

| Spring 2026 | Vol. 16 | Issue 2 |

# History Is

Macalester College

History Department

# Everywhere

Edited by Emma Henry

# The Cholera Outbreak

*History is Everywhere* is the official newsletter of the Macalester College History Department, featuring students and their work throughout the semester, staff highlights, opportunities, and the department's future endeavors. For more information about Macalester History, visit our website at <https://www.macalester.edu/history/>



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**You Have Died of Dysentery**

## A WELCOME FROM DEPARTMENT CHAIR DUCHESS HARRIS



Dear Friends of the Macalester History Department,

We named this newsletter History Is Everywhere — and this year, that phrase stopped being a tagline and became a lived reality.

In January, I stood with a group of lawyers and wrote to Minnesota's congressional delegation urging them to deploy the National Guard so that children in Minneapolis could safely travel to school. I did not write that letter as an abstraction. I wrote it as a historian who has spent her career documenting what happens when the state fails to protect the vulnerable — and as a department chair watching her students weigh whether it is safe to leave their homes.

Renee Good was a wife, a mother, a poet, and a neighbor. Her killing by a federal agent, and the grief and fear it ignited across this city, is the kind of event that historians will one day assign as a primary source. That day is not far off. It is happening now, on the streets some of us walk every day.

# A WELCOME FROM DEPARTMENT CHAIR DUCHESS HARRIS CONTINUED

As historians, we spend our careers asking how ordinary people endured, resisted, and made meaning during moments of upheaval — studying the court records, the photographs, the letters written in fear and in defiance. We ask: who held power, who bore the cost, and who found the courage to bear witness? We have been here before. The forced removal of Indigenous peoples. The internment of Japanese Americans. The deportation campaigns of the 1930s that swept up citizens alongside immigrants. Each time, those in power insisted it was necessary. Each time, historians documented the human toll that political language tried to obscure. We are living inside one of those moments now, and our work has never felt more essential. The students whose work fills these pages are not simply studying the past. They are developing the habits of mind that democracy requires of its citizens — learning to ask whose voices are centered and whose are missing, to understand how power shapes the record, and to refuse invisibility for those the official narrative leaves out.

Near the end of his life, Martin Luther King Jr. asked: Where do we go from here? Perhaps the first step is an honest reckoning — recognizing that we have been here before, and that we will return here again if we fail to see what is plainly in front of us. The past is not the past. It is present. And how we respond — as scholars, as a department, as a community — will itself become part of the record. History is then and now.

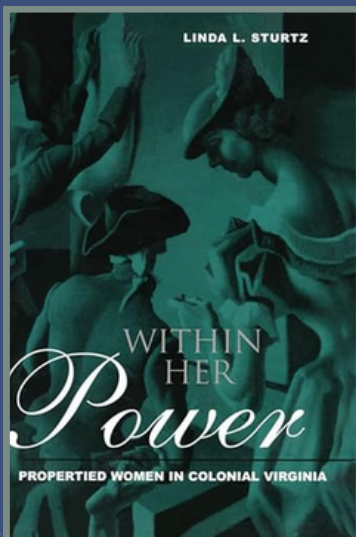
-Dr. Duchess Harris

## Retirement of Professor Sturtz

### About Professor Sturtz

Professor Linda Sturtz is a professor of Early North American history and Caribbean history in an Atlantic World context. As a scholar, she is extremely accomplished with multiple publications including a book entitled, *Within Her Power: Propertied Women in Colonial Virginia* (Routledge, 2002) which took a longue-durée approach to understanding the ways that law and transatlantic trade shaped the opportunities of women.

She started at Macalester in 2015 and shortly after took on the responsibility serving as the department chair. Since then she has taught a variety of popular courses including *From Confederation to Confederacy: US History from Independence to Civil War* and *Transatlantic Slave Trade*. Her dedication to this department has been astounding and will certainly be missed. In her last semester, she advised a first year course on the Haitian Revolution focused on primary source analysis. Two of those in the first year course took some time to share Professor Sturtz's impact on their adjustment to college on the next page.



### From the Editor

Prof. Sturtz was a vital part of my history major experience, as content from a past course was foundational to my capstone. Her mentorship and excitement for students having the “ah ha” moments during the research process made conducting my own research possible. In addition to my capstone, she mentored me as a preceptor and research assistant and having the chance to work with her in a professional setting was the highlight of my Macalester history experience. Since I am graduating this year, it feels as though we are both moving on to bigger and brighter futures together. Thank you! -Emma Henry '26

## Retirement of Professor Sturtz

### What Students Have to Say



Professor Sturtz actively goes out of her way to build community with others. I can't even begin to count the many times I've seen her support her students who are going through a difficult time, whether that's inviting them to a meal or letting them spend time with Winnie and Clemmie. It

is also evident how passionate she is about history, particularly the history of the Caribbean. As her student, you can't help but care deeply about the subject, too. She never fails to bring her energy to the classroom. What I very much appreciate about Professor Sturtz is her encouragement in pursuing something unconventional. For my final paper in her class, I had an idea, but I wasn't sure how to structure the evidence as I was attempting to group documents that were, on the surface, remarkably different. Professor Sturtz met with me and allowed me to think through my idea and how I could best present it systematically, revealing hidden details to prove my thesis. Lastly, I think it's important to mention her humor. One time, I met with Professor Sturtz; she gifted me a Barbie doll she found in her office. The Barbie doll has been a running gag ever since.

-Charlotte Parker '29

Professor Sturtz was the first professor that I ever interacted with at Macalester. From the first day that I stepped into her First-Year Course, I knew that I was in for a treat. During the first week of school, I remember asking her a small question about the difference between buccaneers and pirates which ended up in a passionate 30 minute mini-lecture. Every single lesson, Professor Sturtz brought a genuine, immense love for history. Using her positive energy, she made every single topic sound like it was the single most important topic of the year. Her curiosity and love for history infected each and every one of her students. I remember feeling an overwhelming sense of joy every time we looked through 19th century newspapers. Every time I had a question or made a connection to something that I learned outside of the classroom, Professor Sturtz diligently pushed me to explore my curiosity. Although it pains me to know that I will not be able to take another class with her, I am so incredibly grateful that I got to take my First-Year Course with her.

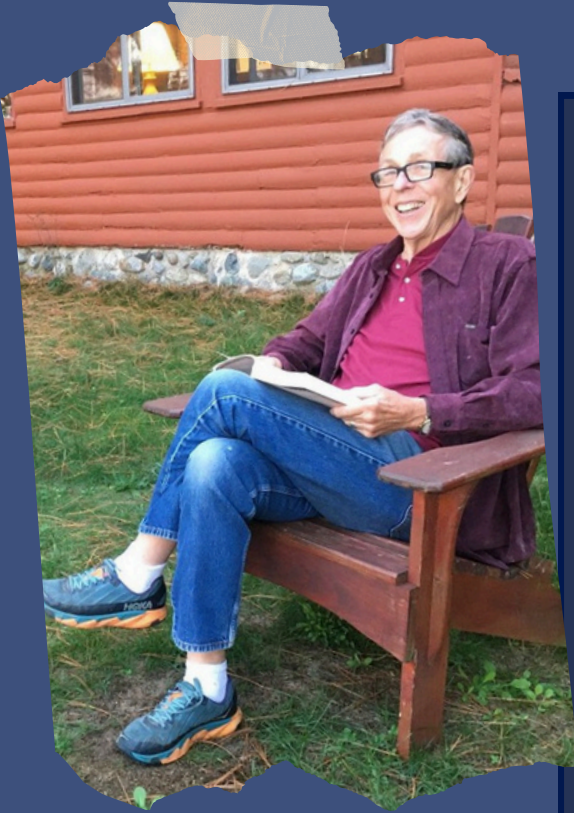
-Joey Falls '29



Joey Falls on a class field trip with Professor Sturtz!

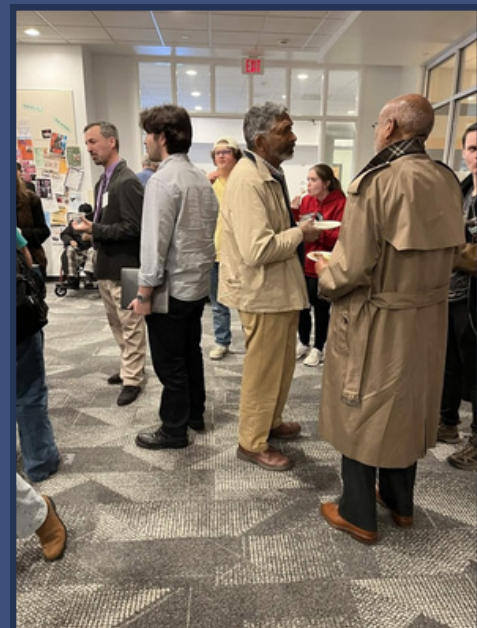
## James Stewart Lecture: Transatlantic Bondage

March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026



### Who is James Stewart?

James B. Stewart was a distinguished History Professor Emeritus of Macalester College and longtime resident of the Mac Groveland community. His scholarship was focused on American History with a particular emphasis on slavery and abolition. This connected his passion for academia and working with students to his role as social justice advocate. As a professor of history, he understood the lasting legacy of enslavement in the United States and promoted an anti-racist educational framework. He was a devoted member of the community, proud father, and wonderful partner. In his time at Macalester, he served in leadership roles as department head and Dean of the Faculty and Provost. Ultimately, it was an honor for the History department to dedicate this lecture to Stewart since it focused on a topic important to him. It was especially meaningful to gather in community afterward, enjoying good food and conversation.

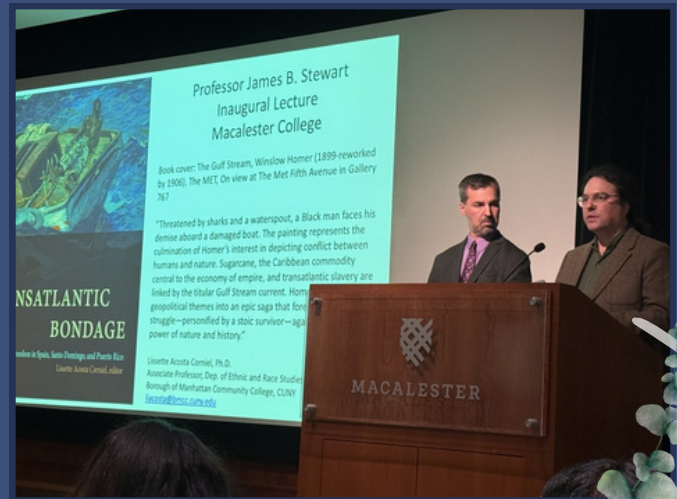


# James Stewart Lecture: Transatlantic Bondage

March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026

## About the Lecture

The lecture's keynote speaker was Dr. Lissette Acosta Corniel, the co-editor of *Transatlantic Bondage: Slavery and Freedom in Spain, Santo Domingo, and Puerto Rico*. Professor Ernesto Capello (pictured in the right photo below) shared what this lecture meant to him. "Jim Stewart was a magnetic presence within the history department: a consummate activist intellectual with a twinkle in his eye and always ready for a new conversation, a new argument, a new project. Having Prof. Lissette Acosta Corniel help us honor Jim evoked these qualities while showcasing the best of historical methodology, probing inquiry, and lifting up voices from the past. Her lecture "Transatlantic Bondage," based on the edited volume she has recently completed, was a special moment and one that I, for one, will long remember even as I miss our recently departed friend and colleague."

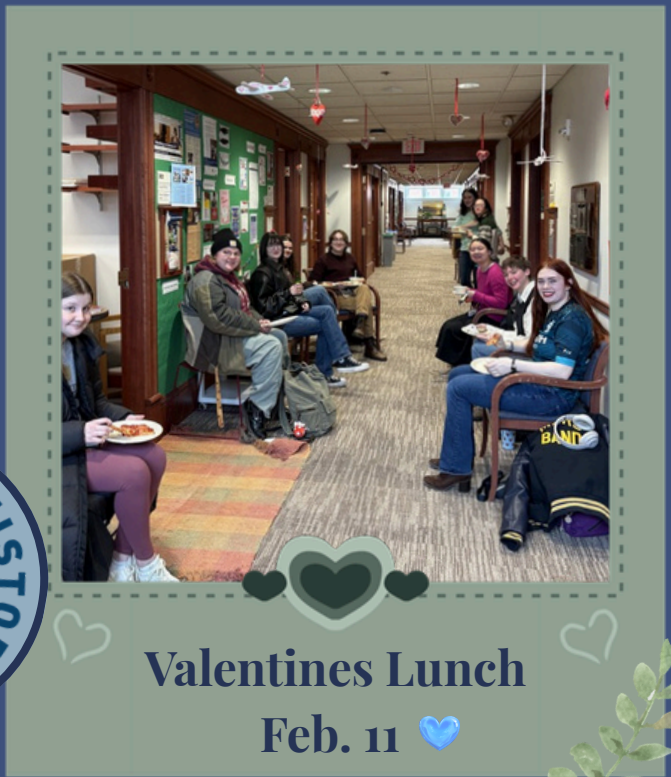


Professor Ernesto Capello

Missed it? Use this QR code  
to watch the recording



Dr. Lissette Acosta Corniel



Hallway events are an incredibly important part of creating community amongst the majors! Carla (our Department Coordinator) works hard to make fun spaces for all of us to get together, chat, and learn about the vast historical knowledge of the department.

## Valentines Lunch

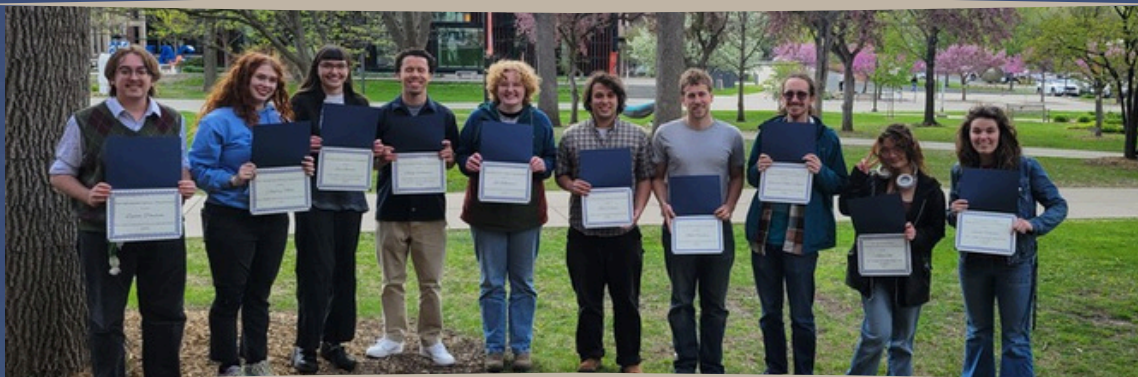
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## 2026 History and CMME Picnic

On May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026 many of the History and CMME majors and minors gathered outside to celebrate a fantastic academic year. With food and good company we all shared stories of our year at Macalester. This celebration included honoring our graduating seniors and hearing what adventures are next for them. But no matter what, they will always have a home with the Macalester History Department. In addition to good conversation, professors presented the department awards for fantastic academic writings (Award winners for History and CMME pictured at the end of the page).



## Chris Wells at the American Society for Environmental History



Chris Wells

Tom Robertson

About ASEH: The American Society for Environmental History encourages scholarship on the interactions between humans and the natural world (or among humans and non-humans) through time. Membership of the Society is markedly interdisciplinary and international, and the work of ASEH members ranges across the ages, from crucial concerns of the present to the farthest reaches of human time.

From Chris: At the American Society for Environmental History (ASEH), where I like to joke that I watch my bookshelves come to life, I had dinner with fellow Macalester professor Tom Robertson, Jay Turner (Wellesley, current President of ASEH), and George Virtus (Carleton College, my co-editor for *Nature's Crossroads*); caught up with Pete Alagona (author of *Accidental Ecosystem*, which I'm assigning in my US Urban Environmental History seminar this semester); saw the Kansas City No King's rally from the conference hotel; and took a detour home to see the sand hill crane migrations on the Platte River in Nebraska.





## Time Traveling Seniors

In Fall of 2022 I offered my favorite FYC, *Time Travelers: Tourism in Global History*, to an enthusiastic group of first-years. It's always a joy to teach this course because it's directly tied to a book that I'm writing about the intertwined histories of tourism and decolonization. Getting a chance to engage with materials from my research (like African in-flight magazines!) alongside my students offered me the opportunity to see other perspectives on these historical sources and to think about new questions and ideas.

This group of students included some particularly keen historical investigators! Seven of the students declared history majors and one declared a history minor. In addition to their historical pursuits, many of them engaged in some literal globetrotting on study away, with destinations that included Italy, Ireland, and Taiwan. Getting to be an armchair traveler as I listened and learned from their experiences was an incredible opportunity for me to encounter destinations that my own travels haven't yet taken me to. Over the past two years I've had the opportunity to teach each of these Time Traveling History majors in the senior capstone and it's been a delight to watch them develop their culminating projects and share them with our broader campus community.

Getting the opportunity to follow their journeys over the last four years has been a particularly rewarding experience for me as a professor. I look forward to helping celebrate these folks in May and to see them off as they embark on their next adventures!

-Dr. Jess Pearson



Pictured: (top row) Philomena Shuffelton-Sobe, Emma Henry, Rose Fanuzzi, Isabel Strelneck, (front row) Dylan Paulsen, Jess Pearson, Audrey Milk and Sam Fackenthal  
Not Pictured: David Truman (has been edited in)

## FROM CENTRAL TO REFINERY: LABOR AND HIERARCHY IN THE AMERICAN SUGAR EMPIRE (1919-1962)

**Abstract:** From 1919 until 1962, the American Sugar Refining Company (ASRC), oversaw an empire, stretching from two Cuban sugar estates (centrales) to its Brooklyn refinery. The relationship between workers at both poles of the ASRC's empire constituted a transnational labor hierarchy. Divergent management programs at the Brooklyn refinery and the centrales Jaronú and Cunagua confined the workers to distinct social positions. Brooklyn workers pursued labor-management collaboration in support of the sugar industry's exploitative system, while workers in Cuba reimagined the sugar empire's power structure. The transnational workforce of the ASRC maintained a disunified relationship, which fractured the possibilities of working-class solidarity.



**Ben Woloch**  
History and Latin American Studies Major

## UNSUSTAINABLE STORIES: AGRICULTURAL KNOWLEDGE ON THE GREAT PLAINS, 1880-1934

**Abstract:** This thesis explores stories about how people farmed and learned about farming on the Great Plains from 1880-1920 through three inter-connected narratives: the Allotment system, agricultural education programs at federal Indian Boarding Schools, and the rapid rise and fall of the Dry Farming movement. These systems were built on stories about how people should live with and on the land that promoted unsustainable, destructive ways of farming and knowledge production. This scholarship places Assimilation Era agricultural education for Native and non-Native farmers within the context of the increasing reliance on systems and science and the institutionalization of agricultural knowledge.



**Philomena Shuffelton-Sobe**  
History Major,  
Environmental Studies Minor

History 2026 Award Winners

Within the last year, Macalester students have produced an abundance of fantastic research that made it incredibly difficult for the department to select which to highlight. However, they made their decisions and these are the History Department Award winners.

**The Yahya Armajani Prize  
in Global History**

Dylan Paulson, “A Continent Behind Glass: American Exhibitions of African Peoples, Cultures, and Environments in the Turn of the 20th Century”

Audrey Milk, “‘No Irish Need Apply’: The Demonization of the Irish by British and American Media in the 19th Century”

Liv Whitmore, “Seeing is Believing: Starvation, Humanitarianism, and Visual Media”

**The J. Huntly Prize in  
European History**

**The Kenneth L. & Martha S.  
Holmes Prize in History of  
the Americas**

Liam Athas, “El Gran Cacique: The Story of Günther Stache”

John Ying, “The Rhizomatic White Paper Protest: The 2022 COVID-19 Demonstrations in China”

**The Yahya Armajani  
Endowed Prize  
(international student)**

**Kathleen Rock Hauser Prize  
in Women’s and Gender  
History**

Eva Loranz, “‘womanmade / womantouched / womanloved’: Textiles as Women’s History, Protection, and Resistance in the United States”

Mack Williams, “Producing and Reproducing Sexual Vulnerability: Testimonies of Blackness in the WPA Slave Narratives Collection”

History 2026 Award Winners  
Cont

**Teresita Martínez Vergne  
Memorial Prize**

Melody McGrath, “Hermetic Salvation: Mexican Indigeneity and the Art of Leonora Carrington”

Milo Clarkson, “Remembering the Sürgün: Tamirlar and Collective Memory in Crimean Tatar Oral Histories”

Ben Woloch, “The American Sugar Family: Labor Aristocracy and Empire in the Metropolis (1919-1962)”

**Ernest R. Sandeen  
Memorial Prize**

**Phi Alpha Theta  
Inductees Spring 2026**



SIHAAM BARRE, MAJOR, JR

SPENCER MULLEN, MAJOR, SR

JACK BROWN, MINOR, JR

ZOE ORR, MAJOR, JR

NICOLE EMMERSON, MAJOR, SR

TRINI PERERA QUIAN, MAJOR, SO

AARON GIZZI, MAJOR, SO

RYANN RANDLE, MINOR, SR

SARAH GRAY, MINOR, JR

ARWA SALIH, MINOR, SR

EVIE GREENWALD, FR, MAJOR

ISABEL STRELNECK, MINOR, SR

ONDIEKI MAINA, MINOR, SR

MAYA WAGNER-TYREE, MAJOR, SO

## The Empire Strikes Back: Resistance in the U.S Empire

We won't be traveling to a galaxy far, far away, but we will examine the creation of the U.S. empire – and historical and contemporary resistance to the impositions of empire. We'll begin with encounters with Indigenous nations in the continental U.S., Alaska, and Hawai'i before traveling to Puerto Rico, the Philippines, and other U.S.-held territories. This class will focus on discussions of race and imperialism, citizenship and belonging, and inclusion and exclusion, centering on federal policies and performances of race on national and international stages.

We will also examine how these attempts were often (and continue to be) subverted and undermined by these supposed subjects who continually resist and redefine imperialist ambitions.

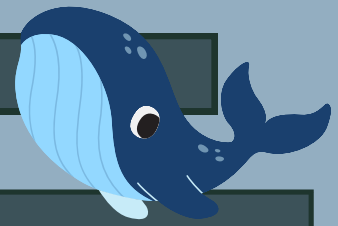


## Women in Science

How did gender beliefs influence the development of modern science? How did women shape modern science? This course explores the intersection of gender and science from the early modern period to the late twentieth century. It focuses on the Western scientific tradition, with special attention to Russian and Soviet experiences. In this course, we will examine the following topics: early modern beliefs about nature, science, and gender; women's participation in modern science; the development of modern scientific institutions; and biographies of women scientists.



## Fall 2026 History Course Offerings



Number	Name	Days	Time	Instructor
HIST 138-F1	Wakanda Forever	MWF	9:40-10:40	Walter Greason
HIST 139	Black Music, Black History	MWF	10:50-11:50	Walter Greason
HIST 140	Introduction to East Asian Civilization	MW	2:20-4:30	Chun Chen
HIST 170	History of Childhood	TR	1:20-2:50	Amy Sullivan
HIST 181	Introduction to Latin America	TR	9:40-11:10	Ethan Fredrick
HIST 211	History of Africa to 1800	MWF	12:00-1:00	Tara Hollies
HIST 213	Women in African History	MWF	1:10-2:10	Tara Hollies
HIST 234	U.S Environmental History	MWF	2:20-3:20	Tom Robertson
HIST 256	Transatlantic Slave Trade	MWF	1:10-2:10	Walter Greason
HIST 262	Revolutionary Russia and the Soviet Union	MWF	10:50-11:50	Maria Fedorova

Number	Name	Days	Time	Instructor
HIST 265	Europe in the Era of World War	TR	1:20-2:50	Jess Pearson
HIST 294-01	The Empire Strikes Back: Resistance in the U.S Empire	TR	9:40-11:10	Katrina Phillips
HIST 294-02	The Mississippi River: Past and Present	TR	3:00-4:30	Tom Robertson
HIST 294-03	Women in Science	W	7:00-10:00	Maria Fedorova
HIST 294-04	Before Homosexuality: Same-Sex Desire and Expression in Pre-Modern Islamicate World	TR	1:20-2:50	Haci Gündüz
HIST 294-05	Dance in the United States: A Cultural History	MWF	9:40-10:40	Rae Fox-Charles
HIST 294-F1	Russia Goes East	MWF	1:10-2:10	Maria Fedorova
HIST 353	Oceans in World History	TR	8:00-9:30	Karin Vélez
HIST 374	Listen Closely: Oral History Theory and Methods	MWF	1:10-2:10	Walter Greason
HIST 490	Senior Seminar	M	7:00-10:00	Jess Pearson



Check out previous issues of *History is Everywhere* by visiting the Macalester History website or scanning the QR code.

### About the Editor

This edition was edited by Emma Henry (she/her), a senior Environmental Studies and History major. This department has given me so much over the last 4 years and it was my pleasure to give something back to the department. Special acknowledgement to Professor Pearson, my first year advisor who made me love Macalester history.

