

# Les Entretiens

BUILDING A COMMUNITY OF GLOBAL CITIZENS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MACJANNET FOUNDATION

SPRING 2018

50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

## The seeds they planted



The original trustees of the MacJannet Foundation gathered for this photo about a year after the foundation's birth in 1968. From left are Howard Cook, Ruth Snyder, Amos Booth, Jim Halsey, Donald and Charlotte, and Jean-Pierre Francillon (an attorney in Annecy). Not pictured is Lucia de Viti Pecorella, a friend of the MacJannets who lived in Rome.

## How a unique community became a unique foundation

GEORGE HALSEY

On the 50th anniversary of the MacJannet Foundation, the question persists: How did a modest school that never enrolled more than 60 students at any one time and a summer camp that never housed more than 80 campers spawn a foundation whose influence today extends around the globe?

The long-run answer is: *values*. From the 1920s onward, the original MacJannet School outside Paris and the MacJannet Camps in the French Alps instilled the values of Donald and Charlotte MacJannet in their young clients. And when those children grew up, they applied those values in directions that far exceeded the MacJannets' original vision. But the immediate catalyst for what became the MacJannet Foundation was *hunger*. It was the MacJannets' mutual concern for war-ravaged orphans that planted the first seeds of what subsequently evolved into the MacJannet Foundation.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## The seeds they planted

(Continued from page 1)

The spirit of humanitarian outreach across international boundaries was always central to Donald and Charlotte's values. But Donald and Charlotte arrived at that shared outlook from divergent paths.

While Donald's family in America was deeply religious to the point of practicing the vow of poverty, Donald said he achieved no feeling of spiritual grace in the pious aspect. He nevertheless felt the deepest empathy for the unfortunate. He felt the anguish of starving war orphans so personally that the sight of wasted food in first-class restaurants made him ill.

Charlotte, on the other hand, experienced the privations of war firsthand in Germany. During World War I and the hyperinflation that followed, her family was often hungry in their Rhineland village. "Formerly self-supporting people visited soup kitchens, disguised by veils," she recalled.

### On opposite sides

The MacJannet School families shared close bonds of friendship. Their children spent weekends at each other's homes. On Sunday afternoons, the parents, students and teachers socialized over tea at the school.

Students' parents and siblings often joined Donald MacJannet's winter ski trips in the Alps and long field trips to Africa.

Yet this community included people from countries on opposing sides of the impending conflagration of World War II, notably starting with Charlotte and Donald themselves. Prominent members of their community included ambassadors from Japan, China, and the U.S. Imagine the anguish shared by these close international friends as the outside world descended into jingoism. The older members had seen this pattern before. What could they possibly do about it?

### Postwar rebuilding

By the time World War II chased the MacJannets from France to America in 1940, Donald and Charlotte had been married eight years. During the war years and afterward, Donald convened a nameless international group of friends and alumni (called "The MacJannet Committee" by its members) devoted to the plight of war orphans. Each member undertook a unique program addressing needs in their home countries.

For example, Lucia de Viti de Marco Pecorella of Rome organized a home for disabled war orphans that functioned for more than 30 years. Maurice Plateau, the managing director of the French Entraide Cooperative,

established a chain of French summer camps, modeled on the MacJannet camp, that addressed malnourishment among working class children. Miki Sawada, matriarch of the Mitsubishi Group in Tokyo, worked tirelessly for decades to provide care for more than 2,000 abandoned children of African-American GIs in Japan. (Her courageous story was later chronicled in *The Least of These: Miki Sawada and Her Children*, a 1981 book by Elizabeth Anne Hemphill with a foreword by Donald MacJannet.)

Donald, for his part, undertook a postwar campaign to drum up American support for the Marshall Plan, creating documentary newsreel films (like *France Rebuilds*) that were screened in movie theaters throughout the U.S. in that pre-television era. He organized his informal circle into "The MacJannet Committee for Aid to French Children." The MacJannet Camp itself served as a kind of rehabilitation experience for malnourished French children and orphans in 1947 and '48.

### Fund-raising experts

In the 1960s, after the MacJannets acquired and restored the Prieuré de Talloires, the Macs converted it into a *de facto* humanitarian center, hosting various cultural events there, as well as the annual *Entretiens* gatherings—symposiums that devoted several days to a specific philosophical topic.

By then, Donald was past 70 and Charlotte was approaching 70 as well.

Increasingly, their inner circle of friends and alumni searched for a way to perpetuate both the MacJannets' values and the Prieuré's purpose after the MacJannets themselves were gone. Several members of this group were already well familiar with fund-raising for non-profit schools and humanitarian institutions.

They included Howard Cook, president of International House in New York; Amos Booth, headmaster of St. Bernard's School in New York; my Dad, Jim Halsey, president of the University of Bridgeport; John Rich, the dean of admissions at Rollins College in Florida; and Ruth Snyder, a former MacJannet camp counselor and head of a family foundation. Inevitably, the idea of creating a charitable foundation bubbled to the surface.

For that matter, Donald MacJannet himself had once been a fund-raiser for his alma mater, Tufts University. But as Mary Harris, an early director of the Tufts European Center in the Prieuré, recalled, "The thought of raising money in his own name was a tough nut for him to swallow. Only when the Foundation was established to further the ideals that the MacJannets had lived for did he and Charlotte allow this to happen."

#### MACJANNET FOUNDATION PRESIDENTS

Donald MacJannet — 1968-1986  
 Howard Cook — 1986-1996  
 George Halsey — 1996-2000  
 John King — 2001-2003  
 Robert Jerome — 2004 -2007  
 Willard Snyder — 2007-2008  
 Anthony P. Cook — 2008-2013  
 Todd Langton — 2013-present

## Search for funds

In the mid-1960s, several potential benefactors—including the MacJannets—offered to help finance such a foundation. One friend from the MacJannet Committee era of the 1940s offered to donate a substantial estate that could provide an initial critical mass of funding. The idea of an annual appeal for small donations also seemed self-evident to the committee's members.

As a university president in Connecticut, my dad, Jim Halsey, was able to engage a local law firm to incorporate the MacJannet Foundation, Inc., on a *pro bono* basis. Its purpose, as stated in its original charter, was to “promote international cooperation and understanding through the support of educational, cultural and scientific programs for the welfare of humankind.” Donald MacJannet was the founding president, Charlotte vice president, and Jim Halsey secretary-treasurer.

The first order of business involved negotiations for the funding anticipated from the estate of the prospective principal benefactor. But the foundation's trustees concluded that the donor's terms were too restrictive and decided not to proceed with the original prospect.

Consequently, the MacJannet Foundation was formally launched on May 22, 1968 with only a \$10,000 gift from Donald MacJannet. Donald and Charlotte's far-flung circle of friends, former students, and former campers soon chipped in with modest donations of their own. In its first five years, the Foundation raised an additional \$38,867 from 72 other contributors, about half of whom gave gifts of less than \$100 each.

## Jean Mayer's proposal

Meanwhile, a small *ad hoc* group of European industrialists and others began meeting annually at the

Prieuré to discuss a variety of humanitarian interests under the rubric *Le Groupe de Talloires*. This group included Donald MacJannet; Jean Mayer, president of Tufts University; Charles Merieux, president of Institut Mérieux and a global leader in the field of human and veterinary vaccines and pharmaceuticals; and Henry Leir, president of Société Anonyme des Minerais, a holding company for his business empire. Like the Foundation's founders, this group was also interested in continuing the MacJannets' role in the Prieuré

and the life of Talloires. In these discussions Jean Mayer and Donald first contemplated the idea of Donald's donating the Prieuré to Tufts. Leir and Merieux indicated they would consider providing financial support if needed.

Leir subsequently became one of Tufts's largest donors. Later he made substantial donations to the MacJannet Foundation as well. Tufts, meanwhile, assumed ownership of the Prieuré in 1978.

By 1982 the foundation's corpus had grown to nearly \$250,000, and the number of donors to more than 600. Yet money has always been the least of the MacJannet Foundation's resources. Even today, a half-century after its birth, the MacJannet Foundation's corpus remains well below the \$1 million mark. It derives its influence not so much from the dollars it distributes as from the creativity and vision it applies as it plants seeds for the future.

Throughout the Foundation's history, its board has never consisted of more than 17 volunteer trustees who attend an annual meeting at the Prieuré and a fall meeting in Medford, plus extensive activity outside the formal meetings. Like their mentors the MacJannets, they are adept at making a dollar go a long way. During these 50 years, the trustees have also served as *de facto* stewards of the Prieuré. In the process, that 1,000-year-old monastery has assumed a vital new purpose as an incubator for creative ideas about humanity's future. (See page 4.)

## MacJannet Foundation grant recipients, then and now:

### 1968:

- Centre Musical International d'Annecy
- Concours Nacional de Piano Elaine Richepin, Montevideo, Uruguay.
- Terre des Hommes, Geneva (providing emergency aid to suffering children).
- Tufts University's Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy.
- Union Internationale des Professeurs de la Rhymique Jacques Dalcroze, Geneva. (Organization that trained teachers in the Dalcroze method formerly taught by Charlotte MacJannet.)
- World Youth Forum, New York.

### 2018:

- Tufts in Talloires, scholarships for summer college program of Tufts European Center.
- Les Amis du Prieuré de Talloires, funding for scholarships for students of Lake Annecy region to spend four weeks at Tufts University in Massachusetts.
- MacJannet Prize For Global Citizenship, awarded to exemplary university student civic engagement programs (in partnership with the Talloires Network).
- MacJannet Fletcher Fellows, funding for annual dinner (in addition to endowment created by Donald MacJannet in 1967 to support student exchange programs.)



## THE PRIEURE TURNS 1,000

# 'Charlotte has gone mad'

## The day the MacJannets made a ruin sing again

DAN ROTTENBERG

Like Donald and Charlotte MacJannet themselves, the 1,000-year-old Prieuré of Talloires reinvented itself several times before the building and the MacJannets finally discovered each other. It was chartered as a Benedictine abbey in 1018, and for centuries it governed Talloires, first as the seat of the Benedictine prior and after the 14th Century through a long line of lay priors chosen from the region's aristocratic families. But during the French Revolution, angry mobs ransacked the building, leaving it a ruin for nearly two centuries.

Now fast-forward to the late 1950s and the MacJannet Camps just down the road in Angon, where Donald MacJannet was contemplating his next chapter. As Charlotte later explained, "I wanted something Donald could do after he was 70— something that would be a passion for him." She found the solution in the ruined Prieuré, which Donald acquired at auction in 1958 for just \$10,000.

### Ingenious shower

"I felt that this active man would have to have something that would keep him busy for a long time, so as to keep him happy and creative," she said. "This was the reason why I persuaded him to buy the Prieuré." But she added: "It was in such bad shape that a Quaker friend of mine came and had a look at it, and on returning to Geneva said to our friend, 'Charlotte has gone mad.' She was right in a way, when you consider that there was only one toilet outside, without water, and one spigot of running water on the other end of the house in what had been used as a kitchen. Below



Charlotte and Donald with their new acquisition, circa 1965: One final project.

it, the floor was rotten. The ingenious shower arrangement in one of the bathrooms was a pail with holes below it.

"Hundreds of empty wine bottles were stacked on the ground floor and even in the crypt.

"The inner garden was a jungle of nettles, and stagnant rainwater— paradise for mosquitoes— was in a corner under the veranda.

"The big hall had been cut in two by a wall by the former owner, which made for a very dark large salon on one side, with windows to the north, but a sunny one— the dining room it had been— toward the lake.

### A first beam of light

"Jim Halsey's oldest son, James, now a famous doctor, was spending the winter with us in Geneva. And in the spring we went out together, Mr. Mac, Jim and I. The afternoon sun was pouring into part of the large hall, and the other part looked so sad and dreary that we thought we must do something about it. So we made a large hole in the wall, which was very thin. And I still remember, when the first beam of light hit the other wall, you had the feeling that that part of the house was singing."

The MacJannet Camps closed following the summer of 1963. At age 69, with Charlotte as catalyst, Donald had found a new passion, and the ancient Prieuré had found a new purpose.



In the Prieuré's great hall, the first sunbeam burst through.

THE PRIEURÉ TURNS 1,000

# Mr. Mac builds his dream house

## And what a house it became. What a dream, too.

PHILIP RICH

Donald MacJannet was a natural-born builder. He loved the problem-solving challenges involved in construction and restoration. He would naturally gravitate to any construction site and interview the workers in order to better understand their methods and techniques. He loved the comradery that any team effort required, and he loved the tangible result that construction produced. And if a project served to further his goals of education and intercultural understanding, so much the better.

Today's Prieuré boasts many enhancements funded by Tufts University and the French government. But the original efforts to save the ruined structure and convert it to habitable space were entirely orchestrated by Mr. Mac, and much of that labor was performed personally by him and his many "factotums"—local craftsmen and young friends willing to trade a lot of hard work in exchange for a summer in Talloires, room and board included—between 1958, when the MacJannets bought the Prieuré, and 1978, when they donated the building to Tufts.

I had the good fortune to have lived with the Macs as a child, as a teenager and as an adult. Much of that time was spent as a factotum, working for Mr. Mac during summers at the Prieuré. Some of my earliest memories are of mixing mortar while he repaired the eastern wall, outside the library. Mr. Mac taught the "volcano technique" for mixing mortar, which involved mounding the mix, creating a crater to receive the water, and folding the mortar from the base to the crater until it reached a usable consistency.

### Humor amid drudgery

Mr. Mac, our benign taskmaster, possessed a gift of making hard work seem effortless, because he brought so much good humor to the drudgery of labor. One spring it rained for 40 days and nights. Mr. Mac assured us that we wouldn't remember that — we would only remember days so perfect that he cancelled all work so we could drive up into the Alps to take pictures and buy Reblochon cheese from the farms where it was made. Even on the hardest days, we would always knock off in time for a swim in the lake and tea on the balcony.

The Prieuré's two towers, which were initially in terrible condition, were re-roofed and floored by professional carpenters. When professionals were used, Mr. Mac would typically assist as owner/laborer in order to keep his hand in the process.

The basement of the lower tower always fascinated Mr. Mac. A small circular opening in the floor of a tiny room, accessible from the patio, leads down to a windowless beehive-shaped room below. The Macs always called this space the *oubliettes*—that is, the forgotten. When I was still quite small, Mr. Mac lowered me down into the *oubliettes* for an exploratory visit. He took notes while I sifted through rubble and read graffiti on the walls. Following that adventure, he would routinely introduce me as "the only man known to have ventured down into the *oubliettes* and lived to tell about it." We learned later that this structure was probably intended as a granary, but the Macs' version was much more exciting.

### Tile bargain

As with all MacJannet projects, economy was paramount. The tile on the ground floor, as well as the paneling and pews in the Meditation Room, were all recovered from an old abbey that had been torn down to make room for Annecy's first supermarket. At the

demolition site, Mr. Mac asked a puzzled supervisor if he could take the floor tile. He was told yes, but he had just two days to hammer it up and remove it before the building would be torn down. Mr. Mac devised a chute out of used metal flashing that he attached to the banister of a circular staircase in the abbey. Each tile had to be sent down the chute at just the right velocity — too hard and tile would break in the wheelbarrow at the bottom; too soft and it wouldn't reach the bottom. Mr. Mac and a local mason re-purposed the tile to cover much of the Prieuré's ground floor, which had consisted of beaten earth prior to their work.

The Prieuré's main roof, which was 400 years old and covered with hand-made tiles, required constant attention. The tiles were hooked onto open wooden slats about the size of furring strips. All the original nails in the roof were forged of wrought iron; joints in the slats had been cut at an angle to conserve nails. The trusses were peg and beam and very rough cut.

(Continued on page 6)



It didn't always look like this.



## Mr. Mac builds his dream house

(Continued from page 5)

Since the peak of the roof rose almost three stories above the attic floor, the preferred method for replacing the tiles was to raise a very long extension ladder from one of the few points in the attic that would provide a firm footing to one of the thin slats. Old broken tiles were lifted and removed, new ones were slid in their place. Our safety was assured only by praying to Saint-Germain.

### Loaded pistol

Insulation in the attic consisted of dirt that had been dumped there centuries earlier. Not until 1983, at Mr. Mac's urging, did Jack Grosslein (the Center's assistant director) and I spend a summer removing most of the dirt by shoveling it into a chute to a rented truck below. In the process, we uncovered a 1911 pistol (loaded) and M. Leleux's magnificent hunting rifle, both wrapped in newspapers announcing the fall of France in 1940. M. Leleux, the previous owner, was an avid hunter, and it was illegal for civilians to own arms during the German occupation.

Mr. Mac brought an extraordinary creativity to many of the challenges involved in restoring the Prieuré. The building's primary heating unit was a tall, fuel-burning, cylindrical unit recovered from a warehouse. It stood beside the staircase in the dining room. The "mazout" fuel was pumped up by hand from a tank in the basement, and a reclaimed fan suspended above the contraption disbursed the heat. It was painted silver and, when ignited, it truly resembled a rocket in both sound and appearance. The visible flames reinforced the overall impression. Of course, this contraption didn't conform to any building code on either side of the Atlantic. It was the subject of great concern and interest from visiting scientists attending the many conferences hosted in the Great Hall.

Not all our projects involved renovation. A survey prior to the Prieuré's transfer from the Macs to Tufts showed that a wall built by a neighbor to the north (M. Clais) encroached by one meter, 30 centimeters onto Prieuré property. M. Clais disputed the finding. In a stunning display of juridical efficiency, the president of the tribunal in Annecy convened a hearing in Mme. Clais's kitchen. Having already walked the grounds with the surveyor and downed a glass of Savoyard hospitality, the judge informed the Clais that if he was forced to rule, he would rule against them. They signed the survey. Mr. Mac had taken ill in Geneva during this hearing, so I was dispatched to represent the Macs, their successors and assigns—including, of course, Tufts University. It was the only time I engaged in the practice of law before a French court, albeit without a license.

### Removing a wall

Having triumphed in court, Mr. Mac set out to remove 1.30 meters of steel-reinforced concrete wall, lest leaving it in place would memorialize a mistake for posterity. Our first attempt had me swinging a



The writer and Jack Grosslein, circa 1983, after removing several centuries' worth of dirt from the Prieuré attic.

sledgehammer while Mr. Mac provided encouragement. He explained that this was far better exercise than I could get in any gym – and far cheaper! After an hour of swinging, I was spent and the wall wasn't even slightly defaced.

Our second attempt involved cannon balls borrowed from the *Monument aux Morts* in Annecy. Not successful. In our third attempt, I used a drill with a very long masonry bit in an effort to reduce the wall to Swiss cheese. The bit overheated and drooped in half.

In the end, Mr. Mac borrowed a jackhammer from another construction site in the village, and the wall was demolished back to the verified property line.

### Return to camp

Long after the MacJannet Camp had been closed and sold in 1963, I went back to Angon with Mr. Mac to visit. Many of the buildings he had constructed with his own hands were in terrible disrepair. But on this tour, with his descriptions, everything came to life: Children playing sports, making tables and rugs and musical instruments, learning to swim and sail. He stopped by the lake where the old docks had stood.

"We had this idea," he said, "that if we brought together children from around the world— children of different races, different religions, children who spoke different languages— and if we could teach them to work and play together in this place that reflects so much of the beauty of our world, that we could somehow contribute to the possibility of peace in that world."

He was a builder. That is what he built. The camp is gone, but at the Prieuré, his dream endures.

*Philip Rich is chief market strategist of Seaside National Bank & Trust, Orlando, Florida, and a trustee emeritus of the MacJannet Foundation.*

## THE PRIEURÉ TURNS 1,000

# New life for a very, very old building

## A pioneer of the Tufts European Center looks back

MARY VAN BIBBER HARRIS

When Donald and Charlotte MacJannet transferred ownership of the Prieuré to Tufts University in 1978, they retained *usufruct*—that is, the right to use the Prieuré for their purposes, which annually included meetings of the MacJannet Foundation as well as occasional Entretiens symposiums. This synergy between Tufts and the MacJannet community endowed the medieval Prieuré with new life and purpose far beyond its present title as Tufts University's European Center.

The significance of working in a building with a thousand years of history first struck me when then Tufts President Jean Mayer expressed his delight that Tufts could now claim to be older than Harvard, by six centuries! As a Frenchman, Mayer was no stranger to old buildings, and indeed admired the Prieuré's ancient stones right from his first visit there, in 1976. I was with him, and it was pretty clear that his fertile imagination was working overtime to determine how to convince the Tufts trustees to take on this precious responsibility, virtually unprecedented for an American university.

### Local help

So from 1978, when Tufts took the reins, we dug in... and around, and through and over. Donald MacJannet and many volunteer friends had made the building useable on a part-time basis (see page 5), but it fell to Tufts to convert this antiquated structure into a modern study and conference center.

Sagging floors were torn out and replaced, toilet facilities were installed, tons of dirt previously used for attic insulation were shoveled out and replaced, and the venerable walls were meticulously recovered in appropriate plaster. We were assisted by the French Monuments Historiques, which by French law needed to approve most changes. Les Amis du Prieuré, the local organization that now sponsors many lectures and student exchanges, assisted in its early years by providing a legal necessity: a French sponsor for historic preservation funds. New windows and more insulation allowed the Prieuré to be utilized well beyond the summer months. (It now operates from April through October.) And as the European Center took shape, the MacJannet Foundation continued to act as stewards of the MacJannet ideals and legacy.

So what is it like to be a college administrator surrounded by a thousand years of history as you wake each morning? Surely the bird song is the same today as it was in 1018, and somewhere there would have been bells chiming, as they do now. The monks next door at what is now the Hotel de L'Abbaye would have begun their day by rounding the corner to the church, which stood in front of the Prieuré. One can imagine



The view from Tufts, 2018: At last, older than Harvard.

gatherings in what is now MacJannet Hall, with its magnificent caisson ceiling, and perhaps there would be music then, as now.

The building's thick lower walls, as well as *les oubliettes*, still maintain hints of harsher times, when the Prieuré might also have served as a fortress and protection for locals. On hot summer days, those walls now provide a cool respite for visitors. And there was learning, and caring for others, including the pilgrims who stopped by the garden gate for food before continuing on their way. Today that same garden gate still welcomes those who seek the peace of the mountains and lake, as well as the very particular spirit of *accueil* that hasn't changed in a thousand years.

*Mary Harris was director of the Tufts University European Center (1982 -89) and a longtime MacJannet Foundation trustee. She lives in Santa Barbara, California.*



## NEWS OF THE FOUNDATION'S PROGRAMS

# MacJannet Prize winners: A reunion in Mexico

*Editor's note: The MacJannet Prize for Global Citizenship, launched in 2009, recognizes exemplary university student civic engagement programs around the world. The Prize is sponsored jointly by the MacJannet Foundation and the Talloires Network, a global association of 379 universities in 77 countries on six continents, all committed to developing student leaders who are actively engaged with society. To date, the Prize has attracted 495 nominations, of which 38 have been awarded first, second, or third place prizes and 19 have received honorable mentions.*

*In June 2017, instead of awarding additional prizes, the Talloires Network assembled 12 previous prizewinners in Xalapa, Mexico, to spend four days exchanging ideas about how institutions of higher education can best promote social responsibility and human dignity. Support from the MacJannet Foundation covered travel and lodging for these 12 past Prize winners. The following is excerpted from the conference report written by Lorlene Hoyt, executive director of the Talloires Network.*

— D.R.

### LORLENE HOYT

In mid-2016, the Talloires Network invited all first- and second-place MacJannet Prize winners to submit an article for the *Gateways: International Journal of Community Research*

and *Engagement*. The 12 who responded— from Mexico, Argentina, Chile, Australia, Pakistan and Malaysia— were invited to discuss their work and exchange ideas with peers from around the world at the Network's global conference.

The conference itself was a grand success by a variety of measures. It attracted 280 participants from 31 countries. The *Gateway* journal released a special edition, highlighting the best practices of these MacJannet Prize winners, that has since been viewed by some 4,000 users in 90 countries. Also, in collaboration with several other MacJannet Prize winners, the Talloires Network has published a book entitled *Regional Perspectives on Learning by Doing: Stories from Engaged Universities Around the World*.

The location was symbolic on a global level. In an era of tightening borders and resurgent nationalist ideologies, participants came together in a country whose northern neighbor sought to deepen the divide between the two nations. As a harsh reminder of the borders that separate us, a few participants were stopped by border officials mid-journey and didn't make it to Mexico.

The Talloires Network aims to continue supporting and working with universities as they collaborate with their communities, prepare the next generation of civic leaders, and work together to mobilize higher education as a force for addressing the world's most pressing societal challenges.

## Sustainable and innovative leadership

### MacJannet Prize winners in conversation

#### Panelists:

- Margaret Malone, Moderator, University of Technology, Australia (Second Prize, 2015)
- Dr. Rebeca Hernández Arámburo, Director, Office of Engagement, Universidad Veracruzana (First Prize, 2012)
- Professor Oscar García, Secretary of Middle Education, University of Buenos Aires (First Prize, 2011)
- Professor Ignacio Irrázaval, Director of the Public Policy Center at the Catholic University of Chile (First Prize, 2010)
- Lisa Andersen, Program Manager at UTS Shopfront, University of Technology, Australia (Second prize, 2015)
- Dr. Maryam Huda, Director Urban Health Program, Department of Community Health Sciences, Aga Khan University, Pakistan (First Prize, 2009)
- Dr. Siew Houy Chua, Project Leader for IMU Cares, International Medical University, Malaysia (First Prize, 2013)

The panelists represented six countries, all but one from the Global South. This is noteworthy because, unlike the MacJannet Prize winners, the academic literature on civic engagement and global citizenship is usually dominated by universities in the Global North.

All panelists discussed the tenacity that's required to

see their initiatives through the institutional climate in which they function. They stressed the notion that success means genuine involvement among all participating students, faculty, and community members.

Dr. Chua of the International Medical University provided an example: Her work with medical students who delivered primary health care to rural indigenous communities. By working in a specific community on a regular basis, Dr. Chua said, her students developed a sense of leadership for their own learning and also reconfigured their previously held stereotypes of indigenous communities.



Past Mac Prize winners in dialogue at Veracruz. From left: Dr. Rebeca Hernández Arámburo, Professor Oscar García, and Professor Ignacio Irrázaval.





'Go out of your way to connect': Preparing to welcome Talloires schoolchildren for the annual Kids' Day.

## 'Overwhelming in all the right ways'

### MacJannet Scholars recall Tufts in Talloires, summer 2017

*Editor's note: Tufts in Talloires is a six-week summer program offering academic courses to Tufts undergraduates—74 last summer—at the Tufts European Center while simultaneously housing them with host French families living in and around Annecy. The program's 29 MacJannet Scholars—so named because the MacJannet Foundation subsidizes their fees—reflected on the experience in an anonymous online survey. Excerpts are below.*

—D.R.

#### Intimidating

The idea of spending six weeks with a host family is very intimidating, but it is definitely worth it. I had a great time and learned a lot, and getting to know my host family was one of the highlights of my experience here.

#### Host families

The best aspect of the program was the host families. We may have our differences, and mine did not always seem what I expected, but that is the best way to learn a new culture and language. My host family was very nice and involved. Had I done this experience without a host family, I don't believe I would have had such formative experiences or as much fun.

#### Broader horizons

Talloires is an amazing opportunity to immerse yourself in the French culture and broaden your horizons by living with a host family while still having the com-

fort of other Tufts students and staff around for support. I would not have been able to study abroad without this experience. I felt I developed new relationships and made friends I would have never met at Tufts.

#### Magic of France

Maybe it's something in the mountains, maybe it's the magic of France, but these experiences, many unexpected, will be ones I'll treasure for the rest of my life.

#### Living and breathing cheese

Tufts in Talloires always seemed like an interesting program to attend, but you will never understand how magical it is until you live, breathe, and eat all of the cheese in Talloires. I loved how I was always able to find a faculty member or intern, no matter the time. Everyone went out of their way to help me.

#### Pleasant surprise

I wasn't sure what to expect, but I am pleasantly surprised at how great my time here was. Talloires has become one of my favorite places in the world. It's everything you'd expect and more.

#### Serious courses

Tufts in Talloires also offered a beautiful view while taking two Tufts credits. But be warned: These are actual classes that you have to take seriously. The best part of this program is the opportunity to learn a new culture while reconfirming your personal culture and history.

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## Connecting with professors

The structure of the two Tufts courses paired with hiking, swimming and exploring every day is a great way to spend a portion of summer. The small class-sized setting made both of my classes very engaging. It was easy to connect with professors about the course material and even get to know them outside of class as well. The field trips for each class were also a really unique part of the learning experience. But the best part of the program was the setting and the program's reputation in town, because you really feel welcomed into a totally new community.

## Summer camp, plus....

The Tufts in Talloires program feels like a summer camp where you can let your inner child be free all the while taking interesting and engaging classes rooted in the surrounding culture.

## Everyday French life

The ability to really experience everyday life in France was the most enjoyable part. I really felt like I got to know the local Talloires community better than I expected. Over the course of the program, you can make great memories and really engage with the local community.

## Learning from the landscape

I am in awe of how beautiful Annecy and Talloires are. You learn just as much from the mountains, lake, and culture as you do in your classes.

## Once in a lifetime

I would say it is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to experience a new culture, to meet incredible people, and to get a jump on some course credit. What more could you ask for?

## Central location

Living on a different continent for six weeks is the best decision you can make. I loved spending time and getting to know my family, exploring this city and being able to travel to other European cities, since we are so centrally located.

## Best places in the world

Talloires and Annecy are the best places in the world. The nature is beyond gorgeous, the food is the best you'll ever have, and the people have inspired me and taught me so much.

## Six weeks of growth

By the end of the six weeks, you will be astonished at how you have grown and by the unique ways in which you have taken advantage of the opportunities here.

## French isn't necessary, but...

While speaking French is not necessary to come here, it is extremely helpful, especially for getting to know the people and the culture around you.

## Unique learning experience

Gaining independence in an international setting—this was the most daunting aspect before I left but now I know I can handle it (well)!

## Now I understand

Everyone tells you how nice the people are and how stunning the environment is, but you don't feel it until you're living it.

## Push that zone

Go out of your way to connect with as many people as possible! Don't allow yourself to settle in your comfort zone, but continuously push yourself to keep getting to know more people and do more things.

## Once in a lifetime

It truly felt like a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to get to hike in the Alps every week. I made strong friendships that I know will continue at Tufts and keep these wonderful memories alive.

## Relaxing

Talloires is a special, quiet place where you can relax and study at the same time, something I haven't found as easy in Boston. My experience here changed how I felt about schooling and living.

## Three suggestions

Take advantage of this time to brush up on your French, eat too much cheese, and slow down to the Talloires pace of life.

## My new home

It is an amazing opportunity where I learned a lot about France and myself. I think it will be weird going back home, because Talloires has become my home.



Cooking class at the Auberge du Père Bise in Talloires. Tufts European Center director Gabriella Goldstein is at left.





Our four Annecy exchange students with other Tufts friends. Félix Deceunik kneels in front, center. In the second row, Sylvain Lansou is second from left in a grey T-shirt; Etienne Chalot wears a striped T-shirt and sunglasses; and Marine Paumard stands next to Etienne.

## From Lake Annecy to America

*Editor's note: With funding from the MacJannet Foundation, each year Les Amis du Prieuré de Talloires provides scholarships to students living around Lake Annecy to spend four weeks attending the English summer program at Tufts University in Medford, Mass. Four students were chosen last summer. Excerpts from their accounts (as well as one by their teacher) appear below.*

### A lucky teacher

SYLVIE BORRELY

It was ten years ago—my first year as an English teacher at the Lycée Lachenal, one of only two high schools in Annecy offering preparatory classes for entrance to selective universities. My students were enrolled in a science-oriented program called PTSI, an acronym that stands for Physique, Technologie Sciences de l'Ingénieur. So when I first heard that Les Amis du Prieuré had offered some of these teenage students scholarships to study English at Tufts University in Massachusetts, I have to admit I felt a little jealous. Oh, to be young again and spend a month on an American college campus...

However, when the first two students came back to class that fall, I immediately saw the advantage for me as a teacher: The lucky recipients came back having progressed in English, but not only that: They were also full of enthusiasm as well as a desire to share what they had learned about the U.S. and its inhabitants, as well as about other citizens of the world.

To me, the experience is as much a linguistic one as

a human one. It has been interesting for me to hear the improved accent, the ability to express themselves more confidently, the little colloquialisms, the typical phrases like "Step up to the plate," although I must say it is difficult to have them stop using "gonna" or "wanna."

To Les Amis du Prieuré and its funders at the MacJannet Foundation, I say: What you offer my students is amazing, and what it does for them and to them is invaluable. I really hope this program can continue.

### The hugeness of everything

ETIENNE CHALOT

The first thing that impressed me was the hugeness of everything compared to France, from the size of roads and cars to the size of the Tufts campus or of cities like Boston.

We attended school every morning from 9 a.m. to noon, with two different courses. The first one was for improving our grammar and our language skills by discussing social issues or

*(Continued on page 12)*

## From Lake Annecy to America

*(Continued from page 11)*

other topics, and it was really interesting for me to learn more about Japanese, Chinese, Serbian, and Saudi culture. The second course was based on American history, so we learned a lot about it and prepared Wednesday afternoon tours called “Discover America” and also the Boston Tea Party.

In the afternoons, we were free to plan our own activities or to do some proposed by Tufts. We visited Boston, a beautiful city with perfect squares for drinking lemonade and playing with squirrels. At the end of the second week we decided to visit New York. We traveled there by bus and stayed in an Air BnB there. It was absolutely amazing. Even two days were not sufficient to see everything in New York. It was one of my best memories.

This scholarship gave me the opportunity to discover and learn so many things about America, as well as cultures all around the world. I couldn’t hope for better for my first trip out of Europe. It was by far the best summer I have ever had, and I will never forget it.

*Etienne Chalot, 19, lives in Vaux, a village outside Annecy. He wants to become an engineer. He studies PTSI with Félix and Sylvain.*

### A lot in common

#### FELIX DECEUNIK

When my teacher told me I’d been chosen to spend four weeks at Tufts University, I didn’t realize at first how lucky I was. For a young adult who had never traveled outside of Europe, I thought it was a golden opportunity to discover the world’s most influential country. And I was right. Both Boston and New York are amazing—much better than in movies. However, the tourism was not the thing I liked most.

At Tufts, I met people from all around the world. They were very different from me; they had different tastes and habits; but the more I got to know them, the more I realized we have a lot in common. They made me discover their culture, and I taught them about the French way of life. Hearing them talking about current subjects, like communism in China or war in the Middle East, makes me realize that what TV shows us is not the unique truth. During this summer, I also realized that I want to travel a lot in order to form my own opinions about the world.

*Félix Deceunik, 19, lives in Annecy and studies PTSI at Lycée Lachenal in Pringy. He loves sports and Japanese culture.*

### When cultures collide

#### SYLVAIN LANSOU

Tufts University was a social hub where students with many different backgrounds were able to see all their cultures confront each other. I use this term *confront* from

its French definition: It would expose someone to a difference, enabling him to contrast with his own point of view.

An example of what I call cultural confrontation happened when people of different nationalities observed each other’s habits and behaviors. When one expresses something, the other can realize such a thought is quite surprising from his own perspective. This surprise will enable him to better understand the other person’s way of thinking. Or it would provide an occasion to debate about an issue. In either case, such a moment would lead to personal growth. Such a thing is only possible in a place like Tufts.

A discussion about the French language in Rwanda over breakfast, a course of Arabic during lunch, and a debate about different integration patterns to finish the day already make for a very rich and plentiful day. So, you can imagine how much I learned in a whole month!

I have spoken here only about one aspect of my trip. But plenty of other experiences made me love my time there but also made me grow and learn.

*Sylvain Lansou, 19, lives in Annecy le Vieux and studies PTSI at Lycée Lachenal in Pringy. He hopes to become an engineer or to have a career in the military.*

### Old and new

#### MARINE PAUMARD

I could not hope for a better way to discover the United States. Thanks to this scholarship, I had the opportunity to discover American culture as well as cultures from all over the world. I arrived in a large campus where I met people who became my friends. Currently, I keep in touch with some of them, and we planned to see each other again. I learned a lot about Japanese, Chinese and Saudi habits.

The morning classroom allows us to know more about American culture, and we could learn about each other as well. We participated in debates and presentations, and we spoke about many subjects, like the history of the U.S. or the Latin American immigration. It was a good way to improve my English.

We visited different places in Boston. I really love this city, where old buildings and new ones are mixed to make a place where you feel great.

We also visited New York, a city so different from Boston but one that I really appreciate too. We wanted to see everything, so we tried to visit as much as possible in two days. One of my best memories is Times Square at eight o’clock in the morning. We were almost alone, and it’s the first thing we visited. It was incredible.

I can assert that the trip was my best experience. This summer made me want to travel and to continue to discover more and more.

*Marine Paumard, 20, commutes to the Lycée Berthollet in Annecy from her home in Aix-les-Bains on Lac du Bourget. She hopes to have a career in marketing and communication and to be able to work abroad.*





Six MacJannet Fletcher Fellows gathered in December 2017 for the MacJannet Foundation's annual Fletcher Fellows dinner at Tufts University. From left are: Stefan Tschauko (Austria), Juliette Devillard (Switzerland/U.K.), Mattia Balsiger (Switzerland), Lucia Pantigoso Vargas (Peru), Christina Klotz (Germany), and Charles Bonfils (Switzerland). (Photo by Alan Henrikson.)

## New horizons, expanded dreams

### Our 2017-18 MacJannet Fletcher Fellows, in their own words

*Note: Since 1967, an endowment from Donald MacJannet has helped support international studies and graduate exchange programs between the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University and the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva. This year this program supported ten "MacJannet Fletcher Fellows"; by now the program numbers some 200 alumni. Each fall, the MacJannet Foundation supports an annual dinner at the Fletcher School to honor these Fellows. The dinner held in December 2017 was attended by six of these outstanding students, representing six European countries and a broad range of interests and experiences. Below, five of this year's Fellows discuss their hopes and dreams—for themselves as well as the planet.*

—ANTHONY KLEITZ

**Mattia Balsiger (Switzerland):** I was born in Bern, Switzerland. As an undergraduate, I studied political science and modern history at the University of Zurich and was a visiting student at Humboldt University, Berlin, and Stanford University. Before coming to Fletcher, I worked for the Swiss foreign ministry and the United Nations, and I served in the Swiss civil service, working in a refugee center.

As I arrived at Fletcher last August, I felt quite lost. Being confronted with an abundance of courses, activities

and interesting people all at once was overpowering, and I needed a solid month to get accustomed to it all. Luckily, I met another Swiss student who had just started her second year and who assured me that it would eventually all work out. After I had picked all my courses (concentrations in international security studies and international negotiations) and the semester started rolling, I started getting involved in different student activities. For one, I joined SIMULEX, the annual simulation game hosted by the international security studies program. Later, I gave myself another push and participated in the Cyber 9/12 challenge at Columbia University, representing Fletcher together with three fellow students. Since I had never worked on cyber issues before, this competition was a huge challenge for me. But with the support of my colleagues and the superb guidance by Professor Michele Malvesti, we were able to make this an educational highlight of each of our semesters.

In the spring semester, I am taking advantage of our partnership with Harvard University, having enrolled in two classes at the Kennedy School. After a seven-year hiatus, I have taken up drumming again and have successfully auditioned to be the next drummer of "Los Fletcheros," Fletcher's very own graduate rock band. I am applying for an internship at the Center for Security Studies at ETH Zurich, where I would be able to conduct research on terrorism and insurgen-

cies. I am also working together with a fellow Swiss student and close friend, Peter Freudenstein, on a speaker event.

This MacJannet Scholarship has given me the opportunity to expand my academic and professional horizons, rediscover old passions and make unique, global connections here at Fletcher. At last December's annual MacJannet Scholars dinner, I was overwhelmed by the welcoming atmosphere and the interesting conversations with the board members and affiliates of the foundation.

**Juliette Devillard (Switzerland/Britain):** I am a dual Swiss-British national born in Geneva, where I was exposed to the world of international civil servants and development workers from a young age. At University College London, I completed a bachelor's in arts and sciences, an interdisciplinary degree that allowed me to simultaneously explore my interests in natural sciences and international relations while learning Mandarin. After graduating, I moved to China to complete a certificate in Chinese and American studies at the Hopkins-Nanjing Centre, where I worked to attain professional fluency in Mandarin while also deepening my knowledge of international relations, economics and Chinese culture and society.

My past work experience includes working for Accenture, where I joined a team developing websites for Discovery Networks International, and work for the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs as a political affairs intern in the Biological Weapons Convention's Implementation Support Unit.

At Fletcher, my studies have focused mainly on international environment and resource policy, as well as business for social impact, and I hope to leverage my Mandarin language competency and the skills I will acquire during my studies to pursue a career in sustainable development.

The opportunity to pursue these graduate studies was both an exciting and financially daunting prospect, and I am thankful for the support you have lent me at this important time. I was delighted to attend the MacJannet Foundation dinner last December and meet many of the people involved in continuing the MacJannet legacy. Now that I know how close the Talloires Priory is to my hometown, I hope to visit it and experience its history in person.

**Christina Klotz (Germany):** I am originally from Germany, but my family moved to the U.S. when I was five and then to Britain at the age of seven. This laid the foundation for my interest in understanding and immersing myself in different cultures.

As an undergraduate, I studied politics and economics in Münster, Germany, with a focus on European relations. I also spent a semester at Sciences Po in Aix-en Provence, where I completed my bachelor's thesis.

After graduation, I spent two transformative years working in Costa Rica and El Salvador as a managing director of an NGO that focused on youth leadership development and intercultural exchange – two issues that have become very dear to my heart.

At Fletcher, I am focusing on international conflict resolution and peace building, as well as international gender studies. I am excited to see where this will lead me in the future.

During the MacJannet Scholars dinner at Fletcher last December, I was delighted to meet a group of warm, like-minded people, striving for international understanding. I am especially proud to have been selected by the

Foundation and hope to stay in contact with the MacJannet family in the future.

**Maria Álvarez-Tólcheff Alarcó (Spain):** I was born and grew up in Spain, where I earned my law degree in 2011. After practicing corporate law in Madrid for six years, I decided I needed to broaden my knowledge of the world's issues and expand my legal education to public international law. I looked for an international relations school with a strong law department, which is precisely what I found in Fletcher. Here I found a vibrant community of people willing to share all their knowledge and personal experiences, faculty who are completely devoted to the intellectual as well as personal development of their students, and an infrastructure of staff and means that works as the perfect framework. Since I started school in September 2016, I have participated in the European Affairs Society (which I co-chair this year), the European Conference at Harvard this past March, and the Harvard Law and Development Society. I am focusing my studies in public international law as well as U.S. foreign policy and European politics and current challenges.

After I graduate from Fletcher, I would like to continue as an international lawyer in a law firm or an international organization such as the World Bank. I would also like to be able to write regularly in newspapers and other media outlets.

**Alexandra Chamberlin (France):** I am a French double-degree graduate following jointly a master of arts in law and diplomacy at Fletcher School and a master's in management at HEC Paris Business School. I decided to join the Fletcher School to combine my quantitative and business background with a multidisciplinary, open-minded and international cursus. Here at Fletcher, I am specializing in impact investing while refining my investment skills in a globalized world.

At Fletcher, I met amazing people from all over the world and decided to engage with two clubs more specifically. I am the chief financial officer for the Fletcher Social Investment Group, in charge of strategic development and outreach. Within this group, I was also a member of the Fletcher team for the MBA Impact Investing Network and Training Competition, a year-long competition where we as students play the role of impact investors—defining an investment thesis, sourcing relevant social ventures, conducting due diligence and impact assessment to eventually pitch them to real investors. We actually won the \$25,000 runner-up prize for pitching investment in a Pakistani agriculture technology company.

I am also part of the Fletcher European Affairs Society, under which I organized last year a panel on “Emerging leaders: rulers, visionaries, managers?” at the 2017 Harvard European Conference.

Because my professional goal is to work in an impact investing fund, I returned to France last fall semester to work as an analyst for the leading impact crowd equity platform, LITA.co. With this experience, I hope to work in impact investing for a year in the U.S. following my graduation in May.

Thank you again for your support and for making possible all these opportunities at Fletcher,



## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

# The dream and the challenge

TODD LANGTON

Dear Friends of the MacJannet Foundation,

Most foundations begin with a wealthy family or benefactor donating funds to create a foundation without a specific agenda other than furthering their legacy and sheltering assets from taxes. By contrast, the MacJannet Foundation—like just about everything Donald and Charlotte MacJannet undertook in their long and inspiring lives—began not with a large sum of money, but with a specific idea: to bring young people of diverse backgrounds to work, play, and study together. In this process of discovering their shared humanity, they would shake off the shackles of prejudice and fear, unleash their own human potential, and help find peaceful solutions to global issues.

The MacJannet Foundation was launched on May 22, 1968 with this ambitious purpose but only a modest \$10,000 gift from Donald MacJannet. Donald and Charlotte's far-flung circle of friends, former students, and former campers soon chipped in with modest donations of their own. The Foundation's corpus grew through small annual donations from more than 600 donors in its early years. Since its birth a half-century ago, the Foundation has raised and invested more than \$2.5 million in educational and civic programs and changed and enriched thousands of lives for the better.



To this day, our corpus remains modest, with slightly less than \$1 million. But we maintain the MacJannets' legacy each year by raising new funds and supporting meaningful exchange programs as well as the global MacJannet Prize for exemplary student volunteerism.

Today, the MacJannet ideals of promoting cross-cultural education, tolerance, and volunteerism have never been more important. Please join us in our efforts to continue this vital work.

Take a moment to make a tax-deductible donation at [www.macjannet.org](http://www.macjannet.org). Even a small donation will help us develop a new generation of enlightened global leaders. As the MacJannet Foundation has demonstrated for 50 years, we know how to make a little go a long way.

Thanks in advance for your support and interest.

Sincerely,  
 Todd Langton, President  
 The MacJannet Foundation  
[tlangton@yahoo.com](mailto:tlangton@yahoo.com)

## Transitions

### Died

**Amos Booth**, former headmaster of St. Bernard's School in New York and academic head of the Institute for American Universities in Aix-en-Provence, died July 29, 2010, age 81. He was the last head counselor of the MacJannet Camp (1961-63) and was a founding trustee of the MacJannet Foundation. "The truce known as pre-adolescence that reigns between the ages of three and twelve," he once wrote, "is the golden age for learning."



**Gérard Lignac**, publisher of *L'Est Republicain* newspaper in Besançon, France, died October 28, 2017, age 88. He became a counselor at the MacJannet Camp in Angon in 1946 and was a longtime trustee of the MacJannet Foundation.



**John O. "Jack" Rich**, a respected educator and retired admissions director at Rollins College, died May 30, 2017, age 101. Of Donald MacJannet's many associates, he was the only colleague who worked at the MacJannet School outside Paris and at the camp in Angon before World War II, at the MacJannets' school in Sun Valley during the war, and again at the camp on Lake Annecy (as its director) after the war.

### Appointed

**Lawrence S. Bacow**, 66, former president of Tufts University and a MacJannet Foundation trustee from 2001 to 2011, appointed president of Harvard University, effective July 2018.



MacJannet Foundation board, June 2017. Front row, from left: Bruce Berzin, John King, Todd Langton, Paul Tringale, Amy Carzo. Back row: John Iglehart, Anthony Kleitz, Bruno Asselin, Elisabeth Rindborg, Dan Rottenberg, Jean-Marie Hervé, Jean-Michel Fouquet, Anthony Cook.

## THE MACJANNET FOUNDATION

The MacJannet Foundation is a non-profit charitable foundation created in 1968 and dedicated to creating a community of global citizens. To unleash individual potential in an international context, it supports exchange programs, the Tufts University European Center in Talloires, France, and the MacJannet Prize for Global Citizenship. Visit us at [www.macjannet.org](http://www.macjannet.org).

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\*= Deceased