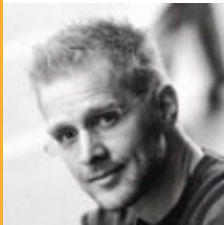


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## Matrix Baby Cannibals to Brave New Worlds

By: Jamie Lucarelli '13



James Dawes

*Science Fiction: From Matrix Baby Cannibals to Brave New Worlds* was a new course offered by

Professor James Dawes in

Spring 2012. Throughout the course, professor and students grappled with the big questions of life through Sci-Fi literature.

"Traditional literature asks: what is beauty? What is truth?" said Dawes. "Why do we exist? Do we really exist?...Sci-Fi addresses these questions directly."

Dawes specializes in Human Rights, saying he could "teach that in his sleep." However, the field of Sci-Fi is completely new to him.

"This is the first time I've taught a class where I didn't have the answers," said Dawes.

In order to lead class discussion in a new area, he draws from various schools of thought—Freud, Einstein, Darwin—any perspective he can use to approach the philosophical content. It is a new exercise for the professor, since in most of his courses he has specific insight or answers to pass on. He also relies heavily on the students.

"I feel like we have a lot of control over where the discussions in the class go...we discover where we're going together," said Dylan Garity '12, a student in the class.

"I'm in awe of Macalester students sometimes," said Dawes, valuing the students con-

tributions and questions. "They understand that we're co-creating the course."

Why did Dawes feel compelled to create a class in such a foreign area?

"I was looking at my kid and he asked me a question about recycling...I realized I was participating in this consumption of the world and I didn't know what was going to be left for him," said Dawes.

"[The current] generation grew up with the knowledge that our process of living could end the species...we look at a world where apocalyptic visions loom and science fiction addresses that."

"The class feels very worthwhile...we talk about things that matter," said Garity.

Cont. on p. 4

## English Department Spring Picnic

The English Department welcomes all majors and minors to our end of the year picnic! It will be held on **Tuesday, May 1st from 5:30-7:30 p.m.** in the **Olin Rice Rock Garden**. (The Rock Garden is on the north side of the Olin Rice building, pictured to the right, follow the smell of food!)

There will picnic fare including vegetarian options (pulled chicken and pork sandwiches, au gratin potatoes, fruit salad, and ice cream). Come hungry and ready to play! Shaw field is nearby and ready for shenanigans, Frisbees will be provided. If there is rain, head to the Smail Gallery.



Olin Rice Rock Garden

# 2012 ACTC English Majors' Conference



Pictured above,  
from left to right:  
Will French '13,  
Nina Slesinger '14,  
Zoë Rodine '13,  
Sylvia Messerole  
'13.

Pictured to the left:  
Juliet Wilhelmi '14.

The ACTC English Major's conference is an annual event at which outstanding work from undergraduate English majors is shared. Professors select works and invite students to read at the half-day conference.

This year's conference was held on Friday, April 20th by Augsburg College. The theme was Amassed Media and papers in the categories of American Literature, British Literature, World & Multicultural Literature, and Film, New Media, & Theory were chosen.

Professor Neil Chudgar accompanied the five nominated Macalester students to the conference and was very pleased, saying "Macalester was very well represented."

Congratulations to those invited to read at the conference, the English Department is proud of your hard work!

The students invited to present at this year's conference:

- In British literature: **Sylvia Messerole '13**, "Sin's Place in the Unholy Trinity."
- In film and media studies: **Zoë Rodine '13**, "Clockwork Singing in the Orange Rain: Collapsing the Space between Kubrick and Kelly."
- In American literature: **Juliet Wilhelmi '14**, "What We Imagine Knowledge to Be: Timing, Process, and the Incipience of Understanding in Elizabeth Bishop."
- In multicultural literature: **Will French '13**, "Transcending Dualities: Double Consciousness and Identity Formation in *The Intuitionist*"
- In creative writing: **Nina Slesinger '14**, "Camphor."

## Prize Winners

### The Academy of American Poets Prize

For the best group of 3 poems by a Macalester Student

Winner: Anna Springfield '13

Honorable Mention: Kerry Alexander '12

### The Gateway Prize for Writing

The Gateway Prize for Excellent Writing is awarded annually to a student who has demonstrated excellent writing skills. The paper written for this prize is judged for readability, clarity, and ability to make and defend an argument.

Winner: Elizabeth Snyder, Biology major and Geography minor, for her essay "The Lost Ones," written for ENGL 105: American Voices

# Seniors, Bright Futures

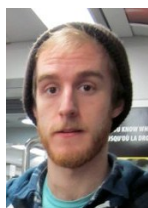
What plans do graduating English Majors have?



**Chelsea Bakalar**

Working at MATCH corps and completing a MATCH teacher residency tutoring grades k-3 in literacy and math.

Simultaneously completing training to receive a teacher certification in Boston, MA.



**Keith Armstrong**

Awarded a Fulbright ETA Grant and will be using it to be an English-Language TA in Barranquilla, Colombia at the Universidad del Norte. Also pursuing an independent project.



**Sarah Mintz**

Received a position as a Community Outreach and Communications Coordinator for Free Minds (a book club and writing workshop for young prison inmates) through Avodah (a Jewish service organization associated with Americorp) in Washington, D.C.



**Jane Bonsall**

Accepted into a yearlong masters program in Medieval Literature and Culture at the University of Edinburgh.



**Anna Waggener**

She will remain in the Twin Cities to pursue opportunities in publishing and focus on her own writing.



**Zachary Albus**

Staying in the Twin Cities and working as a part-time legal intern (at R. Mark Frey), part-time law student, and part-time novelist.



**Lorin Leake**

Teaching High School English with Teach for America for the next two years in Appalachia, eastern Kentucky specifically.



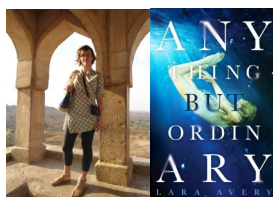
**David Isenberg**

Working on a fishing boat in Alaska and finishing his screenplay.

Best of luck to these, and the rest, of the graduating seniors in the English Department. We know you'll do great things and hope you'll stay in touch. Congratulations!

## Mac Alum gets Disney Deal

A "Life After Graduation" Feature



Lara Avery '10 has a deal with Disney/Hyperion for her first book *Anything But Ordinary*, which will be published in September.

She found her way to publication through an interesting path. First, it started with her blog. She's been writing one since graduation and a friend showed it to a friend in Alloy Entertainment. This friend of a friend loved the blog and hired her to write a story based on an idea Alloy already owned. Working with Alloy staff, she outlined the first few chapters of the book and then fleshed them out herself.

When the first few chapters were shopped around, there was a bidding war among Major YA publishers, and in the end the Disney affiliate bought it. Now there are rumors of a movie, which Lara would also receive royalties for. Congratulations Lara!



BOOK GROUP



## Science Fiction (cont. from p. 1)

The course was extremely popular. "It was the proudest moment of my academic career when the registrar told me it was the first course in the entire college to fill up," said Dawes.

Since the course was in such high demand, only graduating seniors were let in this year.

However, Dawes plans to offer the course every spring and will devise a system to

save seats for underclassmen next time around.

The course lets in 20 students and will still fill quickly.

"He's the most engaging professor I've ever had," said Garity.

"Everyone should take a class with Dawes before they graduate."

### The Reading List

*Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* - Philip K. Dick  
*Solaris* - Stanislaw Lem  
*The Parable of the Sower* - Octavia Butler  
*Never Let Me Go* - Kazuo Ishiguro  
*A Canticle for Leibowitz* - Walter M. Miller  
*Oryx and Crake* - Margaret Atwood  
*Accelerando* - Charles Stross  
*Embassytown* - China Mieville  
*The Children of Men* - P.D. James  
*We* - Yevgeny Zamyatin  
*The Three Stigmata of Palmer Eldritch* - Philip K. Dick

## MacSlam Takes Second Place!

*College Unions Poetry Slam Invitational 2012 Final Results*

*A Press Release from The Association of College Unions International (ACUI)*

The 2012 CUPSI was hosted by ACUI and the University of La Verne, April 18–21, during which teams of poets representing 48 colleges and universities from across the United States competed for top honors in collegiate performance poetry. Additionally, more than 350 delegates had the opportunity to participate in workshops, local tours, and more. This year's event marked the highest attendance in history.

ACUI is proud to announce the final team standings for the 12th annual College Unions Poetry Slam Invitational:

- 1st Place - New York University
- 2nd Place - **Macalester College**
- 3rd Place - University of California-Berkeley
- 4th Place - Stanford University

The 4 teams competed in the final bout on Saturday, April 21 at 7 p.m. at the Sports & Athletics Pavilion at the University of La Verne. Macalester College's Dylan Garity was named Best Poet at the competition.

The College Unions Poetry Slam Invitational is the only licensed poetry slam tournament bringing college students together to showcase their talents. Poetry slam is the competitive art of performance poetry.

Preliminary round scores, semi-final round scores, the full schedule, and more detailed information may be found at <[www.acui.org/poetryslam](http://www.acui.org/poetryslam)>

Congratulations to MacSlam and Dylan Garity (pictured right, in performance)!

*MacSlam Members: Dylan Garity '12, Rachel Rostad '15, Abbie Shain '14, Anna Binkovitz '14, Niko Martell '13, Kat Fleckenstein '14*



# Renowned Poets visit Macalester

By: Graham Sutherland '13 and Maddie Disner '12

On April 16th, the English Honor Society brought two accomplished poets to Macalester College and the student body welcomed them, filling most of JBD to see them. Patricia Smith commanded the audience with poems in various forms, including persona poems on everything from a skinhead to Hurricane Katrina. She took breaks in between, and during, poems to joke with the students and engage them in conversation. When Smith reads, she hopes to break down the barrier between the poet and the audience.

Quincy Troupe had a different style, going through poem after poem without a break, no patterns or forms to be found. Their styles reflect their backgrounds: Smith is a four-time individual National Poetry Slam champion and really tries to engage the audience in conversation; Troupe's main influence is contemporary, and his free-flowing performance demonstrated that.

The next day, both poets met with students for lunch and discussion. There, both poets spoke about their influences, goals and reasons for writing. Smith, who grew up in Chicago, tries to be a voice for the generation of people of color whose parents migrated North to the Midwest from the South, a large population with little representation.

After reading poets like Gwendolyn Brooks who "taught her that little colored girls from Chicago had power and

strength," she began to write to foster that conviction. At 8 years old she realized that the world was a story she could tell, taking influence from the stories her father would tell her about his coworkers and neighbors. She started out writing persona poems to try and understand others' perspectives, but embraced conventional forms as her poetry evolved.

For Smith, each poem has a form it wants to be in and the poet just needs to find the right one. Now she writes late into the night, fiddling with meter and form until she finds the right one.



Her advice to aspiring poets? Don't categorize yourself too soon as a writer of a certain type; explore different genres if they seem fitting and be receptive to suggestions about how to strengthen the effect of your work.

Troupe's began writing poetry in a unique way. He was playing basketball for the US Army stationed in France in his early twenties when he began writing a book (which Troupe says was terrible) about the "African -American experience" in Europe, and all the girls he met there. His then girlfriend sug-



gested he show it to a friend of hers to get some feedback. Troupe describes this man as a short Frenchman, of whom he knew nothing, who suggested he turn to poetry to improve his use of language. This small Frenchman turned out to be Jean-Paul Sartre, the extremely influential existential philosopher and novelist. With this advice in mind, along with the tip from literary giant Toni Morrison that you can't create by sitting in front of a computer screen, he began his artistic self-exploration.

Troupe says that his poetry is like playing basketball, you have to create in the air, and for him self-competition is the greatest motivator. Troupe believes that Americans can create new, unique forms from drawing on experience and using language in new ways. Troupe, unlike Smith, desires innovation in form. He wants to "shake up the audience" and "bust students' heads wide open." For Troupe, that is the essence of creativity.

Both poets are published by Coffee House Press, a Minneapolis-based publisher, and have released books this year. Smith's new book is *Shoulda Been Jimi*

## We Need T-shirt Designs!

We are still looking for 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 be used! Keep an eye out over the summer for inspiration, or even something to copy. There will be a glorious prize awarded to the creator of the winning submission. Help all the English majors look fly next year.

Please send a jpeg of your design to Jan Beebe. <jbeebe@macalester.edu>



# ENGLISH

## Newsletter Staff

Senior Editor

Jamie Lucarelli

Associate Editors

Graham Sutherland

David Jacobson

Maddie Disner



Maddie Disner '12  
"That's so cute."



David Jacobson '13  
"Peace, hombres."



Graham Sutherland '13  
"I promised myself I wouldn't cry..."



Jamie Lucarelli '13  
"It's okay, Graham."



Rudy Henriquez '14  
"Hey."

This year we say goodbye to our "cute-ologist", Maddie Disner. She is graduating and sure to do wondrous, adorable things. Stay in touch Maddie! To attempt to replace her, we welcome Rudy Henriquez to the editing team for the next academic school year.

Have a great summer everyone, we'll be here in the fall, asking you to write about it.

## Birthday Babes

May 7 - Rabindranath Tagore – Indian poet and writer (1861 - 1941)

May 16 - Adrienne Rich – American feminist poet and essayist (1929 - 2012)

May 18 - Bertrand Russell – British writer and philosopher (1872 - 1970)

May 20 - Honoré de Balzac – French novelist (1799 - 1850)

May 21 - Alexander Pope – British poet (1688 – 1744)

May 22 - Sir Arthur Conan Doyle – Creator of *Sherlock Holmes* (1859 - 1930)

May 24 - Marian Engel – Canadian novelist (1933 - 1985)

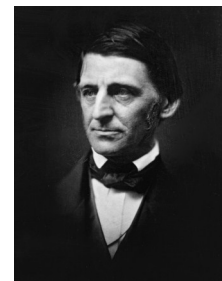
May 25 - Ralph Waldo Emerson – American poet, essayist and philosopher (1803 - 1882)

May 27 - Herman Wouk – American novelist (1915 - )

May 31 - Walt Whitman – American poet (1819 - 1892)



Adrienne Rich, passed away  
March 27th, 2012



"What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us."

-Ralph Waldo Emerson