



Alumni Board Fall Retreat September 2025 Summary

Alumni Board of Directors from near (two blocks from Mac) and far (1,600 miles) joined together on a gorgeous mid-September weekend to collaborate on how to best **create** opportunities for, **amplify**, and **celebrate** alumni engagement with fellow alumni, the college, and current students for the 2025-2026 school year.

Our three standing Committees met to discuss Communications, Signature Events ([Mac Fest](#), October 11 and Reunion 2026, June 4-7), and Nominations for [Alumni Awards](#) and future Alumni Board Directors.

Additionally we convened three new task-forces to brainstorm around how to better engage alumni living outside of the United States, build up and bolster regional chapters of Macalester Alumni with events and leadership structure, and how to help Macalester meet and measure 50% Alumni Engagement by 2030 - one of the [Imagine Macalester goals](#).

We heard from President Rivera about and also had the privilege of having presentations from several current students who completed [community impact projects](#) over the summer thanks to Mac-provided funding. And the Alumni Board had a lively discussion with Laurie Adamson (Student Affairs) and Louisa Bradtmiller (Faculty) and Beth Severy-Hoven (Faculty) about the exploration and revision of the First Year Experience by looking to Orientation, First Year Courses, and Advising as a constellation of resources that can make the transition to Macalester more supportive, seamless, and meaningful to support student retention and success!

The Alumni Board also had some lovely time to socialize off campus over dinner at French Meadow, and while enjoying a Saint Paul Saints game in downtown Saint Paul.

I can't wait to let you know what we get up to next time!

Kate D. Gallagher

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Class of 2016

Communication Chair, Alumni Board of Directors