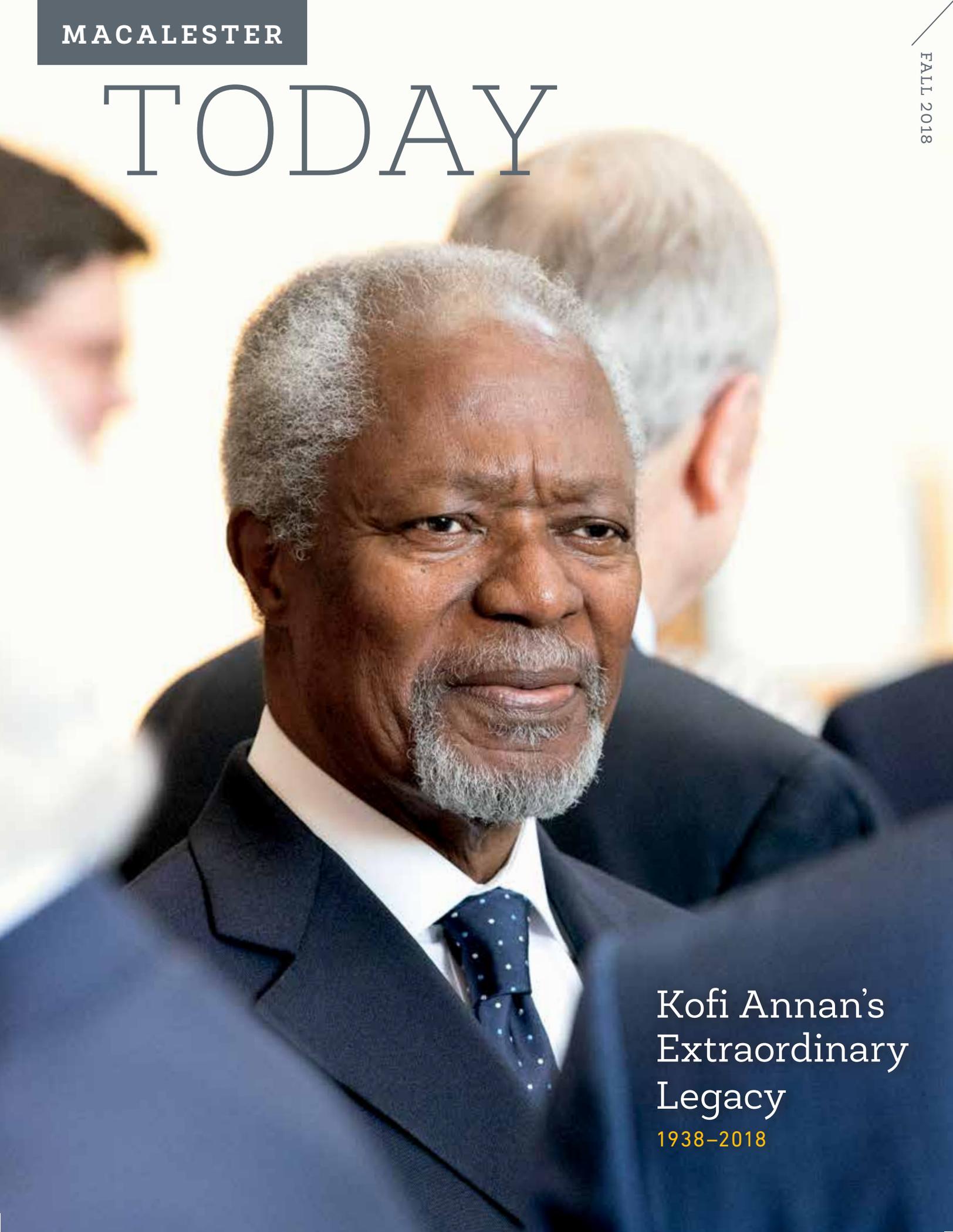


MACALESTER

FALL 2018

# TODAY

A close-up portrait of Kofi Annan, an elderly Black man with a grey beard and mustache, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and a blue tie with white polka dots. He is looking slightly to the right of the camera with a thoughtful expression. The background is blurred, showing other people in suits.

Kofi Annan's  
Extraordinary  
Legacy

1938–2018



12



18



20

## FEATURES

**Professor Perspectives 12**

Through published commentaries, Mac faculty members speak up about complex issues.

**Bringing Congress Together 18**

A new exchange created by a Mac alum aims to build bridges in Congress.

**The Power of Storytelling 20**

Three Mac friends team up to produce a children's book focused on empathy.

**Kofi Annan's  
Extraordinary Legacy 24**

Macalester mourns the loss of Kofi Annan '61, "the ultimate embodiment of Macalester's mission."

**Lecture Notes:****The Age of Migration 30**

From Kentucky to Mongolia, geography professor Holly Barcus studies how people migrate.

**The Macalester Moment 32**

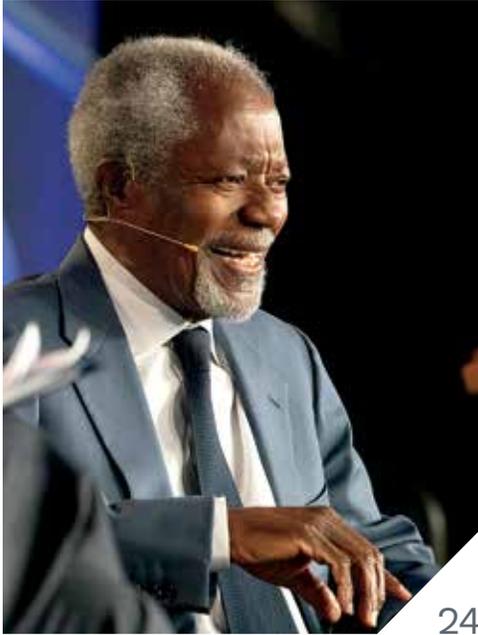
Launched this fall, a targeted fundraising campaign builds on the access and excellence that define the college's foundation.

**Creative Enterprise 38**

Driven by a passion for design and connection, Mollie Windmiller '03 has built two businesses.

**ON THE COVER:**

In his final visit to campus in May, Kofi Annan '61 encouraged Mac students to take on leadership roles: "I firmly believe that you are never too young to lead."



24



38

## DEPARTMENTS

**Correspondence** 2

**Household Words** 3

**1600 Grand** 4

New tenure-track faculty, a decade of Bonner, and the Class of 2022

**Class Notes** 40

**Books** 43

**Weddings** 44

**In Memoriam** 49

**Last Look** 52



44

## STAFF

### EDITOR

Rebecca DeJarlais Ortiz '06  
dejarlais@macalester.edu

### ART DIRECTOR

Brian Donahue

### CLASS NOTES EDITOR

Robert Kerr '92

### PHOTOGRAPHER

David J. Turner

### CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Julie Hessler '85

Mike Vangel

### ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT FOR MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

Julie Hurbanis



MACALESTER

### CHAIR, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Jerry Crawford '71

### PRESIDENT

Brian Rosenberg

### VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADVANCEMENT

D. Andrew Brown

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

Katie Ladas

### MACALESTER TODAY (Volume 106, Number 3)

is published by Macalester College. It is mailed free of charge to alumni and friends of the college four times a year. Circulation is 32,000.

### TO UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS:

Email: [alumnioffice@macalester.edu](mailto:alumnioffice@macalester.edu)

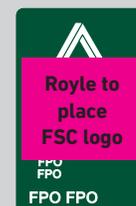
Call: 651-696-6295 or 1-888-242-9351

Write: Alumni Engagement Office, Macalester College, 1600 Grand Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105-1899

### TO SHARE COMMENTS OR IDEAS:

Email: [mactoday@macalester.edu](mailto:mactoday@macalester.edu)

Phone: 651-696-6123



*Macalester Today* is printed on Rolland Enviro 100, a 100 percent recycled paper. Our printer, Royle Printing of Madison, Wis., is FSC® certified. (FSC® C22017)

## In memoriam

I was startled and saddened to see **Jim Wheat '72** and **Judy Jordan '73** listed in "In Memoriam." These were colorful characters on a campus abundant with colorful characters. I suspect everyone who knew or knew of Judy or Jim know a lot of their little stories; not stories of great significance or meaning, but in the spirit of the times, audacious, fearless foolishness. I don't think we should underestimate these little stories. My sense is I owe much of my liberal arts education to the sum total of all those campus characters and all those stories, at least as much as what I learned with Dr. White and Dr. Mosvick.

Indulging in that education I reference R. M. Rilke's "Go to the Limits of Your Longing":

*"Flare up like a flame  
and make big shadows I can move in.  
Let everything happen to you: beauty  
and terror."*

**Jan Freier '72**  
Minnetonka, Minn.

## Explore viewpoints

I regret not having been able to attend a Reunion discussion organized primarily by **Roger Peterson '67**, who is the founder of the Alumni of Moderation, with concerns shared by many of the older Mac graduates like myself.

I don't remember anything like this being needed when I was at Macalester, as our main concern was simply to learn as much about our major educational interests as possible, bond with our fellow students, learn to explore other points of view, and prepare for the outside world that awaited us. The Korean War obligation which loomed in our future made just staying in school most important.

I think I'm a good supporter of Macalester both financially and emotionally, but when I think about the long-term effect on both the student and the college that results from too narrow a point of view that eliminates exploring the other side of things, I get concerned. Experience is still the best teacher and Macalester has a fantastic group of successful alums with valuable experiences and common sense to draw from. It is good business to give them a listen.

I have read the University of Chicago's statement adopted by many liberal arts schools and universities, that political diversity needs to be seriously addressed in the educational experience. To not do so is harmful to the student and can negatively affect underlying alumni support. I urge *Macalester Today* to address this matter.

**Bob McQueen '53**  
Birchwood, Wis.

## EDITOR'S NOTE

This fall in Mac's "Big Questions" interview series, President Brian Rosenberg talked with political science professor Andrew Latham about Latham's popular course on conservative political thought. Most of his students identify as progressive—and over the course of the semester, they understand the other side of the aisle better. "This is an ideal liberal arts course," Latham says. "It really gets students to ask and then answer the questions, 'How should I live my life?' and 'How should we lead our lives together?'" Watch the video: [macalester.edu/bigquestions](http://macalester.edu/bigquestions)

## Talking technology



"I enjoyed reading Julie Hessler's interview w/Prof. Diane Michelfelder, whose research & teaching sounds engaging and powerful—and took me back to my courses on technol-

ogy with Prof. David Hopper, who inspired my lifelong fascination with the topic."

**Christopher Tassava '95, via Twitter**

## Rural perspectives

*After Allen Smart '83 encouraged the Class of 2018 in Mac Today's summer issue to consider moving to rural locations, plenty of readers shared their thoughts.*

"As an international studies and political science double major, I never thought I'd be where I am now: serving as a chaplain at a small liberal arts college in rural Illinois. I've lived in or near big cities my whole life. I worked in NYC in the UN community for two years. And here's the great surprise: There are at least 14 lan-

guages spoken in our tiny town of 10,000 and a vibrant immigrant community. We have some of the most profitable agricultural land in the country, and one of the nation's largest meatpacking plants, but a large portion of our town is considered a food desert. Our town faces challenges with addiction, racism, and segregation, economic disparity and poverty, major political divides—all those things often labeled 'urban problems.' I love living here partly because every day gives me a chance to practice what Mac might call 'global' citizenship. Come visit..I'll send you home with some good stories and more summer squash than you know what to do with."

**Jessica Hawkinson '08, via Facebook**

"I've lived in West Virginia since a couple years after graduation and never regretted it. At first I moved from one small town to another as I tried out weekly and daily journalism; then several years in the state capital; since 1985 at West Virginia University doing public relations and marketing. There are opportunities here, you just have to burrow in and find them. We need new people—this state is demographically tilted toward old folks like me. It's also beautiful. Come on, give us a try."

**Bill Case '75, via Facebook**

CONNECT WITH US   

Visit Mac's social media hub at [macalester.edu/macsocial](http://macalester.edu/macsocial) and join in by using the **#heymac** hashtag when you post on Twitter or Instagram.

## CORRESPONDENCE POLICY

We invite letters of 300 words or fewer. Messages may be edited for clarity, style, and space and will be published based on their relevance to issues discussed in *Macalester Today*. Share your thoughts:

- Email: [mactoday@macalester.edu](mailto:mactoday@macalester.edu)
- Tweet: @macalester using the hashtag #macalestertoday
- Mail: *Macalester Today*, Macalester College, 1600 Grand Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105

# THINKING IN WORLD TERMS

BY BRIAN ROSENBERG

Several months ago, in Beijing, I met with current and incoming students, parents, alumni, and school counselors. The most remarkable thing about the trip was its surprising *ordinariness*.

What I mean is that the students in Beijing were in many ways like Macalester students from anywhere. As expected, they showed a high level of interest in subjects like math, computer science, and economics—not unlike their American counterparts—but I spoke with an incoming student with a passion for philosophy, with another planning to major in environmental studies, and with a young dancer looking forward to performing in our new building.

The parents were parents: proud, protective, ambivalent about the prospect of their children leaving home. The alumni missed Mac, and the school counselors were focused on helping their students make sound college choices.

Aside from the smog, traffic, and jet lag—and the invaluable services of my translator, **Max Wang '15**—the events, at times, did not feel dramatically unlike ones I might do in Boston or Baltimore. (Yes, both the smog and the traffic are much worse in Beijing.) Differences in language, culture, and politics seemed less consequential than the priorities and passions we had in common.

This is important because of what is happening right now in American higher education and more broadly in American society. Since the end of 2016, the number of international students coming to the United States to study has been steadily declining, reversing a long-term trend. The decline is not limited to students from a particular country or part of the world, but includes China, India, Germany, Mexico, South Korea, and most other countries that have traditionally sent students in meaningful numbers to attend undergraduate and graduate school in the United States.

I should note, as an aside, that this trend extends to areas beyond education. While globally the growth in international tourism has been dramatic, the United States is an outlier and has actually seen a decline in the number of tourists from other countries. Make of that what you will.

To date Macalester has been fortunate in avoiding any decline in applications or deposits from international students, though we cannot assume this will perpetually be the case. The number of international students on campus now is higher than at any other point in my presidency, and those students represent nearly 90 different countries. Our success in bucking the broader trend, I believe, is the result of our long history of international recruiting and our strong messaging about the welcoming culture at the college. Trips like my recent one to China, where I can meet personally with students and their families, are helpful.

We talk often about the educational benefits of having students on our campus from all parts of the country and the world, from every background and culture, practicing every religion or no religion at all. Many studies have demonstrated the economic benefits of the best students from around the globe choosing the United States as an educational destination. To this I would add perhaps the most fundamental and important benefit of all: bringing people together from around the world reminds us of our shared humanity at a time when such a reminder is desperately necessary.

We are, for complex reasons, living in a moment when fear of the “other” and anger at those who are not like “us”—by virtue of race or religion or citizenship or some other factor—are powerful and prevalent. Nothing good will come, nothing good has ever come, of these emotions or the ideologies they generate.



Yufan (Francis) Ma '21 and his parents, Ying Cui and Shuquan Ma, with President Rosenberg in Beijing

Macalester offers an alternative model, one that stretches back at least into the middle of the past century, when President Charles Turck wrote that Macalester aspired to be an institution where people think and act “not in parochial terms, not even with a national bias, but in world terms.” Those words were published in *The Mac Weekly* on August 17, 1945, not long after the end of the most destructive and widespread war in human history. Five years later, the same man raised the United Nations flag in the center of campus, where it continues to fly today.

Places like Macalester, with its emphasis on internationalism, multiculturalism, and service to society, are most important not when such a mission is universally embraced, but when it is not. Their essential moment is when their work is most challenging. We were in 1945 and we remain in 2018 an emphatic expression of faith in the potential of human beings to live with and learn from one another, regardless of their differences. We reject fear, we reject ignorance, and we reject the destructive forces they engender.

At this moment, as much as at any moment in the past, Macalester is necessary. **M**

Brian Rosenberg is president of Macalester College.

# 1600 GRAND



## CREATING LIFELONG LEARNERS

**Class in a canoe on the Mississippi River.** A German language textbook inclusive of gender, race, and sexuality. A film about spreading peace and compassion along the Mississippi and Yangtze Rivers. These are a few of the ideas that Macalester students and professors explored this summer with support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation's award to Macalester for the project "Creating Lifelong Learners: Linking Immersive Experiences to the Liberal Arts Foundation."

After her summer experience, Alya Ansari wants to spread the word about these opportunities. "Grants like those supported by the Mellon award are designed for people like us, who have crazy ideas and are untainted by the hardened attitude of the real world," she says. "If we don't propose projects and hope that our ideas are meaningful and can change things, we're done. Find something you love and unapologetically commit to pursuing it."



Taking an interdisciplinary approach by combining art and science, **Bade Turgut '19** (Tarsus, Turkey) and art professor Eric Carroll photographed scientific archives and the people responsible for their organization and preservation. "I am really interested in the visual nature of science and documenting it," Turgut says. "Getting this grant and working with Professor Carroll helped me get a better idea on how to artistically do this."

THE MELLON GRANT emphasizes civic engagement, which "ensures that work you're doing is meaningful in the communities you're doing work in," says **Alya Ansari '19** (Mumbai, India).

Ansari worked with media and cultural studies professor John Kim on the Mississippi Studies, a new field of research that reimagines the Mississippi River as a cohesive cultural corridor. "This project is trying to know by acting and doing, through interfacing with communities along the river," Ansari says. "What are their concerns?"

Radioactive contaminants from uranium refineries concern communities in Illinois, while those in Louisiana worry about loss of coastal infrastructure. Kim and Ansari hope to eventually fund a research barge to sail from Minneapolis to New Orleans and offer an out-of-classroom learning experience. They envision a study-away program in which students engage in seminars while canoeing along the Mississippi.

"A project like this has lasting impacts on the way we acquire knowledge; we are no longer limiting ourselves to literature reviews and data analysis," says Ansari, whose work included identifying community partners, writing grant proposals, and leading river tours.

Another project funded by the Mellon award, a film and website called "We are Water: Kinship of Rivers," spreads peace and compassion among the people who live along the Mississippi and Yangtze Rivers. Web developer and video editor **Harrison Runnels '20** (Omaha, Neb.) created a virtual gallery of English professor Wang Ping's 2014 multimedia exhibition at the Soap Factory gallery in Minneapolis, which brought 100 artists from the Mississippi and Yangtze to perform poetry, dance, theater, sand mandala, and installations.

Several "Creating Lifelong Learners" projects this summer focused on art and the meaning we can gain from it. In his first

semester at Macalester, **Roan O'Neill '20** (Belfast, Northern Ireland) took a class with English professor Amy Elkins and encountered Seamus Heaney's poetry. O'Neill comes from the same part of Northern Ireland that Heaney writes about.

"Heaney's work illuminated another way of approaching the political tensions of the place I grew up in," O'Neill says. "I wrote a paper arguing that Heaney's bog poems act as a metaphor for the enforced disappearance of innocent civilians by paramilitary groups during the sectarian war we call 'The Troubles.'" Impressed with his analysis, Elkins nominated O'Neill to present at a conference. With the help of the Mellon grant, they aim to publish a co-authored academic article.

**Kai Arnone '19** (Reno, Nev.) worked with art professor Megan Vossler to create illustrations for an open-access German language learning curriculum written by German professor Brigetta Abel. This online curriculum takes an inclusive approach to incorporating discussions around gender, race, sexuality, and political engagement alongside introductory language and grammatical concepts. Arnone illustrated German verbs to help students quiz themselves on vocabulary and created drawings to accompany the units.

*"This project gave me a really helpful look at what work as a freelance artist might actually look like. It has involved collaborating with a client to create art that corresponds to the goals they are trying to achieve, often involving extensive communication and revision of an initial idea."* —Kai Arnone '19



## Standing Up to Sexual Violence

**Ethan Levin '20** (St. Paul) experienced his first turning point at Macalester before he'd even started his first college class. During football preseason that August, some of the team's seniors organized a three-hour Green Dot training on consent, sexual violence prevention, and what it means to be a bystander.

"That just changed my outlook on everything for the rest of my college career," Levin says. "I thought, 'Why didn't I know this in high school? As a football player, shouldn't standing up to sexual violence and being an active bystander be essential to my identity?'"

In the two years since that preseason training, the religious studies major launched Athletes Against Sexual Violence, a peer-learning program that sends college athletes into high schools to teach consent and sexual violence prevention techniques. Levin and two other football players piloted the program last fall at nearby St. Paul Central High School, his alma mater,

then expanded to Fridley High School. Over the summer, 15 of Levin's football teammates volunteered with AASV to get ready to work with high school athletes. With two trainings at area high schools already completed this fall, Levin plans to partner with at least four more high schools and three colleges before semester's end.

In September, Levin was named to the 2018 Allstate American Football Coaches Association Good Works Team, which honors student-athletes for extraordinary commitments to making an impact off the field. Levin is one of just 22 students across all divisions of football to be included.

"I'm trying to flip the script of the stereotype of football players as perpetrators of sexual violence," Levin says. "I've never felt more hope in humanity than when I have seen the light in a high schooler's eyes when they understand an aspect of consent or when college teammates become empowered to prevent sexual violence."

# FIRST THURSDAY

Acclaimed poet and 2016 MacArthur Fellowship recipient **Claudia Rankine** helped celebrate the new academic year at First Thursday opening convocation. Her remarks included how her perspective changed during her own college years. “Each syllabus was an introduction to more possibilities and new thoughts. It really is that fast. Between the ages of one and five, if you have a sibling or a child, you see the mind just taking things in,” she told the audience, snapping her fingers. “College is another time like that, where every time you move from one classroom to another classroom, from one friend to another friend, from one professor to another professor to a staff member, to a casual conversation on the steps somewhere, something else is handed to you.”



PHOTO: DAVID J. TURNER

# A DECADE OF BONNER

Macalester’s first full class of Bonner Community Scholars arrived on campus in fall 2008, and the Civic Engagement Center commemorated the Bonner program’s first decade in September with a celebration linking current students and alumni. The program—a four-year civic engagement opportunity—provides academic support, leadership initiatives, and a social network for Macalester students, many of whom are the first in their families to go to college. Alumni returned to campus to see how the program has evolved: There are now more than 45 Bonners on campus

across all class years. For the newest Bonners, including 12 in the Class of 2022, it was a chance to see what lies ahead. Over the day, connections were strengthened and new relationships emerged within the already close-knit group. “This is one of the spaces for students who identify as first-generation or minorities,” current Bonner Scholar **Rachel Wong ’19** (Avondale Estates, Georgia) says. “The Bonner program is our home away from home. We are a family that supports each other in everything we do.”



PHOTO: COURTESY OF TORI GAPUZ '21

1600  
GRAND

# The Class of 2022

This fall, Mac's biggest group of incoming first-year students ever—all 621 of them—traveled to campus from near and (very) far. Twenty-one already called St. Paul home. The farthest hometown: 10,062 miles away, in Vacoas, Mauritius. As the students settled in, they began learning from the wide range of backgrounds and perspectives they represent collectively.



47

Languages spoken at home

15

Percentage of international students

16

Percentage of first-generation students

35

Percentage of U.S. students that identify as students of color

46

States represented (plus Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, Guam, and Northern Mariana Islands)

55

Countries represented, by citizenship

China, Canada, and Japan

Top three countries represented, by citizenship (not including the U.S.)

---

United World College  
(Dilijan, Armenia)

Edina High School  
(Edina, Minn.)

Ulysses S. Grant  
High School  
(Portland, Ore.)

Most well-represented high schools, with six students each

---



The Class of 2022 gathers on Shaw Field during Orientation.

# MEET THE NEW TENURE-TRACK FACULTY

This year, nine new tenure-track professors are in Mac classrooms. We asked them what they're working on, why they're passionate about their field, and what they've learned about teaching.

## Matt Burgess

English

*"Inspired by my Mac students' commitment to the larger community—and a little embarrassed by how little volunteer work I was doing by comparison—I started teaching creative writing to incarcerated students in Minnesota correctional facilities. As a consequence of that experience, I am currently at work on a novel about the prison industrial complex."*



## Brianna Heggeseth

Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science

*"I used to think that good teaching was simply clearly explaining a concept. I've learned that it's more about developing trusting relationships that foster curious inquiry and guided discovery. So I've been 'teaching' people around me as long as I can remember; I'm just doing it in a more formal, structured manner."*

## Mary Heskel

Biology

*"My favorite lesson to impart to students is the idea that science is a creative and very human endeavor: it involves joy and failure, and the frontier is being pushed forward continuously by researchers and students asking and answering new questions."*



## Morgan Jerald

Psychology

*"I research and teach courses on the psychology of race and gender. I'm excited by the opportunity to use my research to advocate for marginalized groups and as a tool for social justice."*

## Abigail Marsh

**Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science**

*“My best advice for new students is to listen to your professors’ advice! We say things like, ‘This assignment will take awhile, so plan to work on it in chunks over the week.’ Our tips are probably based on our own experiences—they’re not just formalities.”*



## Lauren Milne

**Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science**

*“I didn’t find computer science until late in my college career and was just blown away with how creative and fun it was. I love getting to share this excitement with my students, especially those in introductory courses who might not be aware of how much programming draws on the right side of your brain.”*



## Leslie Myint

**Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science**

*“When I first learned that my three new colleagues in Math, Statistics, and Computer Science were women, I actually jumped up in excitement. Being aware of the gender disparity in STEM for so long and now finally being able to participate in the change feels pretty amazing.”*



## Robin Shields-Cutler

**Biology**

*“Microorganisms are absolutely essential partners in our existence, yet for some microbes, just a handful of invisible cells could spell death to any one of us. Microbiology tries to understand this complex relationship and its significance, diversity, and history on our planet.”*



## Morgan Sleeper '11

**Linguistics**

*“Once you start thinking about linguistics, you can’t help but notice it everywhere, and the ways people speak, sign, text, write, and sing as part of their everyday lives become endlessly fascinating.”*





# Professor Perspectives

Through published commentaries, Mac faculty members speak up about complex issues.

## Why resilience matters

BY ROOPALI PHADKE AND CHRISTIE MANNING

Kate Knuth's recent departure from the role of chief resilience officer (CRO) in Minneapolis caught many off-guard. Across media platforms, people are asking what this job entails and who is best suited to do it. A *Star Tribune* article on this topic resulted in hundreds of comments suggesting that Minneapolis is wasting its money on resiliency. As environmental studies professors at Macalester College, our research has partnered with city staff in both Minneapolis and St. Paul to understand why and how resiliency matters for creating a more livable and just Twin Cities. We think residents are well-served when we focus public dollars on resiliency.

Resilience is defined as the capacity of individuals and organizations in a city to "survive, adapt, and grow" in the face of acute natural disasters and more chronic stresses such as an aging transportation system, now-routine weather extremes, a vulnerable electricity grid, and an increasingly elderly population. Resilience also means creating solutions for many problems with one stroke. For example, programs that improve insulation and energy efficiency not only make homes and buildings more comfortable, they also create jobs, save money on energy bills, reduce stress on energy infrastructure, and cut down on the pollution caused by burning fossil fuels.

A dedicated CRO looks across agencies and chooses areas for opportunities. As the above example demonstrates, one targeted action can positively impact many sectors of an urban economy. We might compare a city CRO to a corporate chief sustainability officer, who works company-wide to achieve benefits for the company, the employees, and the community. Businesses already recognize the value of this type of position; Fortune 500 companies including Dow, AT&T, and General Mills have had a chief sustainability officer on staff for years.

The Twin Cities are not alone in focusing on urban resiliency. Louisville's CRO has worked with Georgia Tech to prepare the city's most vulnerable populations for a predicted increase in heat waves. New York City's OneNYC Plan is aimed at fighting climate change by addressing all forms of racial inequity. Pittsburgh's resiliency strategy aims to create a reliable, modern communications infrastructure that is accessible to all. To our south, El Paso is focused on building healthy, affordable housing in desert environments.

Building resilience requires close partnerships with residents and local nonprofits. Five years ago, we began a project in St. Paul called Ready & Resilient to help bridge the gaps among city agencies, district councils, nonprofits, and residents. We partnered with former St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman's staff to lead resiliency workshops throughout the city for residents. We collected innovative ideas and ground-level realities. Our major takeaway was that the key to building resilience, especially to extreme weather, lies in increasing the social cohesion of our neighborhoods. We helped this effort along by creating a community resiliency fund that provided microgrants for residents to implement ideas. This resulted in support for after-school education, wildlife conservation, and Block Nurse programs.

For those who took the story about Knuth's resignation as an opportunity to fill the comments page with climate denialism and disdain for welfare programs, we remind you that climate scientists and urban planners are unequivocal that future extreme weather events will result in flooding, and transportation and electrical grid failures. The question isn't will these things happen, but how quickly will our cities be able to rebound when they do.

Roopali Phadke and Christie Manning are environmental studies professors. Published originally on Feb. 27, 2018, as "It's not just a buzzword: Why resilience matters to Minneapolis and St. Paul," this article is reprinted with permission from the Minneapolis *Star Tribune*.





# The case for and against autonomous weapon systems

BY JAMES DAWES



Stephen Hawking, Bill Gates, Henry Kissinger, and Elon Musk have all warned that artificial intelligence (AI) could, in Hawking's words, "spell the end of the human race." Most of the excited discussion of their apocalyptic predictions hovers somewhere between philosophical thought experiments and science fiction. Isn't it possible and even likely, Musk asks, that AI has already emerged and we are trapped inside the matrix it is using to enslave us?



Meanwhile, a much more quiet and relentlessly practical techno-revolution is occurring. Governments and militaries around the world are investing billions of dollars in developing autonomous weapon systems (AWS). The U.S. Department of Defense defines AWS as "a weapon system that, once activated, can select and engage targets without further intervention by a human operator." Proponents of AWS research argue that the atrocities of war are the natural consequence of basic human behaviors or emotions, and that by removing the human element AWS could spell the end of war crimes. However, AWS critics argue that removing the human element means removing non-algorithmic moral intuition and feeling—the distinctly human features that mitigate the horrors of war. Unless a pre-emptive ban on AWS is implemented now, they argue, we face a future of unrestrained and even unrestrainable 'killer robots.' Who is right?

## The case against humans



I have worked closely with convicted war criminals who have murdered, tortured, raped, and performed monstrous medical experiments on captured civilians. They came from all walks of life, but they shared a handful of key features: they were ordinary, remorseful, and—once I got to know them—hard not to like. For decades, researchers have struggled to find unique, predisposing personality flaws in men who commit atrocities during wartime, but they have failed.



We are not predators. The men I knew descended into the worst savagery not because they were natural killers but because they were not. The unbearable psychic stress of killing led to behavioral breakdowns and decompensation, which increased the entropic violence that, in a vicious circle, further amplified the debilitating stress.

ILLUSTRATION BY BRIANNE FARLEY '06

The coercive force of morality, the way our consciences can break us down, is not an argument in favor of maintaining human agency in war. It is precisely the reason we should turn violence over to true predators like AWS.

## The case against autonomous weapons

The International Committee of the Red Cross is deeply concerned that AWS could destabilize the laws of war, an already tenuous legal structure that mitigates the worst horrors of combat. Human Rights Watch has called for a total ban on AWS research. There are three primary arguments against the development of "killer robots."

First, AWS will be incapable of respecting the foundational principles of humanitarian law, including distinction (the requirement not to target civilians) and proportionality (the requirement to consider risk to civilian populations when determining military objectives). Second, AWS poses technical legal difficulties that represent philosophically deep moral problems. How could we hold AWS accountable for war crimes? Holding the robots themselves morally accountable is a non-starter. Holding software designers responsible for the particular actions of their programs is also a non-starter. Third, and finally, the global result is likely to be catastrophic. AWS will proliferate and evolve. Market pressures will push in both directions: toward the development of ever more complicated, reliable, and expensive systems, but also toward simpler, sloppier, and cheaper systems.

## What have we learned?

AWS proponents often resort to the last-ditch argument that the technology is inevitable—"resistance is futile"—so we might as well focus on optimizing the systems rather than banning them. If recent human history teaches us anything, it is that such arguments are profoundly, catastrophically short-sighted. Thoughtful, forward-looking work on nuclear proliferation in the 1930s would have been far more effective than our current efforts.

Late is better than never, but early is best.

DeWitt Wallace Professor of English James Dawes teaches literature and human rights. His analysis is expanded in the September 2017 edition of *Nature Human Behaviour*. Excerpted and adapted by permission from Springer Nature, *Nature Human Behaviour* ("The case for and against autonomous weapon systems," James Dawes), 2017.



ILLUSTRATION: BRIANNE FARLEY '06

## Why colleges must change how they teach calculus

BY DAVID BRESSOUD

Each fall, more than 300,000 students enroll in first-semester calculus in colleges and universities throughout the United States. Most of those students are aiming for a degree in engineering, physics, chemistry, computer science, or the biological sciences. About a quarter of them will fail to earn the C or higher needed to continue. Many more are so discouraged by their experience that they abandon their career plans.

We now know that much of the problem rests with an outdated mode of instruction, a lecture format in which students are reduced to scribes. This may have worked in an earlier age when calculus was for a small elite group that excelled in mathematics. Today, professions that require calculus make up 5 percent of the workforce, a proportion that is growing at a rate that is 50 percent higher than overall job growth. We can no longer afford to ignore what we know about how to improve the student experience, both inside and outside the classroom.

There are a variety of approaches that are known to promote active engagement with mathematics, helping students to understand and be able to use their mathematical knowledge outside of their math class. They generally go under the name “active learning.”

Active learning does not mean ban all lectures. A lecture is still the most effective means for conveying a great deal of information in a short amount of time. But the most useful lectures come in short bursts when students are primed with a need and desire to know the information.

The presidents of the professional societies in the mathematical sciences have endorsed these methods of teaching. Yet despite clear evidence that they greatly improve student learning, science and mathematics faculty have been slow to adopt them. Part of

this is reluctance on the part of faculty to diverge from what worked for them. But a greater obstacle is that faculty need both departmental encouragement and a supportive network if they are to make the transition to more effective teaching.

Several organizations are working to build these networks. One of the most recent examples is SEMINAL, an acronym for Student Engagement in Mathematics through an Institutional Network for Active Learning. Through this initiative, 12 public universities, led by San Diego State University, the University of Colorado–Boulder, and the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, will work together to show how active learning can be implemented and supported in mathematics classes from precalculus through higher forms of calculus.

The days when we could afford to teach mathematics as an elite subject, one that has often disadvantaged women and students from underrepresented minority groups, are long gone.

While active learning approaches help all students, they have been shown to be most effective for the students who are at the greatest risk of failing to earn a satisfactory grade or dropping out of the sequence of courses needed for their intended career. The demographics of those entering the workforce are changing, and we can no longer afford to ignore traditionally underrepresented groups of students. White students, which were 73 percent of all high school graduates in 1995, will account for less than 50 percent by 2025. Black students will comprise 14 percent and Hispanic students 27 percent of these graduates. If the United States is to maintain its preeminence in science and technology, it will require a skilled workforce whose racial and ethnic makeup reflects the diversity of this country. This workforce needs sophisticated mathematical skills, increasingly including a working knowledge of calculus.

DeWitt Wallace Professor of Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science David Bressoud works in number theory, combinatorics, and analysis. His commentary is excerpted with permission from *The Conversation*.

## Caution: no trigger warning!

BY RIVI HANDLER-SPITZ

These days, students seem reluctant to engage with disturbing material, and well-meaning professors too often cater to their preferences, shielding them from what they'd rather not confront. Last semester in a literature class, I had an encounter with a student that challenged both of us—professor and student—to rethink our knee-jerk positions and to work closely together to help the student develop strategies for mitigating her sensitivity.

Without any trigger warning, I assigned my class the 19th-century Vietnamese novel *The Tale of Kiêu*. This novel contains several highly metaphorical descriptions of rape. One day, an excellent student emailed me saying she found the content upsetting and could not bear to come to class. I was shocked and dismissed her concerns as excessive. Unwarranted. Or rather, I felt that the only way I could condone her hypersensitivity would be if I knew about her past. Such a reaction might make sense, I supposed, if she had been assaulted herself. But I could not ask. How then, I wondered, could I possibly adjudicate whether her sensitivity was justified or not? And how could I respond appropriately if I did not know her story and if I was, moreover, unfree to inquire?

We scheduled a meeting, and she broke down in tears in my office. At that moment, I realized that her present state, not her past, was my concern: I had in front of me a young woman who, for whatever reason, was profoundly disturbed by even the poetic suggestion of sexual violence. Her feelings were powerful and real. And they needed to be respected no matter what experience, real or imagined, underlay them. My job was not to adjudicate the legitimacy of her feelings but to help her develop strategies for engaging with a text she obviously found extremely disquieting.

Over the course of more than a week, we discussed her situation several times both in person and online. We also each sought out trusted confidantes with whom to analyze our ongoing interactions. This iterative process was essential, and through it, we moved closer to understanding one another's points of view. I choose to express the story visually here because doing so challenged me to imagine our interactions from both the student's perspective and my own. Drawing—especially the thought bubbles—prompted me to imagine her perceptions and to envision her thoughts, fears, and concerns.

The story as told here exhibits my greatest hope for students: that they will learn to titrate their own exposure to content they find

disturbing, and that they will eventually wean themselves off the need to rely on trigger warnings or “opt-out” assignments. In the end of this story, it is the student herself—not the teacher—who comes up with the best strategy for approaching the text. Students must gain this independence because eventually they will decide for themselves what to read and how to read it. They will take responsibility for balancing between protecting and pushing themselves. [M](#)

Asian Languages and Cultures professor Rivi Handler-Spitz studies and teaches Chinese literature and intellectual history as well as comparative literature. This article, adapted and reprinted with permission, was published on August 21, 2018, in *Inside Higher Ed*.



Rivi Handler-Spitz used a graphic novel approach to show how to help students deal with texts they find disturbing. Pictured: one of eight panels she illustrated.

# Bringing Congress Together

A new exchange  
created by a Mac  
alum aims to build  
bridges in Congress.



IN JANUARY, U.S. Rep. Jack Bergman (R-MI) paid a visit to the Orlando-area district of U.S. Rep. Stephanie Murphy (D-FL). There they spent 48 hours learning about each other's districts and policy interests as they toured a farmers market, a veterans medical center, and a simulation and training company. They were brought together by the American Congressional Exchange, which takes a systematic approach to building bipartisanship in Congress.

ACE is the creation of public affairs consultant **Jonathan Perman '83 P'16**. Congress was designed for bipartisan collaboration, says Perman, citing bipartisan efforts that led to policy landmarks such as the Social Security Act (1935), Federal Highway Act (1956), and the Civil Rights Act (1964).

But he notes that the way Congress operates has changed dramatically. "Forty or fifty years ago, legislators lived in Washington," he says. "They got to know each other, their spouses, their children. Now the constant pressure to raise money for reelection forces them to return to their districts nearly every weekend. They don't get to know people from the other side of the aisle anymore."

A history and political science major, Perman interned during college with the Northeast-Midwest Institute, a Washington-based nonpartisan policy organization that promotes economic vitality, environmental quality, and regional equity for 18 states. That experience led to a position as a staffer for three years on the U.S. Senate Governmental Affairs Subcommittee on Energy, Nuclear Proliferation, and Government Processes. After earning a master's in public policy from the University of Michigan and working for more than 20 years in the Chambers of Commerce of New Haven, Conn., and Evanston, Ill., he started his own public policy and public affairs practice, The Perman Group, 12 years ago in Chicago.

Perman remembers the spirit of collaboration across party lines that flourished during his experience on Capitol Hill—and while many now bemoan the deterioration of bipartisanship, he wanted to take action. Influenced by his mentor, political science professor emeritus Chuck Green, Perman believed he had a responsibility to work for positive change. "As a student, I never envisioned doing something like ACE," Perman says, "but my time at Mac was transformative and informed my view that the relationships we create and the coalitions we build are critical to societal change and advancement. What I am doing now comes directly out of my time at Macalester."

In summer 2016, Perman started thinking more seriously about how he could help fix Congress from Chicago. His plan: bring together pairs of House members from opposing parties to see one another's districts and to get to know each other as colleagues, not solely in the interest of civility, but to increase productivity in Congress.

But he wasn't naïve. Perman first shopped the concept around: "I needed to vet the idea, so I spent the last half of 2016 meeting with former and current members of Congress, political thought leaders, and Hill staffers, all of whom encouraged me to advance the concept."

Perman knew it made sense to attach ACE to a like-minded

existing organization, and the Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC) in Washington was a perfect fit. ACE is now a project of the BPC's Commission on Political Reform, co-chaired by former Senate Majority Leaders Tom Daschle (D) and Trent Lott (R), former Agriculture Secretary and Representative Dan Glickman (D), and former Senator Olympia Snowe (R).

ACE is co-directed by Perman and John Richter of BPC, who plan and staff the weekend visits by House members. The highly active itineraries keep participants on the move but include time for them to talk informally over dinner.

"That first visit [in January] far exceeded our expectations," says Perman. "Early on, Representatives Murphy and Bergman discovered a common connection to Vietnam."

Bergman, a retired U.S. Marine Corps three-star general, had flown helicopters during the Vietnam War, including flying back the wounded. Murphy's family escaped Vietnam after the fall of Saigon, when Murphy was an infant. As boat people adrift at sea, they were saved by a U.S. Navy vessel that helped them reach a refugee camp.

"We were pinching ourselves," Perman says. "From that first trip, we knew we were on to something."

With seven trips already complete, he's aiming to coordinate three more this year (including Rep. Murphy's visit to Rep. Bergman's home district in Michigan) and 20 next year. Thirty-five additional House members are eager to participate. "We thought at first the congressional participants would be mostly moderates, but we were wrong," Perman says. "We're getting interest from across the political spectrum—that's encouraging. If we can involve 10 to 15 percent of Congress, then we are beginning to impact how Congress works."

Perman hopes to expand ACE to include U.S. senators, then perhaps look at some state legislatures, which have similar challenges. He looks forward to seeing participants working together on legislation, a process that is already beginning. After that first ACE trip, Reps. Bergman and Murphy co-sponsored recently approved legislation to support military servicemembers as they transition back to civilian life—something they said never would have happened but for their participation in ACE. **M**

Jan Shaw-Flamm '76 is a freelance writer and editor and frequent contributor to *Macalester Today*.



## ON THE PERSONAL SIDE

While a Capitol Hill staffer in Washington, Perman also wrote and acted in the famed political musical satire group, the Capitol Steps.

He met his wife, Melissa Hilton, while performing with the Steps in a Senate committee hearing room. Their daughter, Jacqueline Perman '16, is now in the music business in Chicago.



**Nana Adom Mills-Robertson '18**

# THE POWER OF STORYTELLING

Three Mac friends team up to produce *This Land Is*, a children's book designed to build empathy.

BY REBECCA DEJARLAIS ORTIZ '06 / PHOTO BY DAVID J. TURNER

Last fall, **Nana Adom Mills-Robertson '18** needed honest feedback on a short manuscript. He chose an audience he knew wouldn't mince words: commuters on public transit.

"I was on the 84 [bus route] one day and approached an older woman, explained what I was doing," says Mills-Robertson, an economics major from Ghana who was then starting his senior year. "She read the book, and when she got to a pivotal moment, her body language changed—she really leaned in and said, 'This is powerful.' That's when I realized we had something here. I wanted to see what people we didn't know would say. If I'm approaching a stranger on their commute, they don't care about my feelings."

The thing is, caring about one another's feelings is actually the heart of the message Mills-Robertson was testing. In 2016, after hearing news reports about increased bullying in schools, he wanted to explore how to help kids build empathy. His solution: a book geared toward early-grade readers. But he needed a writer and an illustrator to make it happen.

So Mills-Robertson teamed up with Mac friends whose skillsets in those areas he admired: writer **Dubie Toa-Kwapong '16**, who had come to Macalester as a Davis United World College Scholar from Norway, and art major and illustrator **Samuel Fleming '19**, who is from Minneapolis. Toa-Kwapong says she was drawn immediately to the empathy-building mission that Mills-Robertson pitched. "It was the aftermath of the [2016] election and Brexit, I was feeling quite helpless and hopeless, and this felt like an effective way to engage and bring an important demographic into the conversation," she says.

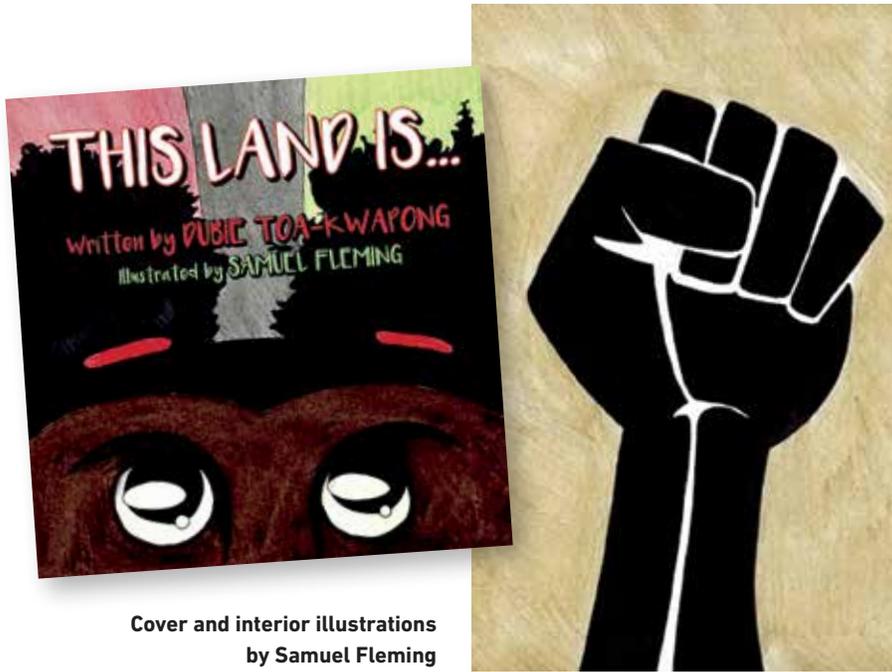
And for all three, being in the Mac community was the right starting point for the project. "The education we receive at Macal-

ester aims to mold engaged citizens, and gives students the space to figure out what that means to them individually," Toa-Kwapong says. "We get to come of age in an environment where people are passionate about making the world better, in whatever space they occupy. It puts a fire in your belly and keeps it burning, even when things seem grim."

## The plan and plot

As the three reflected on their hopes for the book, their plans expanded to include an accompanying curriculum for educators and parents. Their mission expanded, too: The team set a goal to build empathy among two million children around the United States, planning to assess their progress through book sales, curriculum downloads, and the amount of feedback generated on the book's website.

Poring over children's books in Mac's DeWitt Wallace Library, Toa-Kwapong began developing her story: Amina—an African American girl who lives in Minneapolis with her family—notices that some of her classmates have been treating her and some of her friends poorly because they're different, bothering a boy who has two moms and pulling off a girl's hijab at recess. Amina's math teacher even laughs at her when she says she wants to be an astronaut. This shift makes her feel nervous about going to school. When her music class sings Woody Guthrie's "This Land Is Your Land," she wonders "if this land was made for people like Khadidja, Lester, Amadou, and me." Amina's mother reminds her that she and her friends aren't alone, sharing stories about civil rights heroes and social justice champions who have gone before them.



Cover and interior illustrations  
by Samuel Fleming



## Fifth-grade feedback

Mills-Robertson tested the manuscript that emerged, *This Land Is*, on bus passengers, but the team knew the story had to resonate with kids as well as adults. Toa-Kwapong, Fleming, and Mills-Robertson brought sample pages and sketches to a Linwood Monroe Arts Plus school fifth-grade class, and the ensuing conversation surprised all three. “The kids’ input was beyond what we could have ever expected,” Fleming says. “They drew connections to topics and themes that were mind-blowing. They told us stories about the roles race plays in their lives. Kids are open to this, the empathy. That was inspiring.”

## Highs and lows

With Toa-Kwapong back in Norway working as a columnist for the publication *Framtida*, the trio turned to the next obstacle: a Kickstarter fundraiser. For most of the campaign, the outlook wasn’t promising. On the final day, well short of the \$7,000 goal, the three brainstormed how they could move forward without Kickstarter support. (If a Kickstarter goal isn’t met, pledges are returned to each donor.) Then Mills-Robertson got a notification on his phone that the project had been fully funded. “I’m thinking it’s a glitch, maybe that someone’s messing with me,” he says. But there was no glitch: at the last minute, someone—unknown to the three, outside their networks—had stumbled across their campaign on the Kickstarter website and pledged \$2,000 to complete the project.

Planning accelerated. Fleming set a goal to illustrate one page per day over winter break before leaving for a semester in Tokyo, diving into an artistic style he’d never tried before: “Throughout most of my life, everything I’ve drawn in colored pencil was done with the intent of being realistic. This book has few even slight attempts at realism.”



Dubie Toa-Kwapong '16

He also chose to render the bullies’ appearances unrecognizable, so young readers wouldn’t recognize any of their own traits. “There is no color, the lines are far less clean, and the expressions are all very exaggerated,” Fleming says. “I wanted there to be no mistake by the readers when deciding how to feel about the bullies.”



One day, he spread out his sketches in the campus center to show Mills-Robertson. That was a watershed moment. “You have this vision, and then you see it laid out in front of you,” Mills-Robertson says. “That was the most powerful thing.”

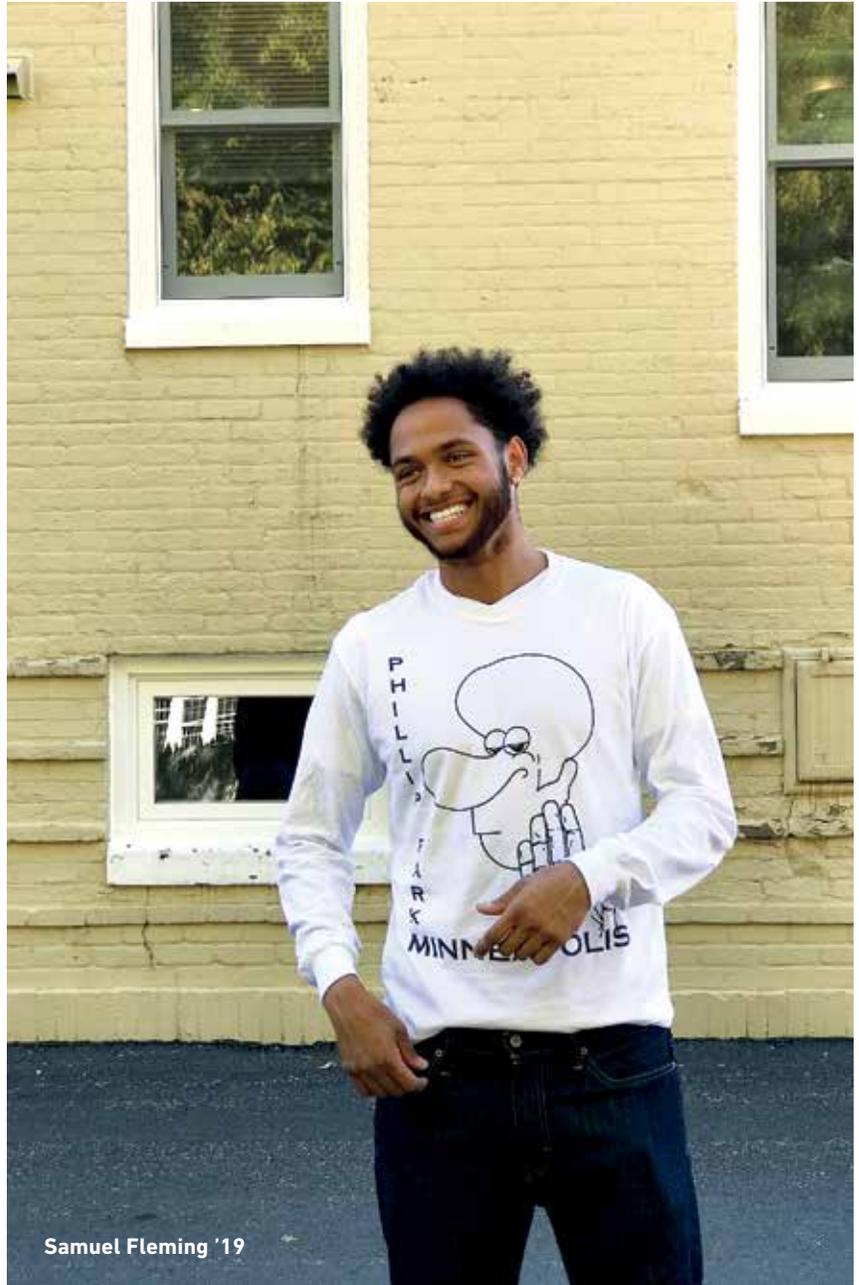
But progress wasn’t always linear. As Mills-Robertson waded through the self-publishing process during the end of his senior year, production costs exceeded preliminary estimates. He made mistakes. A self-professed “believer in audacious goals,” he realized that getting the books into the hands of two million kids came with its own set of challenges.

The three learned they needed to do more research to tap into how educators understand social and emotional learning. “I was a bit naïve” at the start, Mills-Robertson says. “We had a lot of learning to do. There’s a wide swath of parents and educators who are thinking about this topic, and we’re looking at that work—we want there to be weight behind our curriculum.”

And then there were the critics. For every few people who loved the book, he says, “I’d show it to someone who’d read it and look like they had tasted a lemon. I’d hear things like, ‘You can’t show this to kids,’ and ‘This is a heavy children’s book.’” But the three didn’t want to water down their story’s message, and they pushed forward.

## Laying the foundation

Earlier this year, the trio distributed the first batch of *This Land Is* with the Pajama Program, a national program that provides books and pajamas to at-risk youth. Mills-Robertson registered



Samuel Fleming '19

the project as an LLC, and he’s developing an online curriculum with assistance from open-source resources from the equity-focused organization Teaching Tolerance. The next step: Mills-Robertson, who works full-time as a market development representative at the software company Kipsu, will focus on getting *This Land Is* into libraries and bookstores (it’s also for sale at [thislandbook.com](http://thislandbook.com)).

Along the way, they’ll keep tracking progress toward their big goal. “Measuring social and emotional skills like empathy is difficult because of the lag in what students learn versus how they demonstrate the skills—but we believe that if children are getting the book and going through the associated materials, then we’re laying the foundation,” Mills-Robertson says. “Building empathy among two million children in the United States is our North Star metric. Now it’s about taking the incremental steps in the right direction.” [M](#)



# KOFI ANNAN'S EXTRAORDINARY LEGACY

Macalester mourns the loss of **Kofi Annan '61**,  
“the ultimate embodiment of Macalester’s mission.”

BY REBECCA DEJARLAIS ORTIZ '06

**Kofi Ofoosu '19** grew up in Kwahu Bepong, Ghana, approximately 80 miles from where **Kofi Annan '61** was born in Kumasi. The two shared a name, in an Akan language tradition for boys born on a Friday. And of course Ofoosu knew about Annan. Everyone in Ghana knew about the renowned leader who represented the country in global diplomacy, serving as the seventh Secretary-General of the United Nations from 1997 to 2006 and receiving the Nobel Peace Prize in 2001 in honor of his work to revitalize the UN and prioritize human rights.

“For a long time I wondered why he didn’t run for president of Ghana,” Ofoosu says. “Meeting him had always been my dream.”

Ofoosu got that chance in May, more than 6,000 miles away from Ghana. On a bright Monday morning after final exams had concluded, the chemistry major and Davis United World College Scholar joined two dozen other Macalester student leaders for breakfast with Annan, who had returned to his alma mater for the dedication of the Kofi Annan Institute for

Global Citizenship, renamed in his honor. Representing the Afrika! student organization, Ofoosu went into the Weyerhaeuser boardroom expecting to find a statesman who was imposing, brash, and outspoken—traits he’d come to expect from successful politicians and global leaders.

Instead, what stood out immediately was what Ofoosu described as quiet charisma. Before fielding questions about decisions and challenges he faced during his career, Annan told the students about his own Macalester experience during his two years on campus through a Ford Foundation program that placed foreign nationals in U.S. colleges and universities. He talked about how his worldview broadened at Mac, a message that resonated with the current students, Ofoosu says.

An economics major, Annan was a state-champion orator who also played soccer, loved Ping-Pong, and set a school record in the 60-yard dash. He also explored the United States with classmates through Macalester’s Ambassadors for Friendship



In May, Kofi Annan met with two dozen student leaders on campus.

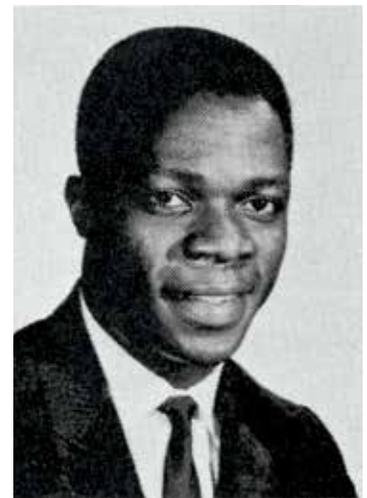


Annan set the college's 60-yard dash record and was part of the 1960 track team that won a MIAC championship.

program, which sent out groups of students in Nash Rambler station wagons in the '60s and '70s.

As Annan spoke, the students seated around the table were in "almost absolute silence," says political science major **Umar Hassan '19** (Minneapolis). "Everyone was engaged—he had a commanding voice, even though he was soft-spoken. He told us about the lessons he took away from Mac. He carried the civic engagement focus with him and told us to not lose sight of that when we leave."

Later that day, Annan and President Brian Rosenberg sat down in front of a much larger audience in the fieldhouse for a conversation that examined



1960 yearbook photo



When Annan talked with Mac students, he encouraged them to take on leadership roles. “I firmly believe that you are never too young to lead,” he said on campus in May.

leadership, current global challenges, and youth engagement. The campus event closed with Rosenberg leading more than 3,000 audience members in singing “Happy Birthday” to Annan, who had turned 80 in April. “That’s the first time I’ve had that many people sing ‘Happy Birthday’ to me,” Annan told the crowd, laughing.

Less than four months later, the Macalester community in St. Paul woke up on Saturday, August 18, to learn that Annan had died at a hospital in Bern, Switzerland, after an unexpected brief illness.

That morning, Rosenberg sent a message to the Macalester community. “You can read elsewhere about the extraordinary public accomplishments of this man from Ghana who moved from our campus onto the world stage, where he became a forceful advocate for peace and human rights around the globe,” he wrote. “He was for many years, and will forever remain, the ultimate embodiment of Macalester’s mission.

## In Annan’s Words

**KOFI ANNAN** remained connected to his Macalester roots, returning to campus several times as well as serving as a trustee and trustee emeritus and a member of the Institute for Global Citizenship’s global advisory board. The following reflections are from his remarks during those visits.

“Thirty years before the end of apartheid, a decade before the civil rights movement in this country, there was a celebration of diversity throughout this student body unlike any other I have known. Macalester’s academic excellence was deeply rooted in a reverence and respect for other cultures. Students from a wide range of backgrounds and nationalities lived, worked, and grew together. We were not merely greeted with tolerance; we were welcomed with warmth. I felt immediately at home.”

—SEPT. 9, 1994, CONVOCATION

“As part of its curriculum, Mac has always motivated its students to go out and work in the world beyond these campus walls. Build on the courage which that has instilled in you. Act on your innocence; explore new frontiers where older, wiser, more cautious people might not. Failure is part of success; if you don’t fail now and then, it probably means you are not pushing hard enough.

Courage does not mean lack of fear, for only the foolish are fearless; it means doing things in spite of your fear. Confront those fears, take risks for what you believe, for it is only then you will find what you are capable of; you will discover that if your intentions are good, the worst your opponents can do to you is really not that bad. Go out and make a difference in this world. And don’t forget to have some fun along the way.”

—MAY 17, 1998, COMMENCEMENT

“We all have the power to make choices; we should never doubt that. We can choose to be silent and turn away or we can step forward and take action. Here at Macalester, you have chosen to make a difference, and there is so much you can do...”

—APRIL 22, 2006, INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP INAUGURATION

“A good leader must have good judgment—a keen sense of what is right and what is wrong. You need discipline. You need compassion. Good leaders must also be good listeners. Above all, a good leader must also be a good follower. It’s counterintuitive, but a good leader cannot always be right. You cannot win all the time. There are people around you with ideas—and if they are good ideas and they are right, you follow them. You have to follow them for [those people] to follow you tomorrow. But not many leaders understand this. They think that’s a sign of weakness and that they need to be tough and strong. That’s not leadership.”

—MAY 7, 2018, IN CONVERSATION WITH BRIAN ROSENBERG

“The Mac experience was fundamental to what I became later in life.”

—MAY 7, 2018, INTERVIEW WITH ROSENBERG

# AFTER MACALESTER

After graduation, Kofi Annan studied at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, Switzerland, then joined the United Nations system the following year as a budget officer with the World Health Organization. In 1997, he was elected the UN's seventh Secretary-General, a position he used to strengthen



Annan raised the UN flag on campus with students in 2006.

peacekeeping initiatives, combat HIV, and launch the UN Global Compact, the world's largest effort to promote corporate social responsibility. In 2001, the Nobel Committee awarded the Peace Prize to Annan and the United Nations for revitalizing the UN and prioritizing human rights.

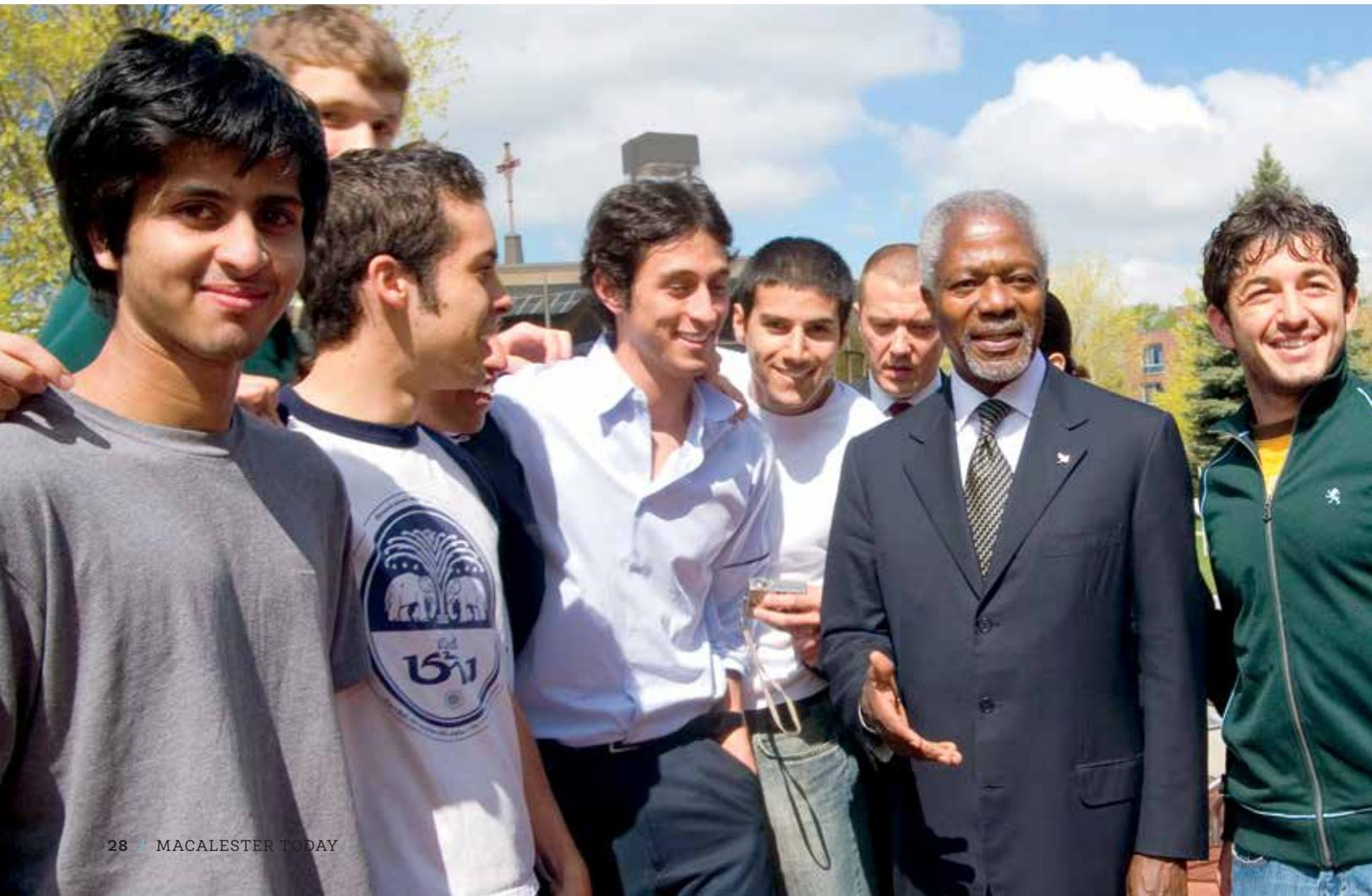
After concluding his tenure as Secretary-General in 2006, he continued his advocacy by serving as chair of organizations including the Alliance for a Green Revolution in

Africa, the African Progress Panel, and The Elders, an independent group of global leaders who work together for peace and human rights. At the time of his death, he was the chair of the Kofi Annan Foundation, which he founded in 2007 to mobilize leaders from all sectors to overcome threats to peace, development, and human rights.

“What I want to underscore is that Kofi Annan in person and in private was at least as impressive as the public figure. He was, without fail, gracious, patient, and thoughtful. He treated the people who worked for him with as much respect as he did the many world leaders with whom he interacted. He was energized by and had almost limitless faith in what he liked to call ‘the young people,’ including the students at Macalester. He bore witness to some of the worst atrocities, and dealt with some of the worst people, of our time, yet he never lost hope in the possibility for improvement in the human condition.”

Annan's legacy will stretch onward at Macalester and far beyond, thanks in part to the ripple effect of a community motivated by his dedication to peace. That includes the new generation of students he inspired in May. “He encouraged us to move into spaces of leadership—and at first I thought he meant big-time leadership,” Kofi Oforu says. “I thought you had to have everything set in place before you could take on leadership roles. But I learned from him that you can start in your own small way. It can be as simple as listening, as voting—that's how progress can start. Leadership doesn't have to be something I put aside until I'm more accomplished.” [M](#)

PHOTOS: GREG HELGESON (2); (OPPOSITE): MACALESTER COLLEGE ARCHIVES





In 1960, Annan was president of Macalester's Cosmopolitan Club, which promoted friendship between U.S. and international students. He was featured in the yearbook that year: "Richly costumed Kofi Annan explains his native Ghana dress to Lana Millman and Barb Brittain at the World University Service Tea."



When Annan visited Mac in April 2006 to help inaugurate the new Institute for Global Citizenship, he took an impromptu stroll around campus, meeting students along the way.

## Alumni on Annan

Following his death, Mac alumni shared thoughts in August via social media on Kofi Annan's legacy.

---

"It has been said that arguing against globalization is like arguing against the laws of gravity.' Kofi was the reason I chose to go to Macalester. Sad to see him gone." **–Alex Karevoll '07**

---

"Kofi Annan's values and actions were woven into so many of our experiences at Macalester. Sad to hear of his passing, and grateful that his legacy will live on and continue to teach young people for generations to come. Those on campus—play a little extra Ping-Pong today." **–Glafira Marcon '13**

---

"There are many, many brilliant, talented, and remarkable Macalester alums with whom I'm proud to share an alma mater. But Mr. Annan will always be at the top of the list." **–Charles K. Youel '91**

---

"As an undergrad at Macalester it was the legacy of this grad that inspired me (and many others I'm sure) to study human rights." **–Shana Tabak '00**

---

"One of the good ones. As Macalester students, we quickly learned that true leadership looked remarkably similar to how this man conducted his life. He'll be missed." **–Katie Eukel '04**

---

"His legacy of peace and international cooperation lives on in MN and every student who walks through Macalester's doors." **–Bradley Traynor '97**

---

"Thank you, Kofi Annan, for your service to the world and to the Macalester community, for showing us how Mac could be our launch pads to do good in the world." **–Hillary Moses Mohaupt '08**

---

"RIP Kofi Annan. He spoke at [African Leadership Academy] just 3 weeks ago and shared some real wisdom. He was a true statesman, fellow Ghanaian and fellow graduate of Macalester. He will be missed." **–Fred Swaniker '99**

---

"So sad to see Kofi Annan, my fellow Macalester alum and UN legend, who inspired so many of us to pursue international law, has passed away. The world has lost a thoughtful soul and kind human being." **–Susan Franck '93**

---

"Kofi Annan was the reason I attended Macalester and spent the rest of my life studying/working on human rights, including his bold and towering role creating the @IntlCrimCourt #RomeStatute. A day to remember his humble legacy." **–Ezequiel Jimenez Martinez '13**

---

"RIP Kofi Annan, we have lost one of our valued elders in Africa and globally. A personal connection to him as I was only able to go to US and attend my alma mater Macalester College on a Kofi Annan scholarship. He was what all Mac students aspired to be." **–Nikki Kitikiti '08**

# THE AGE OF MIG

BY MIKE VANGEL

GEOGRAPHY PROFESSOR Holly Barcus studies migration and rural geography, with much of her recent research focused on the migration patterns of ethnic Kazakhs in and outside rural Mongolia. Her courses include Population 7 Billion, Contemporary Mongolia, and Rural Landscapes and Livelihoods. Her senior capstone seminar—Migrants, Migration, and the Global Landscape of Population Change—builds on the premise that the world has entered an unprecedented “age of migration.” *Macalester Today* sat down with Barcus to learn more.

## What does it mean that we're living in an age of migration?

Humans have always migrated, but now political borders are much more contested spaces, so we have more statistics about people who are seeking to cross borders. We also have more global crises and economic disparity causing new or larger flows from some parts of the world to others, and we have a global system of labor exchange. The idea of an “age of migration,” a concept (and book) from migration scholars Stephen Castles and Mark Miller, speaks to this notion that people are moving both long and short distances, and it's never been catalogued quite as much as it is today.

There's an ongoing academic conversation about how we define migration and where we draw the lines between migration and other forms of mobility. Have you migrated if you change residence for only three months? If you study away, is it migration or temporary mobility? In some cases with greater

affluence, second home ownership, tourism, and moving for retirement represent additional forms of mobility or migration. It's this whole continuum of movement that we're all engaged in.

## When did this current age of migration begin?

Major world events such as the end of World War II or the break-up of the Soviet Union greatly alter geo-political boundaries, often creating new migration flows. In the 21st century, we are witnessing refugee movements from environmental and political crises and economic disparity. There's also movement from the simple desire, and often need, to work in other places, companies' recruitment efforts, and countries seeking labor from other countries.

The age of migration doesn't have explicit boundaries, but in the past 20 or so years, we see all of these big processes coming together to facilitate and push migratory behaviors. For example, the ongoing European migration crisis highlights how conflict, poverty, and inequality drive migrants from their home communities in search of safety and economic potential to support their families. It also illustrates how challenging such large movements of people can be for the destination communities. We can also consider female labor migration from the Asia-Pacific region to the Middle East, for example, and how the decision to work abroad, while leaving families at home, is seen as essential to the families' survival and heart-wrenching to the women who must be away from their young children for long periods of time.

# RATION



## How has technology shaped these changes?

Cell phones have changed the face of migration. Lots of the decisions are still made in the same ways—through discussions with friends and family—but what’s changed is opportunity and access to information. Migrants can stand in western Mongolia, one of the most remote places on earth, and text people in China, Kazakhstan, and Russia to learn what job opportunities are out there.

When I was in Mongolia in 2009, we stayed in a yurt with a family, and at a certain time each night, everyone would disappear. We found out that everyone was going to the yurt next door to watch a soap opera from Kazakhstan, because that yurt had a satellite dish that pulls in stations from all over the world. Now the imagination of children in a remote community changes dramatically because they’re watching a soap opera from a developed, modern place that stands in stark contrast to their own experience. It’s not so much that technology has just changed the way people migrate, but it also changes how they think about migration and, in some cases, their life expectations and aspirations.

## What similarities exist between your work in rural Mongolia and migration elsewhere?

Before my work in Mongolia, I worked in eastern Kentucky. My co-author and I kicked around the idea of place elasticity: the idea that people could move out of a place but remain very strongly connected to it. For example, in many remote communities in

Appalachia, we saw significant migration in the early and mid-twentieth century to cities in the manufacturing belt, such as Detroit. And yet many people had strong desires to return home to the mountains. That’s very similar to what we see in western Mongolia. These are vastly different places at different points of development. Yet we see similarities in how people think about where they live and how they become attached to that place, and what it means to migrate away from that place or return to it.

## What do these individual case studies tell us about migration more broadly?

We learn a lot about migration from a case study like Mongolia or Appalachia or right here in the Midwest, because we’re asking questions that seek an individual’s rationale: how they think about migration and why they choose to migrate or remain in place.

The generalization that happens in the press, for example, is just that: a generalization. Simply knowing that thousands of people moved from one place to another doesn’t tell us anything other than that the migration had a big impact on both places. Individuals decide to move, and understanding their reasoning and decisions is how we understand migration flows. If we don’t understand what’s driving migration, we can never smooth the route or address the challenges people face that may have compelled them to migrate. The fact that there are human faces to migration is one of the most important lessons to remember. [M](#)



# THE MACALESTER MOMENT

Launching this fall, a targeted fundraising campaign builds on the access and excellence that define Macalester's foundation.



“THE MACALESTER MOMENT IS THAT SINGLE MOMENT OF REALIZATION AND SELF-DISCOVERY THAT MAY STAY WITH YOU FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE—IF YOU LET IT.”

—DANAI GURIRA '01, actor and award-winning playwright

**I**N THIS MOMENT in history, as we wrestle bigger, global challenges, the world needs Macalester. It needs students and graduates with grit and creativity who can work as empathetic leaders and changemakers. It needs citizens with diverse perspectives who've found their voices and use them thoughtfully.

This fall, the college launches a \$100 million fundraising campaign, inspired by students, alumni, and their Macalester moments. It's a targeted investment that builds on Macalester's many strengths and enhances a sense of ownership among our alumni. It's our opportunity to

define the Macalester experience for new generations.

We asked alumni to reflect on the moments that changed how they view the world, face challenges, and take action.

## Emily Nadel '18

“I came to college thinking, ‘This is what I believe, and I know this, and I know how to do this.’ And now I have no clue what I believe.”

I can pinpoint the difference between pre-doubt and now post-doubt. It was a lecture that Earl Schwartz gave in the fall



of my junior year, a month before the 2016 election. I remember him telling us that, 'When you talk to another person, you have to have doubt that what you are saying is right. And they have to have some doubt that what they are saying is right. Because if you don't, you're just telling them what you think, and they're just telling you what they think, and then you've spent a half-hour talking past each other.'

I raised my hand and asked, 'Okay, so what happens when there is a fundamental difference? What happens when you have a conversation with someone who believes something really different than you do in a way that is hurtful?' He just said, 'Well, that's where the challenge is. I'm figuring that out myself.'

That was the moment where I thought, 'Okay, so that's what the challenge is.' It's not so much of trying to convince you that I am right. It's just that communicating is hard.

That was a reorientation to how I interacted with people on this campus, and it was a reorientation to how I learned about people and histories the world over. For the first time, I was like, 'Oh, I might not be right.' This Western civilization of learning, all of these hegemonic systems, might not be right."



### Don Olson '58

"I didn't even know what the word 'ethics' meant when I arrived here. Dr. White's ethics class invaded a lot of my thinking, in terms of understanding what's right and wrong. I went on to graduate school at the University of Minnesota and became an administrator at a hospital for 33 years. Knowing what's right and wrong when you're running a hospital is very important. That class was a foundation for me."



### Ann Millin '69

"Mac professors don't just teach you their subject. They teach you about life, and they teach you life skills. I can't count the amount of times we heard this from our professors: 'You're the future, the world belongs to you, you're responsible for it, go and change it and make it better.' The late '60s were turbulent years in this country, and Mac kept our feet on the ground but also said, 'Engage with the world, and here's how you do it.' That shaped a generation of leaders. I work in Washington, D.C., and I'm proud to say there that I went to Macalester. It immediately brings smiles to people's faces."



### Mary Fisher '18

"My biggest dream is to open a school in Cambodia and reform the education system there. I came to the United States in the middle of sixth grade with no English, with nothing. I studied really hard, and in high school, I enrolled in the IB program. I made it through Macalester, and inside, I was like, 'I did it.' I came from such a long way, and finally I'm here, and now it's my turn to keep going and give back to the community."



### Broderick Grubb '73

"I had never protested anything in my life until I got to Macalester. The Vietnam War was raging when we were here. We protested the war movement a great deal, and a lot of us tried to get out the vote for George McGovern when he ran against Richard Nixon. That was my first time getting involved politically. Unfortunately, he didn't win, but we learned that our voices are important, and that it's important to try to change things. Macalester taught me about activism."



### David Wick '91

"A conversation with [Russian studies professor] James von Geldern still resonates with me. He said, 'Maybe the dance piece you're making is your final paper for this class, and maybe your voice can be more powerful in the world through your creative work in dance than through another comparative lit research paper.' That comes back to me often when I'm faced with challenging decisions about how to spend my time or where to use my strengths."

### Amy Pahl '90

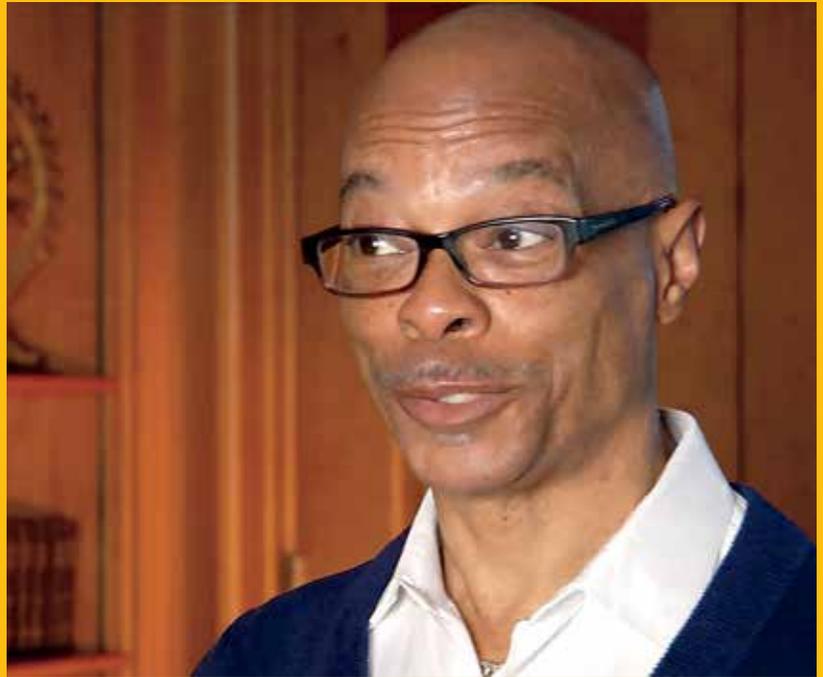
"At Macalester, I was a nontraditional student who worked 40 hours a week. Financial aid was the only way I could go to college, and it was a big part of my opportunity at Macalester. I remember going to an economics department reception for seniors. At the small gathering, Professor Karl Egge talked about looking forward but also looking back: 'Remember what Macalester has provided for you, everything that's important about these college years. Pass it on. Help other students if you have the opportunity; when you have the means, give back. Give back of your time and energy; give back financially.'

At the time, I was a little flip about it—I thought he was just fundraising. But 10 or 15 years later, it clicked. I took it to heart. I realized that his talk wasn't just about raising money. It was about alumni being able to give back, the opportunity that giving provides. There's no better feeling. Now I connect my desire to give with that moment, when Professor Egge was reminding us as students to really cherish our college experience and translate that into something you can pass along—financially or otherwise."



## John West '68

“Dr. Johnson in the psychology department was the first person that I remember, in writing—rather than futzing around the realities of racism, because I didn’t use that word—to say, ‘John, it’s okay. Call it what it is: racism.’ That was a turning point for me. I was one of 10 black students on a campus of 2,000 in 1964. It was a very different world. Dr. Johnson gave me the support and impetus to be who I was and who I hope I have become.”



## Jennifer Gobel '81

“After Macalester, I spent nine years in medical school, pediatrics residency, and pediatric cardiology. Though I had wonderful teachers, the first year of medical school was a hard adjustment because I was used to small class sizes and professors who cared whether you showed up. One time I missed chemistry because I was sick, and Dr. [Emil] Slowinski called me to ask if I was okay. My Mac professors cared about how I was doing, all the time.”



## Firat Taydas '92

“In my sophomore year, my host family and I were having a conversation about making a difference. When you come to Macalester, that’s a giant question: how am I going to make a difference in the world? We were on their patio, and Barb said, ‘Honey, you could make a difference in the world just by making a difference in people’s daily lives.’ That was the moment for me when I saw how important it was to connect with people. That’s what Macalester provides. It’s all about connections, about making those relationships.”

# Mac Moments Around the World

On Oct. 4, the college launched **The Macalester Moment** campaign on campus and through Mac in Your City gatherings in more than 40 cities.

**Amelia McNamara**  
@AmeliaMN

tfw you show up at a college alumni event and realize you accidentally wore school colors to work 🤦  
#MacalesterMoment



**eunnysideup**



eunnysideup to 🇺🇸 🇬🇧 🇩🇪 to 🇪🇸 🇯🇵  
#macalestermoment #heymac  
#macinyourcity

**Chris Herrington**  
@ChrisHerrington

@Macalester Alumni from the 70s, 80s, 90s, and 2010s meeting up in Memphis for Mac in the City.  
#MacalesterMoment



**macalester\_sociology**



macalester\_sociology Our #MacalesterMoment was when we declared our sociology majors!  
#heymac

**Natalie Pavlatos**  
@npavlatos

Mac in the City DC checking in!  
#heymac #MacalesterMoment  
@Macalester @macalumni



**nanigilli**



nanigilli Mac alumni in Cedar Rapids!  
#macalestermoment

**Siddharth Akali**  
@AkaliSM

#HeyMac MAC in Delhi  
#MacalesterMoment



**seth levine**  
@sether

celebrating our favorite macalester moments and creating some new ones! #macalestermoment



**macalester\_admissions**



67 likes

**macalester\_admissions** Great showing for the St. Louis Mac in the City! Thanks to Lisa Isele Forsyth '82 and Robert Forsyth '83 for hosting! #macalestermoment #heymac

**K Benziger**  
@DrBenzigerHeart

#MacalesterMoment @macalumni @bentpaddlebeer in #Duluth



## Campaign Details

**Launch:** October 2018

**Fundraising goals:** Push giving to the Macalester Fund over \$5 million by May 2019 and raise \$100 million by October 2019 to support the priorities in the college's strategic plan.

**Raised to date:**

**\$80 million**

**To donate, volunteer to support the campaign, or share your**

**Macalester moment:** [macalester.edu/campaign](http://macalester.edu/campaign)

### Every gift matters

In this campaign, we've chosen to be most aggressive with a goal that everyone can help meet: raising \$5 million by May 2019 and raise \$100 million by October 2019 to support the priorities in the college's strategic plan. This ambitious goal represents a 7.3 percent increase over last year's record-breaking \$4.66 million, and it's an attainable goal with support from everyone in the global Mac network.

### CAMPAIGN PRIORITIES:

This campaign fuels the most high-impact aspects of Macalester's focus: access and excellence. It allows the college to deliver on these twin promises to ensure that in a world of unknowns, Macalester and its graduates are ready to help lead the way.

#### Financial aid: \$40 million

The single most important element of the learning environment we've created is the people. The diversity of mind, experience, and backgrounds that students bring to their work all underscore excellence at Macalester. We wouldn't be Macalester without these assets.

#### Faculty and academic support: \$20 million

Many Macalester moments start with faculty—and that's very intentional. Alumni share stories of a life's path emerging, of struggles that give way to hard-won clarity, and of professors who become lifelong mentors and guideposts for living a life of inquiry. These breakthrough moments

with faculty often spur a common Macalester sentiment: "This college is where I belong."

#### Program support: \$20 million

It's not enough to equip Mac students with degrees; it's our responsibility to help them think critically and creatively, and beyond what they thought possible. This means a renewed emphasis on career preparation and development, entrepreneurial skill-building, and creative spaces that let students push their minds and bodies as far as they wish.

#### Macalester Fund: \$20 million (\$5 million annually over four years)

The Macalester Fund is our annual opportunity for all Mac community members—alumni, parents, students, faculty, and staff—to rally around Macalester and sustain its mission. Annual gifts to the Macalester Fund support all aspects of the college, including rigorous academics, exceptional faculty, a long-standing commitment to equity and access through financial aid and scholarships, and a globally conscious education.

This fall and beyond, connect with the global Mac network through events such as the Big Questions event series happening in eight cities and online. See page 47 or visit [macalester.edu/campaignevents](http://macalester.edu/campaignevents) for more details.



# CREATIVE ENTERPRISE



## Entrepreneur Mollie Windmiller '03 is driven by a passion for design and connection.

BY MIKE VANGEL / PHOTO BY DAVID J. TURNER

If you spotted **Mollie Windmiller '03** around Minneapolis, you might see her in a café working on her laptop, with her Apple Watch and the trendy clear glasses she sometimes sports. You'd probably peg her as a creative type—maybe a graphic designer or an entrepreneur. And in fact, you'd be right: she's both.

Those double titles keep her busy roving around the Twin Cities to meet with clients and collaborators. When she's not out and about, you're likely to find her in one of her postindustrial workspaces in the North Loop and Loring Park neighborhoods of Minneapolis, where she manages her branding agency and creative workshop studio. If this life looks effortless, however, with the artsy Instagram posts practically snapping themselves, she insists it's anything but: Windmiller has to work to foster that spirit. "To be honest, I'm in a new chapter of life and trying to figure out how to channel my inner creativity," she says. "I'm now a mom of two amazing girls and running two businesses I'm very passionate about. I'm incredibly sleep deprived."

Still, she says, there are ways of rejuvenating, such as visiting new shops and restaurants to look for inspiration: "That brings me joy and creative energy—and also so much pride for this community. There is so much talent here."

Windmiller grew up in a creative household thanks to her mother, an art teacher, and she began dreaming of a marketing and advertising career well before college. She transferred to Mac in her sophomore year, where she quickly found a home with both the women's soccer team and the art department.

"I really leveraged sculpture professor Stan Sears and his team," she says. "I basically just said, 'Can I learn from you?' I'd stay after class, and they'd teach me how to weld and solder." As she learned the basics, she also took on her first client project: a custom-designed copper sign for a business in her Stillwater, Minn., hometown. Soon another business owner asked her to make him one, too—but twice as big. "That was my summer job, to build this huge copper sign," she says. So huge, in fact, that transporting it required its own creative solution: "When we started pre-season for soccer, I asked the entire team if we could all just meet quickly at the art department and throw this huge metal sign into a U-Haul."

Supplementing her studio art major with graphic design classes at partner schools in the Twin Cities, Windmiller graduated with a robust portfolio and an offer to join her first advertising agency, in Minneapolis. She worked as an assistant art director for about a year until she caught the travel bug and packed her bags for Boulder, Colo., hopping across the country for the next few years: first exploring Colorado's mountains, then working in a Laramie, Wyo., print shop before moving to Sarasota, Fla., where she joined a former client's boutique realty group, which had

recently been acquired by Sotheby's. After a year as their marketing director, she says, the team was so successful that Sotheby's awarded them its Minnesota market. That brought her back to her home state, where she's been ever since.

It wasn't long, however, until she got the itch to try something new again, so in 2008, she founded her own firm, Windmiller Design Group. She took on clients and projects across the Twin Cities (including the launch of *Artful Living* magazine with Sotheby's, as the magazine's creative director), building a network with like-minded small business owners, and assisting them with projects that include brand-building, print and email advertising, and even designing aspects of their stores. "Honestly, what I love goes back to listening to somebody's story and bringing that vision to life," she says. "While working with a client, I'm figuring out how that client can connect with other businesses, and how these businesses can elevate each other."

Those twin passions—design and connection—led to her most recent venture, LAB. Local client Jessica Moriarty told Windmiller about a workshop she was attending, a traveling series that taught Photoshop to aspiring business bloggers. That sparked an idea: what if they built a venue to bring creative people together and teach them new skills in a fun, collaborative environment? The two partnered in 2014, setting up a table in the common area outside Windmiller's office for a trial run of weeknight workshops. A year in, they realized they had enough demand to exceed the space—20 people per session at the time—and suspected they were onto something.

"We asked the building management if they had anything else," she says, and moved LAB into the only spot available, a few vacant offices "with green walls and weird carpeting." They also got permission to rip down walls, paint everything white, and transform it to match their vision.

Today, LAB hosts local experts several times a month to teach classes on calligraphy, leatherwork, weaving, and other skills. Windmiller and Moriarty also offer sessions on business skills, including one they teach on using Instagram for business. The response has been enthusiastic, and it's not just small companies taking note: people from large corporations like 3M, Target, and the Minnesota Vikings are enrolling in LAB's workshops, too, or partnering with the founders to style custom events for their own clients.

It's now been a decade since Windmiller moved back to Minnesota and became her own boss—eons in the context of her former wanderlust, which she's tried to rein in. "I always have another idea for a business, but then I'll tell my employees and they'll be like, 'Mollie, stop it!'" she says, laughing. So for now, she's trying to focus on what she's already built. And, as always, keep creative. **M**

# CLASS NOTES

Send **MAC TODAY** your class note via email at [mactoday@macalester.edu](mailto:mactoday@macalester.edu) or mail it to Class Notes Editor, Communications and Marketing, Macalester College, 1600 Grand Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105-1899.

## CLASS NOTES PHOTO POLICY:

We publish one photo per wedding.

We do not have space to publish baby photos.

We welcome photos of alumni gathered together anywhere in the world and publish as many photos as space permits.

Photos must be high-resolution, approximately 2MB or greater in file size.

If you have a question about your class note, call Editor Rebecca DeJarlais Ortiz at **651-696-6123**.

## 1965

**Pamela Whitnall Cummings** lives in Sun City Center, Fla. Her husband, Gordon, passed away on July 5 after a "short, hard-fought battle" with pancreatic cancer.

**Ruth Milanese Lippin** announced that the Macalester Class of 1965 and Friends Holiday Tea will be held from 2 to 4 p.m., Dec. 2, 2018, in Macales-

ter's Briggs House. "Bring a sweet or savory hors d'oeuvre to share," Ruth wrote. "Come at 1:30 to help set up or stay after 4 to help clean up."

## 1969

*The Class of 1969 will celebrate its 50th Reunion June 7-9, 2019.*

**Sara Kemp Graffunder** looks forward to working with her class's 50th Reunion planning committee. During her retirement, she is enjoying time with

family and learning how to create and maintain websites.

## 1972

**Donna Carlson** retired this year from U.S. Bank as vice president, product management. She spent 24 years working with such international airlines as Korean Air, Latam, Taca, AeroMexico, and Northwest Airlines on their credit card reward programs. Donna attributes her success to her international education at Macalester and her time

studying in the anthropology department.

After 35 years at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, **Mark Vander Woude** retired in 2015 as assistant dean.

## 1974

*The Class of 1974 will celebrate its 45th Reunion June 7-9, 2019.*

## 1976

**Robert Ochoa** earned his MDiv degree from Andover Newton Theological School in May 2017. He began his new position as program associate for congregations of color at the United Church of Christ's national office in Cleveland on May 16, 2018. He had previously served as pastor of Lake View Congregational Church in Worcester, Mass., since 2012.

## 1979

*The Class of 1979 will celebrate its 40th Reunion June 7-9, 2019.*

**Syed Mohamed** retired as director of Kolej MARA Seremban on Sept. 4, 2017. He spent 35 years with MARA, a Malaysian governmental agency responsible for academic excellence at the secondary and university levels.

## 1982

After graduation, **Mary Alice Krebs Divine** went on to write for the Metropolitan Council, worked as news editor for the *White Bear Press*, and served as economic development coordinator for the City of Lino Lakes, Minn. She also enjoyed "many fun years giving balloon rides" as owner of Blue



**Allison Yurcik '07 (left) and Abby Rosenfeld '15 attended a Brooklyn Cyclones game together this summer. They met working in the New York Legal Assistance Group's Tenants' Rights Unit, which represents low-income New Yorkers who are at risk of becoming homeless. Allison is an attorney on the Manhattan team, and Abby worked as a paralegal on the Brooklyn team before leaving to start law school this fall.**

PHOTO: COURTESY OF ABBY ROSENFELD '15



Janet Ericksen Johnson '72 and her husband, Tim Johnson '72, of Minneapolis saw Fred Jacobson '75 for the first time in over 30 years when they met up at Cecil's Deli in St. Paul and "reminisced over matzo ball soup." Jan teaches high school English, Tim is senior editor of *American Woodworker* magazine, and Fred lives in San Francisco and works as a principal scientist with the biotechnology company Genentech.

Yonder Balloon Company. Now retired, Mary Alice volunteers for political organizations and candidates and finds "sanctuary" in her gardens. She writes that she is "forever grateful to Macalester for widening the horizons of a stay-at-home mom."

## 1983

Allen Smart is co-author of "Rural and Civil Society," an article in the *Stanford Social Innovation Review* that was

featured as one of the Aspen Institute's "Five Best Ideas of the Day" in August. Allen has launched a website to collect his own and his colleagues' thinking on rural philanthropy ([philanthropyworx.com](http://philanthropyworx.com)).

Annie Thoe has published the second edition of her 39-disc series of audio Feldenkrais Method self-help mind-body lessons intended to help users improve movement ease, alignment, and vitality.



On Oct. 4, nearly 600 alumni—including this group in Milwaukee, Wis.—connected at Mac in Your City celebrations in more than 40 cities worldwide. Hosts invited alumni to gather at restaurants, museums, on hiking trails, and through service projects. Want to host in your city next year? Email [alumnievents@macalester.edu](mailto:alumnievents@macalester.edu).

## 1984

Mark Salzwedel attended writers' workshops at the Lighthouse LitFest in Denver. His third professionally published short story, "Laudable Motives," can be read online ([monologging.org/laudable-motives/](http://monologging.org/laudable-motives/)).

## 1989

*The Class of 1989 will celebrate its 30th Reunion June 7–9, 2019.*

## 1990

A Minnesota Department of Natural Resources team led by Deborah Locke received a Governor's Award for Better Government in March. The honor recognized the division's efforts to reach out to under-represented communities by placing news stories in multi-cultural media.

## 1992

Jennifer Frisch has been elected to a two-year term as assistant chief judge for Minnesota's Second Judicial District, located in Ramsey County.

## 1993

Arun Baheti has been named vice president of operations at the California Wellness Foundation, a private independent foundation focused on improving the health of Californians through grants supporting health promotion, wellness education, and disease prevention.

## 1994

*The Class of 1994 will celebrate its 25th Reunion June 7–9, 2019.*

## 1996

Ben Farrey-Latz published his first book, *I Can Learn Social Skills: Poems About Getting Along, Being a Good Friend, and Growing Up*, by Free Spirit Publishing in September.

## 1999

*The Class of 1999 will celebrate its 20th Reunion June 7–9, 2019.*



The Buckhorn Beergardeners, a "group of fun-loving Mac students" that was formed in 1973, reunited 45 years later over Labor Day weekend in Little Canada, Minn. Pictured (from left): Randy LaFoy '74, Rick Streff '76, Mike Randall '76, Brian Gulbranson '78, Steve Lonergan '76, Bill Phillips '75, and Maurice Robinson '76. Present but not pictured: Brigid Randall Raskin '77, David Brockway '76, and Connie Howard Brockway '76.

## CLASS NOTES



Davis Edwards, Sally Kirkpatrick Frau, and Karin Ronnow (from left to right), all from the Class of 1984, caught up over an extended tapas dinner in Chicago's Lakeview neighborhood in March.

### 2002

**William Sentell** has joined the Denver office of Polsinelli PC as counsel in the firm's global franchise and supply network practice.

### 2003

*The Classes of 2003 and 2004 will celebrate a cluster Reunion June 7-9, 2019.*

**Taos Khazem** and her husband, Mohammed Yabdri, welcomed a son, Layth Ziri Yabdri, on July 17, 2018.

### 2004

*The Classes of 2003 and 2004 will celebrate a cluster Reunion June 7-9, 2019.*

### 2006

**Evelyn Adkins** has been named assistant professor in the Department of Classics at Case Western Reserve University.

### 2007

**Kimberly Condon** and **Jonathan Barrentine** of Toronto, Ont., announced the birth of their first child, Micah Condon, on April 28, 2018.

### 2009

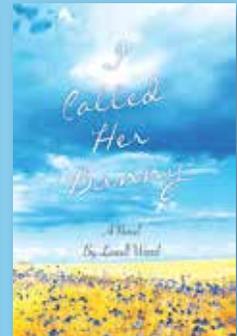
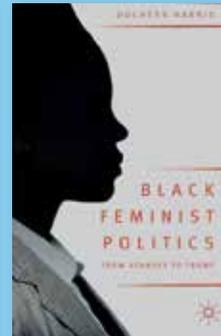
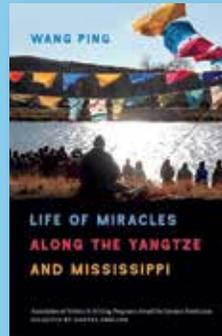
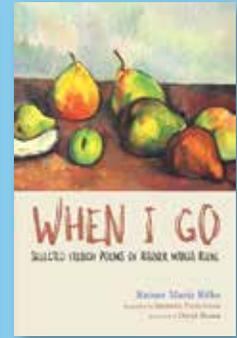
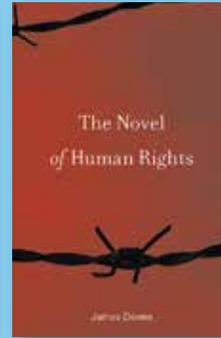
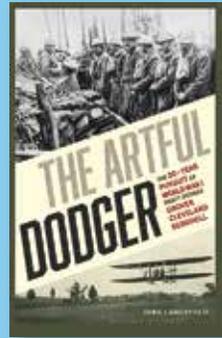
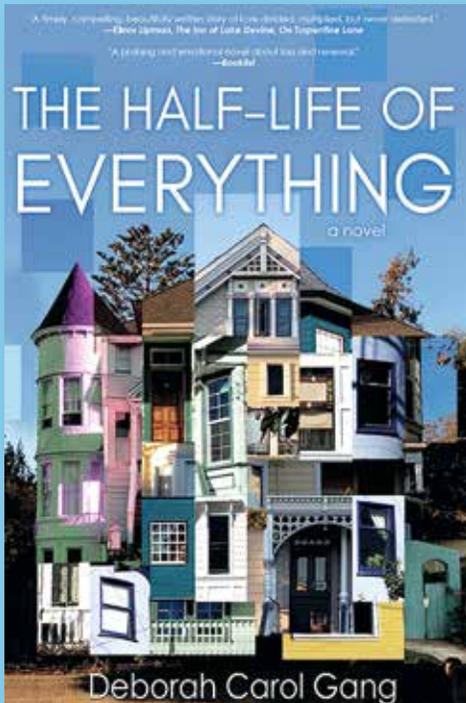
*The Class of 2009 will celebrate its 10th Reunion June 7-9, 2019.*

**Catherine Bonesho** was a 2017-18 Rome Prize Fellow at

*Continued on page 47 >*



Mac classmates gathered from all over the country to remember their friend Sarah Brown Renstrom Jaksa '65 at her memorial service in August. "Sarah was my Macalester roommate, the maid of honor at my wedding, and my dear friend for all of my adult life," writes Donna McDowell Beestman '65, who adds that the alumni sang "Dear Old Macalester" at the piano after her eulogy. "We will miss her energy, her zest for life, and her commitment to friendship." Back row (from left): Jon Tempas '66, Gay Eggen Tempas '65, Bruce Norback '65, George Beestman, Donna McDowell Beestman '65, Julian Ako '65, and Ken Lippin. Front row (from left): Mike McCarthy, Kay Hutchins McCarthy '65, Judy Anderson Tolbert '65, Merrily Erdmann Blagen '65, Renee LeTendre Macomber '65, Gary Macomber '65, Barb Wildung Kramer '65, Jerry Kramer, and Ruth Milanese Lippin '65.



## Deborah Carol Gang '72

*The Half-Life of Everything* (Bancroft Press, 2018)

“David, why did we stop keeping cats?”  
David struggled to sound calm as he answered, “I don’t know. The last cat died and Dylan arrived. We just never got back to cats, I guess.”

“I love these cats,” she said emphatically.

There was a crispness here, faint and missing for so long, but detectable. He didn’t trust his legs and wanted to sit but couldn’t imagine navigating his body even a few inches.

“But I could probably learn to love a new one.”

“Oh, Katie, I’m sure you could.”

He looked at the ceiling, hoping for control. Kate held out her arms and after he covered the short distance to sit beside her, he began to cry and then sob. She held him and, after a long while, she tried to dry his face with tissues. Then he reached for the box so he could dry where he’d drenched her.

They both blew their noses, the pile of wet tissues growing in their laps. Kate studied him and said, “Poor David.”

“Well, you haven’t exactly been at your best either, you know,” and they smiled at each other and then laughed, or perhaps he was crying again, he couldn’t tell.

**James Dawes**, professor of English, *The Novel of Human Rights* (Harvard University Press, 2018)

**Deborah Carol Gang '72**, *The Half-Life of Everything* (Bancroft Press, 2018)

**Duchess Harris**, professor of American studies, *Black Feminist Politics from Kennedy to Trump* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2018)

**Dirk Langeveld '06**, *The Artful Dodger: The 20-Year Pursuit of World War I Draft Dodger Grover Cleveland Bergdoll* (CreateSpace, 2018)

**Wang Ping**, professor of English, *Life of Miracles Along the Yangtze and Mississippi* (University of Georgia Press, 2018)

**Susanne Petermann '79**, *When I Go: Selected French Poems of Rainer Maria Rilke* (Cascade Books, 2017)

**Lowell Ward '64**, *I Called Her Bunny* (Sea Hill Press Inc., 2018)

## WEDDINGS



**1. Ellie Jones Brown '10 and Evans Brown '10** were married Apr. 22, 2017, in Macalester's chapel, surrounded by many Mac friends.

**2. Geoffrey Stueven '09 and Zachary Charley '09** were married on Jan. 17, 2017, in Minneapolis. They celebrated at Macalester's Briggs House with family and friends, including **Rhiannon Tipperly '09, Kat Edwards '09, Casey Battaglino '09, and Emily Paulson '09.**

**3. Emilie Schur '10 and Carl-Philipp Petri '13** were married Jan. 6, 2018, in Pagosa Springs, Colo. They celebrated with many Mac friends.

**4. Brett Campbell '15 and Seth Newell** were married on May 25, 2018, joined by Mac friends.

**5. Adam Nyhan '98 and Kini Schoop** were married Nov. 10, 2017, in Portland, Maine.

**6. Christina Fitzsimmons '11 and Kale Kundert** were married July 4, 2018, in Wilmington, N.C. They were joined by **John Allan '11, Michelle Neary '11, Jaye Gardiner '11, Robert Hemphill '11, Nadia Gillitzer '11, and Nadia's daughter Rosemary (Class of 2039).**

**7. Colin Carpenter '14 and Anna Munson Carpenter '15** were married on Nov. 10, 2017, in Minneapolis. They celebrated with Mac friends, including softball and baseball teammates and coaches.



# WELCOMING NEW ALUMNI BOARD MEMBERS

## Firat Taydas '92

### ALUMNI BOARD PRESIDENT

One of the best parts of a leadership role on the Alumni Board is collaborating with people all over the Mac network—including new faces in our own group. This year, we're welcoming seven new members, ranging from the Class of 1974 to a student representative from the Class of 2021. In September, our group came back to Mac and dug into work focused on expanding alumni engagement to help meet college priorities on diversity, entrepreneurship, and career development. We're also connecting with more alumni who were athletes during their years at Mac. For more information on who we are and what we're working on: [macalester.edu/alumni/alumniboard](http://macalester.edu/alumni/alumniboard)



## Karen Kaufman-Codjoe '74

Jackson, Tenn.

**Favorite Mac memory:** Attending the Oluntunji Band's performance on campus. I was in awe of the band's performance of African rhythms, which stirred my soul.



## Jennifer White Gobel '81

West St. Paul, Minn.

**Favorite professor:** English professor emeritus Robert Warde was an incredibly engaging, thought-provoking teacher from whom I learned so much about English literature and history. I took every class he taught, and I was a chemistry/pre-med major!



## Fatiya Kedir '21

Minneapolis

**Mac in three words:** Memorable, challenging, free-spirited.

## Ezequiel Jimenez Martinez '13

London

**Advice for students:** I wish someone had told me to take it easy, to remember to cherish the small moments, and to make a list of the best places and memories at Mac. The maelstrom that is attending Macalester can be extremely powerful, full of passion and possibility; but it can also be overwhelming. Making sure you have moments of laughter, pause, and fun is as important as anything else.



## Niloy Ray '99

St. Paul

**Favorite professor:** Director of forensics **Dick Lesicko '75** is a masterclass in critical reasoning and compelling rhetoric. What sets him apart is his ability to tune his pedagogy to each individual's aptitudes and inclination simultaneously. I am just one of the hundreds of Mac grads on whom he has had—and continues to have—an impact.



## Abby Dos Santos '01

Washington, D.C.

**Favorite Mac memory:** My first interaction with the campus. I visited Mac for a weekend sampler after getting accepted and felt at home as soon as I stepped onto campus. I made friends that weekend that have lasted me a lifetime.



## Jumaane Saunders '00

Far Rockaway, N.Y.

**Mac community after graduation:** My best friends are my Mac friends. I talk with them about life, family and work. My kids call them "Uncle" and "Auntie." It grounds me and helps me remember that I have people that care about me.



Wherever you are in the world, there are many ways to connect and volunteer with Mac. For more details: [macalester.edu/alumni/volunteer](http://macalester.edu/alumni/volunteer)

> Continued from page 42

the American Academy in Rome and completed her PhD in classical and ancient Near Eastern studies at the University of Wisconsin–Madison in 2018. She is now assistant professor in early Judaism in the Near Eastern Languages and Cultures Department at the University of California–Los Angeles.

**Shantee Rosado** has accepted a two-year fellowship in Latina/o Studies at Williams College.

**Keaton White** launched the independent video game *City of the Shroud* this past August with the help of **Philippa Anastos Werner** and **Ryan Becker**. The game is the first release from Keaton’s company, Abyssal Arts Ltd.

## 2012

**Madeline Marshall** completed a PhD in paleobiology and geology at the University of Chicago this past summer and is now

a visiting assistant professor in Cornell College’s Geology Department.

**Andrew Ojeda** has begun a new job as a senior data analyst specializing in data visualization at Georgia-Pacific in Atlanta.

**Maya Weisinger** has been accepted to the Willy Brandt School of Public Policy at Universität Erfurt in Erfurt, Germany. She will pursue a master’s degree in public policy with the help of a full academic scholarship from the Haniel Foundation, a German foundation dedicated to creating educational opportunities, facilitating inclusion, and supporting future leaders.

## 2014

*The Class of 2014 will celebrate its 5th Reunion June 7–9, 2019. M*



Maurice Robinson '76, Dan Yarosh '76, and Bill Phillips '75 spent a week this past June exploring Glacier National Park and rafting on the “swift-moving and very cold” Middle Fork of the Flathead River. The trio has been going on similar adventures annually since 2011, including trips on the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon and on the Salmon River in Idaho.

## We’re taking the Mac classroom experience on the road.

**The Big Questions event series**—part of **The Macalester Moment** campaign—connects you with faculty and President Brian Rosenberg and digs into the world-changing issues the Mac community addresses. Join the audience in your area or view recordings of the discussions.

For more information:  
[macalester.edu/campaignevents](http://macalester.edu/campaignevents)

“Does who we elect really matter?”  
Nov. 7, 2018, Chicago  
Professor of Political Science Julie Dolan

“Is it possible to write a story without being political?”  
Nov. 28, 2018, New York  
Writer in Residence and Associate Professor of English Marlon James

“What does the rise of entrepreneurship and career development on campuses say about the future of the liberal arts?”  
Jan. 17, 2019, San Francisco  
Entrepreneur in Residence Kate Ryan Reiling '00 and Dean of the Career Development Center Mindy Deardurff

“How will we sustainably feed nine billion people in 2050?”  
Jan. 31, 2019, Seattle  
Professor of Geography Bill Moseley

“How do we create a stage that helps audiences imagine a world guided by social equity?”  
Feb. 6, 2019, Twin Cities  
Chair and Professor of Theater and Dance Cláudia Tatinge Nascimento

“How do race and class intersect with the #MeToo movement?”  
March 7, 2019, Washington, D.C.  
Professor of American Studies Duchess Harris

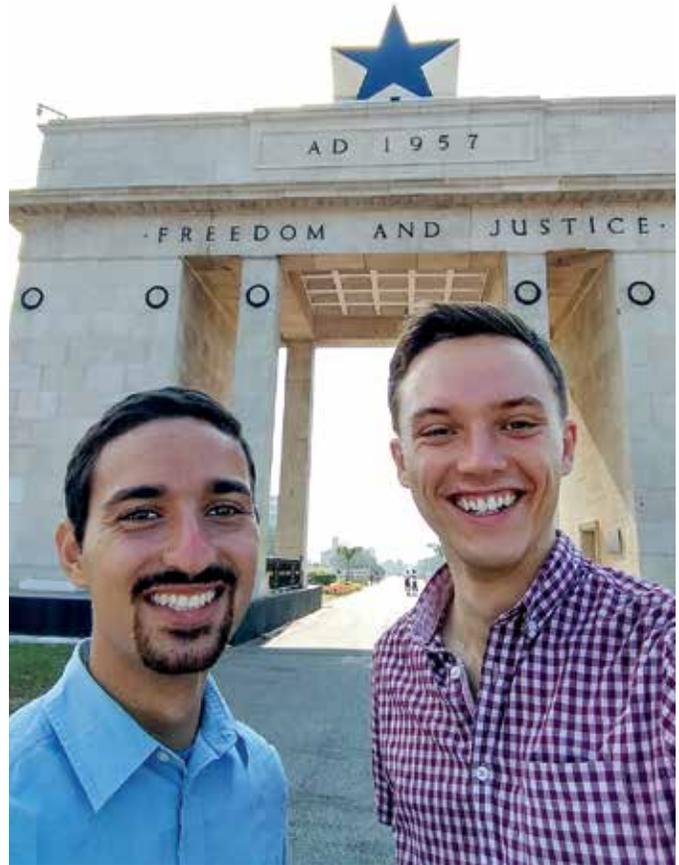
“What are the trickle-down effects of economic nationalism?”  
March 21, 2019, London  
Provost and Professor of Economics Karine Moe and Assistant Professor of Economics Felix Friedt

“Have algorithms made the world better or worse?”  
April 4, 2019, Boston  
Associate Professor of Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science Shilad Sen

## CLASS NOTES



Macalester friends gather to send Mandi Masden '08 back to New York after her summer intensive with St. Paul's Ananya Dance Theatre. Back row (from left): Sara Johnson '06, James Williams '77, Alex Galick '08, Rachel (Austin) Bernstein '09, Alessandra Williams '07, and Ihotu Ali '07. Front row (from left): theater faculty member Patricia Brown, Mandi Masden '08, and Kevin Williams '09.



Alexander Joel Watson '17 (left) and Noah Nieting '17, both Peace Corps volunteers, met up in Accra, Ghana, as a midpoint between their respective posts in Liberia and Benin.

## CLASS AGENT

### // HONORING THE MAC COMMUNITY

After graduation, **Emma Swanson '16** moved away from Macalester—and two years later, she and her partner, **Kate D. Gallagher '16**, are back in the Twin Cities after realizing how much they missed the community they built at Mac. Through her work as a Macalester Fund Lead Class Agent, she's reconnecting and revisiting some of the relationships that defined her college experience, from her water polo teammates to fellow chemistry majors.

For Swanson, now a chemist at Ecolab, the concept of giving back to Mac took root even before she actually started college. "I couldn't have attended Mac without the extremely generous financial aid package my family was offered," she says. "As a family, we even talked about how if I decided to go to Macalester, I would need to return that generosity to the college in the future. Macalester gave me so many opportunities to learn about the world

and myself. I want to make sure future students have the same opportunity to grow and develop as I did."

---

**By encouraging their classmates to give back to Mac, Class Agent volunteers build vital support for students on campus today. To learn more about joining this network, visit [macalester.edu/classagent](http://macalester.edu/classagent) or contact [macalesterfund@macalester.edu](mailto:macalesterfund@macalester.edu) or 651-696-6909.**

---



1945

**Sylvia Ylvisaker Johnson**, 93, of Falcon Heights, Minn., died Sept. 27, 2017. She is survived by two daughters, a son, six grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, two sisters, and a brother.

1947

**Barbara Reeves Dingle**, 91, of Portland, Ore., died May 13, 2018. She worked for the YWCA on the Washington State University campus for 18 years. Mrs. Dingle is survived by two daughters, four grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and a sister.

1948

**Randolph C. Jorgensen**, 98, of Bloomington, Minn., died Aug. 15, 2017.

**Lavonne Sandberg Rodean**, 90, died April 14, 2018. She was a church organist for 60 years. Mrs. Rodean is survived by her

husband, Howard, five children, four grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

1949

**Lyla Nelson Elofson**, 89, died June 25, 2018. She taught kindergarten in Bellevue, Neb., for 18 years, retiring in 1988. She is survived by four sons, five grandchildren, and four great-granddaughters.

**Betty Rupp Faas**, 92, died May 27, 2018, in Lomita, Calif. She taught in California for many years. Mrs. Faas is survived by a daughter, two sons, and four grandchildren.

**William A. Huntley**, 92, of Eden Prairie, Minn., died May 30, 2018. He served in the U.S. Navy in the South Pacific during World War II. He worked in sales with 3M, Bro-Dart, and Ebsco, and later worked for Auto Zone and Walmart. Mr. Huntley is survived by a daughter, three sons, six grandchildren, and a great-grandchild.

**Donna Sorenson Keaton**, 91, of Ventura, Calif., died July 27, 2018. With her husband, she traveled on assignments to Japan, Pakistan, and Yugoslavia. She also served as a monitor with Common Cause, a nonprofit committed to honest, open, and accountable government.

**Gladys MacQueen Meade**, 91, died July 3, 2018, in Baudette, Minn. She is survived by two daughters, two sons, 10 grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren.

**Mary Cadwell Mudge**, 91, died June 28, 2018, in Hanover, N.H. She worked for Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey and was a librarian at the Khartoum American School, the Weathersfield School in Ascutney, Vt., and her nephew's architecture firm. Mrs. Mudge is survived by four daughters, five grandchildren, and a sister.

**Geneva Gudahl "Gin" Peterson**, 91, of St. Louis Park, Minn.,

died July 26, 2018. She taught in public schools in South Dakota and Nebraska and at a Catholic high school in Detroit. She was later a teacher and speech coach in Mora, Minn., and served on the board of Minnesota State University. Mrs. Peterson is survived by a daughter, three sons, seven grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and two sisters, including **Gladys Gudahl '50**.

1950

**Audrey Erickson Bogen** of Roseville, Minn., died May 5, 2018. She is survived by her husband, **Oliver Bogen '50**, and two sons.

**Douglas R. Forsyth**, 89, of Plymouth, Minn., died May 8, 2018. He served at Fort Belvoir, Va., during the Korean War and retired after a 40-year career in assorted accounting and controller positions with General Mills. He is survived by three children, four grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

REUNION 2019, JUNE 7-9



*"I enjoyed the discussions at the meeting, the creativity of the people working on the committees, the positive spirit and sense of affiliation to Macalester and, of course, the reminiscences and renewed connections."*  
 —Reunion 2018 committee member

HELP PLAN YOUR UPCOMING REUNION!

Be part of building the Mac community and join your class Reunion committee. Connect with old and new friends, create new memories, and come together to support Macalester. Reunion 2019 will highlight the following class years: 2014, 2009, 2003-2004, 1999, 1994, 1989, 1979, 1974, 1969, 1964, 1959 and earlier. This year's celebration also includes our 5th Alumni of Color Reunion, with special recognition of the 50th anniversary of Macalester's Expanding Educational Opportunities (EEO) program.

We're looking for people with a passion for Macalester and wide variety of talents. Learn more at [macalester.edu/reunion](http://macalester.edu/reunion) or contact Alumni Engagement at [alumnioffice@macalester.edu](mailto:alumnioffice@macalester.edu) or 651-696-6295.

**Keith E. Hall**, 89, of Le Roy, Minn., died Aug. 15, 2018. He served for two years in the U.S. Army and taught high school math before joining the staff of Sen. Edward Thye as assistant to the legislative assistant. After a 30-year career on Capitol Hill, Mr. Hall moved to Jacksonville, Fla., in 1987, and started raising orchids. Mr. Hall is survived by his wife, Charlotte, three sons, and eight grandchildren.

**Robert E. Heath**, 90, died July 21, 2018. He served in the U.S. Navy at the end of World War II. Mr. Heath practiced law in Gallatin County, Mont., for more than 30 years and was a partner with the law firm of Holter and Heath for 27 years. Mr. Heath is survived by his wife, **Margaret Cook Heath '50**, two daughters, five grandchildren, a great-granddaughter, and a sister.

## 1951

**Carol Benson Forsyth**, 87, of Plymouth, Minn., died Dec. 20, 2016. She worked in her local high school's English department and managed an architect's office. She was survived by her husband, **Douglas Forsyth '50** (who died in May 2018), three children, four grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and two sisters.

**John F. Holland**, 90, died Aug. 3, 2018, in Lansing, Mich. After earning his doctorate in biochemistry, Mr. Holland worked as a scientist, professor, and teacher. He was also an inventor and a business founder, owner, and consultant, and served as an elder at his Presbyterian church. Mr. Holland is survived by two daughters and seven grandchildren.

**Barbara Fischer Watson**, 89, died June 3, 2018. She served as chairwoman of Clay County for several years. Mrs. Watson is survived by her husband, Charles, a daughter, two sons, five grandchildren, two great-granddaughters, and a brother.

## 1952

**DeLane Brown Fowler**, 87, died June 29, 2018. During her retail career, she sold cosmetics and clothing, and retired from the gift store Joel, Inc. Mrs. Fowler is survived by her husband, **Lloyd Fowler '53**, two daughters, five grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

**Conway G. Olson**, 88, of Cottage Grove, Minn., died July 4, 2018. A veteran of the U.S. Air Force, Mr. Olson began his insurance career with St. Paul Fire and Marine and retired from T.C. Field in 1997. He was instrumental in the incorporation of the city of Cottage Grove and served on its city council for many years. Mr. Olson is survived by his wife, **Katherine Merrill Olson '53**, a daughter, two sons, five grandchildren, a sister, and a brother.

**Merle F. Pannkuk**, 88, of Thousand Oaks, Calif., died June 27, 2018. He served at Fort Bliss, Texas, during the Korean War. After leaving the military, he completed a master's degree in engineering. A member of the Mac flying club as a student, he was interested in aviation and co-owned an airplane at the Santa Monica airport. Mr. Pannkuk is survived by his wife, Jackie, a son, four grandchildren, and brother **Arlo Pannkuk '55**.

**Barbara Little Sneltsjes**, 88, died Aug. 5, 2018, in Roseville, Minn. She taught elementary school and kindergarten in Oregon and Minnesota. Mrs. Sneltsjes was predeceased by her husband, **Arlen Sneltsjes '55**, on Jan. 22, 2012, and is survived by a daughter, two sons, six grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

## 1954

**Roger S. Graham**, 86, of Deephaven, Minn., died May 10, 2018. He worked for Northwestern Bell and AT&T for 35 years. Mr. Graham is survived by a daughter and a son.

## 1956

**Yvonne Norell Leider**, 86, died Aug. 3, 2018. She taught elementary school in Wells, Minn., and co-founded and taught at Sunshine Nursery School in Markesan, Wis. Mrs. Leider also helped launch and worked at the Markesan Historical Museum. She is survived by her husband, Don, a daughter, two sons, seven grandchildren, and a great-grandchild.

## 1957

**Alexander (Sandy) Hill**, 82, died Sept. 17, 2018, in Minneapolis. He worked at Macalester for more than four decades in a number of roles, including alumni director, vice president for development, assistant to the president, and secretary to the Board of Trustees. After beginning his career as merchandising manager at the *Minneapolis Star and Tribune*, he returned to Macalester in 1964, retiring in 2006. Mr. Hill worked directly with eight Macalester presidents and was an important influence on the lives of many alumni, faculty, and staff. He was known for his mentorship of many Macalester students, in particular the international students who were always welcomed at his family's Twin Cities home. The Alexander G. Hill Ballroom in Kagin Commons is named in his honor. Mr. Hill was an active member of Children's Home Society Board of Directors from 1986-1999, and served as chair of its Emeriti group from 2001 to 2003. He received the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2002. He also served as a member of the Minnesota Governor's Residence Council from 1984 to 1992 and chaired the organization from 1986 to 1989. He had also been a member of the St. Paul Rotary, Community Involvement Programs, and the Westminster Town Hall Forum Advisory Board. Mr. Hill is survived by his son **Peter Song-Ho Hill '85**, stepson **David Smail '87**, stepdaughter Katherine Smail, grandchildren **Sophia Hill '18** and **Brandon Hill '22**, and brother **Curtis Hill '50**.

## 1959

**Betty Vlasak Rudquist**, 90, of Grand Rapids, Minn., died Feb. 16, 2018. She worked at Itasca Memorial Hospital, retiring in 1982. Mrs. Rudquist is survived by a daughter, a son, four grandchildren, and a sister.

## 1960

**Sandra Shafer Mattson**, 80, of Edina, Minn., died June 24, 2018. She taught kindergarten and led the St. Paul Children's Hospital's annual fund-raising bazaar. Her ceramics and needlepoint creations won several awards at the Minnesota State Fair. Mrs. Mattson is survived by her husband, Merle, two daughters, a son, three granddaughters, several great-grandchildren, and sister **Maxine Shafer Corder '53**.

**Kay Jones Thyr**, 80, died May 29, 2018, in Minneapolis. She taught third grade in California and Minnesota, spent many years as a substitute teacher in Robbinsdale, Minn., and was a special education teacher for 24 years in Osseo, Minn. Mrs. Thyr is survived by her husband, Roger, a daughter, a son, four grandchildren, and two brothers, including **C. Robert Jones '61**.

## 1961

Former United Nations Secretary-General **Kofi A. Annan**, 80, died Aug. 18, 2018, in Bern, Switzerland. The Ghanaian native was once described by Richard Holbrooke, former U.S. ambassador to the UN, as "an international rock star of diplomacy." Mr. Annan pursued graduate studies in international affairs and began his career as an administrator with the UN. As he rose through the organization's ranks, he worked for the Economic Commission for Africa in Ethiopia, the Emergency Force in Egypt, and the office of the High Commissioner for Refugees in Geneva. He then held a series of senior posts at the UN's New York City headquarters. After serving as the UN peacekeeping chief and

special envoy to the former Yugoslavia, Mr. Annan was named the body's first black African secretary-general in 1997. In that position, he promoted the international principle of the "responsibility to protect," under which nations would have the collective obligation to oppose genocide, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity. Mr. Annan took the lead in crafting the Millennium Development Goals and established the Peacebuilding Commission and Human Rights Council. After concluding his second term as secretary-general at the end of 2006, he established the Kofi Annan Foundation, which mobilizes support for peace, development, and human rights. Mr. Annan also continued his diplomatic work, helping to negotiate peace in Kenya in 2007 in the wake of election violence and serving as a special envoy to Syria in 2012. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2001. Mr. Annan is survived by his wife, Nane Lagergren, three children, step-brother **Kobina Annan '72**, and nephew **Kofi Amoo-Gottfried '01**.

## 1962

**Gary L. Ahlquist**, 79, died June 3, 2018. He taught in Robbinsdale, Minn., for 30 years. Mr. Ahlquist is survived by two daughters, five grandchildren, a sister, and a brother.

**Curtis A. Radman**, 78, of Fifty Lakes, Minn., died March 30, 2018. He worked as an electrician with People's Electric and served as a volunteer firefighter in Inver Grove Heights, Minn. Mr. Radman is survived by two daughters, four grandchildren, a great-granddaughter, two sisters, and a brother.

## 1965

**Sarah Brown Renstrom Jaska**, 75, died Aug. 18, 2018. After a brief career as a teacher, Mrs. Jaska served as county commissioner and chair of the Kalamazoo County Democratic Party. She was also director of the South Central Michigan



## // OTHER LOSSES

Former Macalester football coach **Don Hudson**, 88, died on Sept. 30, 2018, in Charlotte, N.C. When he was hired as the college's head coach in 1971, he became the first African American head football coach at a predominantly white college in the modern era. In 1975, Mr. Hudson returned to Lincoln University in Missouri to lead his alma mater's football program. Later he worked in Colorado as a teacher and coach.

In 2007, Macalester welcomed back Mr. Hudson, his family, and former players at a football game's halftime program. The college named the Leonard Center football coach's office in his honor in 2008. "Every day I see his name on my wall and I'm consistently reminded of the legacy he left," current head coach Tony Jennison says. "It inspires me to help the young men in our program to lead lives of integrity and purpose, and to try to make the world a better place."

Commission on Aging and retired after 10 years as director of senior health services at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor, Mich. Mrs. Jaska's family included her husband, James, six stepchildren, seven grandchildren, and a sister.

**Dennis W. "Skip" Rovero**, 75, died June 12, 2018. He taught for six years and worked in various other professions, retiring in 2011 after 21 years with Easter Seals Goodwill. Mr. Rovero is survived by a daughter and a sister.

## 1967

**L. Lee Kallsen Knefelkamp** of Washington, D.C., died Sept. 7, 2018. After serving in the Peace Corps in Costa Rica from 1968 to 1970, she was a faculty member and program chair of counseling and student development at the University of Maryland and dean of American University's School of Education. Ms. Knefelkamp returned to Macalester in the late 1980s as academic dean, and was also a professor emerita of psychology and education at Columbia University's Teachers College. During her academic career, she was a pioneer in the field of intellectual and ethical development and worked to make organizational and educational environments responsive to personal and

cultural diversity. She received an honorary degree from Wagner College in 2018. Ms. Knefelkamp is survived by her wife, Evelyn Beck, two children, four grandchildren, a great-grandchild, and sister **Kristin Kallsen '76**.

## 1969

**Cecil N. Underwood**, 72, of St. Paul died June 7, 2018. He is survived by three sisters.

## 1971

**Gilbert L. Baldwin**, 69, of Burnsville, Minn., died September 19, 2018. He was founder and CEO of Columbia Precision Machine Corporation. Mr. Baldwin was an expert in manufacturing parts for aerospace and defense projects. He served on many boards and received various awards for entrepreneurship, photography, and philanthropic endeavors.

**Greg K. Koch**, 68, died June 8, 2018. He practiced dentistry for 41 years in the St. Paul area. Mr. Koch is survived by his wife, Christine, a daughter, a son, six grandchildren, his mother, and two sisters.

## 1972

**Richard E. Butler**, 68, of Kansas City, Mo., died June 29, 2018. He served as pastor and interim

minister at numerous churches in Kansas and Missouri. Mr. Butler is survived by his wife, Marilyn, three daughters, a son, six grandchildren, and a brother.

## 1983

**John A. Flyger**, 56, of Rockville, Md., died July 8, 2018. After two decades with the law firm of Steptoe and Johnson, LLP, Mr. Flyger opened his own practice as a health care and general litigator. He prevailed in his final case, which he argued before the Maryland Court of Appeals. Mr. Flyger also volunteered for parents of and organizations for autistic children. He is survived by four children and a sister.

## 1986

**Carolina Duarte Bradpiece**, 53, of St. Paul died Aug. 4, 2018. She is survived by her husband, Paul, a daughter, a son, her parents, a sister, and brother **Mario Manuel Duarte '88**.

## 2004

**Giang T. Ho**, 37, of Bethesda, Md., died unexpectedly Aug. 3, 2018. She was an economist. Mrs. Ho is survived by her husband, Yen, and three daughters.

205 Dyckman Hotel  
 Minneapolis 2, Minn.  
 August 7, 1944

Mr. F. R. Bigelow,  
 St. Paul Fire & Marine Insurance Company,  
 111 W. Fifth St.,  
 St. Paul, Minn.

Dear Mr. Bigelow:

For the past several weeks it has been my intention to write to you in order to express to you, as President of the Board of Trustees, and to the other members of the board my sincere appreciation for the opportunity afforded me as a Professor of Political Science at Macalester College.

I look back upon the past year as one that was filled with challenging new experiences and a great opportunity for me to develop in both a personal and professional manner. The wholesome environment of Macalester College, both in its faculty and student body, is something that cannot be measured in terms of salary or position. It is truly stimulating to have the responsibility of working with fine young people. At the same time it is the kind of a responsibility which demands continuous self-discipline, both intellectually and socially.

I am sure that you believe I looked upon my position as one of a rather sacred trust. As was once stated to me, I felt it my task not to teach young people what to think, but rather to help them in the process of how to think. I believe I can honestly say that at no time did I attempt to foist my personal opinions upon the student body. As one who sincerely believes in Democratic principles, I tried to adhere to the American way of competition, but this time it was competition of ideas.

As a teacher, I am of the opinion that it is our task to make our students intelligently inquisitive -- to promote an interest of searching for new thought and new ideas. As the Greatest Teacher of all times once said, "Seek ye the truth and the truth shall make ye free." It becomes the solemn responsibility of we who are lesser lights to adhere to the doctrine of intellectual and academic freedom.

I am sure that you have had reports of the teaching program of last year and that you already know in your own mind the quality of work performed by the respective faculty members. As one who is now no longer with you, I think I can honestly say that Macalester College has an outstanding faculty and at the same time a constructively liberal and progressive administration. I well know that you are a person who has long ago earned the respect and admiration of your associates and the community in general.

With that in mind, I encourage you to continue your policy of permitting the widest possible academic freedom at Macalester. Radical movements generally grow from frustrated people, be that frustration mental, physical or economic. It is the duty of a liberal arts college to so equip their students with the facts and with a sound social philosophy that they are prepared to give leadership to the community and the nation.

## Professor Humphrey

In 1944, 33-year-old Hubert Humphrey, Jr., wrapped up his first teaching stint at Macalester and pledged his ongoing support for the college in a three-page letter to then-board chair F.R. Bigelow. "It is the duty of a liberal arts college to so equip their students with the facts and with a sound social philosophy that they are prepared to give leadership to the community and the nation," the political science professor wrote.

Elected mayor of Minneapolis the following year, Humphrey went on to become a senator, vice president, and presidential nominee. After losing to Richard Nixon in the 1968 presidential election, Humphrey came back to Macalester for another year—a quarter-century after he first taught in Mac classrooms—before returning to the Senate in 1971.

**GIVE** TO  
**MACALESTER**  
**DAY**

**11.14.18**

**24 HOURS TO GIVE**

Make your gift go further with special matching challenges throughout the day.

[macalester.edu/gtmd](http://macalester.edu/gtmd)

866-814-0640

**MACALESTER FUND**

# MACALESTER COLLEGE

1600 Grand Avenue  
Saint Paul, MN 55105-1899



Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No.1339  
Madison, WI

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



PHOTO: DAVID J. TURNER

The Great Lawn in the first week of fall classes