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Jessica Stern Writes About Karadžić in Next Project

Jessica Stern, a national expert in terrorism, trauma, and post-traumatic stress, completed her fourth residency this past summer. While there, she began writing a book she is still researching on Radovan Karadžić and the 1992-1995 war in Bosnia. Karadžić was president of the Serbian part of Bosnia Herzegovina. He was convicted in 2016 for genocide and committing war crimes.

Stern’s most recent book is ISIS: The State of Error, co-authored by J.M. Berger. She is one of a growing cadre of MacDowell Fellows pursuing writing projects based on deep reporting. We asked her a handful of questions about her MacDowell residency:

Q: How do you prepare for a meeting with an imposing presence like Radovan Karadžić?

STERN: Karadžić is the most challenging perpetrator I’ve ever interviewed. For one thing, he’s brilliant. He’s not just a war criminal; he is also a psychiatrist, a poet, and reportedly, a tremendously accomplished seducer. “A shameless flirt (in my case, only in front of the guards),” he once said, “is still charming.” He is a master manipulator. He is polite when he wants to be, a charismatic charmer, with an extraordinary ability to control his emotions. When he was in hiding for 12 years, he spent part of the time disguised as a new-age energy healer. He grew his hair long and wore it in a top-knot on his head. He lost 70 pounds, and changed his accent. Thus, he’s an incredibly accomplished actor. He is a shameless flirt (in my case, only in front of the guards), and reportedly, a tremendously accomplished seducer. “A charmer,” in the words of historian Robert Donia, I’ve spent 50 hours interviewing him, four hours at a stretch. We didn’t take any breaks. Thus it was very intense. How often do we sit and chat for four hours with any one person as adults?

As for how I prepare, I pray for guidance and hope that someone is listening.

Q: Have the new challenges of funding deeply investigated stories changed the way you think about opportunities like residencies?

STERN: I fund my work by teaching and grants. Often those grants require me to do work not directly related to my own long-form writing, so it doesn’t always help me get my writing done. Many writers today have to teach. I love teaching. But teaching, and cooking, and my wonderful extended family are the main things that get me through the writing of my books. Residencies provide much needed time for contemplation … time to be alone but not too alone.

Q: What is the benefit of doing your type of work in an environment like MacDowell where so many other disciplines are being practiced?

STERN: I find it incredibly inspiring to be around artists across disciplines. We face many similar challenges. The work is lonely, but people are a great impediment to getting work done; we all face that tension. Listening to MacDowell composers, hearing them read their poetry or novels, seeing them explain their art works — all of this is like food for the mind. And then there is nature right outside our doors, food for the spirit. I feel incredibly enriched by spending time at MacDowell.

Jessica Stern served on President Clinton’s National Security Council Staff in 1994–95. She is a 2014–2015 Fulbright Scholar and, in 2009, she was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship for her work on trauma and violence.

You can read the full Q&A at https://geo.gjyjournal.org/issue/3848
Delta Omicron: Deep Energy Retrofit for Next Century

BY SAM STEEVES

In July, Delta Omicron Studio reopened after a “deep energy retrofit” as described by MacDowell Colony Resident Director David Macy. The renovation has resulted in a much more efficient and comfortable live-in creative space. Originally built in 1927 for composers, it can once again be used for that purpose.

Delta Omicron Studio was funded by the Delta Omicron International Music Fraternity and designed by architect M.E. Winsor with a steeply pitched roofline, intersecting gables, and a slate roof. First renovated in the mid-1950s with the addition of a fuel-oil heating system, this latest retrofit saw the building interior stripped to its timbers so it could be made completely weathertight with closed-cell foam insulation sprayed in wall and ceiling cavities, and rigid foam insulation applied on the exterior walls and roof deck. Timothy Groesbeck Builders completed the work after a design by Sheldon Pennoyer Architects.

The studio ceiling is now higher, and in place of the old entrance is a bed alcove. The new entrance, on-grade for accessibility, has been relocated to the south side where a small hip-roof addition includes a new screened porch as well as a small foyer, full bathroom, and a closet.

The old, leaky windows were replaced with more energy efficient units, built in LED lights have replaced incandescents, and an electric heat pump will now keep the studio warm in winter and dehumidified in summer. In the past the space has served writers, including a shower, to make the studio suitable as a live-work space.

"Since the renovation, the studio looks much the same from outside while inside it is much lighter and more comfortable," says Macy.

Recreating the studio’s architectural details and meeting today’s most stringent energy standards pushed total construction expenses to about $300,000. Macy expressed appreciation for a $10,000 donation from the Delta Omicron Fraternity and donations from Fellows who wanted to see their old studio refreshed. The Colony has established a building reserve fund within its endowment that benefits both historic preservation and responsible energy practices.

Macy said, “In the past few years we’ve completed three deep energy retrofits and installed a solar array to provide three quarters of our total annual electric consumption. New funding is still needed to move MacDowell along the path to a renewable energy future... Having begun the process, I’m eager to move forward with similar improvements for the rest of the facilities.”
**Colson Whitehead Wins National Book Award**

Colson Whitehead (a native in Kirby Studios, 99, 13) won the 2016 National Book Award for Fiction for his novel *The Underground Railroad*. The book, which chronicles a young slave's harrowing travels north on a literal underground railway in search of freedom, has had quite a year. It was named by *Esquire*, *Publishers Weekly*, *O Magazine*, *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, and *Time* magazine, among others, as a best book of the year. It was also a finalist for the Carnegie Medal and the Kirkus Prize. In its competition for the National Book Award it faced other MacDowell Fellows. Fiction Finalists this year included Karan Mahajan (12) and The Association of Small Bomb, and on the Fiction Longlist was Adam Haullett (99, 00, 06, 08, 12) with *Imagine Me Gone*. Poetry finalists this year included Peter Gizzi (*91, 05, 15*) with *Archeophone* and Solmaz Shariif (*15*) with *Look*. Poetry Longlist Fellows included Jane Mead (*16*) with *World of Made and Unmade*, Monica Youn (*06, 11*) with *Blackcover*, and Kevin Young (*93, 95, 96, 97, 98, 13*) with *Blue Lanes*.

**Peggy Anderson Gives Gift of Pivotal Experiences**

Journalist and author Peggy Anderson (*77, 78, 85*) wrote the book that defined her career during two MacDowell Fellowships in the late 1970s. *Nurse* was a landmark account of one nurse's rounds in a hospital ward written by a reporter dedicated to uncovering the often heartwarming, harrowing, and even beautiful moments in one professional's experiences. It went on to sell more than two million copies and was adapted into an Emmy-winning TV series.

Before Peggy died in January 2016 at the age of 77 (see obituary on page 6), those long-ago residencies still reverberated in her life. She recognized that by committing a significant portion of her estate to MacDowell, the resulting bequest will provide similar pivotal experiences for other artists.

While not every artist enjoys the same type of success as Peggy, many often make planned gifts like Peggy’s. Even if they cannot give back to MacDowell in their lifetimes, such large and small gifts make a timeless difference in supporting future generations of artists and the constant reincarnation of the residency community. The Marian MacDowell Society recognizes these donors while they are still with us.

For questions about supporting MacDowell with a planned gift, contact the Development office at 212-535-9690 or development@maccdwelldenisade.com.

**Fellows Contribute to New Book Chronicking NYC’s Waterfront**

Silent Beaches, Untold Stories: New York City’s Forgotten Waterfront chronicles “the extraordinary past and present embedded in New York City’s more than 600 miles of coastline through a stunning selection of rare photographs, history, new fiction, and contemporary art,” according to its Amazon page. Writer Elizabeth Albert (*04*) has written historical texts on New York’s lesser-known waterfront spaces like Dead Horse Bay, where the pre-automobile city’s legions of horses were slaughtered; Hart Island, the city’s still-active potter’s field; and Sandy Ground, one of the earliest free black communities in the nation, made prosperous through oystering and strawberry farming. Ten new works of fiction have also been included, “setting the stage where history, fiction, and image coalesce into a powerful and haunting experience.”

Silent Beaches features the work of Susan Choi (*12, 13, 15*), Elizabeth Gaffney (*97, 98*), Nelly Reiffer (*05*), Carrie Mac Weems (*14*), and others.

**New York Film Festival Features Work of 11 Fellows**

The 54th New York Film Festival included the films of 12 MacDowell Fellows. The first fiction feature from Natalie Almada (*06, 07, 08, 11, 13, 16*), *Todo In Demo (Everything Else)*, had the distinction of premiering at both the New York festival as well as the Rome Film Festival simultaneously on October 14. The film features Oscar-nominated actress Adriana Barraza in the lead. Other Fellows who screened their films at the fest include Dash Shaw (*16*) with *My Entwine High School Stinking into the Sea*, Allison Maclean (*98, 00*) with *The Rehearsal*, Jesse McLean (*16*) with *See a Dog, Hear a Dog*, Tomonari Nishikawa (*10*, 98) with *Ten Mornings, Ten Evenings and One Horizon*, Kevin Jerome Everson (*03, 12*) with *Ears, Noise, and Throat*, Mohamed Siam (*16*) with *Whose Country?*, Deborah Stratman (*10, 14*) with *The Illinois Parables*, Jane Geiser (*90, 91*) with *Flowers of the Sky*, James Kienitz Wilkins (*14*) with *Indefinite Pitch*, Peter Hutton (*08*) with *In Titanic’s Goblet*, and in the Spotlight on Documentary category, Bill Morrison (*00*) with *Dawson City: Frozen Time*.

**NEW AND NOTABLE PROJECTS:**

 Composer Robert Paterson (03) and librettist David Cote (09) have collaborated on *Three Way*, a series of one-act operas that debuted at Nashville Opera in January. The pieces have been described as “Sex and the City meets The Twilight Zone.” The individual acts explore the future of love, sex, and need with a clever balance of humor and drama. *Three Way’s* contemporary characters all “collide at the intersection of power and desire to reveal the true longings of the human heart.”

Filmmaker Daniel Nearing (*16*) was named the inaugural Filmmaker in Residence for the Film Office of the City of Chicago and he was named Chicagoan of the Year for Film by the Chicago Tribune. The residency was awarded based on his concept for *Sister Carrie*, which he proposed to the Chicago film office during his MacDowell residency this past summer. Nearing’s most recent film, *Hogtown* (pictured above), was screened in New York at Cinépolis Chelsea in early December. That month, Columbia University also held an evening retrospective of his first two films.

Architect Joel Sanders (*09, 00, 07*) designed for Ikon Rex in Seoul, South Korea, has been opened. It weaves together three high-rise residential towers with landscaping, community buildings with walkable green roofs and a promenade overlooking the Han River. He also designed the exhibition “Gay Gotham: Art and Underground Culture in New York” at the Museum of the City of New York through February 26. It’s got everything from MacDowell legend Leonard Bernstein (*62, 70, 72*) to Andy Warhol to Mae West.

Visual artist John Sutton, Ben Beres, and Zac Culter (*10, 13*) collaborated in Seattle, won a $100K grant for a community focused project to transform a defunct gas station into a sculptural “pocket park” and community center.
Alia Malek Wins Hiett Prize in the Humanities for Reporting

Journalist Alia Malek (15) received the 2016 Hiett Prize in the Humanities from the Dallas Institute of Humanities and Culture for her work reporting on civil and immigrant rights, and for covering the ongoing diaspora of people from the Middle East in their attempts to avoid armed conflict. The prize is awarded to “candidates in the early stages of careers devoted to the humanities and whose work shows extraordinary promise and has a significant public component related to contemporary culture.” During her residency in the fall of 2015, Malek completed a third of her forthcoming memoir of family, house, and country The Home That Was Our Country: A Memoir of Syria. She is also the author of A Country Called Amreeka: U.S. History Retold Through Arab American Lives and editor of Patriot Acts: Narratives of Post-9/11 Injustice. “I cannot believe it,” Malek said by telephone from her home in Brooklyn of the $50,000 Hiett Prize. “It’s amazing. It’s humbling, it’s needed, deeply appreciated.”

Four Philadelphia-based Fellows Earn Pew Grants

The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage awarded three fellowships and one project grant to MacDowell Fellows this past summer. Composer Andrea Cleafried (05, 09, 10, 11, 14) won a Pew Fellowship as a result of her “deep, emotive languages in works that explore themes ranging from freedom and oppression to ancient cultures, religion, health, and technology.” Filmmaker Mark Kessdall (15) received a Pew Fellowship based on a “poetic cinematic voice” the award committee sees in his experimental documentary films that “reflect on journey and transformation, globalization and global warming.” Interdisciplinary artist Sharon Hayes (99) won a Pew Fellowship because, said the officials, she “blends various mediums — including video, performance, installation, and photography — to probe the complex intersections of history, politics, gender, and speech within private and public spaces. Finally, composer David Ludwig (04, 13) received a project grant for The Anchorens, a song cycle for soprano presented by the Philadelphia Chamber Music Society, channeling the voice and inner life of a medieval “anchorens” bridging Renaissance and contemporary musical languages.

Work Made at MacDowell Wins Inaugural Israeli Prize for Amitay Sadovsky

Visual artist Ella Amitay Sadovsky (15) was named the winner of the 2016 Ann and Ari Rosenblatt Prize. The award will be given each year to an Israeli-based artist. Amitay Sadovsky said her entry was a video installation initiated during her spring 2015 residency. According to the artist, “In Firth Studio I initiated the concept of five video projected simultaneously as a mimic of an internal house.” View a slideshow of her winning work at rosenblattartprize.com/prize-winner.

Oble, Whiting, Other Awards Go to Fellows

Congratulations are due to three Fellows who received Oble Awards in the spring: Annie Baker (09, 14) was presented a Special Citation, Collaboration as the playwright of John; Mimi Lien (12) also received a Special Citation for Collaboration as the set designer for Skeleton; and Stephen Karam (08, 10, 11, 13) for playwriting for The Humans.

Composer Dan Moses Schreier (13) won a Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Sound Design in a Musical for American Psycho. Playwright Suzan-Lori Parks (89, 91, 95) was inducted onto the Playwright’s Sidewalk in front of the Lucille Lortel Theatre on Christopher Street in NYC by the Off-Broadway League. Playwright Anne Washburn (01, 08, 13) won the Alpert Theater Award.

Whiting Writers Awards were presented to playwright Madeline George (04, 15) for her dramatic work The (Curious Case of the) Watson Intelligence and Alice Sola Kim (14) for her work of fiction, Monstrous Atmocations. Photographer Rosalind Fox Solomon (02, 03) won the 2016 Lucie Award for Achievement in Portraiture, one of eight awards handed out in 2016 by the Lucie Foundation.

Sheila Curran Bernard (92, 95) was awarded a 2016 Artist’s Fellowship in Playwriting/ Screenwriting from the New York Foundation for the Arts and the 2016 Gersh Ashur Screenwriting Award. In May she received the University at Albany’s award for Excellence in Research and Creative Activities, and in 2016-17 she will be the Community Fellow in the university’s Institute for History and Public Engagement.

MORE NEW AND NOTABLE:

Prints by visual artist Susan Schwab (74, 75, 89) were included in Drawing and Prints: Selections from the Met Collection in the Robert Wood Johnson Gallery this fall.

Visual artist Colleen Kiley (96, 97, 99) had a solo show “500 Million Heartbeats” at The Trustman Gallery at Simmons College in Boston.

Composer Alicia Svigals (14) completed a tour with The Yellow Ticket, a 1918 silent film she accompanied with her own original live score.

Interdisciplinary artist Line Kallmayer (13) published an essay, “Mother’s Tears,” in the fall issue of AGNI magazine.

Painter Eric Brown (16) showed new work in a solo show at Crush Curatorial this past fall.

Composer/jazz flutist Jamie Baum (14) toured the western states for a month before heading to Poland to teach and tour, before playing jazz festivals in Portugal and Spain.

Poet Lauren Hilger (12, 14) released her debut poetry collection Lady Be Good this past fall with cover art by interdisciplinary artist Larry Krone (11, 12).

Sculptor Martha Clippinger (13) had a solo show at Elizabeth Harris Gallery in New York.

The Sea Ranch Sings featuring Kronos Quartet is the latest CD/DVD by composer Alessandra Vrebalov (98, 99, 06, 11). The DVD includes an experimental/archival film by visual artist Andrew Lyndon (91). Filmmaker Shelly Silver (05, 07, 11, 12, 15) showed her documentary in Complete World, shot in the early days of the 2008 presidential primary, at the Whitney Museum of American Art.

Composer Joshua Fried (97, 99, 00, 01, 02) released a new record: Seize the Means.


Filmmaker Anne Aghion (11) was named to the jury at the Cannes Film Festival last season for the Oeil d’or, the new documentary prize.

The architectural design team of Ersela Kripa (97, 99) showed her documentary at Socrates Sculpture Park in New York.

Visual artist Bryan Zansinik (13) had a solo exhibit in Los Angeles and showed sculpture at Socrates Sculpture Park in New York.

Architect Johannes Knoop (96, 97, 99) showed his installation Venice Re-Mapped at the 15th Venice Architecture Biennale.

Composer Jack Perla (95, 14) premiered his opera, Shalimar the Clown, at Opera Theater St. Louis.

Writer Honor Molloy (02, 06) premiered her play Crookskull-Raw during the 1st Irish Theatre Festival in New York in September.

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Peggy Anderson | Writer Peggy Anderson, author of the 1978 national best seller Nurse, died in Philadelphia on January 17, 2016. She was 77. Anderson, who was in residence in 1977, 1978, and 1985, graduated from Augustana College and spent two years in Togo with the Peace Corps. She became a reporter at the Washington Monthly, joined The Philadelphia Inquirer in 1969, and worked in features until 1973, when she decided to write her first book. The Daughters, about the Daughters of the American Revolution. Her third book, Children's Hospital, which came after Nurse, followed six patients at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, was not as successful as Nurse, but Anderson said it contained, "the most gratifying material I ever worked on in my life."

Germaine Claire | Visual artist Germaine Claire died in in Austin, Texas, on March 7, 2016. She was 77. Claire, who was in residence in 2000, was born in Detroit and earned a B.F.A. in sculpture at the University of Michigan and an M.F.A. in painting at Wayne State University. She became the first woman to receive a one-person exhibit at the Detroit Institute of Art, and taught at Parsons’ School of Design and NYU. She opened her first gallery, St. Mark’s Position, followed by the Germaine Keller Gallery in Garrison, NY, and 1305.3 Position Gallery in Austin. Her work has been acquired by the Museum of Modern Art Archives, the NEA, Sol LeWitt, the Detroit Institute of Art, and others.

Steve Fayer | Writer Steve Fayer, known for his Emmy award-winning script for the civil rights documentary series Eyes on the Prize, died in Westwood, MA, on November 29, 2015 at the age of 80. He was in residence in 1991 and 2012. He graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Pennsylvania. After a successful career in commercial television, Fayer worked for Blackside, Inc. in Boston and won several prestigious awards including his Emmy for the script, “Mississippi: Is This America?”, an episode of Eyes on the Prize for PBS. He also received the Writers Guild award for his work on George Washington: Settin’ the Woods on Fire. He co-authored Voices of Freedom with Henry Hampton. It was named one of the notable books of the year by The New York Times in 1990.

Peter Barrington Hutton | Filmmaker Peter Hutton, whose silent experimental films were noted for their beautifully photographed portraits of landscapes and cities, died in Poughkeepsie, NY, on June 25, 2016. He was 71. According to The New York Times, Hutton, who was in residence in 2008, started making films in the early 1970s that were generally devoid of camera movement, suggesting sketchbooks. He earned a B.F.A. and M.F.A. from the San Francisco Art Institute, and taught filmmaking at a number of schools, including Bard College where he directed the program. He also worked as a cinematographer, largely on documentaries including former student Ken Burns’ Baseball and The Statue of Liberty. The Museum of Modern Art held an 18-film retrospective of his work in 2008. A 2010 Film Comment poll ranked his At Sea the best avant-garde film of the decade.

James C. McKinley | Writer James McKinley, a professor of English at the University of Missouri Kansas City for more than 30 years, died in Kansas City on March 28, 2015. He was 79. McKinley, who was in residence in 1983 and 1988, earned degrees in journalism and psychology from the University of Missouri. After a short stint in the U.S. Army, he went into advertising, working for Procter & Gamble, and Young & Rubicam. He quit advertising in 1966 and returned to the University of Missouri to earn his Ph.D. in English literature. He taught literature and journalism, and published several books of short stories, including Acts of Love, The Fickleman Suite and Other Stories, and The Statue of Liberty. He co-authored Voices of Freedom with Henry Hampton. It was named one of the notable books of the year by The New York Times in 1990.

Harriet Shorr | Painter and teacher Harriet Shorr died on April 9, 2016 in New York. She was 76. She was professor emerita at the School of Art and Design at SUNY Purchase. Known for large-scale realistic still life paintings that were full of light and color, Shorr was a MacDowell fellow in 1971. She was also a writer and poet. Shorr received many awards such as the National Endowment of the Arts Award in 1980, the American Artist Achievement Award in 1994, The Pollock-Krasner Award in 2000, and the Emil and Dines Carlsen Position Gallery in Austin. Her work has been acquired by the Museum of Modern Art Archives, the NEA, Sol LeWitt, the Detroit Institute of Art, and others.

Charles M. Turner | Former MacDowell Colony maintenance employee Charles M. Turner died in his home in Peterborough on May 7, 2016. He was 92. Turner attended Jaffrey schools and lived on the farm until he entered the U.S. Army in 1949, serving on active duty during the Korean War until November 1951. He worked as a plumber for O.B. Peirce Co. of Peterborough for 22 years and worked at MacDowell for 15 years before retiring in 1993.

Ira Sachs Gets Mid-Career Retrospective at MoMA
This past summer, the films of Ira Sachs (01) were featured during a retrospective that showcased his seven feature films and five shorts. Sachs’ intimate work—ranging from experimental film to dramas and comedies—looks at relationships, love, sexuality, gay identity, family life, social issues, and city lifestyles with subtlety and nuance, depicting people’s day-to-day struggles with isolation, individuality, and learning how to communicate in wider circles.

Nigerian writer Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie granted filmmaker Akosua Adoma Owusu (13) the exclusive film rights for her company Obibini Pictures, LLC to produce On Monday of Last Week, an adaptation of a short story of the same name from Adichie’s collection, The Thing Around Your Neck. On Monday of Last Week also reflects themes explored in previous works by the filmmaker, specifically identity and standards of beauty, including her award-winning short Me Broni Ba (2009) and her forthcoming feature Black Sunshine. Me Broni Ba investigates the fraught relationship between images of beauty and power, telling an emotionally resonant story of a young child’s migration from Africa to the United States and her painful efforts to fit in. Black Sunshine tells the story of hairdresser Rosemary Konadu and her 12-year-old albino daughter, Coco.

Aakensu Adoma Owusu

Koji Nakano Named Scripps Erma Taylor O’Brien Distinguished Visiting Professor
This past fall, composer Koji Nakano was named the Scripps Erma Taylor O’Brien Distinguished Visiting Professor at Scripps College in Claremont, CA. He lectured at various campuses of The Claremont Colleges and joined in the pre-concert panel discussion for the world premiere of his work Imagined Sceneries for two sopranos, koto, chamber ensemble and pre-recorded tracks at Scripps Clark Humanities Museum in October.

Composer Koji Nakano directs Imagined Sceneries at California State University, San Bernardino on November 1, 2016. (Giovanni Ortega photo)

Koji Nakano Named Scripps Erma Taylor O’Brien Distinguished Visiting Professor
Ta-Nehisi Coates and Lena Dunham Talk Politics and Creativity with Michael Chabon

Journalist and National Book Award-winner Ta-Nehisi Coates and bestselling author, feminist, and HBO showrunner Lena Dunham joined MacDowell Chairman of the Board and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Michael Chabon on stage at the 4th annual Chairman’s Evening at the New Museum in New York on December 5, 2016. These iconic artists engaged in the kind of high-octane conversation about creativity that takes place at the Colony every day. They talked about their current work, the work that they’d like to do, the importance of the late David Carr to both Coates and Dunham, and what the role of art should be in a changing political world. See the entire program at vimeo.com/channels/macdowellcolony.

MACDOWELL IN THE SCHOOLS

In May, poets Monica Sok and Javier Zamora shared their journeys as poets with 65 Contoocook Valley Regional High School students and 10 faculty and staff in the school’s Lucy Hurlin Theatre. In July, composer Richard Dubugnon discussed his process, how he became a composer, and how he makes a living at it with music students visiting from the Walden School. He showed students a 15-minute video of his composition Blitz in Savidge Library. In September, composer, conductor, and MacDowell Colony board member Tania León (pictured above) visited ConVal High School where she related her life story, her creative influences and inspirations, and her belief in the power of artistic collaboration to about 120 students and adults in the Lucy Hurlin Theater. She also shared some of her music live on piano and screened some video before an energetic conversation with students about their own interests. Later that month, poet Keith Wilson visited Mark Holding’s advanced placement literature class to talk about poetry and share his own work with a small class.

MACDOWELL DOWNTOWN

In May, composer Dave Malloy performed songs on piano from past and current work, and discussed how he takes major works of literature and turns them into musicals. He performed selections from his adaptations of Herman Melville’s Moby Dick and William Shakespeare’s Henry plays.

Community Engagement

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In June, performance artists Elizabeth LaPrelle and Anna Roberts-Gevalt sang traditional Appalachian ballads while accompanying themselves on guitar, fiddle, and banjo before an overflow crowd at the Monadnock Center for History and Culture. They also demonstrated their use of their original “crankies,” hand-operated backlit scrolls that lend visuals to their storytelling and performances. Beginning in June, interdisciplinary artist Paul Festa performed six separate Bach sonatas and partitas in three separate “mini concerts” that he recorded for an ongoing project. He performed at the Mariposa Museum & World Culture Center, at All Saints Church, and at Bass Hall at the Monadnock Center for History and Culture.

In August, the lead up to Medal Day, writer ZZ Packer presented a slideshow and spoke about the cultural import and impact of the novels of 2016 MacDowell Medalist Toni Morrison at the Monadnock Center. In September, writer Lawrence “Ren” Weschler presented video excerpts and photos of Oliver Sacks (07) as well as memories of his friendship with the late author, neurologist, and adventurer. Weschler is working on a biography of Sacks. In October, composer Eric Moe (above right) performed two pieces on piano, showed a 10-minute clip from his one-woman opera “Tri-Stan,” talked about his creative process and his work, and answered questions from the audience.

THING IN THE SPRING, AND MORE

In May, visual artist and writer Alice Attie presented slides of her work and brought more than a dozen hand-drawn pieces to the Capitol Center for the Arts in Concord, NH. Writer Amanda Petrusich participated in the downtown Peterborough arts festival “The Thing in the Spring.” She spoke at the Toadstool Bookshop about her most recent book, Do Not Sell At Any Price (about collectors of rare, pre-war 78 rpm records) and then read from a new piece she worked on during her 2015 residency.

In July, playwright Jennifer Barclay led a 90-minute movement and character workshop for children and adults at Andy’s Summer Playhouse in Wilton. Playwright and 2013 Fellow Jess Barbagallo participated in a new “artist incubation” initiative at Andy’s Summer Playhouse as well, workingshopping a new work, Melissa So Far, a theatrical adaptation of Alex Gino’s young-adult novel George. Also in July, film director Jay Craven (91) conducted a question and answer session after a showing of his newest film, Peter & John — based on the Guy de Maupassant novel of the same name — at Wilton Town Hall Theater. He did the same for a screening in Peterborough in August.

In August, composer Carl Bettendorf introduced his piece Il y a l’Océan at a Monadnock Music String Quartet performance at the Nelson Congregational Church.

In September, the Monadnock Writers Group held its meeting in Savidge Library. Resident Director David Macy provided a history of the Colony and an update of the Calderwood Journalism Initiative. Two artists-in-residence, writers Emily Shelton and Jane Roland Martin, read work and spoke to the group.

In October, composer/musician Sam Moss (12) performed on a triple bill (with Wooden Dinosaur and Trevor Healy) as part of a Peak into Peterborough concert. The show was in Bass Hall at the Monadnock Center.

Save the Dates

Friends of MacDowell trip, New Orleans

November 8 - 12, 2017

Join us in the Big Easy. Details to come.
From May 16 through October 16, 2016, The MacDowell Colony welcomed a total of 156 artists from 25 states and 12 countries. The group included 68 writers, 18 visual artists, 18 theatre artists, 17 film/video artists, 15 composers, 13 interdisciplinary artists, and seven architects.

PETER FAHEY, Composer
Philadelphia, PA
AMZE EMMONS, Visual Artist
Winston-Salem, NC
STEPHEN DUNN, Writer, Frostburg, MD
NANCY DINIZ, Architect, New York, NY
SEBASTIAN CURRIER, Composer
Brooklyn, NY
JORGE IGNACIO CORTINAS, Theatre Artist
Washington, DC
GREG CORSO, Architect
Brooklyn, NY
NATE CHINEN, Writer
Beacon, NY
CRISTOBAL CEA, Interdisciplinary Artist
Chapel Hill, NC
DANIEL CASTRO, Writer
New York, NY
MARIANNE BORUCH, Writer
West Lafayette, IN
NATALIE BOOKCHIN, Visual Artist
Bronx, NY
RIDEWOOD, NY
Saratoga Springs, NY
Buenos Aires, Argentina
MATEO BENDESKY, Film/Video Artist
Cambridge, MA
SHANE BAUER, Writer
LISA AUERBACH, Visual Artist
Saint Louis Park, MN
RELATIONSHIPS

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Fax: 603-924-9142
100 High Street
The MacDowell Colony is located at macdowellcolony.org
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RIDEWOO