Professors

This month we hear from Professor Neil Chudgar on what he's reading, both for fun and for class.

Henry Fielding, Joseph Andrews. I'm reading this one for English 321, and it's a disturbing pleasure. Every time I come back to this novel, I find a startling new tangle of intellectual and ethical problems—especially when I get to talk about my reading with brilliantly insightful fellow-readers, as I'm lucky enough to be doing right now. The stupid cheerfulness I feel when I'm reading this novel, however, never seems to change—even (or especially) if I find myself chuckling at moments when my conscience disapproves. If you want to know more about this alarming and entertaining book, ask anybody in English 321. You'll get an earful.

Frank Herbert, Chapterhouse: Dune. Recently, I had to visit the place where I grew up; I discovered this book—along with the other four Dune novels—in a box in my mother's basement. I hadn't read the Dune books since junior high, but the startling familiarity of the sci-fi covers made me take them along when I came home to Minnesota. These five books have kept me company all winter. Professor Dawes and his students know much more about how science fiction works than I ever will—my interest in these novels is not academic. Reading the Dune books gives me the consolation of returning to a lost home, recalling a language, a history, a geography, and a scale of values I'd forgotten I ever knew. I do not think that the Dune books are very good books, but I love them. I'm sorry to be finishing the last one. If you are interested, begin with the first book (Dune) and then go from there.







Attention graduating seniors!

Please let us know about your post-grad plans! If you have a job or internship lined up, grad school, heading home to mom and dads...we want to hear about it. Please email us, or just wait for us to pester you. Because we will...you've been warned.

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Jamie Lucarelli '13 <jlucarel@mac> So sad you haven't contacted us yet. Maddie Disner '12 <mdisner@mac> Shocked you are hesitating before emailing us. David Jacobson '13 <djacobs l @mac> So distraught waiting to hear from you he had to go sit in his lonely spot. Graham Sutherland '13
<gsutherl@mac>
So upset you
haven't submitted to the
Waverley yet.









Behold Beopeep!

This year, courtesy of Katie Klos's hours of hard work, David Jacobson's assistance and Neil Chudgar's input, the English Department submitted an admirable exhibit to the annual Peeps Contest. A depiction of a bloody scene from the epic poem, Beowulf, complete with gore and marshmallows. Thank you for all of your efforts English Workers!



Mac Students to Launch Cloud City,

A New Chapbook Press

Coming to Common Good Books on Friday the 13th will be chapbooks published by Cloud City, a new press founded by Macalester Students Oliver St. John and Luke Marcott.



To celebrate Cloud City's first chapbook, Filmpocalypse by Marcott, a reading and launch party will be held at Common Good Books brand new location at 38 Snelling Ave, Saint Paul. The event will begin at 6:30.

"I couldn't be happier to host the launch of Macalester's newest literary project at the neighborhood's newest bookstore!" says assistent manager David Enyeart of Common Good Books.

St. John and Marcott have found the support of hot shot Twin Cities authors, Wang Ping, James Cihlar, and Peter Bognanni to launch the new press.

"What a great start!" wrote Macalester faculty advisor Wang on Cloud City's Facebook Page. "Mac students rock!"

For more information visit <cloudcitypress.tumblr.com>