

Les Entretiens

BUILDING A COMMUNITY OF GLOBAL CITIZENS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MACJANNET FOUNDATION

SPRING 2009



"Let the games begin!" The opening of the MacJannet Games opposite the Talloires post office, 1984. Pictured from left are Howard Cook (then president of the MacJannet Foundation), Seymour Simches (director of Tufts in Talloires), Donald MacJannet, Mary Harris (successor to Simches), Charlotte MacJannet and Rocky Carzo.

THE SAINT GERMAIN PILGRIMAGE:

How an Idea Became a Tradition

BY DAN ROTTENBERG

MacJannet Foundation trustee Rocky Carzo enjoys a unique status: He may be the only person within the MacJannet community who first encountered Donald and Charlotte MacJannet as a full-grown adult rather than as a student or camper. And this unique perspective has produced at least two cherished MacJannet traditions.

When the MacJannets donated the Prieuré to Tufts University for a European campus in 1978, Rocky had been athletic director at Tufts for five years. About that time, as Rocky tells it, he started a 7 a.m. fitness class for Tufts faculty members. One of the participants was Seymour Simches, the first director of the Tufts European Center. One day at the fitness class, Simches told him, "This is what I want you to do in Talloires."

At that point the name "Talloires" was a total mystery to Rocky, who had never visited France in his life. But his wife Terry, who had majored in art history in college, urged him to seize the opportunity. So in the early '80s, on his first visit to Talloires, Rocky found himself in the Prieuré garden, where Donald MacJannet sat him down and

charged him with a special mission.

"I want you to bring some life to this place," Donald told Rocky. "They're just doing academics. They're not paying any attention to the rest of the body." Thus began Rocky's Talloires relationship of 20-plus years as well as a series of idiosyncratic experiments in MacJannet-style athletics that survive to this day.



Rocky Carzo:
A unique perspective on the MacJannets.

Birth of the MacJannet Games

The first of these was the MacJannet Games, a sort of parody of the Olympics whose events required not only physical prowess but also mental acumen and teamwork, not to mention a good grasp of local geography (one event was a relay race through the streets and hills of Talloires) and a sense of humor. The Mac games were not limited to Tufts students but included faculty, staff and villagers.

Like the real Olympics, the MacJannet Games opened with a faux pompous parade from the Prieuré to the Talloires post office, supervised by the town's sole gendarme, who put on his full uniform for the occasion and blew his whistle pretentiously. Leading the way were the local elementary school students in Laurence Revil's English class, sponsored then and now by the MacJannet Foundation: They dressed up in Alpine outfits and carried small French flags. But unlike the Olympics, Rocky explains, at the Mac Games "we tried to have all the races end in a tie, so there'd be no losers."

At roughly the same time, Rocky started a "Tufts Alpine Fitness" class that, like the Mac Games, drew uniquely on the Prieuré's location and the MacJannet spirit. The class began each day with stretching exercises in the Prieuré's Grand Salle. These were followed by jogs and walks up and down nearby hills, often in the same sweaty clothes, since there were then no washing machines available in Talloires.

In the footsteps of St. Germain

From these classes evolved yet another Tufts/MacJannet tradition: the St. Germain Pilgrimage. This was a modern-day homage to Saint Germain, who founded the Benedictine order of monks in Talloires but left the Prieuré in 1035 to journey to a cave high in the hills above Talloires, where he lived out the last 40 years of his life in solitary reflection. The church of Saint Germain was built on this site and named in his honor as a testament to his devotion and leadership.

In 1982 members of Rocky's Tufts Alpine fitness class committed themselves to replicating this same "pilgrimage" as their final class event. Again, participation was open to all, regardless of physical condition. Some "pilgrims" ran; others jogged, rode bikes or drove up in cars.

As with the Mac Games, "There never were winners or losers in the pilgrimage," Rocky explains. "Even though we kept records of the times, everyone was given a ribbon for finishing the race. Those who finished early would take a short rest, then go down and help the rest to finish in any way possible. I don't remember anyone fail-

ing to finish, unless injury prevented it."

The "race" would be followed by an award ceremony at the St. Germain chapel and a recitation of the story of St. Germain by the local priest or a Tufts official. The festivities concluded with a group "T-U-F-T-S" cheer.

A permanent institution

The Saint Germain Pilgrimage has evolved over the years to become an annual rallying point for the entire Tufts community in Talloires. Its importance was recognized by a succession of Tufts European Center directors— Seymour Simches, Mary Harris, Sally Pym and Gabriella Goldstein— who have helped maintain these traditions for more than a quarter century. Others in the Tufts and Talloires communities who helped start and maintain this tradition include Terry Carzo, Mme. "Chevy" Gridel, Mme. Fontaine, Mme. Roche, M. Gervex and Mme. Aubé, among many others.

A plaque commemorating the Saint Germain Pilgrimage has been engraved, with the hope of dedicating it in the summer of 2009. The plaque will recognize all Tufts students, faculty and staff who have made this annual pilgrimage an integral part of the Tufts Talloires experience, in the hope of inspiring future generations to perpetuate this tradition.

As for Rocky Carzo: He retired in 1999 after 26 years as athletic director at Tufts, where he is now director emeritus. But at 76 his relationship with Talloires and the Prieuré remains as strong as ever.



Rocky Carzo (left) with Donald MacJannet in the Prieuré garden, 1982.

MacJannet Prize to Recognize Student Leadership

The MacJannet Prize for Global Citizenship—the first formal prize awarded by the MacJannet Foundation—will make its debut in June 2009. The prize, which will recognize university-based programs around the world, will be a joint venture of the MacJannet Foundation and the Talloires Network, the new consortium of colleges and universities engaged in community citizenship.

Winning programs, to be awarded at a ceremony at the Prieuré, will demonstrate exemplary service in addressing an issue of global significance, such as public health in the developing world, efforts to promote literacy, or economic development in distressed communities.

Eight prizes will be awarded: a first prize of \$5,000, two second prizes of \$2,500 each, and five third prizes of \$1,000 each. Prize money will be used to further the goals and strengthen the impact of the awarded programs. But the prize money should matter less than the global spotlight the award will shine on the recipients. Web-based profiles will serve to raise awareness about the winning programs, and a video documentary of the first-prize winner will be created to further promote and acknowledge the efforts of these exceptional programs.

“We see this new initiative as a way to champion the values of our founders, Donald and Charlotte MacJannet, and extend their legacy to a new generation of students around the globe,” says Tony Cook, president of the MacJannet Foundation. “It’s a wonderful new role for the Foundation, but it’s also an opportunity for those who believe in the cause of student civic volunteerism and community service around the world.”

Funding for the MacJannet prize was kicked off with an initial gift from Cynthia Raymond, an emeritus trustee of the Foundation. Other significant early donors included Rob Hollister (a former trustee and MacJannet camper) and the estate of the late George Forman, who was Donald MacJannet’s first pupil at the Elms School outside Paris in the 1920s. The Foundation’s current fund-raising efforts are geared toward establishing the Prize as an annual award.

The Talloires Network was formed at Le Prieuré in 2005 to focus colleges on their role beyond their immediate campuses as active members of the world community as well as their local communities. The Talloires Declaration, signed by the original 29 member institutions, states that “Our institutions recognize that we do not exist in isolation from society, nor from the communities in which



Cynthia Harts Raymond, MacJannet Foundation trustee emeritus, provided the initial gift that kicked off funding for the MacJannet Prize. She is shown here at the unveiling of a plaque dedicated to the MacJannets at le Prieuré in 2007.

we are located. Instead, we carry a unique obligation to listen, understand, and contribute to social transformation and development. . . Universities have the responsibility to foster in faculty, staff and students a sense of social responsibility and a commitment to the social good, which, we believe, is central to the success of a democratic and just society.”

Its membership has since grown to 75 institutions across 29 countries on six continents. (For a complete list, visit the Talloires Network website at <http://www.tufts.edu/talloiresnetwork/?pid=22&c=38>.)

Only programs originating from member institutions of the Talloires Network are eligible for the prize, and nominations for this or future prizes can be submitted by students, faculty, staff, or administrators at Talloires Network institutions, using the MacJannet Prize website (<http://www.macjannetprize.org>). The deadline for nominations ended on January 15, 2009. Semi-finalists were chosen shortly afterward and asked to submit their own supporting materials by March 1. Winners will then be chosen by a committee consisting of MacJannet Foundation board members and Talloires Network staff, and their decision will be announced in April.

For additional information on the MacJannet Prize or the Talloires Network, contact Elizabeth Babcock, Talloires Network Coordinator, at babcock@icicp.org or visit <http://www.macjannetprize.org>.

MACJANNET FELLOWS 2009

This year's exchange students share their stories

As part of its effort to build bridges across the Atlantic, the MacJannet Foundation sponsors three student exchange programs:

- The MacJannet Fellows program, which enables graduate students at Tufts University's Fletcher School of Diplomacy to spend a year studying at the University of Geneva's Graduate Institute of International Studies (HEI) in Geneva; and HEI students to spend a year studying at Fletcher in Medford, Mass.
- The MacJannet Scholars program, which subsidizes Tufts University undergraduates for the six-week Tufts spring program at Le Prieuré in Talloires.
- A new program co-sponsored with Les Amis du Prieuré, in which residents of the Lake Annecy area spend one month in the U.S.
- We asked some of the past year's recipients to describe their exchange experiences and what they meant to them. Here are their stories.

IN MEDFORD...

"Every challenge is an opportunity"

BY SARA HELLMUELLER

"Hi, welcome to Blakeley Hall. How was your flight? And how are you?"

With these nice words I was welcomed to Medford—to what was going to be my new home for the next two semesters.

Only to be standing there had been unimaginable for me at the beginning of 2008. In Switzerland, where I live, universities are state-subsidized, and thus the tuition fees are quite low. But a master's degree from a U.S. university would simply have been out of reach for me. And as I finished my fall 2007 semester exams in Geneva, I thought that I would never manage to be accepted to participate in the MacJannet-sponsored exchange program between Fletcher and Geneva.

At that stage, I had forgotten about my credentials. For instance, prior to my studies in Geneva, I did a seven-month overland trip from Switzerland to Nepal that included traveling through Siberia in February, living with



Sara Hellmueller:
"What a wonderful day!"

nomads in the Gobi Desert for three weeks, and exploring remote parts of Tibet during two months. These experiences not only raised my awareness of cultural differences and the opportunities and challenges they bring with them, but also of the commonalities uniting all human beings.

During my studies, I voluntarily co-led the African Division at Terre des Hommes—a non-governmental organization based in Geneva that promotes respect for children's rights.

Moreover, I developed a small-scale project in South Africa, where I was the main project manager together with a South African collaborator. I also taught at a kindergarten and volunteered in a children's home in South Africa.

The following year, I did an internship in Mongolia at an NGO that fosters democracy in post-socialism, where I conducted research and designed and implemented projects. In 2007, I interned at the Swiss Embassy in Nigeria.

However, in early 2008, Fletcher was a goal a little too far to reach in my mind. Luckily only in my mind, though: On a sunny spring day, I opened my mailbox and read the good news: "J'ai le plaisir de vous informer que vous avez été sélectionnée."

The academic angels were on my side, and I guess my father's words described our joy the best: "What a wonderful day!"

My final spring 2008 exams in Geneva focused on human rights, peacekeeping and international trade regime. Four months later I started my semester at the Fletcher School, where I focus on human security, international negotiation and conflict resolution.

My master's thesis concerns the topic of humiliation during apartheid in South Africa. I will examine how the effects of humiliation differed according to gender, race and class, and how these experiences could be healed in the post-apartheid society.

In general, the classes at Fletcher have really helped me orient myself toward my career and have given me a whole new perspective on many current international issues. I am very grateful to be at the Fletcher School for several reasons.

First, I like the balance between theory-oriented and practice-oriented classes (even though, in one simulation, a text message reading, “We are declaring war, U.S. President,” was accidentally sent to a non-Fletcher phone number!).

Second, the interaction between professors and students truly enriches the classes. I was amazed the first time I saw a student contradict the professor, as this would be rather rare in Switzerland.

Third, I am benefiting a lot from the variety of students, who all speak at least seven languages among them, have cumulatively traveled three times around the world, and already worked seven years for the UN and ten for the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Finally the genuine and collegial atmosphere is truly helpful— even including the hundreds of procrastination excuses on the e-mail list during finals.

I feel at home here. Equally important, I feel that I will leave the Fletcher School with much greater knowledge, experience and cultural sensitivity to start my career in the field of conflict resolution and humanitarian work.

My choices are incredibly broad after Fletcher. My best-case scenario would be to go to Africa, preferably work with the International Red Cross or a UN mission. Then, there are (too?) many second-best cases, which range from interning at the International Center for Transitional Justice in New York, to doing research for a think tank in Brussels, to working for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Geneva.

It seems as if, in my life, I never stop moving from one challenge to another. But as long as the challenges are dreams coming true— such attending the Fletcher School, thanks to the MacJannet Foundation— I very much welcome them.

Using economics To mitigate conflict

BY JOHANNES SCHWARZER

As the first son of an Ethio-Eritrean mother and a German father, and having grown up in countries like Niger, Zaire, Somalia and then Germany, I have been confronted with questions of poverty, conflict and under-development from my earliest days— issues that are inextricably linked to my self-being. But development and international cooperation to me isn’t merely an ethical imperative. Perhaps even more important, it’s also a precondition for a sustainable future of peaceful cooperation

among peoples, and hence in everyone’s best interest.

During my final years of my high school I developed a project idea that I wanted to see implemented in Eritrea. It consisted of using solar cookers for commercial ends, instead of only for consumption (cooking food, etc.). Since the cost of solar energy is zero, the cooker adjusts itself for the manufacture of energy-consuming products like jam, canned foods, fruit juice etc., which in turn can be commercialized after an initial investment, but with further marginal costs of close to zero.



Johannes Schwarzer:
A framework for
entrepreneurs

I presented my plan to representatives of EG-Solar Altoetting e.V., a German NGO, and as a result I joined this group myself. It supported me during my year in Eritrea, where I managed to acquire a small budget and, among other little successes, helped to set up a jam-producing facility that survives to this day.

Key events for the development of my consciousness for international politics were the Ethio-Eritrean war of 1998-2000 and 9/11 and the subsequent rise of Islamism— in the Horn of Africa as well as elsewhere.

It was with this background that I made my definitive choice of studies. I inherited my father’s bottom-up approach to development issues. But my experience with the Eritrean government— which is at the crossroads of both national and international conflicts— convinced me that the matter is more complex. An entrepreneur is nothing without the framework he is operating in, and conversely the framework provided by the state is nothing without a vibrant private sector. Therefore I considered international relations as the field of study most likely to suit my wish for a comprehensive approach to issues on any level of analysis.

I began my studies in international relations and organization at the University of Groningen in the Netherlands, but then transferred to Geneva after completing the first year. In Geneva, and subsequently now at Fletcher, my focus of study is on international economic relations and development. Whereas Geneva provided me with an excellent academic and theoretical background of larger economic and other issues, Fletcher offers an extraordinary range of rather practical and business-oriented

courses, which makes a perfect and complementary mix for me.

Another striking but also enriching difference between the two institutions is the marked difference in worldviews of the respective faculties. Whereas Geneva takes a very European (and specifically “French”) approach to education and subject matters, Fletcher is clearly in the American tradition. Both have their advantages, and it’s invaluable for me to experience both sides.

I believe strongly that economic well-being can contribute to mitigate conflict, especially in the world’s poorer areas. When benefits arise from cooperation among countries, these countries will be less prone to disrupt the source of their wealth by engaging in hostile acts. And even if governments don’t necessarily act in their people’s best interests, such destructive action would be harder to justify.

FLETCHER FELLOWS IN GENEVA

Reconciling democracy and Islam

Ahmed Labnouj, a native of Morocco, holds dual Moroccan and U.S. citizenship. He earned his B.A. from the University of California at Berkeley in 2006 and entered the Fletcher School at Tufts in 2007 as a candidate for an M.A. in law and diplomacy. With the benefit of a MacJannet Foundation fellowship, he has spent the current academic year as a Fletcher exchange student at HEI in Geneva.

BY AHMED LABNOUJ

Leaving the Fletcher community last fall was tantamount to parting with a dear family member. Still, I was thrilled to be warmly welcomed by a devoted network of Fletcher alumni when I arrived in Geneva. The generous contribution of the MacJannet Foundation provided me with invaluable support, which has enabled me to take advantage of the variety and depth of international legal studies offered at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (HEI). In addition, the city of Geneva allows for an interesting change of perspective given the concentration of diplomatic activity, non-governmental organizations, and the unlimited opportunities to establish a direct link between esoteric theoretical ideas and their concrete applicability.

Unlike most of my Fletcher classmates, I came from the hospitality industry sector before enrolling at Fletcher. My initial interest in the field developed while growing

With these thoughts in mind, my thesis will research the potential gains to be achieved from free trade between Ethiopia and Eritrea. These two countries were each other’s largest trading partners before their war of 1998, but they remain in a state of no communication at all. My hope is that putting a value on cooperation in trade may raise both sides’ awareness of foregone benefits to be won by pointing to the more intangible but still real costs of non-cooperation. Eventually such a realization may lead to renewed interest in improving bilateral relations, which would benefit the region as a whole.

After I complete my coursework at Fletcher, I expect to work on my thesis in Ethiopia and in collaboration with the German GTZ, a government-owned enterprise that promotes worldwide technical cooperation. My career objectives clearly are in the field of economic development. Ideally, I would work with developing country governments on issues of economic policy, both nationally and internationally.



up in Morocco, where tourism plays a crucial role in the national economy. Upon settling in the U.S., I developed a keen interest in politics and international affairs, which I pursued further while at Berkeley and through various traineeship opportunities in California’s electoral system.

At Fletcher I sought to narrow my field of interest into two concentrations: First, public international law, with a particular focus on the laws of armed conflict; and second, southwest Asia. I was particularly interested in studying the controversial subject of reconciling the principles of democracy and principles of Islam, with all their pertinent nuances.

In Geneva I am continuing on my path with public international law, with a narrow focus on trade law. I will devote the remainder of my time here to further my understanding of trade negotiations and commercial diplomacy, especially in a north/south paradigm.

To further strengthen my knowledge in the field, I will seek HEI's Summer Certificate on the World Trade Organization, International Trade and Development.

My short-term career goal is to apply my academic knowledge in a career with either the WTO or the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). However, in the long term I plan to return to my country of birth, where I feel I could contribute more to the well being of others in real terms.

LES AMIS DU PRIEURÉ FELLOWS, 2008

One month that changed my life

BY YANNICK FILLON

Summer, 2008: My best summer. I was so excited and at the same time worried when I landed in Boston last July, knowing no one except Jerome Pâris, a MacJannet Foundation grant holder from France like me. We obtained the same scholarship to spend one month at Tufts University, outside Boston, in order to improve our English and discover a little part of the United States.

Immediately after we arrived, we met people from the four corners of the world, of every age, and good will quickly built between us. After resting from the jet lag, the course began. Every morning during the week we had three interesting hours of English, where we could learn grammar and vocabulary but also share opinions in a multicultural class.

In the afternoon, the university offered trips to discover Boston and its surroundings or American culture. What good moments we spent at the baseball stadium (Fenway Park), on Revere Beach or on Martha's Vineyard!

We did a lot of sport: The Japanese taught us how to play baseball, and we showed them how to play rugby. So funny—it's the best way to learn a language!

My best moments were the ones shared with foreigners; I have never laughed so much.

This program was a success for improving my English level and for all I have learned about the U.S. and about people from the whole world. It's a cultural exchange that you can't have anywhere else.

With two Italians, Jerome and I went to New York City to visit the Big Apple by ourselves. What adventure! I keep those good memories of my stay. I wish all students could have the opportunity that I had. Tell me where to sign up for next year—I'm ready!



Yannick in New York: 'What good moments!'

Editor's note: Yannick Fillon of La Balme de Sillingy, a village north of Annecy, was 19 when he came to Tufts University in the summer of 2008 as one of the first two recipients of a new MacJannet Foundation student exchange program, through which Les Amis du Prieuré in Talloires sends local students to Tufts for one month. He subsequently produced an exuberant picture slideshow of his month in America. Grace Billings, a MacJannet Foundation board member who served as Yannick's Boston contact, notes:

"If you read between the lines on this 25-page presentation, you will see what is astonishing to the French about America. They cannot believe that a university would have its own gymnasium, its own library, its own international student body. These young people come to Boston and New York and they are changed by the breadth of the world beyond their village.

"The MacJannets would be thrilled that it is not just Americans who come to France and are astonished, but also French who come to America and are changed by the experience.

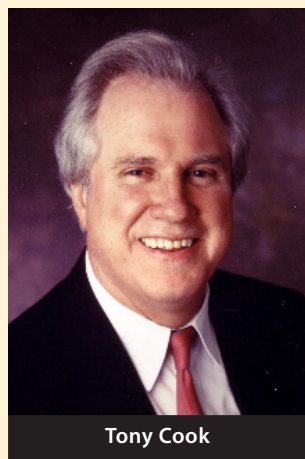
"At dinner one night we spoke of Americans as risk-takers, as opposed to the French *il faut faire avec*. In America, Yannick observed, there is no failure; instead there is a sense of try, risk, and if you fall, you pick yourself up and keep going.

"Yannick returned to France and decided to try for the highest engineering school. He wanted to take the risk. Charlotte and Donald would be thrilled."

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Seeking the silver lining as the market swoons

BY TONY COOK



Tony Cook

When I was a MacJannet camper in 1954, Mr. Mac taught us a song that Mrs. Mac had written to keep our spirits bright when we were forced to stay indoors because it was raining. Nothing conveys the indomitable optimism of the Macs as well as the lyrics of that song. ("Outside it's raining, but what do we care?" the first line asked rhetorically. "Inside it's sunshine, a song in the air!")

Yes, it rained *beaucoup* that summer; yet the memory of that season on the shores of Lake Annecy remains vivid and happy because we managed to find creative things to do when the weather was bad.

So it is in 2009, as the world economy rains on our parade. The stock market meltdown has undermined the assets of many foundations, and we are no exception. The MacJannet Foundation's endowment is down about 30% since the end of 2007, which will force us to make hard choices about our funding commitments to some programs we have traditionally supported. But there is also some sunshine peeking through the clouds over La Tournette—the sort of upbeat news the MacJannets themselves would have focused on.

Our newest program, the MacJannet Prize for Global Citizenship, is a hit. Sixty-four student volunteer programs from 40 colleges and universities in 19 countries have applied for the competition, and the inaugural winners will be awarded their prizes in Talloires this June. We have established a solid partnership with both the Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service at Tufts and the expanding Talloires Network of Universities around the world. And the idea of the MacJannet Prize has inspired new friends of the foundation to step forward with contributions.

Clearly, we have our fund-raising work cut out for us in this era of sobering headlines. But let's take a page from the book of our founders, who managed to touch many lives and accomplish so much in an

TUFTS IN TALLOIRES— SUMMER 2008

MacJannet Scholars' memories: The perfect way to learn French

BY STEPHANIE KREUTZ

Living in a France was the perfect way for me to improve my French. At first I was afraid to speak my broken French, but by the end of the six weeks I was more confident, and my vocabulary was larger.

My host mom was very good at helping me learn more French. She always spoke French to me and corrected me when I said something wrong. My French skills improved immensely, even though I lived in France for only six weeks.

My favorite part of the Tufts in Talloires program was meeting new people. I hadn't expected to make any close friends in just six weeks, but I left France with some really strong friendships. I am also very excited to reunite with many of the people I met when I return to Tufts in the fall.

I loved living in a foreign country and speaking a different language. Through the time I spent in Talloires, I became more confident and independent. I am more comfortable about meeting new people, and I am much more open to trying new things, especially foods.

I am lucky to have had the opportunity to spend time in such a beautiful place and to have had such a fantastic time there. The time I spent with the Tufts in Talloires program will always be very special to me. I wish everyone could have the chance to experience what I did.

Hiking beyond my comfort zone

BY LAUREN VERRA

If someone asks me what my favorite experience in France was, I know I can easily answer that question. I see myself climbing a mountain, passing cows and mountain goats, listening to Bernard Martin's stories and sweating profusely in the sun.

The view from the top always made it worthwhile, but the journey meant a lot to me in itself. I genuinely loved pushing myself harder than I ever thought was pos-

era that encompassed some of history's worst traumas: the Great Depression and two world wars. If Donald and Charlotte MacJannet were alive today, I'm sure they would suggest a song to inspire our thoughts of the many things we can accomplish as "active citizens," if only we turn our minds from gloom to gratitude.

sible. I never thought I would spend a summer climbing mountains in the French Alps, and I never thought hiking would be my favorite experience in Talloires.

When I think about my Talloires experience in general, a lot of it relates to my time spent hiking. This summer was a time for me to step out of my comfort zone in the most drastic way imaginable. I had never been out of the country before Talloires, and I had never been more than an hour away from my parents for an extended period of time.

The summer was about trying new things. I ate tartiflette and rabbit, spoke French to French people, and lived with a family that wasn't my own. I learned how to function in another culture and figure out things for myself.

How much Talloires changed me was immediately apparent when I spent ten days in Paris after the program. My friend Brooke and I were suddenly truly on our own for the first time in our lives. Somehow we found our way around this city we had never been to before and had an amazing time being independent. I am so thankful for my experience in Talloires for teaching me how to push myself out of my comfort zone and showing me how good it feels.

A unique college experience

BY RACHAEL HOGAN

Talloires is truly something I will carry with me for the rest of my life. As it will probably be my only abroad experience in college, I tried to take full advantage of everything Talloires and the people I met had to offer. I am sure that some of my memories from Talloires will be some of my favorite from college, and I can say that Talloires may be one of the best experiences I have had at Tufts.

I opened my eyes and let the world in

BY KATIE RIZZOLO

Before I attended Tufts in Talloires, my experiences abroad had been limited to tourist travel in Italy and England. So I traveled to France with the desire to experience and engage in a culture other than that of the U.S.

Although I don't speak French, I learned a lot about culture with my host family. Nightly dinners afforded me the opportunity to try new foods and learn about the French style of living. I tried many types of cheese, breads and dishes (such as tartiflette!) that I never would have tried otherwise.

In addition, living right in the city of Annecy afforded me endless opportunities to explore the city. I would often go with my roommate to cafés to do homework and watch people shop along the canal. Through these experiences I learned about different styles of eating and conversing. For example, coffee and food is enjoyed—not rushed on the go—and dinner conversations are kept to the lowest level possible. These experiences allowed me to reflect on my own culture and style of living.

Classes in Talloires also afforded me opportunities to work and relax in a small-town setting. I loved the Priory's close-knit atmosphere—I felt as though I really got to know all the students, the staff and the faculty. Never before have I been able to play guitar for my community health professor, hike with an economics professor, dine with an art professor or go out to coffee with an English professor. Talloires allowed me to know my professors on a different level.

Moreover, the classes I took opened my eyes to subjects I have never been able to take at school. As a biology major, I am limited to mostly natural science classes, and my community health and art history classes in Talloires were completely eye-opening courses for me.

Such a close community with other Tufts students facilitated the makings of great friendships. But outside of classes I also formed close friendships with people I would never have crossed paths with at school. The town of Talloires welcomed us Tuftonians with open arms. I was on a first-name basis with the girl who worked at the convenience store; the barista at the Closerie Café knew my order by heart; and the pastry man at the Thursday open market greeted us as friends every week. It was amazing to be part of such a community.

More than anything, the hikes with Bernard Martin shaped my Talloires experience. As a track and field athlete, I have very few weekends free to hike during school. Even if I did, there is something special about the French Alps. It may be the flowers. It may be the mountain goats. It may be the amazing views. Or it may be Bernard's mustache. Regardless, the hikes allowed me to see the beauty of nature that I often miss. Every hike I finished left me feeling accomplished and changed.

The recurring theme of my Talloires experience: I pulled myself out of my own comfort zone and saw so many things I had never seen before. By doing this, I formed lasting friendships with amazing people, saw sights I will never forget, challenged myself academically, and generally expanded my world-view and my self-view. My Talloires experience made me see that I can do anything if I open my eyes and let the world in.

'QUEST FOR THE SHIELDS':

The Rosetta Stone of the MacJannet Camps

BY DAN ROTTENBERG

One of the oldest MacJannet traditions—the annual camp honor shields—originated in 1931 with a plaque listing the names of “Angonians,” a label that apparently covered every boy and girl at MacJannet Camps that summer. The shield mentions three “big chiefs,” 12 “little chieftains” and 64 “warriors of the tribe.” At that point the MacJannet Camps were already seven years old, but this shield appears to be the earliest surviving record of campers in attendance.



The Indian theme of that first shield lasted exactly one summer. In 1932 the camp unveiled its first “honor shield,” spotlighting the best all-around campers (one boy, one girl) and recognizing outstanding performers in 13 other categories, from archery and dramatics to scouting and weaving.

Over the next three decades the honor categories often varied, and so did the qualifications: From the 1950s onward, most honorees were recognized for “progress” in a specific category rather than proficiency. Thus if you spoke no French at all when you arrived but could say, “*Ou est la toilette?*” by the summer’s end, you might very well find your name on the honor shield for “Progress in French,” as was my case in 1952, when I was ten.

Perhaps the most curious category was one called “Personal Progress,” which usually appeared just below “Best All-Around Camper,” thus signifying its importance to the MacJannets. Usually it went to shy kids who, in the course of eight weeks, emerged from their shells, or to nasty kids who turned nice. But such a sensitive and intangible sort of honor was unheard of at the sports-crazy American summer camps of the MacJannets’ day.

Having your name on a shield, of course, represented a kind of immortality. So it was a very big deal, especially at a camp that otherwise discouraged our competitive

Immortality, of a sort

impulses. And you stood a much better chance of achieving this MacJannet brand of immortality than you did, say, of winning a Nobel Prize: The 1962 shield, for example, lists 25 names for a camp whose population never exceeded 80.



The process of choosing the honorees was kept scrupulously confidential, but from what little I recall (as a camper in ’52, ’53 and

’55), it went something like this:

A few days before the end of camp, all the counselors gathered in a secret session to settle on the format and choose the honorees. Donald and Charlotte MacJannet did not attend this meeting and in theory had nothing to do with the selections; but in practice, I’m told, they sometimes lobbied for their own preferences with some success, which may explain the disproportionately high number of prominent surnames that you will find on the shields. Look closely and you will see, for example, a Dulles (a cousin of the U.S. Secretary of State under Eisenhower), a Woodward (the son of a high-society race-horse breeder who was subsequently shot by his wife and immortalized by Truman Capote), and a Faure (daughter of the French premier).

Created in secret

Once the choices were made, some artistic counselor was dispatched to the ateliers to create a shield and paint upon it the names of the lucky winners. Each shield had to resemble its predecessors, more or less, but it also had to reflect its own unique personality. (When you view the shields today, some are so artistic and idiosyncratic as to be almost illegible.) This was a painstaking and time-consuming task that the artisan had to squeeze in among his or her routine counselor duties. It probably took several days to complete, during which time the unfinished shield was covered by a cloth. How word of the

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winners didn't leak out during this time boggles my mind, but it didn't.

The coveted shield was finally unveiled at the closing banquet on the last night of camp. Winners received a small rectangular blue pin that read simply: "MACJANNET CAMPS FRANCE." Those winners whose names had already appeared previously on a shield were given a small silver star to affix to the rectangular pin they already owned.

In the MacJannets' egalitarian world, no one appeared on a given shield more than once, and even kids who returned to camp year after year rarely made it to the shield more than once, and almost never more than twice. Consequently you rarely saw anyone with more than one star on his camp pin. But there were exceptions to this rule: From my first summer in 1952, I recall an older camper named Jean-Marie Pfender, a French war orphan who had been there since the camp had reopened in 1948. His camp pin had more stars dangling from it than I was ever able to count.

Before the next summer session began, the MacJannets mounted the new shield alongside the other shields on the wall of the camp lodge (now the restaurant L'Espace Lac), there to greet campers when they returned on opening day. And if the kids were new to the camp, as most campers were, the shields conveniently reinforced the notion that MacJannet boys and girls belonged to a venerable tradition, one that predated them and possibly even their parents. If the MacJannet Camps weren't quite as old as the Père Bise or the Prieuré or the Chateau de Duingt, well— to kids who were as young as four years old and no older than 14, anything that dated from 1931 seemed downright medieval, if not prehistoric.

Back to the Prieuré

After the MacJannets closed the camp in 1963, the shields languished forgotten for some time in the bowels of the Prieuré. In the 1980s the MacJannet Foundation took possession of them and concluded that the best way to preserve them (while simultaneously raising funds) was to distribute them to former campers who would cherish them. Consequently eight of the old shields were auctioned off, along with other camp memorabilia.

This was probably a bad idea. As the Foundation now belatedly recognizes, the shields are more than nostalgic curiosities; they also represent a collective Rosetta Stone for understanding the MacJannet Camps years, which stretched from 1924 to 1963. The names engraved on them constitute a database with which to reconstruct the MacJannet community of the past and link it to today.

Seventeen of these shields now hang in the Woodworth Room at the Prieuré, where I hope this summer to record all the names for preservation in a digital archives that will be instantly accessible to the MacJannet community worldwide.

The missing shields

But where are the missing shields— the ones that were auctioned off a generation ago? The camp didn't function in 1940 through 1947, and there may not have been a shield for 1948, when the camp consisted exclusively of French war orphans. Even so, that leaves eight shields that were likely sold in the 1980s (see the list below).



Who owns these shields? I would like to know— not necessarily to buy them back (although it would be nice to reunite all the shields in the Prieuré), but more important to photograph them and copy the names for inclusion in our digital archives.

What good will this information do? Who knows? All we know is that the MacJannets began with a very small idea that is now beginning to exert influence around the globe. The "Quest for the Shields" follows much the same philosophy. Readers with information about the whereabouts of the missing shields are encouraged to contact me at dan@danrotenberg.com. I hope to report back next year with a progress report— and, with luck, a complete inventory of the names on them.

MacJannet Camp Shields— summary

AT THE PRIEURÉ IN TALLOIRES:

1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1936, 1950 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963

MISSING

1935, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1948, 1949, 1951, 1952

The MacJannet Foundation:

A non-profit, charitable foundation established in 1968. The Foundation's mission is to promote the Prieuré in Talloires, France, as a catalyst to unleash individual potential and to inspire international understanding. Our vision is a community of global citizens.
MacJannet Foundation

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Passing the baton: Former MacJannet Foundation president Willard Snyder (left) and incoming president Tony Cook at le Prieuré, June 2008.



MacJannet Foundation trustees and overseers, June 2008: From left: Gabriella Goldstein, Robert-Jan Smits, Jean-Marie Hervé, Rocky Carzo, Willard Snyder, TJ Snyder, Tony Cook, Dan Rottenberg, Tony Kleitz, John Iglehart, Maria Robinson, Bruce Berzin, Bruno Asselin, John King.



The 2008 annual spring performance of Talloires elementary school's English class, funded by the MacJannet Foundation, attracted the customary standing-room-only crowd to the Prieuré's garden. Beneath the umbrella in tie is Craig Stapleton, then U.S. ambassador to France, talking to MacJannet Foundation trustee Bruce Berzin (standing at left).