



Les Entretiens

BUILDING A COMMUNITY OF GLOBAL CITIZENS

Art by Aidan Chang

The French have a word for it

How could strangers become cherished friends in just six weeks?

LINDA KEBICHI

My first few days as a Tufts University undergrad were filled with so many new faces and places. I loved the constant feeling of excitement, as if I were always standing at the precipice of something new. I couldn't wait to become familiar with every inch of our Medford campus. And, in time, I did. I grew to love it and the comfort it gave me—the comfort of knowing where I'm going to eat, whom I'm going to see, which trees I'm going to hammock between.

But even then, I felt I had not finished building a home because, for me, home is not a place but the people around me. Home is being vulnerable with friends who know my fears, the ones I confide in and share my life with. I found myself reminiscing about high school as if it were some vanished Eden. I missed my old high school friends, who were all off at college now, living their respective lives in different states and countries.

At Tufts, I set out to meet as many people as I could. I joined more clubs than I can remember and struck up conversations everywhere—in class, in line for coffee, the mailroom—and it was all very promising at first. I learned what people wanted to study, where they came from, and what clubs they had joined. But after a while, those trite conversations wore thin. I was bent on making a massive volume of connections, only to realize that all the superficial minutiae we shared in passing amounted to nothing. I yearned not for a place, but for people, and I was exhausted from showing up every day to a place I was supposed to, but could not, call home.

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Tufts, I realized, was not the haven I wanted it to be, and it demanded all my strength to try to make it one. I needed a change. And so, in December of 2021, I found myself applying to Tufts in Talloires. At the start of the summer, I would pack my bags to live for six weeks with a host family and study in a tiny village in the French Alps. It was an impulsive decision. In retrospect, I don't know why I thought moving to a foreign country for a brief stint of time would make me feel more at home, but I consider it one of my happiest accidents to date. On May 17, as the plane lifted me away from Boston and across the Atlantic, I saw my freshman year receding behind me, growing smaller in the distance, and a second chance on the horizon.

Hidden gems

Since my flight had been delayed, on my first day at the Prieuré, I found myself alone while others in the program were getting acclimated with their host families in the nearby countryside. For a little while I explored the thousand-year-old former Benedictine priory that would become my home for the next six weeks. I remember being enamored by the view of the lake from the balcony, clear waters shimmering in the bright light of day. From the garden, I could see mountains that reached for the sky, decorated in equal parts by clouds and paragliders, and I wondered if I would ever become accustomed to this breathtaking view.

Slowly, other students began arriving—familiar and unfamiliar faces filtered in one by one. It's odd to think back to a time when I didn't know any of the people I met here. It's even odder to think of those I became friends with in Talloires whom I had met previously in Medford: people I knew from pre-orientation, friends of friends I'd met countless times in passing, people who sat directly in front of me in Genetics for a semester whom I never noticed. I had unknowingly crossed paths with people I'd one day cherish as some of my dearest friends. Had we never come to Talloires, we simply would've continued passing by each other with a respectful nod or wave or other perfunctory acknowledgment without any further thought.

Since then, I have ruminated over this phenomenon countless times, mulling over how France brought me so close to people I otherwise never would have known so well. I don't think I'll ever have it down to a science, but what I can say with certainty is that being in a foreign country makes someone vulnerable.

We didn't know much about Talloires or France—the people, the place, the language—it was all new. But we knew we had each other. I never knew what my French host mom packed me for lunch, but I knew whom I would be eating it with. I rarely knew what I would be doing on any given day besides attending class, but I knew whom I would be seeing. Some nights I didn't know how I'd get home, but I always knew we'd get there together.

Finding myself in a foreign country for six weeks meant creating my home among people. The moments and memories we shared forged, brick by brick, a home that I could carry with me everywhere. Day by day, I learned the minutiae of my peers, like how they took their coffee or what they liked to buy at the beloved 8-à-Huit grocery store. Each day I learned more. We shared memories of our past and our hopes for the future over coffee, dinner, and then eventually over nothing at all when conversation became enough to consider a night made. By the end, even words were no longer necessary. The mere presence of friends sufficed to fill the silence as we watched the stars for the last time on that final night by the lake.

Farewell to fear

This travel rejuvenated me in a way unlike most travel. It wasn't the feeling of being away from home that renewed life in me, but rather the way that an unfamiliar environment allowed me to build a home with the people around me.

It's hard to sum up how or why my walls came crashing down in Talloires, but the French seem to have a word for it: *dépaysement*. It refers to the excitement, fear, and rejuvenation one feels when everything around you is suddenly new. The disorientation of grappling with life in an entirely new place, even if just for a short while, puts things into perspective. None of the things that used to scare me were scary any more. Whether it was paragliding off a mountain or showing how much I cared about someone, I embraced experiences I never would have before. I invited so much more into my life because of my experience with *dépaysement*, and my life is so much richer because of it.

Linda Kebichi recently finished her sophomore year at Brown University, having transferred from Tufts after the fall semester. She grew up in Lexington, Mass. This essay originally appeared in the Tufts Observer, October 11, 2022.



Kebichi in Talloires: 'My walls came crashing down.'

In search of the 'MacJannet Mystique'

Can the spirit of Talloires be bottled and exported?

The legendary jazz pianist Fats Waller was once asked to explain rhythm. "Lady," he famously replied, "if you got to ask, you ain't got it."

The MacJannet community constantly confronts a similar challenge. Those of us who attended the MacJannet schools and camps in France, not to mention the Tufts European Center in Talloires, France, emerged with a unique set of ideals and values. But what exactly were those ideals? And how do the MacJannet Foundation's trustees transmit them to people who weren't marinated in the MacJannet experience?



Saint-Cloud, before the Chateau building was destroyed in the war of 1870: Magic, with a little help from Jules Verne.

The MacJannet camps and schools never hosted more than 80 children in any given term. Rather than create huge educational institutions, Donald and Charlotte trusted that the seeds they planted in a few dozen children would bear fruit in ways that the MacJannets themselves couldn't imagine—an extraordinary demonstration of faith in individuals to change the world for the better.

For 40 years, the MacJannets relied on the magical pull of Lake Annecy to attract clients to their camp at Angon. Subsequently, they doubled down on their commitment to that area by acquiring the abandoned thousand-year-old Benedictine priory in the village of Talloires, just down the road, and restoring it into an elegant meeting place capable of hosting international conferences and ultimately serving as Tufts University's European campus. Here, amid the timeless splendor of the lake and mountains, pessimism about humanity's ability to solve its problems was simply inconceivable. The mere presence of the Prieuré in its lakeside garden engendered optimism by osmosis.

But can the spirit of Talloires be bottled and exported? How exactly do we define that spirit for billions of people who never set foot in Talloires? The following suggestions—some old, some new—grew out of a recent email exchange on this very subject.

—Dan Rottenberg

1. Beyond Talloires

Some 20 years ago, the MacJannet Foundation trustees spent an afternoon and the next morning grappling with this question: What makes the Foundation unique? What does it offer that no other foundation offers?

They identified four pillars of value, three of which are familiar to most MacJannet acolytes:

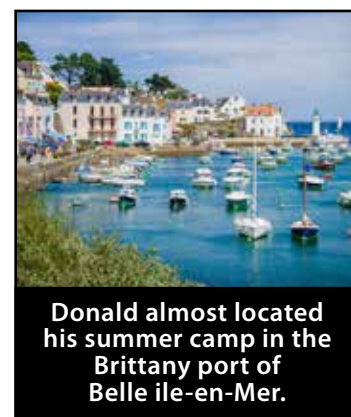
- The village of Talloires on Lake Annecy in the French Alps, where Donald MacJannet established his international summer camps in the 1920s.
- Le Prieuré, the thousand-year-old priory in Talloires that Donald and Charlotte MacJannet acquired and restored as a conference center beginning in 1958.
- The foundation's relationship with Tufts University, which has operated the Prieuré as its European campus since Donald donated the Prieuré to his alma mater in 1968.

But of course, these three pillars supported a mission that Donald and Charlotte MacJannet had pursued long before they got involved with Talloires or Tufts or the Prieuré. These pillars were not ends in themselves, but a structure for advancing their objectives during their later years. For want of a better term, those trustees called that objective "The MacJannet Mystique." The Mystique, I suggest, is discovering transformative opportunities for joyous experiential learning. The Mystique is based on the MacJannets' original trilogy: a magical environment, cultural diversity, and holistic self-discovery.

Alternate locations

A "magical environment" is a place of breathtaking natural beauty and enchantment, so magnificent that it awakens awe and inspiration. After experiencing that type of awakening, it is internalized and carried throughout one's life. The MacJannets thought Talloires was such a place, but they knew it as one of many others.

Another such venue was the school location at the Elms mansion overlooking Paris in the Seine port town of Saint-Cloud. The Versailles-style gardens of Saint-Cloud were successively improved by Phillip I, Duke of Orleans, Marie Antoinette, Napoleon I, and Napoleon III, each of whom lived in the chateau of Saint-Cloud as their preferred residence.



Donald almost located his summer camp in the Brittany port of Belle ile-en-Mer.

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Though the chateau was destroyed in 1870 during the Franco-Prussian War, the gardens survived and thrived. According to Donald's sister, Jean Foster, part of the magic of the Elms is that it was one of the boyhood homes of Jules Verne.

Donald also found magical environments in the Côte d'Azur. He explored some areas near Cannes, including the stunning village of Èze as a possible site for a school. He never settled on a location there, but his trip was not fruitless, because Cannes is where he found Charlotte in 1932 at a presentation concerning the Emile Jaques-Dalcroze School in Geneva.

Sun Valley experiment

Donald's first location for a summer camp, however, was not Talloires. It was Belle-île-en-Mer, the largest of the Breton islands off the Brittany coast. Beautiful, he said, but not ideal for teaching swimming and other water sports. During World War II, the MacJannets reopened their school at the stunning location of Sun Valley, Idaho. Although the scenery of each of these locations is spectacular, the MacJannets would also create a magical environment by featuring music: classical, jazz, folk, or popular, depending on the occasion.



Sun Valley, Idaho, offered a stunning wartime location.

Clearly, the MacJannet Mystique is not bound exclusively to Talloires. It's about internalizing your own awareness of beauty, awareness that must be shared with others. As the author/aviator Antoine de Saint-Exupéry explained, sometimes love is the bond of people looking in the same direction and seeing something beautiful that is invisible to others.

Donald's teachable moments

This bond of love in sharing the discovery of beauty is an essential element of the MacJannet Mystique. It's a way of teaching empathy in the context of cultural diversity—what the MacJannets referred to as “international understanding.” Today, schools and universities boast about their cultural diversity; the number of languages

spoken by students at the school, the number of countries represented, and the percentage of students of color. The MacJannets were nearly a century ahead in favoring diversity over homogeneity from the start, in the 1920s. In fact, diversity was their framework for teaching empathy.

For example, there were, of course, incidents where hazing or cruel nicknames against some minority broke out at the MacJannet school and the camp. To Donald MacJannet, these were ultimate teachable moments. The perpetrators were invited one by one to participate in a very long discussion with Mr. Mac, lasting the rest of the day, exploring the possible sources of such prejudices, the feelings involved, and the consequences for the social environment. He wanted you to convince yourself that you belonged on the opposite side of the equation; to become a knight in the battle against hate. Talk about a transformative experience!

Without learning and practicing empathy, it is possible for students to find a small close group of like-minded friends, remaining in that bubble, looking always to reinforce their prejudices, avoiding opportunities to join with someone of a different background and see something together. But how should one practice empathy?

The MacJannets' neighbor and friend, the artist Suzanne Lansé of Talloires, explained that the MacJannets' method for practicing empathy starts with a special type of “*accueil*,” a welcome to all nationalities, colors, genders, cultures, races, religions, and orientations. (See below.) Discovering and learning about each other with empathy is an extension of another journey in the Mystique: discovering ourselves.

Charlotte's contribution

The final and most important element in the MacJannet Mystique trilogy is especially Charlotte's contribution. Charlotte and one of her protégées, Gerda Alexander, evolved certain ideas from the teachings of Emile Jaques-Dalcroze at his eurythmics center in Geneva. Charlotte and Gerda lacked a name for their own eurythmics philosophy until 1985, when they settled on “Eutony,” from the Greek *Eu* for good and the Latin *tonus* for tension. Eutony was developed on the premise that the combination of feeling one's body, in all its parts and as a whole, and of understanding how it works, is a way within everybody's reach to improve their health and live to their full potential. It involves bringing the body and mind into balance and harmony—a lifetime journey of holistic self-discovery.

The MacJannet ideal doesn't ask how can you be of use to me. It's how can I help



In partnership with Charlotte at Talloires, Gerda Alexander developed a lifetime journey of self-discovery for mind and body.

you achieve your dream. Come on the joyful adventure. In Talloires, look at the mountains that tower above you, reflected in a clean blue lake where ancient past cultures have left reminders of their presence, and you will feel the Mystique and realize that now it's time for you to share your gifts with others. You will hear your call deep in the walls of the Prieuré, imbued with the spirituality chanted into them by the Benedictine monks. As you walk along the Prieuré's narrow ancient entryway, a Roman marble carving on the wall reminds you: "Never give someone a water clock unless you also give them the means to sustain it." Think about that. Discover, experience, and live the joy of your gifts.

What we have, taken all together, is the MacJannet Mystique as it inspires users of the Prieuré today, from Tufts students who live with host families in the Talloires area while attending courses at the Prieuré, to MacJannet camp and school alumni, to the Amis du Prieure program that sends French students to visit Boston each year, to the global Talloires Network of Engaged Universities, launched at the Prieuré by MacJannet Foundation trustees and today numbering 427 institutions in 85 countries on six continents.

The Prieuré is the one thing all trustees of the MacJannet Foundation share a connection with. The MacJannet Prize for Global Citizenship is one of many accomplishments launched from Le Prieuré. Part of the magic of the Mystique is the Prieuré's natural and historic surroundings. Its credentials in humanitarian outreach stretch back to its earliest incarnation as a leper colony.

We began this discussion with the question: "Can the MacJannet Foundation's trustees transmit the MacJannet Mystique to people who weren't marinated in the MacJannet experience?" The answer is: Of course!

—George Halsey

George Halsey, a former MacJannet camper (1949, 1954-58), was a trustee of the MacJannet Foundation from 1978 to 2023 and its president from 1996 to 2000.

2. The welcome in our smile

The MacJannets' concept of *accueil* brought a new tone of conviviality wherever they went: the notion that we are touched with a responsibility to receive another with our whole person, open in our comportment and our person, putting joy in our eyes to better see the joy of the invited and—in this regard, this look—to bear witness to our desire to know the other. This welcome is found in our smile, our handshake, our simple words of introduction and welcome.

It was Charlotte's and Donald's endless gestures of kindness that gave confidence to all those who came into their presence. This welcome was reassuring, comforting, and created a sense of security that one was truly valued for one's individuality.

—Suzanne Lansé

The painter Suzanne Lansé (1898-2002) was for many years a friend and neighbor of Donald and Charlotte MacJannet in Talloires.



In the village of Eze near Cannes, Donald found no campsite. But he did find Charlotte.

3. Thinking globally

The MacJannets were global in their thinking before they became fantastic stewards of the Prieuré, a tradition continued and supported by the Foundation. This torch has been passed to Tufts University, which will hopefully continue this endeavor for many years to come.

—Wenke Thoman Sterns

Wenke Thoman Sterns has been a MacJannet Foundation trustee since 1988. She lives in Delray Beach, Fla., Dorset, Vermont, and Villefranche, France.

4. Civic awareness

The thing that defines our support of the MacJannet Prize for Global Citizenship and our commitment to the Prieuré programs is our support for the MacJannetness of their impacts on the students who participate.

I don't care that our slogan—"Building a Community of Global Citizens"—is a cliché. Each of our programs illustrates this idea in different ways.

The MacJannets' ideas evolved over many decades. They were disseminating their values long before they set eyes on the Prieuré or even Lake Annecy. To me, the MacJannet Prize has significantly expanded our Foundation's *raison d'être*. It's consistent with what those of us who knew the Macs can say with confidence: that it reflects their devotion to "learning by doing," "active citizenship," and "promoting international understanding." I think both Donald and Charlotte would endorse the emphasis on promoting civic awareness and active citizenship among students around the globe.

—Anthony Cook

Anthony Cook, a former MacJannet camper, is a longtime MacJannet Foundation trustee and served as its president from 2008 to 2013. He lives in Sausalito, Cal.

NEWS OF THE FOUNDATION'S PROGRAMS

MacJannet Prize: 2022 winners

The MacJannet Prize for Global Citizenship, launched in 2009, recognizes exemplary university student civic engagement programs around the world. Today the Prize is a key element in the MacJannet Foundation's work to build a community of global citizens. The Prize is sponsored jointly by the MacJannet Foundation and the Talloires Network, a global association of 427 universities in 85 countries on six continents, all committed to developing student leaders who are actively engaged with society.

In addition to providing international recognition to outstanding student initiatives for civic engagement and community service, the Prize provides a financial contribution and encourages communication among the groups to share their experiences and strengthen their effectiveness.

Since the Prize was launched in 2009, the Talloires Network has reviewed 659 nominations from 247 universities in 49 countries. In 2022, the competition received 28 nominations from 15 countries across six continents. Of these nominees, three were awarded prizes announced in June. Three others were recognized for Honorable Mention.

Legal services for the poor

First Prize (\$7,500): Queen Mary University of London Legal Advice Centre (Queen Mary University of London, United Kingdom)

The Queen Mary Legal Advice Centre is a free community law center based in the University's Law Department. It brings together undergraduate law students, the Centre's staff and volunteer lawyers to provide free legal services and public legal education initiatives to the local community. It embodies the University's own roots as the "People's Palace," designed to improve the lives of poor communities in London's East End through cultural and educational opportunities.

The Centre's East London locale, for all its multicultural vibrancy, regularly ranks lowest in the Trust for London's "Poverty Profile." The Centre was founded by the University's Law School in 2006 to meet this community's need for access to free legal advice. It was the first law clinic of its kind at a London university.

In addition to legal advice (and sometimes representation), the Centre also offers community-based public legal education projects providing students with real-life

experience in assisting people in need of access to justice. As a side benefit, this process assures that law students develop a lifelong commitment to the value of *pro bono* work. In effect, students and clients benefit from engaging with each other.

The Centre's team comprises eight staff members funded by the University, in addition to the volunteer students and lawyers. They answer to an External Advisory Board comprised of volunteer lawyers, as well as an internal Management Com-

mittee comprised of academics within the University's Law Department.

Says the Centre's director, Frances Ridout: "We will continue to strive towards enabling access to justice for all, educating our future lawyers in the importance of *pro bono* and community service."

Developing teenage entrepreneurship

Second Prize (\$5,000): Teenagers in Free Enterprise (American University of Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan)

This project seeks to address the problem of unequal wealth distribution in Kyrgyzstan by developing entrepreneurial skills among high-potential high school students. More than half of Kyrgyzstan's population is under the age of 25, and almost a third of the population is between the ages of 15 and 25. Young people in Kyrgyzstan live in an environment where poverty and unemployment are widespread, and economic opportunities, as well as access to public services, are very limited.

The Teenagers project consists of two parts: Education and Competition. During the educational part of the program, teams of high school students participate in training sessions about business modeling, design-thinking, and financial modeling. They also meet with business owners. In the project's competition portion, teams of students compete for prizes that include a 35% discount on tuition fees at the American University of Central Asia—a total value of \$34,600 for six winners.



Queen Mary students (above) offer free legal services and advice to local residents.



Breaking the wall between school and society

Third Prize (\$2,500): UBANEX (University of Buenos Aires, Argentina)

The UBANEX Program was created in 2004 to enable the University of Buenos Aires to use its extension programs to transform the University's relationship with its society. Through UBANEX, the University makes its expertise available to various social and government agencies in order to help improve the quality of life of the members of its society. It also helps design and improve state and private social programs. In all cases, student volunteers are trained and guided by teaching teams from the University.

"This award encourages our students and teachers to continue along this path, trying to grow every day in order to contribute to improving the well-being of our society," says Gustavo Galli of UBANEX.

Honorable Mention:

Integra: Programa de integración universitaria para jóvenes refugiados (Universidad Camilo José Cela, Spain) seeks to facilitate the transition and acclimation of refugees entering Spain and to provide sup-

port due to the uncertainty of young refugees and their families who face the challenges of integration in a new society. The program offers professional job training and access to higher education, while promoting an inclusive and supportive mentality within the rest of the academic community.

Code4All Initiative (Ashesi University, Ghana) is a student-founded and -led program that aims to empower high school students from underserved communities with software development and critical thinking skills, preparing them to use technology to solve real-world problems. The Initiative provides mentorship and teaches basic computer skills and problem-solving to students from rural and underrepresented backgrounds.

The NORTH (Navigating Ottawa Resources To improve Health) Clinic, University of Ottawa, Canada) is a student-run clinic that aims to address underserved clients' self-identified social needs by connecting them to tailored community resources and supports. Through collaborative efforts between students and medical, legal, and social work professionals, the Clinic also aims to train and equip future professionals with the tools to competently and confidently intervene on the social determinants of health.

2022 MacJannet Prize Selection Committee

- **Senathirajah Ariyaratnam**, Professor of Dental Education and Global Oral Health and Lead for Responsibility in Dentistry and Global Oral Health Initiatives (2021 MacJannet Prize Winner), University of Manchester (United Kingdom)
- **Luz Ayruj**, Coordinator of Institutional Relations and Networks, Latin American Center for Solidarity Service-Learning (Argentina)
- **Peter Kirira**, Principal, College of Graduate Studies & Research and Senior Lecturer, Mount Kenya University (Kenya)
- **Cliona Maher**, Latin American Officer and Vice-Chair of the Latin American Regional Working Group, University College Cork (Ireland)
- **Claire McCann**, Student and Program Coordinator of Nine Tenths Programme (2021 MacJannet Prize winner), Rhodes University (South Africa)
- **Catherine Parrinello**, Trustee, MacJannet Foundation (U.S.)
- **Achyuta Samanta**, Founder, Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (2021 MacJannet Prize Winner), (India)
- **Wenke Thoman Sterns**, Trustee, MacJannet Foundation (U.S.)

We're back! The return of Tufts in Talloires



It was like old times in Talloires, as some 70 Tufts students enrolled in the Prieur's signature program after a two-year hiatus.

Editor's note: The Tufts in Talloires summer study abroad program resumed in 2022 after a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Some 70 Tufts students as well as Tufts faculty members returned to the Tufts European Center in Talloires, France, and spent six weeks in May and June learning, collaborating, and connecting with the local community, just as they had done since 1980 until the COVID interruption. Two of last summer's participants offer their impressions below; for a third, see Linda Kebichi's essay on the cover of this issue.

Beyond 'Google translate'

Something about being in France for six weeks with strangers from your university brings you together in a way four years in Medford never could. I made my best friends in Talloires and am so grateful for that. I was even able to make some local friends whom I plan to visit soon.



The experience showed me just how rewarding connecting with others can be. I lived with a nice old couple who spoke almost no English, and, naturally, my housemate and I spoke almost no French. "Google translate" had its own place at

the dinner table. Nonetheless, we were still able to enjoy French food and discuss topics that are important to us.

The experience taught me that language is not our only means of communication and connection. Things like shared experiences and laughter can connect just as well.

If I could go back and relive those six weeks, I'd want to experience that time exactly the same way. I flew home with a brighter attitude and ready to embrace everyone in my path. Tufts in Talloires made me a kinder person and a better friend.

—Caroline A. Knox

Caroline A. Knox is a rising junior at Tufts (Class of '25). She lives in Arlington, Mass.

New challenges

Doing the Tufts in Talloires Program was one of the best choices I have ever made. I frequently find myself reminiscing about various moments from the six weeks I lived there; the scenes remain freshly engrained in my mind.

I can still feel the cool Alpine breeze from hikes with my classmates, or hear the songs



Now for something completely different: 'What Happens Next?' at the Prieuré

Every year the Tufts European Center welcomes Tufts Rabbi Emeritus Jeffrey Summit and Reverend Scotty McLennan of Stanford University (formerly the Tufts University chaplain) for an unusual and thoughtful class. Their "What Happens Next?" seminar brings 20 adults together for an intimate and thought-provoking week-long program that addresses many of the questions that people consider as they decide how best to direct their time and energy to ensure that their lives are fulfilling and in balance.

Using literature, philosophy, and spiritual sources, Jeff and Scotty facilitate meaningful conversations about the lessons from the challenges of the past few years, as well as discussions about how to develop a deeper appre-

ciation of meaningful pleasures, worthwhile causes, work, relationships, and time.

Donald and Charlotte MacJannet's vision for the Prieuré included bringing people together for important discussions and meaningful connections, much as the "What Happens Next?" seminar does. How pleased they would be to know that their beautiful thousand-year-old building continues to inspire such gatherings.

This year's "What Happens Next?" seminar will take place September 5 to 11 at the Tufts European Center in Talloires. If you are interested in learning more, please contact the European Center at europecenter@tufts.edu.

—GABRIELLA GOLDSTEIN



In search of adult fulfillment: Last summer's seminararians.

of the birds with the last of the morning raindrops while sitting in MacJannet Hall for a class, or smell the sweet aroma of a tart my host family and I had just prepared. All these memories are amazing souvenirs I keep from my time in Talloires.

The Talloires program also provided me with an opportunity to further explore my academic interests and immerse myself in another language and culture. I value the experience I gained and the friendships I developed. Learning to adjust to a completely new environment with all new challenges enabled me to grow both academically

and personally, and I am forever grateful for this opportunity. The support of all the professors and European Center staff made this experience possible as we all navigated a Talloires experience post-COVID lockdowns together.

I now see my Talloires experience as a collection of cherished memories that I will never forget. My only regret is that I wish I could have extended the experience longer.

—Liam Randall

Liam Randall is a rising junior at Tufts University (Class of '25). He lives in Cape Cod, Mass.

New faces, new plans

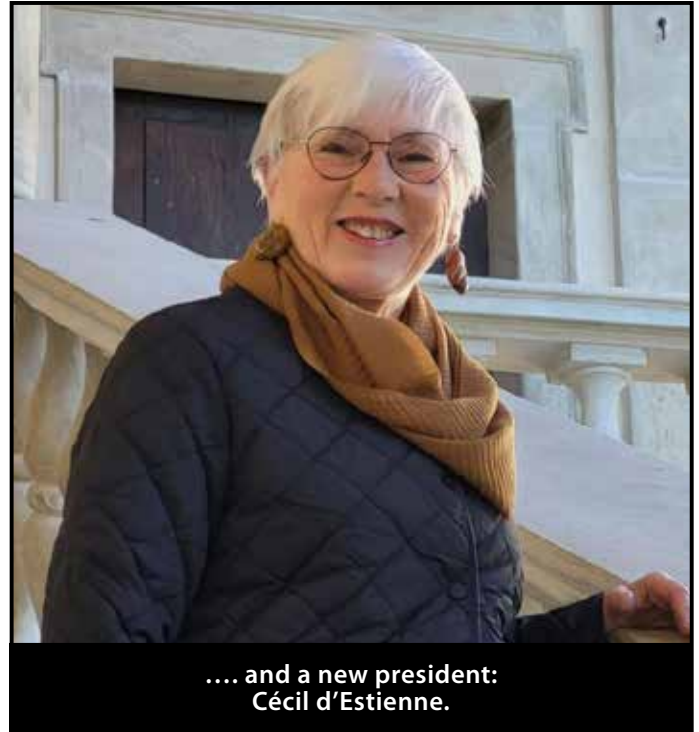
The reawakening of Les Amis du Prieuré

At this time last year, members of Les Amis du Prieuré of Talloires were somewhat pessimistic about the future of our organization. Our weekly summer lecture series, Les Conférences du Lundi, was drastically curtailed over the summer due to the COVID-19 pandemic. And our practice of sponsoring local French students to the Tufts University English summer course was jeopardized when Tufts discontinued the course.

Fortunately, our new president, Cécil d'Estienne, has proved very active and efficient, with strong qualities as an organizer and a publicist. Her faultless presence at each of the summer Conférences du Lundi contributed to their success and motivated all the committee members so that the 2023 summer program schedule is now completed.

In 2021, Tufts University dropped its summer English course that French students from Haute-Savoie have attended for years through the sponsorship of Les Amis. But thanks to Fabienne Gaudemard, Elisabeth, Rindborg, and marginally myself, we found that Boston University is conducting an English summer course program very similar to the late Tufts program. So Elisabeth and I have just selected three students from two Annecy schools to attend the Boston U. English program this summer: two girls from Lycée Berthollet and one boy from Lycée Lachenal in nearby Argonay:

- Mélissa DuBois, 19, from Grenoble, a student at the Lycée Berthollet.
- Amandine Leveque, 18, from Annecy, also at the Lycée Berthollet
- Eloi Bruneau, 18, from Eu, a very small town on the North Normandy coast, studying at the Lycée Lachenal.



These students have integrated two highly selective classes (literary, history, and languages at Berthollet, scientific at Lachenal).

We are grateful to the MacJannet Foundation for its financial support of this program.

Cécil also launched the idea of an alumni association for French recipients of exchange grants from Les Amis. It has indeed begun and should prove successful.

To sum up: *Les Amis ont retrouvé des couleurs!*

—Jean-Michel Fouquet

They're off to Boston





Eight past and present MacJannet Fletcher Fellows gathered at Tufts University in December 2022 for the MacJannet Foundation's tenth Fletcher Fellows dinner—an annual tradition interrupted the previous two years by the COVID pandemic. From left to right: Stephanie Springer (Germany), Lazaros Kyrimis (France/Greece), Vincent Puybasset (France), Linda Bachg (Germany), Sara Kallis (Cyprus/Switzerland), Chiara Fargnoli (Italy), Hayley Umayam (US), Arno Ratzinger (Germany).

Make no little plans

Our 2022-23 MacJannet Fletcher Fellows tackle climate change, peace, and human rights

Note: Since 1967, an endowment from Donald MacJannet has helped support international studies among graduate students. Initially, this program focused on an innovative exchange program between the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University and the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva. By now, that Fletcher-Geneva exchange program numbers more than 200 alumni. The MacJannet grant has also provided support to a large number of other European students studying at Fletcher. Until the global coronavirus pandemic struck in 2020, the MacJannet Foundation sponsored an annual dinner at the Fletcher School to honor these Fellows. This tradition was resumed for the tenth year in December 2022, attended by eight of these outstanding students from six European countries. Meanwhile, the Fellowship program itself has continued. Below, four MacJannet Fletcher Fellows for academic year 2022-23 discuss their hopes and dreams—for themselves as well as the planet.

—ANTHONY KLEITZ

An intimate lunch with a president

Arno Ratzinger (Germany): Although I'm originally from Germany, I had the opportunity to explore different countries and cultures throughout my studies.

North-Atlantic relations have always been my interest, which is why I chose the Europe and North-America program at Sciences Po Paris for my bachelor's. As the COVID pandemic prevented me from studying across the pond, I ended up attending the University of Maastricht in the Netherlands for the program's final year. There my interest in environmental issues solidified and I co-founded a startup working on circular economy. I wanted

to deepen this specialization for my master's, so I enrolled in the Geneva Graduate Institute's Master of International Affairs program with a specialization in environment and climate.

But my real attraction to Geneva was its exchange opportunities, which offered me the chance to experience American academia for myself. The Fletcher School's exceptional faculty and its great fit with my thesis work helped me choose among the Institute's several U.S. destinations.

My semester at Fletcher brought me closer to my mission:



shaping a sustainable future by linking different disciplines and cultures. The classes allowed me to deepen my knowledge of climate mitigation and adaptation. Particularly fruitful was the class conducted by Professors Kelly Gallagher and Zdenka Myslikova in "Innovation for Sustainable Prosperity," which helped me prepare my master's thesis on circular economy ecosystems.

Professor Erin Coughlan de Perez's class in "Climate Risk and Adaptation in Food Systems" taught me practical skills, such as doing a climate risk assessment or pitching a project to a climate fund.

In addition to the course work, Fletcher's rich offering of events shaped my thinking. An intimate lunch conversation with Carlos Alvarado Quesada, Costa Rica's former president and new Fletcher professor, was a unique opportunity. There is no better way to get insights about policy actions for a country's net-zero transition.

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The Tufts Energy Group organized a field trip to Greentown Labs, the country's leading incubator for renewable energy and climate tech. These experiences made theoretical discussions about renewable energy tangible.

The MacJannet Foundation supported my exchange not only by facilitating the partnership between the two universities, but also with its events and network. Prior to my time in Medford, I had the pleasure to participate in the Fletcher alumni symposium in Talloires. I got to learn about the MacJannets' legacy as well as meet Fletcher alumni and Foundation members, some of whom I saw again during the MacJannet Foundation's annual fall dinner in Medford a few months later. It was inspiring to learn about the diverse and impressive career paths that previous MacJannet Fletcher Fellows embarked on.

At the end of my exchange semester, I decided to spend a month in New York City. A former MacJannet fellow and current MacJannet Foundation trustee, Ursina Plüss, made my time in New York extra special by taking me on a private tour of the United Nations headquarters, where she works on the Swiss delegation.

After finishing my degree this summer, I plan to start working on climate and circular economy matters for an international organization in Geneva. I am returning to Geneva full of unique memories and stimulating learnings — well on track to become a global citizen.

Don't overlook Europe

Lazaros Kyrimis (France/Greece): I chose to come to Fletcher because it consolidated my academic and professional background in law and diplomacy and because of its distinctive international vocation. There I joined the Political Risk Group, one of Fletcher's most important student-led organizations; I became its director of Content and Speakers because I have traveled to many countries that pose political risks for foreign traders and investors.

I am very grateful for this scholarship support, both on a personal level and as a European student. We take the transatlantic partnership for granted, but as long as there is no significant movement of students between the U.S. and Europe, there will always be a degree of incomprehension. The transatlantic partnership is now more important than ever. It is a shame that some American policymakers overlook Europe to focus only on Asia nowadays, because Europe offers tremendous potential with its wealth of open-minded, politically aware, and highly educated students.

Eventually I hope to be involved in commercial diplomacy between the U.S. and the Middle East.

Between religion and culture

Ciara Moezidis (U.S.): I came to Fletcher because I wanted to supplement the qualitative skills I acquired from Harvard Divinity School with a stronger quantitative background. I wanted to learn the proper language for negotiations and decision-making. I also wanted to have a better understanding of how international institutions operate and how to improve their efficacy in promoting human rights.

I have participated in several activities while at Fletcher. In February, I was a co-chair for Fletcher's seventh annual Religion, Law, and Diplomacy conference, focusing on the nexus between religion and cultural heritage. I am quite involved in the Fares Center for Eastern Mediterranean Studies and am part of a student group that is organizing a trip to Israel/Palestine, where 18 students will learn about the context on the ground.

Without this scholarship, I would not have been able to attend The Fletcher School. I have been able to focus on my studies and advocate for the communities I care about because I do not have to be as concerned about funding my education.

Ultimately, I hope to enter the field of international human rights advocacy. My time at Fletcher has solidified that I could best serve in this space. I would like to lobby in U.S. government and U.N. spaces to combat human rights violations in the Middle East and North Africa.



A system to prevent wars

Linda Bachg (Germany): I came to Fletcher because I want to pursue a career between the fields of international affairs and international law. I am fascinated by the international legal system, and I want it to grow into a mechanism to effectively prevent wars and ensure cooperation and peace one day. At Fletcher, I learned about the role of negotiations in contemporary peace processes, where the law alone might not suffice. I hoped to connect with like-minded peers at the Fletcher School, and the students and instructors have exceeded my expectations.

At the beginning of my first semester, I joined the Ukraine Digital Verification Lab, a student-led investigation collective documenting international law violations in Ukraine through open-source intelligence methods, a means of gathering information from public or other open sources. I was previously unfamiliar with these ways of documenting and analyzing conflicts, and I am glad I got the opportunity to learn new methods while contributing to a good cause.

I was also unaware of the large practical relevance of negotiations and their different forms and techniques. In addition, I have developed an interest in open-source intelligence methods, and I am sure that specializing further in this field will open various new career paths for me. I took a class on geospatial analysis, which is something that would never be offered in a German graduate program.

I am currently exploring job opportunities where I can apply and further develop these skills. I hope to work as a conflict analyst in the short term and as a peace negotiator in the long term. It will be difficult to enter these highly competitive fields, but I am confident that there would have been no better place than Fletcher to acquire the necessary initial qualifications to do so.

The little foundation that could:

How did an institution built on ideas dispense so many dollars?

The MacJannet Foundation was launched in 1968 with a modest \$10,000 gift from Donald and Charlotte MacJannet. “The MacJannets were educators and never had money to speak of,” notes trustee Wenke Thoman Sterns. “Their wealth consisted of dreams, visions, good deeds, and a dose of hard work.”

By 1982, the Foundation’s corpus had grown considerably, to about \$300,000. Howard Cook, then board chair, and the other trustees — Cynthia Raymond, Ruth Snyder, and Richard Powell— were tasked with this challenge: What exactly should be done with this money? And how could the Foundation continue raising funds?

Since Donald and Charlotte MacJannet had donated the restored Prieuré to Tufts University in 1978, Powell suggested that the Foundation should close and give the money to Tufts.

“Not so fast,” was the response from Howard Cook and Charlotte MacJannet.

All told, the MacJannet Foundation has dispensed roughly \$2 million in grants since Dick Powell suggested closing the Foundation in 1982. It’s an impressive figure for a Foundation that has relied entirely on volunteers for fund-raising— most notably Wenke Thoman Sterns herself, who steps down this year after some 40 years as the Foundation’s development director— “by default,” as she puts it.

The total breaks down as follows (figures through 2022):

Tufts in Talloires scholarship program: \$30,000 per year since 1982= \$1.2 million.

Les Amis du Prieuré, Talloires programs: \$5,000+ per year since 1982= \$110,000.

MacJannet Prize: \$225,000 in prize money, \$265,000 in administrative support since 2009= \$490,000.

Other miscellaneous gifts since 1968: \$200,000.

Total estimated grants dispensed since 1968: \$2 million.

All this from a foundation whose corpus has rarely exceeded \$1 million— roughly its current level.

What’s the secret? Wenke Thoman Sterns suggest a few key answers:

Sweat equity: “The trustees put in countless hours establishing and writing by-laws, recruiting new trustees, reviewing correspondence, helping create the MacJannet archives at Tufts, and visiting and helping Mrs. MacJannet after Donald died in 1986.”

Generous friends: “The generosity of special friends of the Macs: Henry Lier, George Forman, Cynthia Raymond, Herman Rottenberg, and other trustees, who continue today their support while broader fund raising sources are developed.”

“Talloires Night.” From 1984 through 2007, this biennial winter fund-raising event in New York gathered some 100 MacJannet and Tufts friends as well as French dignitaries (the mayor of Talloires, the French Consul General) for a black-tie dinner (prepared by a Talloires chef imported for the occasion) and dancing at the River Club. The funds raised at these evenings— a net of less than \$20,000 each— probably didn’t justify the

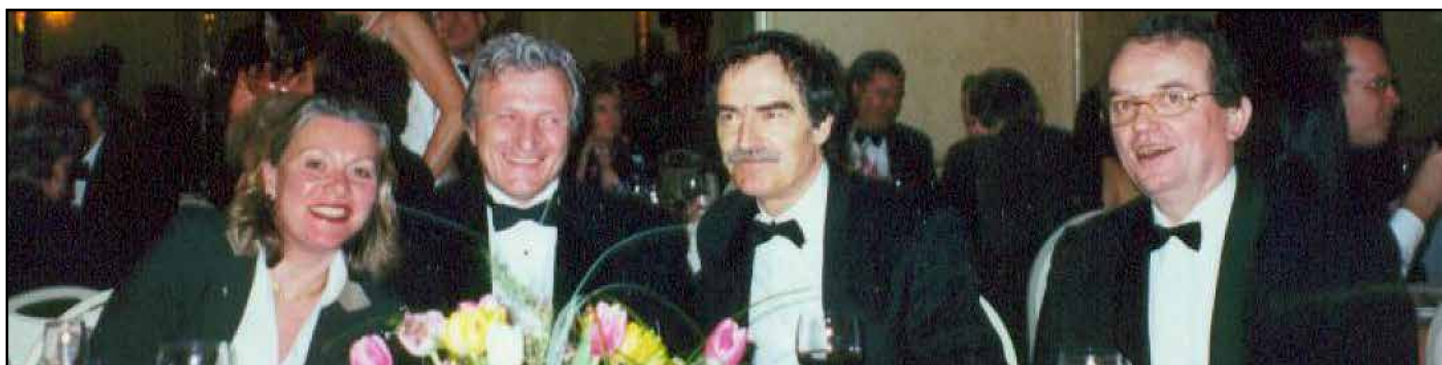
time and energy involved, but “they helped build community and morale,” Wenke notes.

Wenke’s successor hasn’t yet been announced. Looking back on 40 years, she concludes, “The foundation’s accomplishments have been amazing. A more robust fund-raising formula will be the foundation’s major challenge in the next five to ten years. I have total confidence that the board’s newer and younger trustees will find new and creative ways to carry on the vision and mission of the MacJannet Foundation, just as their predecessors did before them.”

—Dan Rottenberg



Who will replace the irreplaceable Wenke Thoman Sterns?



The MacJannet Foundation’s biennial ‘Talloires Night’ typically brought the best of Talloires to New York for a gala fund-raising party. Above, from left in 2003: Sophia and Bruno Asselin (Foundation overseer), French Cultural Counselor Jean-René Gehan, and Talloires mayor Jean Favrot.

In our mailbox

Was Donald a Legionnaire?

I am trying to find any information possible on Donald MacJannet's time in World War I and any mention of his membership in the American Legion. I found a membership roster with his name in the 1930s. The Legion's Paris Post 1 in France is attempting to restore Pershing Hall in Paris to a memorial, and we want to profile our founding members. Thanks in advance.

Scott A. Rayl
Research Center Special Projects Liaison
Paris Post 1 "Pershing's Post"
American Legion
Richmond, VA

Editor's note: According to Educator of Kings, the Herbert Jacobs biography of Donald MacJannet, after opening his first school in Paris in 1923, Donald joined the American Legion and other civic organizations that could provide his school with possible speakers and other valuable contacts. Donald's sister, Jean MacJannet Foster, who ran a Paris school for girls, also joined several similar organizations, including the American Legion's Women's Auxiliary. But Donald never saw combat in the military. He did volunteer for the U.S. Air Service (then a branch of the Army Signal Corps) in 1917 in the hope of being sent to combat in France, but he wasn't called to active duty until June 1918, and World War I ended that fall before he could get overseas.

See our 2022 cover story about that experience.

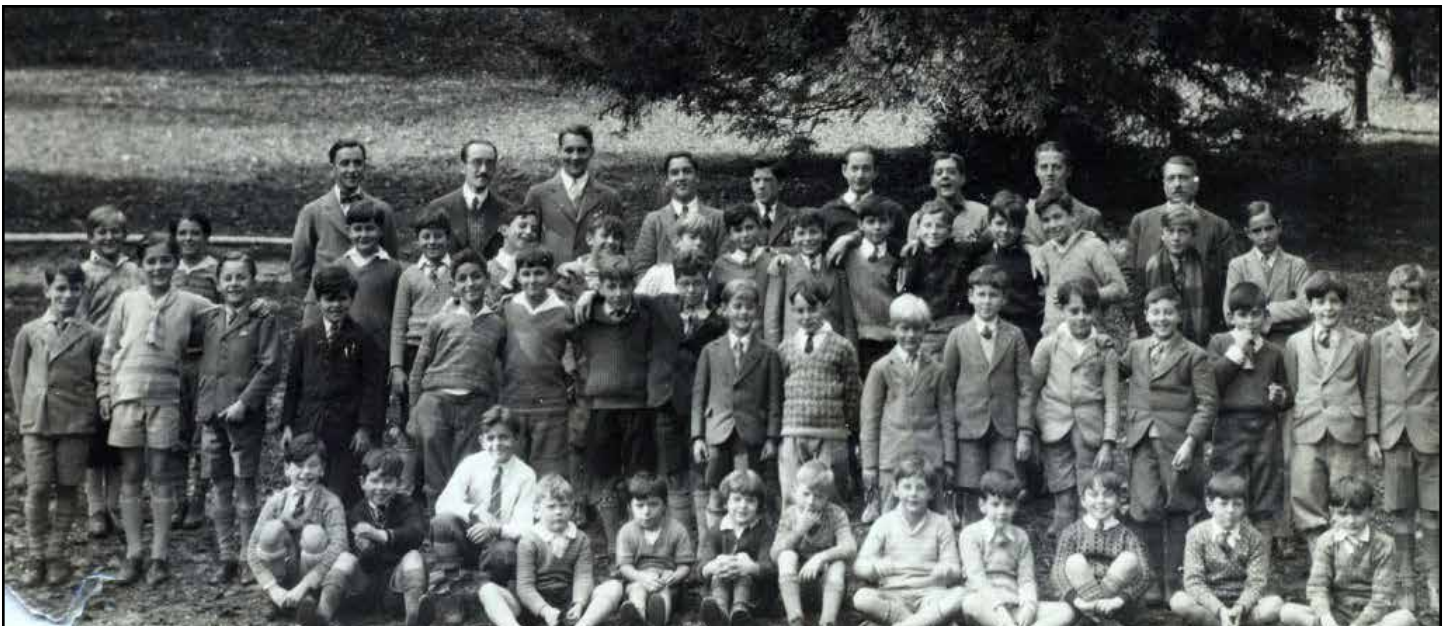
He taught Prince Philip

I believe my maternal grandfather, Neil Adams Stanford, taught at the MacJannet American School ("The Elms") in the 1920s and was a teacher to Prince Philip, later the Duke of Edinburgh. Any information you have on my grandfather, including photographs, would be much appreciated.

Ruth Sanchez

Editor's note: We haven't found records of the writer's grandfather. But we did find a photo of him online. He appears to be identical to the man standing in the rear, second from the right, in the group photo taken at The Elms about 1928. That illustrious group also includes Prince Philip.

Neil Adams Stanford (1906-1988) was a reporter with the Christian Science Monitor for 33 years until he retired in 1970. Most of his career, beginning in the early 1940s, was spent at the Monitor's Washington bureau, where his assignments included coverage of the State Department, the Defense Department and NASA. In retirement, he wrote three books about Christian Science. His obituary in the Washington Post mentioned that as a young man he had taught at "the American school in Paris," which is surely a reference to Donald MacJannet's school in St.-Cloud.



The head shot of Neil Adams Stanford appears identical to the teacher standing in the rear above, second from right. Prince Philip of Greece, later the Duke of Edinburgh, is the blonde boy in the second row, seventh from right. Howard Cook, later a founder and longtime president of the MacJannet Foundation, is in the third row, fifth from the right.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Global problems, grass-roots solutions

Dear Friends of the MacJannet Foundation,

Just three years ago, the global COVID-19 pandemic was killing millions of people worldwide and causing billions more to cower helplessly behind their doors while wondering when—or if—life would ever get back to normal.

Today, COVID has significantly receded, only to be replaced by new forms of human and material destruction. Some of it, like Russia's senseless military invasion of Ukraine, has been wantonly caused by governments. Other destruction has been caused by natural catastrophes, such as the major earthquakes in Turkey and Syria and truly disastrous floods in many parts of the world. These disasters have often been exacerbated by human action or inaction, like our failure to address climate change and find effective ways to regulate human misbehavior.

So it is easy to feel discouraged about humanity's future. How can we leave a better world for future generations? Should we even try?

No silver bullet exists to eradicate these problems. And yet we can draw comfort from the generous and often heroic efforts made by small groups of well-intentioned people who draw their strength from the well of resilience and goodwill that actually exists within individuals across the globe.

Certainly, well-guided government policies can play a vital role in addressing today's challenges. But the best solutions often emerge at the grass-roots level. And even the best government programs can't succeed without grass-roots involvement.

This is the work of the MacJannet Foundation. Our founders, Donald and Charlotte MacJannet, followed a hands-on educational philosophy that created extraordinary

learning environments in their schools, their camps, and other programs starting more than a century ago. Instead of creating huge institutions, they pursued the goal of strengthening international understanding on a person-to-person basis. Today the MacJannet Foundation renews and invigorates their work in their best spirit: as a volunteer organization with no paid staff.

Only now, having suffered through the dismaying closures caused by the COVID pandemic, can we see these closures as a blessing of sorts: They have provided time for reflection about improving our programs. They have enabled us to appreciate that "diversity, equity and inclusion" is not just a hackneyed slogan but a formula for the survival of the human spirit.

Thank you for your past support of our Foundation. Please consider increasing it in this time of crisis. Just ask yourself the ultimate MacJannet question: How can we help the Foundation's programs grow stronger and more effective for addressing the world's challenges?

To make a donation, [click here](https://www.flipcause.com/secure/cause_pdetails/NjMyNDY=):
https://www.flipcause.com/secure/cause_pdetails/NjMyNDY=

Thanks so much. As the MacJannets taught us, even in a world of 8 billion people, every positive effort can make a big difference.

Anthony Kleitz, President
The MacJannet Foundation
tkleitz@gmail.com



Arrivals and departures

New board member:

Nathaniel Halsey (joined January 2023) was most recently on the Customer Success team at Stripe, a San Francisco-based financial technology company, where he led the overall account health for some of Stripe's largest, most strategic users.

His passion for international cross-cultural exchange began during his first international trip to Europe in 1989 to the former Soviet Union for an international track and field competition. Since then, he has traveled to more than 65 countries, including service in the Peace Corps in a village in Senegal located 20 miles from the nearest road.

Nate's roots in the MacJannet community stretch back to his grandparents, who taught at "The Elms," Donald MacJannet's school outside Paris, starting in 1928.



Departing:

Anthony P. Monaco, president of Tufts University since 2011, announced his retirement from Tufts as well as the MacJannet board, effective July 2023. During his tenure, he also spent eight years as chairman of the steering committee of the Talloires Network, the global consortium launched in 2005 by 29 civically engaged universities. Since 2009, when the Talloires Network joined with the MacJannet Foundation to co-sponsor the MacJannet Prize for Global Citizenship, the Network has grown to embrace 427 universities in 85 countries on six continents.

"Tony Monaco was at the helm," notes MacJannet trustee Wenke Thoman Sterns, "steering the way through some difficult times, including COVID."





MacJannet Foundation board, June 2022: Seated, from left: Bruce Berzin, Wenke Thoman Sterns, Anthony Kleitz, Fabienne Gaudemard, Stephen Callahan. Second row: Catherine Parrinello, Mary Harris, Pamela Jacklin, Carole Hambleton-Moser, Ursina Pluess, Jean-Marie Hervé, Bruno Asselin, Alexis Rudisill. Back row: Paul Tringale, Dan Rottenberg, Todd Langton, John Iglehart

THE MACJANNET FOUNDATION

The MacJannet Foundation, created in 1968, seeks to inspire students of all ages through the transformational power of international learning experiences. The Foundation pursues this goal by funding cultural exchange programs, supporting the Tufts University European Center in Talloires, France, and co-sponsoring the MacJannet Prize for Global Citizenship. Visit us at www.macjannet.org.

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Dan Rottenberg

*= Deceased