

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

# reach

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS



## VISIONARIES

Reframing our world

WINTER 2014

## 7

**VISIONARIES**

A new generation of leaders is emerging from CLA's graduate programs, reframing the world with intelligence and optimism

BY MARY PATTOCK

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**<< ON THE COVER**

Illustration by  
Tang Yau Hoong

**2 FIELD OF INQUIRY**

Another Nobelist, a new dean, spotlight on grad student research

**8 THE MAKING OF A CONDUCTOR**

Benjamin Klemme  
BY CHELSEA REYNOLDS

**12 HOW COMMUNITIES MOVE FROM WAR TO PEACE**

Shannon Golden  
BY SHARON SCHMICKLE

**14 ORGANIZING CHAOS: CREATIVITY OR PSYCHOSIS?**

Rachael Grazioplene  
BY KATE STANLEY

**16 LAW ENFORCEMENT: MORE IS NOT ALWAYS BETTER**

Enoch Hill and David Perez-Reyna  
BY JOE KIMBALL

**18 ARAB AMERICANS IN THE MOVIES: THE CULTURAL "OTHER"**

Waleed Mahdi  
BY KATE STANLEY

## > NEW VISTAS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

This issue of *Reach* provides a glimpse into the research and creativity of CLA graduate students across an array of fields — from French language and literature to economics, music, geography, psychology, sociology, American studies, and creative writing. Their stories demonstrate how crucially important graduate education is for the development of new knowledge and imagination to propel the liberal arts to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

When we rightly speak of the inestimable value of the liberal arts to students and, in turn, to society, we often have in mind the virtues of an undergraduate liberal arts education. But in order to fully appreciate the vital role of the liberal arts, we must also recognize how intellectual inquiry and expression deepen in insight and grow in relevance at the graduate level. For it is frequently the case that graduate students push the frontiers of knowledge and creativity with research that blazes new trails and opens new vistas. Since the liberal arts do not remain static, but instead evolve around an enduring core, the world depends on the research and creative work of each new generation to set the framework of changing knowledge, and pass that knowledge on to the succeeding generation.

We take pride in the exceptionally high quality of our College of Liberal Arts graduate programs, and especially in the innovative research and creative work of our graduate students. After reading the stories here, which illustrate the larger contributions, you will likely share our excitement about the accomplishments of CLA graduate students.

This is the last issue of *Reach* to appear under the gifted editorial hand of Mary Pattock, as she moves into retirement. Mary has transformed *Reach*, establishing it as a prize-winning magazine widely recognized as exemplary in its artful and readerly representation of CLA. We will miss Mary's graceful and insightful leadership of the magazine, and we wish her the best in retirement. Please join me in thanking Mary heartily for her making *Reach* such a magnificent journal.



RAYMOND DUVAL  
Interim Dean,  
College of Liberal Arts

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Raymond Duvall". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

### DEAR READERS

For five and a half years I have taken both pleasure and pride in creating this showcase for the brilliant and oh-so-relevant research and creative activity that takes place at CLA and that informs our instructional and service missions. I hope you have enjoyed reading our stories as much as I have enjoyed presenting them to you. » Now I am retiring from the University, and looking forward to a chapter of more leisurely freelance and creative writing. » There will not be another issue of *Reach* this year, which is, as you know, a time of transition between deans; the college will let you know about the future of the magazine for the long term. » Thank you for being the readership half of this magazine equation; thanks to those who sent us news and comments, and who shared the magazine and its stories with others. » Thanks most of all for your continuing, loyal, support of the College of Liberal Arts.

- MARY PATTOCK, EDITOR

### 19 HELP FOR WATER-STARVED COUNTRIES

Basil Mahayni

BY MARY PATTOCK

### 20 FINDING IRIS

Fiction

BY JONATHAN ESCOFFERY

### 22 BOUND TO PLEASE

Books by CLA people

### 24 ON A PERSONAL NOTE

Alumni news from near and far

### 26 THE LIVES THEY LED

In memory

### 29 FOR THE LOVE OF LEARNING

Philanthropy news

### BACK COVER

Arts calendar

## CLA HAS A NEW DEAN

John Coleman, chair of the University of Wisconsin-Madison's highly rated political science department, will become CLA's new dean effective July 31, 2014, pending approval by the Board of Regents in February.

He will succeed Interim Dean Raymond Duvall, formerly CLA's political science chair, who served after James Parente, Jr., stepped down in June 2013 to return to teaching in the Department of German, Scandinavian, and Dutch. Parente had been dean since 2008.

Coleman earned his B.A., *summa cum laude*, in government and history from Clark University and his Ph.D. in political science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. At UW, in addition to chairing its political science department, he chaired the College of Letters and Science curriculum committee, and was Letters and Science representative to the campus education innovation initiative.

An expert in political parties and elections, he is the author or editor of six books, and is frequently interviewed by the news media about current events.



BRYCE RICHTER

John Coleman

In announcing the appointment, Provost Karen Hanson cited Coleman's successes at UW in the areas of interdisciplinary collaborations, internships, diversity in faculty searches, enhanced shared government and communication, reforms in teaching and advising, and fundraising.

She said Coleman led his department through a period of severe budgetary challenges and "managed to restore confidence, rebuild the department, enhance its research profile, and reinvigorate undergraduate and graduate educational programs...."

She said CLA has "the potential to lead the nation in building new paradigms for research and education in the liberal arts," and that Coleman would continue to build on work outlined in the much-praised *CLA 2015 Committee Report* submitted by faculty and staff to Dean Parente in 2010.

Hanson chose Coleman from among four candidates put forward after a national search by a 20-member search committee of CLA faculty, staff and students, which was chaired by Tom Fisher, dean of the College of Design.

With nearly 14,000 undergraduate and 1,700 graduate students—nearly half the students on the Twin Cities campus, CLA is the University's largest college, as well the largest college—public or private—in Minnesota. ∞

For more information: [z.umn.edu/clasearchdean](http://z.umn.edu/clasearchdean)

For *CLA 2015 Report*: [z.umn.edu/cla2015](http://z.umn.edu/cla2015)

- MARY PATTOCK

## \$1.5 MILLION MAKES A HUMAN RIGHTS DIFFERENCE

With the support of a \$1.25 million grant from the United States Agency for International Development, CLA's Human Rights Program has entered into an international human rights partnership designed to help young law students address human rights issues in their home country of Colombia.

Though Colombia is one of the oldest democracies in Latin America, its political and legal system has not been able to protect many fundamental human rights, particularly for vulnerable populations like displaced persons, girls and women, and indigenous and Afro-descendant groups. Meanwhile it contends

with insurgents, paramilitary groups, and narcotics traffickers who jeopardize the political, social, and cultural freedoms of Colombian citizens. The hope of this partnership is that providing Colombian law students and faculty with additional human rights education, work experience, and exchange opportunities will help them to better defend the rights of the people they represent.

In addition to the HRP, the program involves the U of M Law School's Human Rights Center and four universities in Medellín, Colombia.

Just a year old, the partnership has already had an impact. There is a new legal clinic at

Universidad Católica de Oriente. CLA human rights faculty have offered short courses in Medellín and provided supplemental classes for Colombian faculty via Skype. Students and faculty from Minnesota and Medellín are drafting a report for the United Nations on children's rights and hosting workshops on strategic human rights advocacy for Colombian leaders and decision-makers.

Last fall, the HRP hosted two Colombian law students for six weeks of study and internships at Twin Cities nonprofit organizations, including the Center for Victims of Torture and Advocates for Human Rights.

## CLA NOBELIST: HOW TO DO SOMETHING – NOT EVERYTHING

Lars Peter Hansen, Ph.D. '78, won the 2013 Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences, becoming the seventh scholar associated with CLA to do so. He shares the prize with Eugene Fama of the University of Chicago and Robert Shiller of Yale University.

In an interview with the *New York Times*, Hansen, now an economics professor at the University of Chicago, described the innovative statistical technique for which he won the prize as “a method that allows you to do something without having to do everything.” The approach, called the generalized method of moments, allows economists and other social scientists to model impossibly complex problems about which much is unknown in ways that are still statistically valid.

Hansen began to shape his perspective as a doctoral student at CLA, working with two future (2011) Nobelists: his adviser, Thomas Sargent, now at New York University, and Christopher Sims, now at Princeton, who served on Hansen’s

dissertation committee. Hanson has since co-authored dozens of publications with Sargent, and continues to collaborate with Sims.

Besides Hansen, Sargent and Sims, the other Nobelists associated with CLA’s Department of Economics are: Robert Shiller (2013), Leo Hurwicz (2007), Edward Prescott (2004), Daniel McFadden (2000), George Stigler (1982), and Milton Friedman (1976). CLA also claims a Nobelist in Literature: Saul Bellow (1976). ∞

*Learn more on Nobel Foundation website: [z.umn.edu/larspeterhansen](http://z.umn.edu/larspeterhansen)*

- MARY PATTOCK

*This version corrects the print version, which omitted some of the Nobelists associated with the Department of Economics. We regret that error.*



© NOBEL MEDIA AB 2013. PHOTO: ALEXANDER LJUNGAHL

CLA alumnus Lars Peter Hansen receiving the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences from His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden

## ACCOLADES

**Alan Love** and co-principal investigator **William Wimsatt** won a \$425,000 grant from the John Templeton Foundation.

**Chris Larson** was accepted into the 2014 Whitney Biennial.

**Gene Borgida, Abdi Samatar, Robert McMaster, Mary Kennedy, and Benjamin Muson** were named fellows of their respective scholarly academies.

**Joan Tronto** received an honorary doctorate from the University for Humanistic Studies in Utrecht, Netherlands.

**These and more at: [z.umn.edu/accolades](http://z.umn.edu/accolades)**

For CLA students who engage in research projects and with visiting Colombia students and faculty, the partnership is an opportunity to adjust their perspectives on international cooperation. Deeply involved in changing the landscape of human rights in Colombia, they gain first-hand experience in what it takes to turn plans into action. ∞

- MEGAN UNZELMAN



Human Rights Program alumna Anna Kaminsky (left) and Visiting Professor Sandra Gómez Santamaría from the University of Antioquia, Colombia, who last September completed a three-week externship with the Human Rights Program



## MAKING MEANINGFUL MATH

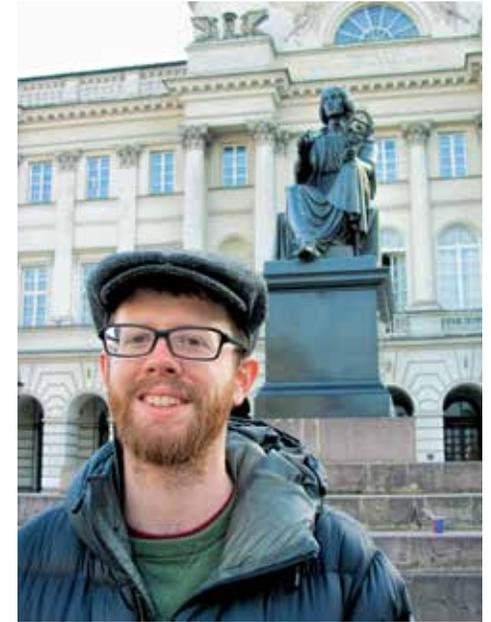
Heliocentric model from Nicolaus Copernicus's *De revolutionibus orbium coelestium*

Sometime around the year 150, Alexandrian astronomer Claudius Ptolemy published the *Almagest* (“The Greatest”), which provided geometric models for how celestial bodies—including stars and the Sun—orbit Earth. Ptolemy’s cosmology dominated scientific thought for 1,500 years. But in the Middle Ages, Nicolaus Copernicus’s heliocentric theory superseded Ptolemy’s. Why? Because mathematicians agreed Copernican astronomy better described real movements within our solar system.

Like Medieval astronomers, today’s mathematicians select certain models over others. Shay Logan, doctoral student of philosophy, studies how

mathematics communities determine which formulas are valuable. “When mathematicians reflect on their discipline, they look to philosophers,” he says. “If philosophers ignore the fact that good math models reality, then mathematicians also ignore that.” Logan’s goal is to help scholars achieve results that have real-world meaning. His dissertation, which is funded by the National Science Foundation, provides recommendations for selecting theorems that accurately represent the phenomena they try to explain. “My work introduces vocabulary that makes distinctions between what makes good mathematics models and ones that aren’t worth pursuing,” he says. Logan’s research could aid professors in training students to make better theoretical decisions. It could also provide funding agencies with tools to determine which studies merit grants. ∞

- CHELSEA REYNOLDS



### SHAY LOGAN

*Ph.D. candidate in philosophy, supported by a National Science Foundation grant and a Graduate School fellowship*

## CLIMATE CHANGE: THE DATA BEHIND THE DYNAMIC

LISA MILLER



### LINDSEY DIETZ

*Ph.D. candidate in statistics, supported by a School of Statistics Alumni Fellowship*

For Lindsey Dietz, it was a perfect fit.

Her long-time research interests had been the environment and statistical modeling of natural processes. Upon entering the University of Minnesota’s graduate statistics program in 2011, she learned that her advisor was working on data-driven approaches to understanding climate change.

“I immediately contacted him and began working in this exciting area,” she says.

“The study of climate change is in desperate need of statisticians who can help reconcile the complexity of the problems with methods that provide tractable answers,” Dietz says.

Millions of people stand to benefit from the answers she is helping to develop. For example, her statistical modeling has shown how the maximum wind speed and the minimum central pressure of Atlantic tropical storms relate to each other—and, in some hurricane categories, lead to more potential for destruction.

Such findings not only lead to a better understanding of the physics of climate change. Ultimately, they also shed light on questions of how to adapt to—and, possibly, mitigate—its effects.

Looking ahead, Dietz says, “Ideally, my work could help inform policy makers which may in turn help save lives now, and in the future.” ∞

- SHARON SCHMICKLE

## SKILLED LABOR FOR THE DEVELOPING WORLD

Brenton Wiernik hopes to resolve a major concern in developed economies: the shortage of highly skilled industrial workers, even in the face of high unemployment.

The second-year Ph.D. student is conducting global research on the psychology of the problem, following a stint as a visiting scholar at the German Institute for Labor Statistics.

A big part of the problem, Wiernik says, is a cultural bias against skilled labor.

“We’re finding that young people don’t think that working as a plumber, welder, or electrician is a ‘real’ occupation. They often equate those jobs with being a fast-food worker,” he says.

While economists have long pondered the skilled labor shortage and anthropologists have considered the skilled-worker stigma, Wiernik brings psychological insights to the issue. He looks for consistent characteristics in those highly satisfied with their skilled labor positions, to help counselors and vocational trainers identify people who might be suited for the work.

“People who thrive in these jobs are defined by curiosity; they like to solve problems; they’re relatively introverted and like to do things on their own,” he says.

Based on Wiernik’s research, a counselor might urge students with these characteristics—particularly those who like to fix things, but aren’t interested in a four-year degree—to try an apprenticeship to determine if the work might be interesting and rewarding.

He’s also studying the psychology of global occupational migration. Basing his work on surveys of people who voluntarily take jobs in countries other than their own, Wiernik hypothesizes that migrants who flee difficult economic conditions tend to be more willing to push themselves and take risks.

“I expect to find that those willing to accept the risks of migration tend to be dependable, reliable, goal-oriented, and better performers,” Wiernik says.

“This might suggest that immigrants represent a valuable population, even if they’re not highly educated or have other factors usually associated with success.” ∞

- JOE KIMBALL



LISA MILLER

### BRENTON WIERNIK

*Ph.D. candidate in psychology, supported by a National Science Foundation grant and a CLA fellowship*

## IMMIGRANT WOMEN: THE POWERFUL AND THE POWERLESS

“I am not a criminal,” said the woman Luz Hernandez was interviewing. “I did not rob anyone or kill anyone. I was working and that’s not a crime. Why call me a criminal?”

After federal officials arrested nearly 400 undocumented workers at a Postville, Iowa, meatpacking plant in 2008, Hernandez, a doctoral student of linguistics, worked with a response team to assist the detainees. She interviewed many who were later deported to Guatemala and Mexico, and some mothers with dependent children who were allowed to remain in the United States.

She is now incorporating that experience into her doctoral research by analyzing interviews she has conducted with women from the raid.

“Looking at how they perceive and explain what happened to them, we can see how the women felt when the raid occurred,” Hernandez says. “We can learn how they perceive the immigration system that criminalized them and the linguistics they use to interpret their situations.

“They don’t see themselves as victims; they feel they were fighting each day to provide for their families in a foreign culture,” Hernandez says.

The linguistic analysis will tell Hernandez many things about ideology, gender, social structures and beliefs, which may be helpful to advocacy groups working with immigrants or officials seeking the perspective of those arrested.

“Using linguistics to investigate social issues can help us examine the relationship between power and the powerless,” says Hernandez, who has two bachelor’s degrees and a master’s degree from Mexico’s Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla.\*

Working in the University of Minnesota’s small but internationally known Hispanic Linguistics Department, Hernandez says she hopes to finish her doctoral work in 2014, then get a job doing research and teaching at a college or university. ∞

- JOE KIMBALL

\* corrected from print version



### LUZ HERNANDEZ

*Ph.D. candidate in Hispanic linguistics, supported by a U of M Diversity of Views and Experiences (DOVE) Fellowship*

LIBERTY LEADING THE PEOPLE BY EUGENE DELACROIX



## ROOTS OF LIBERTÉ – BEFORE THE REVOLUTION

Anna Rosensweig is interested in old French plays about “really powerful kings”—but not so much because of the kings.

What intrigues her most is how other characters in these plays resist the tyranny of monarchs. Since starting her doctoral studies in French in 2007, she’s delved deep into the theater of 17th-century France to identify such expressions of protest.

While the public conversation about literature’s role in promoting human rights has broadened a great deal in recent years, she explains, it tends to focus on texts written during and after the 18th century.

Rosensweig understands why this is so. “The 18th century is when our modern idea of human rights really emerges,” she says. “We can trace the modern rights of the individual in part to important documents of the French Revolution.”

But Rosensweig’s research suggests that the 18th century doesn’t actually mark the first appearance of the modern idea of liberty in literature. French theater from the previous century suggests it as well. For example, she says, “Characters protest the king’s

decisions on very personal grounds—and also connect their complaints to the power of a wider community.”

“For example,” says Rosensweig, “there are a couple of plays I have studied in which a widow objects to the king’s decision to kill her husband. She warns the king that her slain husband’s descendants and followers will rise up against him in the future.”

Rosensweig is finishing her dissertation with a Charlotte W. Newcombe Fellowship, a program created by the Woodrow Wilson Foundation to support Ph.D. candidates investigating religion and ethics. Ultimately, she hopes, her work will advance society’s understanding of the possibilities for political opposition and of the principles that sustain human rights.

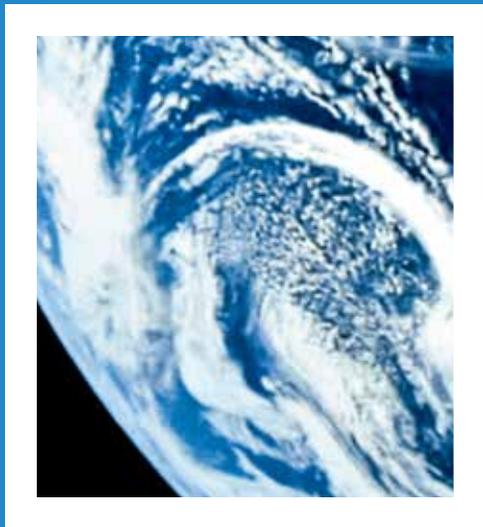
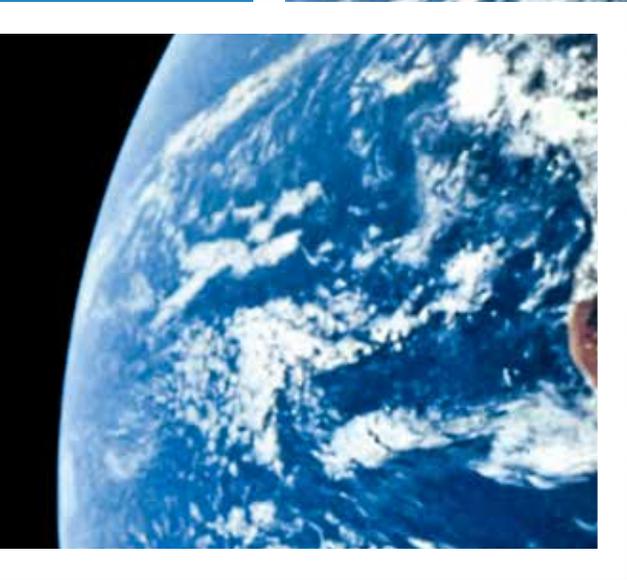
There’s something enchanting about reaching into a 400-year-old play and finding the roots of modern liberty. And while it should not be remarkable that a scholar’s dissertation about old French tales, tyrannical kings, and protesting widows can shed light on the workings of today’s world, somehow it is. ∞

– KATE STANLEY



### ANNA ROSENSWEIG

*Ph.D. candidate in French, supported by a Woodrow Wilson Foundation Charlotte Newcomb Dissertation Fellowship and CLA’s Hella Mears Fellowship for German and European Studies*



# VISIONARIES

## Reframing our world

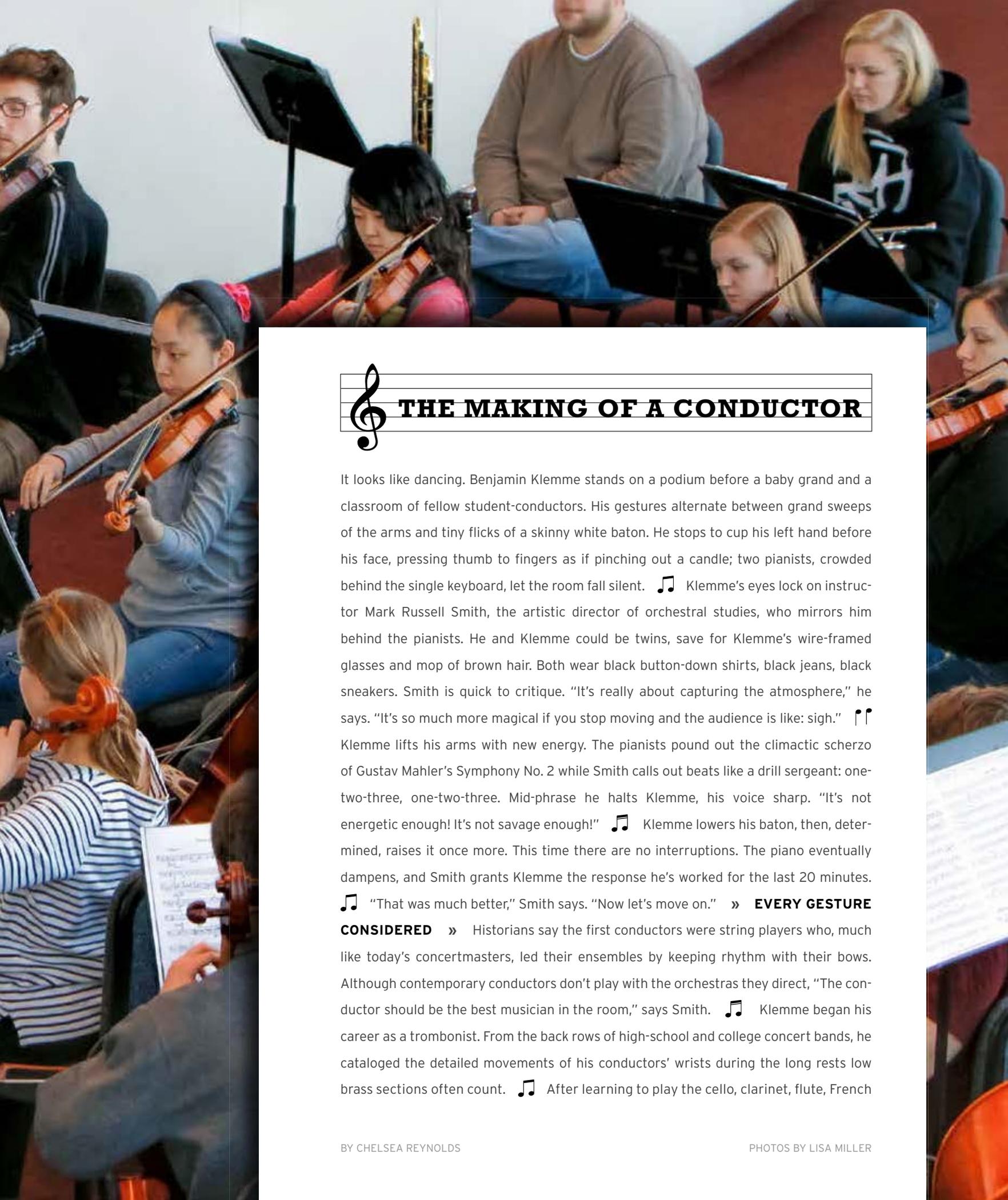
Some say we live in an Age of Irony—when it’s hip to be cynical, cool to mock dreamers, and many of our popular movies are apocalyptic. One wonders where such a downward-spiraling perspective could possibly lead a nation and a world.

» But we see things differently at CLA. We have plenty of reasons to nurture positive perspectives, and among them are our 1,500 graduate students. » Extraordinarily bright, and partnering with faculty who are among the best in the world in their respective fields, these scholars are up-and-coming thought-leaders, researchers, teachers, artists, business and political leaders—creators of the future. » Today, as they pursue master’s and doctoral degrees, CLA grad students are tackling such important issues of our time as climate change, human rights, immigration, water scarcity, and mental health. » What I hope you’ll notice as you read about them in this issue of *Reach* is how optimistic they are, how they are meticulously constructing their arguments and projects—based on knowledge of their disciplines, fueled by imagination and good will. » They believe that what they are learning and creating here at CLA can help them make the world a better place, and they are building their professional lives on that commitment. » We celebrate them because they will prove the cynics wrong, because they are the leaders our world needs now. They are visionaries.

- MARY PATTOCK, EDITOR

Benjamin Klemme rehearsing musicians for the opera, *The Bartered Bride*





## THE MAKING OF A CONDUCTOR

It looks like dancing. Benjamin Klemme stands on a podium before a baby grand and a classroom of fellow student-conductors. His gestures alternate between grand sweeps of the arms and tiny flicks of a skinny white baton. He stops to cup his left hand before his face, pressing thumb to fingers as if pinching out a candle; two pianists, crowded behind the single keyboard, let the room fall silent. 🎵 Klemme's eyes lock on instructor Mark Russell Smith, the artistic director of orchestral studies, who mirrors him behind the pianists. He and Klemme could be twins, save for Klemme's wire-framed glasses and mop of brown hair. Both wear black button-down shirts, black jeans, black sneakers. Smith is quick to critique. "It's really about capturing the atmosphere," he says. "It's so much more magical if you stop moving and the audience is like: sigh." 🎵 Klemme lifts his arms with new energy. The pianists pound out the climactic scherzo of Gustav Mahler's Symphony No. 2 while Smith calls out beats like a drill sergeant: one-two-three, one-two-three. Mid-phrase he halts Klemme, his voice sharp. "It's not energetic enough! It's not savage enough!" 🎵 Klemme lowers his baton, then, determined, raises it once more. This time there are no interruptions. The piano eventually dampens, and Smith grants Klemme the response he's worked for the last 20 minutes. 🎵 "That was much better," Smith says. "Now let's move on." » **EVERY GESTURE CONSIDERED** » Historians say the first conductors were string players who, much like today's concertmasters, led their ensembles by keeping rhythm with their bows. Although contemporary conductors don't play with the orchestras they direct, "The conductor should be the best musician in the room," says Smith. 🎵 Klemme began his career as a trombonist. From the back rows of high-school and college concert bands, he cataloged the detailed movements of his conductors' wrists during the long rests low brass sections often count. 🎵 After learning to play the cello, clarinet, flute, French



Benjamin Klemme, candidate for a Doctor of Musical Arts in Orchestra Conducting degree, is supported by a graduate assistantship.

horn, and trumpet, he grew confident in his ability to communicate music not only to an audience but also to the performers themselves. He understands how a saxophonist breathes. He knows how a violinist bows. It's crucial to how he translates a musical score to an orchestra: Klemme inhales with the horns, swoops with the strings. That the conductor's postures mimic his musicians' is not coincidental.

"The conductor comes to the first rehearsal with every note as part of him, every gesture thought about and considered," Klemme says.

But manifesting rhythm through one's body is just a small part of a conductor's work. If the podium performance is the iceberg's tip, then rigorous research is its underwater mass. For each piece Klemme conducts, he puts in hours

of painstaking study to understand the historical, cultural, and political context in which it was written.

"I want to know where the composers were living, what they were doing for work, if there were special circumstances about the work they produced—if the piece was commissioned or written for an event," Klemme says. He digs through newspaper clippings, reads letters sent between composers and friends. He's part historian, part psychologist.

Although Klemme argues no conductor can relay composers' emotions entirely, he does his utmost. "There are only imperfect performances," he says. "But we have an ideal. We try to advocate for the composers and understand the compositions in the context of the 20th century."

### Translating a musical heritage for today's audiences

Such skills are not innate. Every conductor must be taught how to translate effectively music written perhaps hundreds of years ago for modern musicians and modern audiences.

Seasoned conductors like Smith pass this knowledge on to novices like a family heirloom. "The world is changing. The role of classical music is changing. But I so firmly believe in its intrinsic value," Smith says. "I still believe in its power and the necessity for civilized people to have it. I pour everything I have into sharing that legacy with my students."

This conducting style isn't about flamboyance or pleasing audiences. It's about understanding and interpreting music, which is why Klemme spends as much time behind books as he does on a podium.

Maestro, as Klemme calls Smith, has conducted the St. Louis Symphony, Houston Symphony, Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, and Minnesota Orchestra, among others, and has collaborated with Yo-Yo Ma. A Juilliard-trained cellist, he studied conducting at Philadelphia's Curtis Institute of Music under virtuoso conductors Max Rudolf and Otto-Werner Mueller. Like his mentors, Smith belongs to what he calls the *alte schule* (old school) conducting tradition. As much a philosophy as a physical approach, this European style isn't about flamboyance or pleasing audiences. It's about understanding and interpreting music, which is why Klemme spends as much time behind books as he does on a podium.

And that's saying something. Klemme estimates he's on stage at least 12 hours each week. He conducts the Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphonies and the MacPhail Center for Music's Chamber Orchestra. He's guest-conducted the Cleveland Pops Orchestra, National Repertory Orchestra, and others. Today, when he's not

conducting rehearsals for the University's Campus Orchestra, Symphony Orchestra, or Opera Theatre, or working on personal projects, he's likely within a stone's throw of Smith, soaking up advice. "Sometimes he will get a twinkle in his eye, and he'll recall a certain time he learned something from Max Rudolf, and he'll share that with me," Klemme says. "It's a tremendous privilege."

Meanwhile Smith says it's a privilege to impart knowledge to students. His pedagogy combines tough love with compassionate guidance. His doctoral conducting seminar is ordered and quiet, aside from piano chords or a student's foot tapping the beat. His orchestras are attentive, all eyes fixed on his baton. He says the key is to instruct using both the brain and the heart.

"It's not my goal to make a bunch of little 'me's.' It's my goal to help each student find his or her unique nonverbal language," Smith says.

Klemme hopes to engage a similar approach as a professor of conducting. A James Sample Conducting Fellow, he will graduate in spring 2014 with a doctor of musical arts degree. ∞

Chelsea Reynolds is a doctoral student in CLA's School of Journalism and Mass Communication. She has worked as a research assistant for the Association of Health Care Journalists and as an instructor of news writing at the Missouri School of Journalism. She has written for *Men's Health*, *Better Homes and Gardens*, and *Midwest Living*, among other publications.



**KLEMMER CONDUCTS  
SPRING 2014  
PERFORMANCES**

- 
**GREATER TWIN CITIES  
YOUTH SYMPHONIES SINFONIA AND  
CONCERT ORCHESTRA**  
 Sunday, February 23, 2014  
 7:30 p.m.  
 Hopkins High School Auditorium
- 
**UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
CAMPUS ORCHESTRAS**  
 Thursday, March 13, 2014  
 7:30 p.m.  
 Ted Mann Concert Hall
- 
**GREATER TWIN CITIES  
YOUTH SYMPHONIES  
CONCERT ORCHESTRA**  
 Sunday, April 13, 2014  
 2:00 p.m.  
 Minnesota Landscape Arboretum
- 
**GREATER TWIN CITIES  
YOUTH SYMPHONIES  
SPRING FESTIVAL CONCERT**  
 Sunday, May 4, 2014  
 3:00 p.m.  
 Orchestra Hall (Minneapolis)
- 
**UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
CAMPUS ORCHESTRAS**  
 Friday, May 9, 2014  
 7:30 p.m.  
 Ted Mann Concert Hall
- 
**MACPHAIL CENTER FOR MUSIC  
PLAY-IN AND ORCHESTRA CONCERT**  
 Saturday, May 10, 2014  
 11:00 a.m.  
 DeLaSalle High School  
 (Downtown Minneapolis)



## The science of moving from war to peace

BY SHARON SCHMICKLE

For two decades, Northern Ugandans lived a real-life horror story. Conflict between the Lord's Resistance Army and the government ravaged their districts, displacing whole villages and forcing children to become soldiers or sex slaves.

Now, three hard-hit villages are rebuilding—goat by goat, loan by loan and flour sack by flour sack—using strategies that also help restore shattered relationships.

One contribution to that effort came from Shannon Golden, a Ph.D. sociology student. The villagers, notwithstanding their trauma, had opened their homes and painful personal stories for her research into the conflict's impact on relationships that cement community cohesion.

Golden felt obliged to give something back.

"I realized how much I had taken from this exchange," she says. "I was getting material for my dissertation, and that was going to jump-start my career."

Thus began the quest for a thank-you gift.

### "A great gesture"

That humane response reflected a central point of Golden's research: informal personal interactions are important factors in rebuilding war-torn communities.

Gulu village, Uganda: A young woman studies the war-to-peace mural on the wall of the football stadium.

"You can't just think about truth commissions or trials or all of these other rebuilding programs," Golden says. "You also have to think about the role of people's every day interactions ... about the ways that those interactions can be resources in the resettlement process."

From a Ugandan perspective, it "was a great gesture," says Lominda Afedraru, a Kampala-based journalist whose family roots are in the Gulu district where Golden did her field research. "People come to do their research, and after getting whatever material they want, they usually go away. This was unique."

The district's devastation was almost beyond comprehension, Afedraru says. "For a long time, these people were homeless, living in camps with terrible trauma. Their lives were miserable."

Death rates ran high in the camps, and children were often victims.

### Two paths converged

Golden's connection with Ugandans began in 2004 with a six-month internship in that East African nation while she was an undergraduate at Wheaton College. Africa grew on her, and over the years she found herself returning to pitch in on social service work.

Advancing to graduate school, she took an interest in how communities make the transition from war to peace.

"My two paths converged at that point, and Northern Uganda became my dissertation focus," she says.

In January 2011 she launched field research in three recently resettled Ugandan villages, observing daily interactions and interviewing residents.

"Everything was still in a state of flux," Golden says. Families were struggling to socialize young people whose perspectives had been framed by mass violence. Neighbors who had suffered the atrocities of war needed to rebuild the trust necessary for social stability. There were disputes over land ownership, which would be a significant factor in determining who had power and standing in the villages. And there were questions about whether the formal, international mechanisms intended to move societies from war to

Shannon Golden, Ph.D. candidate in sociology, is supported by Bilinski and U of M Interdisciplinary Doctoral fellowships.



peace—for example, the International Criminal Court—could be effective in the local context.

As an uneasy truce took hold she wondered: Would community relationships contribute to stability and long-term peace? Or would they be characterized by tension and conflict?

It was some of both, she found. While villagers mended relationships they also wrestled with tensions that posed risks for further cycles of violence.

During her 11 months of fieldwork, Golden attended community events and observed people in their homes. She conducted in-depth interviews—24 with local experts on post-war rebuilding, and, working with a team of interviewers and translators, 91 more with a random sample of residents and community leaders.

One of her primary findings was that while war and displacement deeply undercut communal life, in some ways weakening trust and unity, they also gave rise to a new type of unity, one based in small groups rather than the village as a whole. The war brought broad social changes, she explains, including a crisis in leadership and in the socialization of youth. These changes, in turn, resulted in a decline in communal work and the rise of small groups that competed for resources. The net effect was less unity and cohesion.

Golden says that while sociologists have long studied the factors that bring people together, as well as those leading to conflict and animosity, research on how those processes occur in post-war societies was underdeveloped.

### Fragile coexistence

So she developed a conceptual model of the postwar transition from “fragile coexistence” to stability. Her model shows how the local context matters. In addition to formal institutions designed to help societies rebuild, daily social interactions create informal mechanisms that can facilitate the transitional process, and others that may block it. It can be applied beyond Northern Uganda, she says, although specific findings would vary with each case.

The model’s fundamental virtue is that “it takes seriously the stage of fragile coexistence,” Golden says, “a period where survivors are renegotiating their communal life, engaging in social processes that either lead to long-term stability or toward renewed violence and instability.”

She also points out that what happens at the local level matters, not only for the stability of particular villages, but for preventing broader regional or national violence. “Looking closely at this fragile stage is essential; too often violence is cyclical and broader national or regional wars or conflicts have deep roots in local social relationships.”

### Debt of gratitude

By September, with the research phase of her work complete, it was time for Golden to return to Minnesota. First, though, she wanted to settle that debt of gratitude with a thank-you gift. What could she give that would help rebuild relationships while also restoring livelihoods? Goats, said leaders in one village. Small loans, said another. A corn-grinding mill, said the third.

The requests were reasonable. The responsibility was immense.

“I went into it thinking, ‘I’m just a student. I’m not an organization with a budget. I don’t have funds to do this,’” Golden recalls.

Nevertheless, she began to work her personal networks at the University and in Washington County, where she had grown up. She sold tickets to a dinner cruise on the St. Croix River, and during that holiday season urged people to give a gift of a goat for \$75. She credits the generosity of the people in Minnesota for the success of her grassroots drive, which yielded \$3,000 per village.

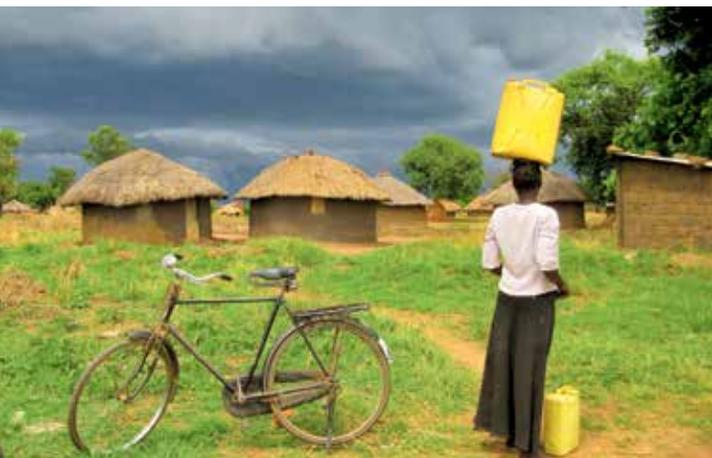
By April 2012, she was back in Uganda with enough money to:

- » Purchase 45 goats for families in Lukodi village, with the understanding that the offspring would be distributed to additional families;
- » Provide 20 loans in Awach village, with half of the repayments going back to the loan fund and half to school scholarships; and
- » Purchase a corn-grinding mill for Ajulu village, with profits going into community development.

Now, having just defended her dissertation this fall, Golden is a visiting research fellow at the University of Notre Dame’s Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, where she is developing her research into a book.

The value of Golden’s research goes far beyond East Africa, says sociology department chair Elizabeth Heger Boyle. It provides “important lessons for those who want to help communities transition to justice and peace after war”—an effort for which there persists, tragically, continued demand. ∞

Sharon Schmickle, B.A. '81, journalism and statistics, writes for *MinnPost.com* and is a journalism mentor in Ghana, Nigeria, Uganda and Tanzania. She previously reported for the *Minneapolis Star Tribune* from its Washington bureau and covered wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. She was a Pulitzer Prize finalist, National Press Club’s Washington Correspondent of the Year, and won the Overseas Press Club of America award for coverage of trade friction.



Awach village: bringing home the water



# ORGANIZING CHAOS:

## creativity or psychosis?

BY KATE STANLEY

HERE'S A PUZZLE: Since schizophrenia is highly heritable, and since those who suffer it have low reproductive success, why hasn't its prevalence diminished over time? That's what evolutionary theory suggests should occur. Yet this debilitating mental illness appears to have afflicted human beings for millennia and persists at an unwavering rate of about one percent worldwide. How can this be?

Rachael Grazioplene, a Ph.D. candidate in psychology, has an answer: "It seems that schizophrenia, like bipolar disorder, is a secondary consequence of genes that also produce positive human traits," she says. "In healthy individuals, these genes are linked to enhanced creativity. This suggests that the same biological underpinnings that cause delusions in some people give rise to ingenuity in others."

There's plenty of evidence to back up that idea, Grazioplene says, including a 2011 study from Sweden of 300,000 people with serious mental illness. The findings show that healthy siblings of people with bipolar disorder and schizophrenia are especially likely to work in creative occupations. This could explain how genes linked to schizophrenia persist across generations. While psychosis minimizes opportunities to procreate, creativity most likely increases both survival and reproductive prospects.

Yet what, exactly, does creativity have in common with psychosis—besides a smattering of special genes? Just how are the people who occupy these two very different "camps of perception" alike? Grazioplene's doctoral work in the psychology department's Personality, Individual Differences, and Behavioral Genetics program seeks answers to these questions both in terms of behavior and the brain.

### Making sense of experience

Describing the shared behavior is easy: both groups show a high propensity to perceive unrelated details as meaningfully connected, a tendency called apophenia. A byproduct of the brain's programming to make sense of experience, this phenomenon touches all of us in some way: "This is what's happening when you hear your name called out in a noisy crowd," Grazioplene says, "or see the face of Jesus in a pancake."

## Some of the cognitive processes that lead to disorganized thought may be beneficial. Part of what makes people brilliant is that ability to make unlikely connections.

Apophenia is an expression of the personality trait known as “openness to experience,” which describes the general tendency to be imaginative, curious and intellectual. People who rank very high for apophenia and openness are prone to fantasy, says Grazioplene, and have difficulty distinguishing dreams from reality. “They tend to hyperassociate, to see meaning at levels most people don’t detect. In itself, this isn’t a negative thing. At optimal levels, some of the cognitive processes that lead to disorganized thought may actually be beneficial. Part of what makes people brilliant is that ability to make unlikely connections.”

Are these shared behavior characteristics detectible in the brain? There’s reason to think so. “If we’re right that creativity arises from the same genes that cause psychotic illness,” says Grazioplene, “we’d expect to see not only that the personality traits linked to these genes are similar, but that the associated brain structure will be shared as well.”

That’s just what the early research seems to show. Grazioplene’s research with advisor Colin DeYoung shows that people who rank high for apophenia/openness have more diffusely connected white matter—the stuff that makes up the cerebral wiring system—in specific brain regions. Interestingly, the patterns they’ve discovered resemble those found by other researchers in the brains of people with schizophrenia and bipolar disorder.

### Executive control

That’s not the end of the story, though. In addition to identifying similarities between creative individuals and people with psychosis, Grazioplene is keen to understand the differences.

“There’s this great study showing that successful artists are as high as schizophrenics on these measures of unusual thought processes and strange experiences,” says Grazioplene, “but that they don’t have any of these more negative symptoms such as cognitive disorganization, confusion, flattened emotional affect, anxiety. What it suggests to me is that while there are certain shared network properties between schizophrenia and creative artistic professions, there are other divergent characteristics.”

One thing that appears to dampen vulnerability to psychosis is intelligence: “It seems to have a modulating effect on apophenia,” says Grazioplene. “In order to usefully engage the hyper-associative process, you have to have the top-down executive control to choose among all these alternatives to identify what’s actually meaningful and which things are by chance.”

Discovering such protective factors is Grazioplene’s ultimate goal. She’s seeking them by studying personality findings and brain images from 300 subjects, none of whom has been diagnosed with psychotic-spectrum disorders. Studying normal individuals, she hopes, will shed light on the question that interests her most: “What is it about the brains of healthy people with very high apophenia that protects them from developing the disorganizing symptoms of, for example, schizophrenia?”

### In it for the long haul

This is the sort of question that can take a lifetime to answer, but Grazioplene seems to be in for the long haul. “Many people wonder if there’s a strict level—an identifiable point—at which a person becomes a schizophrenic,” she notes. “What



Rachael Grazioplene, Ph.D. candidate in psychology, is supported by fellowships from the Graduate School, CLA’s Bouchard Fellowship, and teaching assistantships.

we’re finding from the biology is that the answer is no. The biology of the brain is showing us that there is a very gradual curve between normal and abnormal for these illnesses.”

For Grazioplene, the notion that the liability for psychotic spectrum disorders is spread throughout the population raises a profound question: how does this liability actually play out at the neurobiological level? Ultimately, she says, “understanding the neural mechanisms that create resilience, despite the presence of high risk, is a very important goal in the understanding and treatment of these illnesses.”

In the meantime, Grazioplene says, it may make sense to view disorders of perception in more nuanced terms. “Stories of mental health and illness are really never a matter of a few straightforward cause-and-effect circumstances,” she says. “There are no simple answers.” ∞

Kate Stanley, B.A. '80, journalism, writes about law, medicine, social policy and global affairs. She was previously a member of the *Star Tribune* editorial board, and as an undergraduate was editor-in-chief of the *Minnesota Daily*.

# LAW ENFORCEMENT: more is not always better

BY JOE KIMBALL

At first, the two Ph.D. students couldn't believe what the data told them: when companies in countries with high levels of theft added extra security guards, theft actually increased. » David Perez-Reyna and Enoch Hill had worked together two full years on an econometric model that was now yielding counterintuitive, even absurd-sounding, results.

Perez-Reyna is from Colombia, and Hill worked in Guatemala before graduate school. Having witnessed theft problems firsthand in those countries, where armed guards patrol nearly every business and ride along on most delivery trucks, they persisted in their work.

"We found that our initial perception was correct: if there's a lot of theft, then companies are driven to hire more security," says Hill.

"But the amount of theft kept growing even when companies were spending more on private security," Perez-Reyna explains. "So we realized there had to be another factor."

Deeper into their research, the model indicated yet another apparent anomaly: even when a country spends more money on public law enforcement, it doesn't necessarily help the overall economy. At least, not immediately.

"If a country moves a little in spending more on law enforcement, it's not a good investment," Hill says. "Poorer countries are actually worse off when they spend just a little more. The overall costs to the economy aren't recovered because they have to hire more police and build more prisons, and there will be fewer workers when more people are put in prison. Plus, the chances of getting caught remain relatively low, so not much deterrence occurs for potential thieves."

They found that it's not until law-enforcement spending reaches a medium level that the graph starts turning positive. As enforcement increases, there is greater deterrence, and consequently less incarceration, thus putting less indirect pressure on the economy.



Ph.D. candidates in economics: David Perez-Reyna (left)\* is supported by a Central\* Bank of Colombia fellowship, and Enoch Hill\* by a U of M Silverman Fellowship. \*



That discovery helped Perez-Reyna and Hill explain the huge variations in theft among countries that invest in law enforcement at different levels, such as Somalia versus Guatemala versus the United States. Spending a lot more really does matter, they're finding.

Their finding flew in the face of an economic rule of thumb: effects of an economic event are greatest at the outset, and diminish gradually after that.

"Usually in [economic changes], the greatest gains come in the early stages, but not here," Hill says.

#### Implications for public policy

Top scholars both—Hill\* had the best academic record of any student in his first-year grad school class, and Perez-Reyna\* was tied for second—they have been fast friends for three years. Sharing an office in the economics department at Hanson Hall, they work together on research studies and play soccer on the weekends.

Their eyes light up and they finish each other's sentences as they discuss their research model, "Public Law Enforcement: More is Not Always Better," which Perez-Reyna presented in October 2013 at a national conference in St. Louis, Mo. It involved crunching six years of data gathered by a World Bank survey of 100 countries. About 400 companies in each country answered questions about theft and their security costs.

The model, which Hill and Perez-Reyna have updated with new data at least 10 times already, includes a look at the relationship between a firm's size and its security costs. Not surprisingly, bigger firms experienced more theft and therefore hired more guards.

Their professor, Timothy Kehoe, a prominent economist and adviser to the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, praised the project. While the two students still have work to do, he says, their project has the potential to provide valuable guidance on what levels of law enforcement are cost-effective in various business and civic scenarios.

The biggest cost of theft isn't actually the theft; you have to waste so much on employees standing around with a gun and not working.

Was it unusual for economics students to work on what, on the surface, seems to be a law-enforcement project?

"Economics, at its basic level," Hill explains, "is about how to make choices under scarcity." That means the principles of economics can be applied to any type of supply problem, even the cost of security to deter theft at manufacturing plants around the world. "Everything we've done is related to optimizing resources," he says.

Furthermore, their work has focused on macro-forces in the marketplace—an economics issue—rather than on specific firms or countries experiencing security problems.

Individual cases are difficult to model, Hill says. "So much is seemingly random and there's no way to capture all the factors. But across thousands of firms, you can see a pattern and write equations about what a bunch of people are likely to do."

Those patterns have helped Hill and Perez-Reyna reach some macro-conclusions on the

problem in less developed areas.

For example: "The biggest cost of theft isn't actually the theft; you have to waste so much on employees standing around with a gun and not working," says Hill. "And if people steal a lot, it lowers the wages for everyone and there's even more incentive to steal."

"But in an economy with less theft, the wages tend to be higher and there's actually less incentive to steal," adds Perez-Reyna.

Their hope is to fine-tune the model such that it will be useful to planners. Says Hill, "Someone working on public policy might look at our paper and consider implementing it in their country." ∞

Joe Kimball, a former columnist and reporter for the *Star Tribune*, now writes for *MinnPost.com*. He is the author of the bestselling *Secrets of the Congdon Mansion*.

\* This article includes a number of corrections from the print version. Corrections are indicated with an asterisk. (\*) We regret the errors.



## Arab Americans in the movies: the cultural “other”

BY KATE STANLEY

Waleed Mahdi isn't your average film buff. Over the last five years, the American Studies Ph.D. candidate has watched more than 500 films made in the United States and Egypt, searching for clues about how the two societies view Arab Americans. “Films have the power both to reflect and to shape popular perceptions,” Mahdi explains. “They reveal a lot about how societies view each other—and themselves.”

Raised in Yemen during the escalating anti-American protests of the 1990s, Mahdi spent his youth perplexed by the intensity of the U.S.-Arab conflict. His chance to seek answers came via a Fulbright Scholarship to the University of New Mexico, where he earned his M.A. in U.S.-Mideast cultural politics in 2008. Upon beginning his doctoral studies in Minnesota, he opted to focus on cinematic portrayals of this country's 3.5 million Arab Americans.

The pictures he's discovered aren't pretty. U.S.-Arab hostility made its way to the screen early in the history of cinema, but not until the last century's final decades did Arab Americans become a target for slurs and suspicion. Egyptian and Hollywood film producers still feel the political winds of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, observes Mahdi, and the chill is evident in their work. “Neither group of film producers seems interested in creating an authentic portrait of the Arab American,” says Mahdi. “They're mostly interested in depicting him/her as the ‘cultural other’”—an outcast whose imagined deficiencies are invoked to confirm each group's sense of superiority.

“Look at the typical Hollywood movie,” suggests Mahdi. “It presents the Arab-American male as a foreigner living on American soil, speaking with a heavy accent, displaying distinctive physical features—almost always a beard. He's engaged in national networks of terrorism. He doesn't care about the lives of women or children. He's ready to die for a cause that's somewhere in his head.”

And the Egyptian film? “It focuses on questions of loyalty,” Mahdi responds. “It depicts the Arab American either as someone who is still connected to his cultural roots, still speaks Arabic, still values Arabic codes of honor and still is critical of American foreign policy—or as a totally Americanized person who doesn't care about anything Arab or Islamic, who doesn't care about his community, his relatives or his religion. He



LISA MILLER

Waleed Mahdi, Ph.D. candidate in American Studies, is supported by U of M fellowships from the International Center for the Study of Global Change, Department of American Studies, Immigration History Research Center, and the Graduate School.

worships the dollar, and feels total allegiance to American foreign policy.”

These one-dimensional characterizations serve as ammunition in a war of “mutual vilification,” Mahdi says—a competition waged at the expense of a common scapegoat. And though each movie-making camp paints the Arab American with its own brand of tar, both groups ultimately send the same message. Says Mahdi: “The point is straightforward. ‘You are either with us or against us. You can't be both Arab and American.’”

Millions of Arab Americans insist that they are both—and can't help but be. Mahdi takes heart in the emergence of a post-9/11 generation of Arab American filmmakers eager to portray the genuine complexity of Arab Americans and to push back against the misrepresentations of past decades. The films produced so far skip polemics in favor of poignant humor. Among Mahdi's favorites is Cherien Dabis's *Amreeka*, a 2009 award-winner depicting the heterogeneity of an Arab-American family.

The timing of this new cinematic wave is encouraging for Mahdi, who sees self-representation as the only avenue to accurate portrayal of the diverse Arab American community. “Finally,” he says, “it's possible to see films depicting Arab Americans as they really are: People of many nationalities and religions who sought refuge in this country because it values equality and diversity. People who might very well be willing to criticize U.S. foreign policy, but who would never act to undermine the security of the country they call home. Their story is actually a very American story.” ∞

## Help for water-starved countries BY MARY PATTOCK

No surprise that it's challenging to get water to residents of a country that is 75 percent desert. But in Jordan, one of the world's most water-scarce countries, the problem is exacerbated by a history of regional political instability, corruption, and refugees in the hundreds of thousands pouring over the borders over the past 60 years from Palestine, Iraq, and most recently Syria.

Jordan is where Basil Mahayni, Ph.D. student in geography, is conducting both academic and policy research, hoping to connect them in ways that can help water management systems better meet community needs, especially those of the poor and middle classes, in water-starved countries.



Basil Mahayni, Ph.D. student in geography, is supported by fellowships from the National Science Foundation, Arab Council for Social Sciences, and the U of M's Interdisciplinary Center for the Study of Global Change/McArthur, Consortium on Law and Values, and Office of International Programs.

He's stationed in Jordan's capital city of Amman, a city of some 2 million people, where, every week, water is piped in rationed amounts across miles of hilly terrain into rooftop tanks atop homes and apartment buildings. It is then up to residents to monitor their use of the precious resource—meaning that midweek

a mom may need to curtail her family's laundry or daily bathing.

Amman's water system is a public-private amalgam, run by a government-owned company; while it is technologically competent, it struggles to provide some important features associated with government, especially regulatory power and mechanisms for public input and accountability.

It's riddled, Mahayni says, with political tensions, as it tries to keep in balance urban and rural needs, higher demand, rising costs, and limited water supplies. Stark disparities persist.

For example, he points out, authorities have provided educational programs in public schools and poor neighborhoods to teach children to be good stewards of water, even providing them with citations to issue to parents when they appear to be wasting water, even as some wealthier households cultivate extravagant gardens, and farmers enjoy access to highly subsidized water.

### Technology is not enough

His dissertation still a few months in the offing, Mahayni nonetheless has come to some conclusions based on his studies and on interviews with officials from Jordan, USAID and private sector consultants, and with residents from around the city. He believes water management and distribution will remain a crisis in countries such as Jordan as long as water policy is framed as a technical—but apolitical—project. “For management to be both fair and effective,” he says, “you have to have genuine understanding of what's happening in terms of daily realities of communities, and provide genuine avenues for participation.”

Mahayni thinks his use of several methodologies, including content and policy analysis, geographic information systems (GIS), and interviews, is part of what has attracted support from the National Science Foundation, the Arab Council for Social Sciences, and the University's Office of International Programs.

“I've received really good training in Minnesota,” he says. “Abdi (Samatar), my adviser, is a model in being able to converse with policy makers in very genuine ways. I would like to take this training in geography and bring it into conversation with policy people, perhaps in organizations like the UN or good research institutes involved with environmental policy.” ∞

# Finding Iris

FICTION BY JONATHAN ESCOFFERY

When I found Iris Perez sitting stiff and upright on the toilet in her tiny apartment's closet-sized bathroom it had to be 89 degrees inside. Her eyes were open – petrified, faded from river-stone-gray to tarnished-stainless-steel, and her body was darkening, as if the color in her iris had leaked into her bloodstream, pigmenting her withered skin. Iris's mouth gaped;

Death seemed to have wrenched open her jaw with both hands, shoving his bony arm down her throat to drag the soul from her chest. The top and bottom halves of her jaw twisted in contrasting directions, like her nose and chin had tried to escape simultaneously, ultimately choosing opposing routes.

A good three minutes passed before I pulled my eyes from her expression of unrelenting horror, and I did so to peer over my shoulder and ensure Death had not lingered to take another.

Luz, the social worker for our elderly housing building, called to me from the apartment's entrance. I headed back down the hall, trying to muster as somber an expression as I could. Luz teetered within the threshold, exactly where I'd left her. Our eyes met; I clenched my teeth and shook my head.

"She's dead," I told her. The words came out a near whisper; somewhere in my subconscious I didn't want Iris to hear me, in case she hadn't realized.

"What? Are you sure?" Luz fell against the doorjamb, then quickly straightened. "How do you know?"

I had heard these questions the month before when I found Carlos Martinez sprawled on his living room floor, his signature red baseball cap pulled just over his eyes, as if he'd been prepared for death. Luz had even offered an equal level of disbelief when I'd told her about the tenant who'd thrown himself from his eighth-floor balcony.

"But... did he die?" she had asked.

"It was the eighth floor," I had repeated.

This time I skipped straight to the answer that always satisfied her incredulity. "Take a look." I waived a hand, inviting her into Iris's apartment.

Luz examined the doorway and shook her head. "I've never seen anything so dead," I assured her. I headed back inside to turn the air conditioner on. Then, I called 911.



When we'd find our tenants' corpses locked up in their apartments, it was always stiflingly humid inside, as if their souls, having escaped through their open mouths, crashed into the popcorn ceiling like helium balloons, and burst into a billion heat particles, leaving behind a cold, stiff shell, and a sour funk. The smell wasn't decay; they usually weren't dead that long. That is, the odor wasn't directly from the decaying of a dead body, more from the gradual decaying of a live one. It was the smell of neglect, and the heat only amplified the stench. Opening the doors to those apartments was like peeling back the rubber cover off sealed Tupperware after you'd forgotten your lunch in the trunk of your car.

Sometimes the smell escaped through the space underneath the door and traveled down the narrow hall toward the elevator. Sometimes it boarded the elevator and spread throughout all 10 floors of Council Towers elderly housing complex. Each time, the smell beckoned for attention. Most times, it was too late.



Luz had long abandoned the scene when police officers began arriving, about 20 minutes after I made the call. The first, a stocky uniformed patrolman entered, talking on his cell. He followed my nod down the hall towards the bathroom, without pausing his conversation.

"Yeah, come on over," he spoke into the phone's receiver, before peeking in, scrunching his face, then heading back down the hall. "I'll be here." A smile briefly washed the disgust from his lips, then he snapped shut the phone, and began trading a series of numbers with the dispatcher chirping from his radio. When the volley ended, he turned his attention on me.

"What's your name again?" he asked, pen and pad poised. We were somewhere between "I'm just the Admin," and "because the neighbor smelled something 'iffy,'" when a busty patrolwoman walked in, and the policeman lost interest in his questions and my answers. A young detective in a dress shirt and tie showed up a few minutes later. By then, cops one and two were

comfortably seated at the dining table, deeply engaged in station gossip.

The patrolman stood to join the detective, and I could see his pit-stains were joined by a damp, oval blot on the back of his navy-blue shirt. I wiped my forehead with my sleeve, and moved to lower the thermostat another several degrees.

"They don't like the cold," my property manager used to tell me. "Their blood is thinner. Or maybe it's their bones. I always forget." One thing was certain: this had to be more warm bodies than Iris's apartment had seen in years, and the A/C unit, perhaps for lack of use, struggled to drop the room temperature.

I leaned against the kitchenette counter, listening as the policemen discussed how long Iris could have been sitting there atop the toilet. They rotated in and out of the tiny space, taking turns examining her. The policewoman remained quietly seated, elbow on table, palm bent under chin.

"Couldn't have been more than a few hours," the patrolman said.

"I don't know. She's pretty stiff already."

"The rigor mortis sets in like that, though."

The rebuttal came with an enthusiastic snap.

"Really?" the detective asked.

It's like they're discussing car parts, I thought. Or something they saw on *Animal Planet*.

I imagined the officers swigging beers between pokes and prods of her flesh. Iris, who silently dragged her flesh through the halls, day after day, solemn and solitary, to the cafeteria and back, reserved even in movement, had become spectacle, had become a lesson.

The detective returned from the bathroom and said, "Yeah, she's pretty dead, I think. What do you usually do in this situation?"

"Call you," I said.

"Shouldn't you call her family?"

"That," I informed him, "would also be your job."

I flipped open Iris's file. Her Emergency Contact listed a nephew's out-of-state phone number and a document certifying that she had donated her body to the University of Miami's medical school for research.



Jonathan Escoffery, M.F.A. candidate in creative writing, is supported by a U of M Diversity of Views and Experiences (DOVE) Fellowship.

I shifted my eyes from the file to the detective, who had begun crawling beneath the glass dining table, presumably searching for clues. This is her family, I thought—the playschool detective and the couple patrolling for love. With her body going to UM, this is her wake.

I noticed the policewoman peering in my direction, and it wasn't until she mouthed the word "pretty" that I realized she wasn't staring at me. I followed her gaze to a large portrait of Iris hanging on the living-room wall. Within the sharp contours of her face her olive skin held no wrinkles, and her pink, plump lips brimmed with vitality.

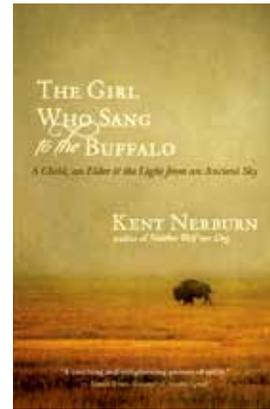
Her eyes weren't gray, according to the portrait. They were blue.

From all fours, the detective said, "I wouldn't have pegged her for a blonde."

For the briefest moment, we took her in, silent. Maybe this gathering is what Iris would have wanted. She was finally getting her attention. Maybe she turned off the air so that we could find her quicker. Maybe this was her last call for company. ∞

Jonathan Escoffery is an M.F.A. candidate in the creative writing program and an instructor in the Department of English. He is the fiction editor of *dislocate* magazine, has published his work in *Interrobang?!*, *The Coffin Factory*, *Radioactive Moat Press*, *Sliver of Stone Magazine*, and elsewhere, and is currently working on a novel. "Finding Iris" was first published in *Foundling Review*.

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## » NONFICTION

### **THE GIRL WHO SANG TO THE BUFFALO:** *A CHILD, AN ELDER & THE LIGHT FROM AN ANCIENT SKY* **KENT NERBURN**

NEW WORLD LIBRARY, 2013 / While “Hiawatha Asylum for Insane Indians” may sound like the invention of a perfervid novelist, it was a real institution established by Congress in 1898 in Canton, South Dakota, that, among other things, straitjacketed children, locked them in subterranean holes, shackled adults to pipes, beds, and radiators and forced them to lie in their own excrement. It was demolished in 1927, determined to have largely imprisoned Native Americans who were misunderstood or otherwise economically or politically inconvenient. The asylum is one of two realities that ground the final volume of Kent Nerburn's *Neither Dog Nor Wolf* trilogy, the other being, by contrast, a memoirist storyline that compels readers to reconsider their relationship with Earth. It's Nerburn's story of tracing, on behalf of her older brother, the fate of Yellow Bird, a young Dakota girl lost to the asylum many years ago. It's also a story of spiritual enlightenment: Nerburn's experience stepping out of the mathematically matrixed Western understanding of the world onto the Native American path of acutely listening to what the trees, birds, frogs, buffalo—and our own dreams—have to teach us.

*Kent Nerburn, B.A. '68, American Studies; Ph.D., Graduate Theological Union and University of California, is the author of 13 books and a two-time winner of the Minnesota Book Award. Mary Pattock is the editor of Reach.*

### **CARING DEMOCRACY: MARKETS, EQUALITY, AND JUSTICE** **JOAN C. TRONTO**

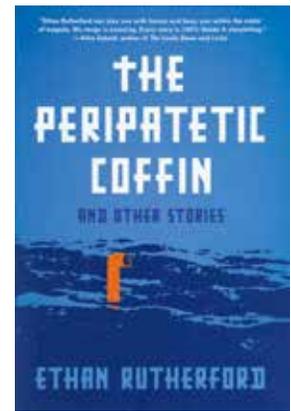
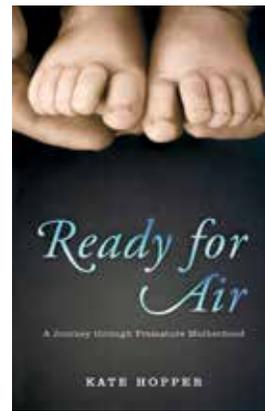
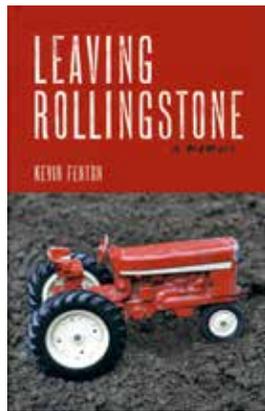
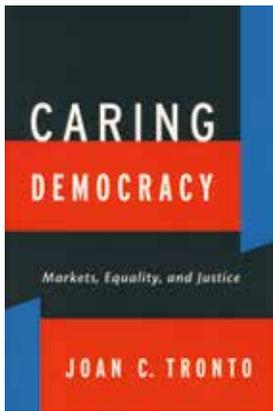
NYU PRESS, 2013 / Brilliant, profound, and provocative are the adjectives that came to mind as I read—and kept underlining as I read—Professor Joan Tronto's new book. It is brilliant in examining the question of care in all its aspects and complexity. Who needs it, who gives it, and who or what is cared for or about is her subject. Her argument that everyone requires care in different ways and at different times but that too many get “passes” from responsibility for providing it is well documented and a challenge to policy makers. Her profound analysis of public education is only one of her examples of care in a democracy.

We can't have equality if we value everything in market terms and thus devalue care work is her provocative conclusion. If we truly believe in democracy, we must take into account our needs for care, but this will not be simple. It will require that those who provide care and those who receive it be heard. This book should be required reading for anyone interested in politics or public policy.

*Tronto is chair of the Department of Political Science. Reviewer Arvonne Fraser, B.A. '48, political science, served from 1992 to 1994 as United States Ambassador to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women.*

### **FIVE BILLION YEARS OF SOLITUDE** **LEE BILLINGS**

PENGUIN GROUP, 2013 / Finding life on another planet would be the greatest discovery in human history. But beyond sci-fi fantasies of aliens swooping in to say hello, how do scientists actually locate distant worlds that could harbor life? *Five Billion Years of Solitude*, by Lee Billings, provides the answers. Billings covers everything from the formation of the young earth to the impending death of our solar system, and the book does an especially good job of balancing human details (e.g., about the ego-driven early days of planet-hunting in the 1990s) with big, oh-wow ideas about, say, interplanetary communication and exploration. (If you like to jot notes in the margins, be prepared to make some big exclamation points.) Above all, the book examines whether or not Earth—and by extension, human civilization—is special. Does intelligent life exist



## BOOKS BY CLA FACULTY, STAFF, AND ALUMNI

elsewhere, or are we alone in the cosmos? No matter the answer, Billings's multi-billion-year story proves what a special moment we're living through right now—the first potential peek at life among the stars.

*Lee Billings, B.A. '03, journalism, is a freelance science journalist. He lives in New York City. Reviewer Sam Kean, B.A. '02, English and physics, is the author of the bestselling The Disappearing Spoon and The Violinist's Thumb.*

### LEAVING ROLLINGSTONE: A MEMOIR KEVIN FENTON

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESS, 2013 / Kevin Fenton's first book was the award-winning 2011 novel *Merit Badges*, which shares with this new memoir a setting (1970s southeastern Minnesota), a few key plot points, and a theme of wholeness splintering. But rather than diving into his tale of growing up near Winona and losing his father too early (as the novel does), *Leaving Rollingstone* interrogates the story. What was the context for the family exuberance he remembers before his dad's death? In what ways did his mother carry them all on her back? What pleasures and friends and mentors laid the groundwork for the place of sobriety and joyful work he finally built so many years later? Fenton telescopes in and out of eloquently described memories, enjoying the opportunity memoir offers to reflect, to reconsider, to re-envision the story he has told himself. He takes a treasured vision—what it was to feel effortlessly at home in the world—and peels back nostalgia to present a harder truth: how much effort went into that feeling. There's beauty in the complexity.

*Author Kevin Fenton, MFA '05, creative writing, is a freelance advertising creative director and lives in Saint Paul. Reviewer Terri Sutton, MFA '03, is staff for the Department of English.*

### READY FOR AIR KATE HOPPER

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA PRESS, 2013 / For every human being on this earth, there is a birth story. And for every baby born, a mother is born as well. Kate Hopper the mother was dragged into motherhood unexpectedly early by severe preeclampsia. She has written an emotionally honest and genuine account of her daughter Stella's birth at 32 weeks. Instead of being able to take their daughter home shortly after she was born, Kate and her husband had to leave her for weeks in the NICU, a world of

beeping alarms, helplessness, fear, and frustration. While this is a birth story, it's a human story as well, not neatly tied with pink and blue bows. In this new world of motherhood Kate must deal with self-doubt, disappointment, trepidation, and isolation, but also triumph and a new ferocious love. Among other classes that Hopper teaches, she teaches women to write their own birth stories and memoirs.

*Kate Hopper, M.F.A. '05, creative writing, has taught literature and creative writing at the CLA, The Loft Literary Center; writing workshops across the country, and online. She is the recipient of, among other awards, a Fulbright grant. Reviewer Colleen Ware, B.A. '91, English, is CLA's web editor.*

### » FICTION

### THE PERIPATETIC COFFIN AND OTHER STORIES ETHAN RUTHERFORD

ECCO, 2013 / Ethan Rutherford's debut collection of stories covers a wild range of subjects: Confederate soldiers testing a primitive submarine (that's the "coffin" of the title); 1912 Russian sailors braving Arctic ice; two 11-year-old boys exploring friendship in 1980s Seattle; a camp director describing a disastrous summer. What unites them, beyond Rutherford's uncanny ability to build believable worlds (whether contemporary, historical, or sci-fi), is the captivating tone, which steers a line between droll deadpan and desperation (with the occasional full-on foray into one or the other). The stories often feature groups of men/boys wielding projectiles—bored and uneasy as they wait for the opportunity to use them, distressed and excited when the time comes. Rutherford makes the reader feel for them as fragile creatures even as they clumsily destroy environments, people, themselves. Most are foot soldiers, not "deciders" in these skirmishes, but Rutherford doesn't let them off the hook; although his plots compel, this bright book's message is not inevitability but a bemused insistence that other, less damaging courses of action are available to us all.

*Author Ethan Rutherford, MFA '09, creative writing, lives in Ohio. Reviewer Terri Sutton, MFA '03, is staff for the Department of English.*

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# ON A PERSONAL NOTE

What do CLA grads do with their liberal arts degrees? Lately we've heard from business executives and attorneys, teachers and diplomats, novelists – and even a chocolatier. Be sure to tell your friends and offspring that liberal arts graduates have the widest possible range of career options!

## 1960s–70s

**Bud Philbrook, B.A. '69, political science; M.A. '81, public affairs; J.D.,** Hamline University; was named Ambassador for Peace by the International Institute for Peace Through Tourism. He is CEO and co-founder with his wife, Michele Gran, of Minnesota-based Global Volunteers, a nonprofit which over 30 years has engaged more than 30,000 volunteers to serve in 32 countries on 6 continents. A project in St. Lucia, for example, pairs largely North American volunteers with local people on the Caribbean island to help at-risk children and their families improve their health, nutrition and education. The organization consults with the United Nations and partners with UNICEF and the World Food Programme. Philbrook is a former deputy under-secretary at the United States Department of Agriculture, a former member of the Minnesota House of Representatives, and former assistant commissioner for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

*Learn more about Global Volunteers at [z.umn.edu/philbrook](http://z.umn.edu/philbrook).*

**Ross (Roselyn) Rezac, B.F.A. '74; studio art, M.A. '78, art education;** founded MartinRoss Design, a Minneapolis marketing and branding firm.



**Lynn Kremer, B.A. '76, German; B.F.A. '77 theater; M.F.A. theater;** was appointed the Rev. John E. Brooks, S.J., Chair in the Humanities at the College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, Mass. The *Jakarta Post* called her production of *Shackled Spirits*, about mental illness, the best performance at the 35th Bali Arts Festival.

**Mary Leonard, B.E.S. '76; B.S. '79, hospitality and food service management;** is CEO and chocolatier at Chocolat Céleste in Saint Paul. She was recently featured in *Condé Nast Traveler*.



**Wendy Wildung, B.A. '76, journalism,** a partner at Faegre Baker Daniels, Minneapolis, was named one of 2013's Top 250 Women in Litigation by *Benchmark Litigation*. Wildung handles business disputes,

focusing on securities litigation and publicly held companies.

**Alan Abramson, Ph.D. '77, sociology,** received the CIO of the Year Career Achievement Award from *The Minneapolis-St. Paul Business Journal*. Abramson is CIO at HealthPartners.



**Judith A. Moen, B.A. '77, journalism,** formerly a TV journalist in Chicago and Atlanta, and on the Travel Channel, now advocates for people with disabilities.



Find her blog, *Everyone's Included—stories that embrace the joy and power of people with disabilities*, at [z.umn.edu/everyonesincluded](http://z.umn.edu/everyonesincluded).

## 1980s

**Pamela Mead, B.A. '83, art history; M.S. '90, design;** is director of user experience at Telefónica Digital in Silicon Valley.

**Patrick Mendis, M.A. '87, public affairs; '90 Ph.D., geography;** recently published *Peaceful War: How the Chinese Dream and the American Destiny Create a New Pacific World Order*. Mendis lives in Reston, Va.

**Thomas Wallrich, B.A. '87, international relations; J.D. '90;** joined the Cozen O'Connor's law firm as managing partner at its Minneapolis office. He has been named a "Super Lawyer" by Thompson Reuters for 15 consecutive years.

## 1990s–2000s

**Anna Cianciolo, M.A. '97, psychology; Ph.D. '01,** engineering psychology, Georgia Institute of Technology; is the new editor-in-chief for *Teaching and Learning in Medicine*, an international journal. She was the founder of Command Performance Research, Inc., Champaign, Ill., which developed officer and leader education for the United States Army.



**Kelly Olmstead, B.A. '01, psychology; J.D. '05;** was elected vice president of the Ramsey County Bar Association, and will be the organization's president in 2015–2016.

**Aaron Karger, B.A. '02, speech communication,** is an associate attorney at Kalis & Kleiman, Davie, Fla., working in commercial and real property litigation and criminal defense. He was previously an assistant state attorney with the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office; he has a background in real estate development.

**Erdem Durgunoğlu, B.A. '02, history and global studies; M.A. '12,** anthropology, San Francisco State University; received a Fulbright Award to study and write a book about Turkish butchery practices and the Turkish slow-food movement in Turkey.

**Nadia Hasan, B.A. '02, English, J.D. '06;** is a partner at the Cozen O'Connor law firm, at its new Minneapolis location.

**Julie M. Limoges, B.A. '02, political science, Spanish and Portuguese;** M.A., international development, American University; is a United States Foreign Service officer serving as the economic/commercial officer for Somalia at the United States embassy in Kenya. She recently hosted an event with the Minneapolis Somali community.

**Eric Brotten, B.S. '03, economics; B.A. '03, German;** is vice president of product- and partner-management at Orange Health Solutions, a healthcare startup in Jacksonville, Fla.

**Ted Weber, B.S. '04, child psychology,** represents Renosol Corporation in the Milwaukee area, at New Tech Sales, a family business that works with industrial, agricultural, construction and military companies.

**Jon M. Brovold, B.A. '05, English,** is a senior analyst in product safety and quality assurance for Target. He is currently working toward an M.B.A. at Concordia University.

**Amanda Coplin, M.F.A. '06, creative writing,** won the Whiting Writers award, which is given annually to 10 writers who show exceptional talent and promise in early career. Her debut novel, *The Orchardist*, received much recognition. Coplin lives in Provincetown, Mass.

**George Fiddler, B.A. '08, cinema & media culture studies** is an account director for social and emerging media at Olson ad agency in Minneapolis. He creates consumer campaigns and social media strategies for Fortune 500 companies and local non-profit organizations.



**SHEZANNE CASSIM, B.A. '06, political science,** was freed on January 9 from a maximum security prison in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, having been arrested there in April 2013 for posting a humorous YouTube video about local youth rap culture.

A business consultant to PriceWaterhouse Coopers in Dubai, Cassim was charged with endangering the nation's national security by violating its federal cybercrimes law. His release was supported by the United States Department of State and public officials including Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton, Senator Amy Klobuchar, Senator Al Franken, and Congresswoman Betty McCollum, and by American comedians including Will Ferrell. Advocating on his behalf, Barbara Frey, director of CLA's human rights program, called Cassim's detention "unwarranted and lengthy" and said she was troubled by his limited access to an attorney. MP

*Cassim's case was widely covered in the national news. He was interviewed on CNN after his release: [z.umn.edu/cassim](http://z.umn.edu/cassim)*

**MARIA SCHNEIDER, B.M. '83;** M.M. '85, Eastman School of Music; scored big at the 2014 Grammy Awards, where her album, *Winter Morning Walks*, took top prizes in four classical music categories.

The album's title work is a song cycle Schneider composed based on the poetry of poet laureate and Pulitzer Prize-winner Ted Kooser and featuring soprano Dawn Upshaw and the Australian Chamber Orchestra. Also included is Schneider's "Carlos Drummond de Andrade Stories," performed by Upshaw and the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra.

The album won for best contemporary classical composition, best classical vocal solo performance, best engineered classical album, and best classical producer of the year (David Frost).

Well known for 20 years as a jazz composer, arranger, and big-band leader, Schneider won previous Grammys – for large jazz ensemble recording and instrumental jazz composition. In 2010, 2011, and 2012 she was named Best Jazz Composer and Best Arranger in the Annual DownBeat International Annual Critics Poll. *Time* magazine said, "To call Schneider the most important woman in jazz is missing the point two ways. She is a major composer – period."

It was Upshaw, an artistic partner of the SPCO, who drew Schneider into the classical world, commissioning her to compose for vocalist and chamber orchestra.

The women, both breast cancer survivors, felt a special connection with Kooser's poems, which he wrote on pre-dawn walks in the Nebraska countryside as he himself was fighting cancer.

"We think we understand our faith or our sense of beginning and ending, but it's not till a moment like that that you find out what you really feel," Schneider said in an NPR interview. "And everything in life becomes heightened – especially things in the natural world – beautiful things like light and the sound of those birds, or whatever. It overtakes you with a sense of appreciation and love and beauty." MP

*Listen to album tracks at: [z.umn.edu/mariaschneider](http://z.umn.edu/mariaschneider)*



JIMMY AND DENA KATZ

FROM *WINTER MORNING WALKS*  
BY TED KOOSER

*How important it must be to someone that I am alive, and walking, and that I have written these poems.*

*This morning the sun stood right at the end of the road and waited for me.*

2010s

**Naomi Ko, B.A. '11, art history and English**, is making her screen debut in a principal role (Sungmi) in *Dear White People*, an indie film that received positive reviews when it premiered at the 2014 Sundance Film Festival. A satire about being a black face in a white place, the film was shot this summer on the University's Minneapolis campus. Ko has acted in productions at Mixed Blood Theatre and Theatre in the Round, and in two plays she co-wrote, which were produced by New Age Salon and Bedlam Theater. She is currently working on a comedy show and a novel.



Ko, third from right, in a scene from *Dear White People*

**Regan Sieck, B.S. '12, sociology**, is a program associate at BestPrep, a Minneapolis nonprofit that prepares students in grades 4 through 12 with business, career, and financial literacy skills through hands-on experiences.

CORRECTION

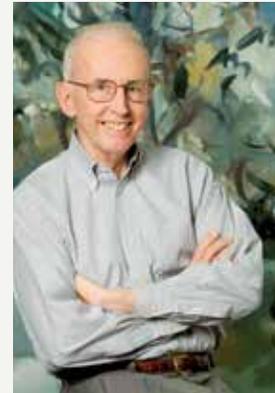
In the Summer 2013 issue of *Reach* we mistakenly reported the title of Mary Stanik's new book. The correct title is *Life Erupted* (not *Life Interrupted*). Our apologies.


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THE LIVES THEY LED

FRANK SORAUF

**Frank Sorauf**, Regents Professor Emeritus, former CLA dean, and former chair of the political science department, died of Alzheimer's disease on September 6, at 85. His field of expertise was American politics; his books include *Wall of Separation:*



*The constitutional politics of church and state; Inside Campaign Finance: Myths and realities; and Political Parties in the American System*, a seminal textbook written in 1968 and still in wide use today.

In the 1980s Sorauf was a resource to Senator Edmund Muskie's Task Force on Political Action Committees for the Twentieth Century Fund (now The Century Foundation); over the next two decades he wrote a series of books and articles about campaign finance. In 2012 he co-wrote with Federal Election Commission attorneys an amicus brief in support of the McCain-Feingold Campaign Reform Act; the Supreme Court majority cited the document cited six times in its opinion upholding the act. He never stopped caring about campaign finance reform, and considered the recent Citizens United decision a mistake.

As dean of CLA from 1973 to 1978, Sorauf vigorously supported the college's language requirement, because he saw languages as "the essence of our nature as human beings and our abilities to communicate" and as forming the basis of logic and knowledge. He was the first dean of CLA to shake hands with every graduate who marched across the stage at commencement.

He served on the board of the Minnesota Opera and on the Minneapolis Library Board. He was a fine pianist, and a devoted collector and scholar of Southwestern pottery; pieces from his collection can be seen at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts and the Weisman Art Museum.

**D. Burnham Terrell,**

emeritus professor of philosophy, died November 13 in Houston, Tex. He was 90. His fields of study were the history of philosophy and philosophy of mind; he wrote the text-



book, *Logic: A Modern Introduction to Deductive Reasoning*, and wrote about and translated books by the 19th-century German philosopher-psychologist Franz Brentano. A Quaker, Terrell was active in the Twin Cities anti-war movement of the 1960s and 1970s, and was one of the faculty members who negotiated with the black students who took over Morrill Hall in 1969. "The amount of scar tissue was not great," he said later, according to an article in the *Minnesota Daily*. "There's a healthier attitude on both sides."

**Clarke F. O'Reilly, Sr., B.A. '52,** died September 27 at a hospice in Kirkland, Wash., at 85. He retired as chief security officer of the Seattle Public Schools, having worked previously for the Boeing Commercial Airplane Company. He had been a Navy captain, with 27 years of active and reserve service (including in the United States Coast Guard), and held commercial pilot and seaplane pilot licenses. He belonged to The Quiet Birdmen, Navy League of the United States, English-Speaking Union, National Rifle Association, Seattle Guitar Society and many other organizations.

**Keith Gunderson,** 40 years a member of the philosophy department, died October 14, at 78, after a two-year battle with liver cancer. His book *Mentality and Machines*, first published in 1985, took on the question of whether computers can think; he was an early participant in CLA's Minnesota Center for the Philosophy of Science. He was a poet as well, and while his poems could be philosophical,



they could also address more observable things—like a classroom of boys voting for the chicken for the Minnesota state bird. He won a Minnesota State Arts Board grant, and a poetry fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts. He earned bachelor's degrees from Macalester College and Oxford University, where he played ice hockey, and a Ph.D. in philosophy from Princeton University.

**David E. Smith, Ph.D. '62, American Studies,** died August 30 in Damariscotta, Me., at 87. He helped establish and he chaired the graduate program in American studies at Indiana University. In 1970 he



went to Amherst, Mass., to become a founding member of the experimental Hampshire College. There he served for 10 years as dean of the School of Humanities and Arts, working to

establish interdisciplinary academic departments and collaborative faculty partnerships. He was the author of *John Bunyan in America*, and an editor of *The Macmillan Anthology of American Literature*. He served in World War II as an aviation cadet in the Navy's V-12 program and graduated from Middlebury College under the GI Bill. He enjoyed music, building harpsichords, sailing, and exploring German history and culture.

**Victor Wright Quale, M.F.A. '85, studio art,** and former instructor in the Department of Art, died April 25, 2013, of coronary artery disease and insulin-dependent diabetes, in the home he designed in Cornwall, Vt. He was 72. An artist and cartoonist, he published his work in *PUNCH*, *L.A. Magazine*, and *TWIN CITIES*; his paintings can be found in private collections. Most recently he was collaborating with his sister on a children's book. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of California, Berkeley. While at Roosevelt High School in Minneapolis he was named MVP and All-State Player after scoring the goal that won the state ice hockey championship. He later played in the Canadian Junior Professional Hockey League.

## LARRY OAKES

**Larry Oakes, B.A. '87, journalism,** died January 4, 2013, in Duluth, at 52, a victim of depression. He was a reporter and editor for the *Star Tribune* in the Twin Cities and Duluth, and before that worked for the *Duluth News Tribune*. As an undergraduate he was a reporter on the *Minnesota Daily*. Oakes was widely admired by the journalism community and by readers for his graceful writing and perceptive reporting. Emblematic of his work was "The Lost Youth of Leech Lake," a straightforward but compassionate 20,000-word, three-day series he wrote in 2004 examining the horrendous toll taken by alcohol, drugs, prison, and violence on children of the Leech Lake Indian Reservation; he lived on the reservation for six months to research the story. He covered cops, the courts, natural disasters, labor issues, life on the Iron Range, and more – but fundamentally the human condition. Scott Gillespie, *Star Tribune* editorial page editor, wrote that Oakes gave voice to the vulnerable and marginalized, and "that will be his legacy in journalism."



# THE LIVES THEY LED

## JULIA DAVIS

**Julia M. Davis**, dean of CLA from 1991 to 1996 and beloved member of the Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences faculty, died unexpectedly in Iowa City on March 8, 2013, at 82.

Davis was an internationally recognized pioneer in the study of language acquisition of hard-of-hearing children. She authored the seminal *Our Forgotten Children: Hard of Hearing Pupils in the Schools*, and co-authored the classic textbook, *Rehabilitative Audiology for Children and Adults*. A significant presence on the national scene in professional organizations, she was president of the Academy of Rehabilitation Audiology executive committee and received the Honors of the Association from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) in 2005. She was a trustee of the ASHFoundation.



Julia Davis, with former University of Minnesota president, Nils Hasselmo.

As an administrator, she was known for her hard work, uncanny talent for connecting with people, and insistence on complete openness and honesty.

She earned her bachelor's degree from Northwestern State College, Natchitoches, La., and Ph.D. in audiology from the University of Southern Mississippi, where she subsequently joined the faculty. At Iowa State University she chaired her department (the first woman to do so) for several years and then served as associate dean for faculty in its College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. In 1987, she moved to the University of South Florida in Tampa to serve first as dean of its College of Social and Behavioral Sciences and then, from 1990 to 1991, as its provost. She came to Minnesota in 1991, and ultimately retired to Iowa City in 1997.

The Julia M. Davis Speech and Hearing Center is a daily reminder to SLHS faculty and students of her commitment to children and adults with speech, hearing, and language difficulties.

**Erika Mozangue Drayton, B.A. '90, sociology**, of Brooklyn Park, died of cancer on August 18, at 45. She was deputy chief of the civil division for the U.S. Attorney for the District of Minnesota, and served previously as a prosecutor in Dakota and Hennepin counties. She created a federal civil-rights clinic at the University to help the disabled, military veterans facing employment-rights violations, and people facing housing discrimination—the first of its kind in the nation. She created a similar clinic for prisoner litigation at the University of St. Thomas School of Law, and taught at William Mitchell College of Law, where she had earned her law degree.



**Sheridan Lee, B.A. '56**, Ph.D. chemistry, biology, and parasitology; died September 19 in Kauai, at 95. As a boy in his native China, he frequently ranked toward the bottom of his class, for which his father felt obliged to spank him. At the U of M and in graduate school, however, he blossomed academically. Plans to return to China to help address devastating crop failure were derailed by the persecution of his family by the Mao regime. After teaching biology at several U.S. colleges, he took a research position at the University of Hawaii. He later worked for the United States Department of Defense headquarters for Army Intelligence and Security Command (INSCOM), which sent him on a mission to China; it was his first visit there in 40 years. He retired to Kauai in the 1980s; when he was 92 he wrote *The Mystery of Paul's Conversion*, a book of religious research and analysis. He was a lifelong Gopher fan.



### OTHERS AGREE: CLA'S REACH IS EXEMPLARY.

*Reach* has received awards from the Minnesota Magazine and Publishing Association, University of Minnesota Communicators Forum, and Society of Professional Journalists.

GOLD AWARD 2011

MAROON AWARD 2011, 2012, 2013

PAGE ONE AWARD 2012



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## > FOR THE LOVE OF LEARNING

Throughout this issue, you've read about the impressive work and contributions of our graduate students. You've seen how they work with faculty to create knowledge, and with undergraduate students as instructors, mentors, and role models; how they infuse their fields with lively exploration of issues both local and global.

You've seen how they challenge us to consider new solutions to old problems.

Most thrillingly, you've seen the future through the eyes of these visionary students, and gotten a glimpse of how they will contribute to the broader world over their lifespan.

In fact, ever since the University was founded, our graduate students have made incalculably valuable contributions in dollars and productivity, in leadership and public service, and in the advancement of knowledge.

They've taken their knowledge and love of learning to the four corners of the world — to colleges and universities, and to public and private industries across the spectrum of human endeavor. And lest you think that graduate education doesn't pay off in employment terms, please know that more than 90 percent of our grad students are quickly placed in jobs! — a success rate that speaks both to their talents and to the excellence and reputation of our faculty.

Consider for a moment the return on our "investment" in grad students over the years. They have:

- » Won the Nobel prize, MacArthur Genius Grant, Pulitzer prize, and other prestigious awards;
- » Become thought-leaders and knowledge-creators in every field imaginable: as champions of human rights; pioneers in new fields such as gender and ethnic studies, new media, and neuropsychology; artists creating new art forms that cross disciplines and cultures and uniquely express perceptions and understandings of time and place;

- » Made discoveries about how the brain works; how we live and learn, work and play, wage war and peace; about health and wellness;

- » Created businesses and services, made breakthroughs in electronic communications;

- » Made new interpretations of timeless texts that advance our understanding of ourselves and our global communities and provide deeper and broader understanding of our multicultural world.

And that's just for starters!

Sadly, however, graduate student debt loads are also high. All things considered, graduate education at Minnesota is a bargain; but without fellowship support, it remains out of reach for too many aspiring scholars.

I hope you will consider supporting graduate fellowships in 2014, for the good of the students and the University, and for the greater good of people, communities, and human enterprise across the globe.

As I write on this cold December day, I know that by the time you receive this issue of *Reach* the joys of the holidays will be a distant memory. But in the spirit of the season, I want to thank you for the many ways you have given of yourself to CLA—hosting student internships, providing scholarship support, and mentoring students overwhelmed by the challenges and possibilities of the world they are being educated to serve and lead. You are our invaluable partners, for whom we are most grateful!

### MARY HICKS

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# CLA PRESENTS FOR YOUR PLEASURE

**TO MARK  
 ON YOUR  
 CALENDAR**

**FEB 22**  
*A Brighter U*  
 Stimulating conversation  
 with faculty about big ideas!  
 Coffman Memorial Union

**FEB 27 - MAR 9**  
 In Repertory  
*New Dance/New Space*  
 Rarig Center

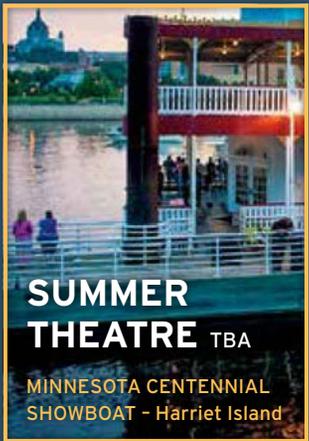
**through MAR 16**  
*Why Guantánamo?*  
 Guantánamo Public Memory  
 Student Project  
 Minnesota History Center

**FEB 25 - MAR 29**  
*From Beyond  
 the Window*  
 Approaches to Abstraction »  
 Regis Center



**MAR 5**  
 Mussorgsky's  
*Pictures at an Exhibition*  
 SYMPHONIC BAND  
 Ted Mann Concert Hall

In Repertory **APR 3-8**  
 Shakespeare's  
*Romeo and Juliet* and  
*Macbeth*  
 Rarig Center



**APR 9**  
 An Evening with Novelist  
*David Mitchell*  
 Northrop Memorial Auditorium

**APR 10-13**  
 Janáček's  
*The Cunning Little Vixen*  
 UNIVERSITY OPERA THEATRE  
 Ted Mann Concert Hall

**APR 17-27**  
 Shakespeare's  
*Hamlet*  
 Rarig Center

**MAY 3**  
 Mahler's  
*Symphony #2*  
 UNIVERSITY SYMPHONY  
 ORCHESTRA and  
 CHORAL ENSEMBLES  
 Northrop Memorial Auditorium

For more information and  
 A COMPLETE CALENDAR  
[z.umn.edu/artsevents](http://z.umn.edu/artsevents)