

MACALESTER

TODAY

2020 VISION

How next year's census will help all levels
of government see 10 years into the future

PAGE 22

FALL 2019





16



22



30

FEATURES

Women in Megaministry 12

Kate Bowler's new book delves into the world of evangelical women celebrities.

Global Citizens, Global Security 16

For some alumni and students, "service to society" includes their home militaries.

2020 Vision 22

How next year's census will help all levels of government see 10 years into the future

Fighting for Justice with Faith 30

"When I visit congregations, I'm there to listen," says Roberto Ochoa '76.

The Economics of Public Policy 32

Sarah West '91 on how a nagging question about light rail changed her research

Motion Studies 34

From wolves to Marvel heroes and villains, animator Wei-Chuan Hsu '07 makes things move.

ON THE COVER:

"The census is one of the few bipartisan things that we all do together as Americans," says Maria Paschke '11. Illustration by Kristen Solecki



32



34

DEPARTMENTS

Correspondence 2

Household Words 3

1600 Grand 4

International Roundtable, Curious City,
and an All-American diver

Class Notes 36

Books 39

Weddings 40

In Memoriam 45

Last Look 48



40

STAFF

EDITOR

Rebecca DeJarlais Ortiz '06
dejarlais@macalester.edu

ART DIRECTOR

Brian Donahue

CLASS NOTES EDITOR

Robert Kerr '92

PHOTOGRAPHER

David J. Turner

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Julie Hessler '85

ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT FOR
MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS
Julie Hurbanis



MACALESTER

CHAIR, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Jerry Crawford '71

PRESIDENT

Brian Rosenberg

VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADVANCEMENT

Andrew Brown

ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT FOR ENGAGEMENT

Katie Ladas

MACALESTER TODAY (Volume 107, Number 4)

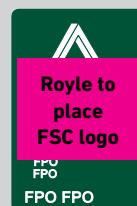
is published by Macalester College. It is
mailed free of charge to alumni and friends
of the college four times a year.
Circulation is 32,000.

TO UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS:

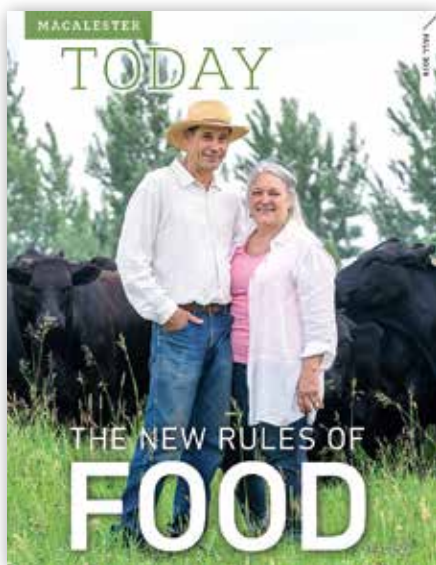
Email: alumnioffice@macalester.edu
Call: 651-696-6295 or 1-888-242-9351
Write: Alumni Engagement Office, Macalester
College, 1600 Grand Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105-1899

TO SHARE COMMENTS OR IDEAS:

Email: mactoday@macalester.edu
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)



Food for thought

The suggested questions in “The New Rules of Food” (Summer 2019) are properly broad and spare us from the cliché and quick answer of national agriculture statistics, whether the consumer begins from a conventional commodity mindset to food or today’s climate conscious and environmentally careful approach. Additional questions may not have easily available answers yet. Some are scientific, but like your socio-economic factors are interdisciplinary and include a long view. What does this place require of us in order to retain its topsoil? How much fossil energy is required per food calorie produced on this farm? How does the method of production affect the end nutritional profile, whether carrots or cabbage or milk or lamb chops? Is the water leaving the farm as clean or cleaner than what came in?

In my other prompt for writing, I was delighted by the array of doorways and businesses in “Neighborhood Nostalgia.” To me, it’s all of the above plus a few, for though I haven’t made it back in 25 years, I visit an amalgamation of them in a recurring dream. For many of us, it was our first independence and exploration away from home, and it still impacts my subconscious in dreamscape.

Todd Wetzel '94
Rockwood, Penn.

The writer and his wife run a small CSA farm in southwest Pennsylvania.

Last week a classmate called and said she had just read *Macalester Today* cover to cover. I had yet to receive my copy. Now I see what she means. The topics—like “The New Rules of Food”—pulled in alumni and the Mac community to discuss something important. I read it thoroughly, too. Thank you.

Sonya Anderson '65
St. Paul

Have mercy

President Brian Rosenberg’s essay, “The Quality of Mercy” (Summer 2019), from his remarks at Macalester’s most recent Commencement, is a fine piece of work. It flows from many landmark philosophical and moral treatises, probably the most familiar to many of us being Matthew Chapter 5, the Sermon on the Mount. Verses 38-45 particularly apply here.

Jesus Christ was a no-bullshit kind of guy. He knew the limits of human endurance and how our administration of justice is a sometimes pitiful response to offenses for which there can be no true restitution. He knew that forgiveness is fundamentally an act of self-interest. And Christ understood that, although it is the most difficult job in the world, someone must be the adult in the room, or situations escalate beyond any limit, perpetuating endless pain down through the ages.

Thank you, Dr. Rosenberg, for a clear and, well, merciful charge to those who must now move us into the unknown future.

William Werner, Jr. '77
Minneapolis

I was at my in-laws’ cabin, looking for something to read, when I happened upon the summer issue of *Macalester Today* (my mother-in-law is a '61 grad). I was impressed by both the content and the design. But what moves me to write was Brian Rosenberg’s column where his Commencement address was reprinted. Speeches on graduation day are a challenge—expectations are so high and most talks seem to fall flat. But I have to imagine the people in attendance that day were truly moved. The thoughts he shared and the eloquence with which they were constructed were both extraordinary. That

column should be published nationally where millions could read it—our nation sorely needs to hear his words.

Kevin Swan
Minnetonka, Minn.

Classmate kudos

What a pleasure to read, in the summer edition of *Macalester Today*, that our friend and classmate

Bob Rose '48 was the recipient of a Distinguished Citizen Award at Reunion. From the time we entered Mac as freshmen in the fall of 1944 until graduation four



years later, Bob proved himself a leader who lived the values we were taught at Macalester. He has carried those values through his long career in public service as a teacher and advocate. Congratulations—well done, Bob!

Dick '49 and Paula Arnold '48
Stillwater, Minn.



CONNECT WITH US

Visit Mac’s social media hub at 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
- Tweet: @macalester using the hashtag #macalestertoday
- Mail: *Macalester Today*, Macalester College, 1600 Grand Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105

VOICES OF MACALESTER

BY BRIAN ROSENBERG

This column has long provided me with a wonderful opportunity to speak directly to the Macalester community. But my voice, however mellifluous, is only one of many that define and describe the life of the college, and it is important, I think, to hear as many of those voices as possible in order to appreciate that life in all its fullness.

For more than two years I have had the pleasure of engaging in conversations with Macalester alumni, faculty, staff, and students about what we have called “Big Questions”—things that are interesting and important and relevant to the present moment. Some of these conversations have been one-on-one, with only a videographer and a staff member looking on; some have been in front of audiences in cities around the country (and in London). From every one of them I have learned something, and from every one I have come away with an even deeper appreciation of the privilege of being part of a place so rich in what Dickens called “knowledge of the head” and “knowledge of the heart.”

Listen to some of those voices.

“I think if people are curious enough to learn more about the world, about people, they will become better versions of themselves and better members of society.”

—Kamil Ali '18

“It seems a condition of uncertainty is with us in all aspects of our life...Stuff happens through life, and what was once certain becomes very uncertain for a great many people. It's the human condition. So you try, you struggle to create an edifice of certainty you can live in and through to go on with your life, with the knowledge that it's an artifice.”

—Tim O'Brien '68

“Our students have been very powerful in their push to make sure that we are living up to our mission...But even their push to us has been done in a very loving, caring way.”

—Donna Lee,
Vice President for Student Affairs

“‘Conservative Political Thought’ is really an ideal liberal arts course. It really gets students to ask and answer the question, ‘How should I live my life?’, which is an ethical question, and ‘How should we live our lives together?’, which is a political question.”

—Andrew Latham,
political science professor

“We come to the U.S. not because we want to leave our home countries, but because we want a better future, not just for us, but also for our communities.”

—Cuauhtemoc Cruz Herrera '18

“I think we assume that the safest place to be is where everyone agrees with us...and so then you create an echo chamber that silences what people are really thinking about.”

—Emily Nadel '18

“The communication of science is something that's concerning to me, because it translates at this moment into a distrust of fact and an ability to use some smoke and mirrors to change the meaning of things in a way that I find very disconcerting.”

—Kristi Curry Rogers,
biology and geology professor

“By relying on these human-generated data sets, these machines, very transparently, adopt the cultural context of the humans that they're learning from. And that cultural context...includes some things that we don't like. It includes racism, it includes the desire to focus on oneself vs. others, and all sorts of other uncomfortable things that the computer tends to absorb.”

—Brent Hecht '05

“I'm interested in how the ‘Me Too’ movement is written about, and that's partly because people started associating ‘Me Too’ with Hollywood and very attractive Hollywood actresses, most of whom were white...A lot of people didn't realize that it was a black woman more than 10 years ago that started saying ‘Me Too.’”

—Duchess Harris,
American studies professor

“The greatest miscalculation about Africa is that going and investing in Africa is helping Africa. I see it as one of the greatest opportunities to help the world.”

—Fred Swaniker '99

“To write a novel is to be political. If you are writing about the world and making any sort of statement about the world, it's political.”

—Marlon James,
writer in residence and English professor

“Whatever position or situation you are in, always ask the question, ‘What is right? What should we be doing?’, not ‘This is what we do.’ If you say ‘This is what we do,’ you're complacent. The question is ‘What should we be doing?’ and the young ones should always pose this question to themselves.”

—Kofi Annan '61

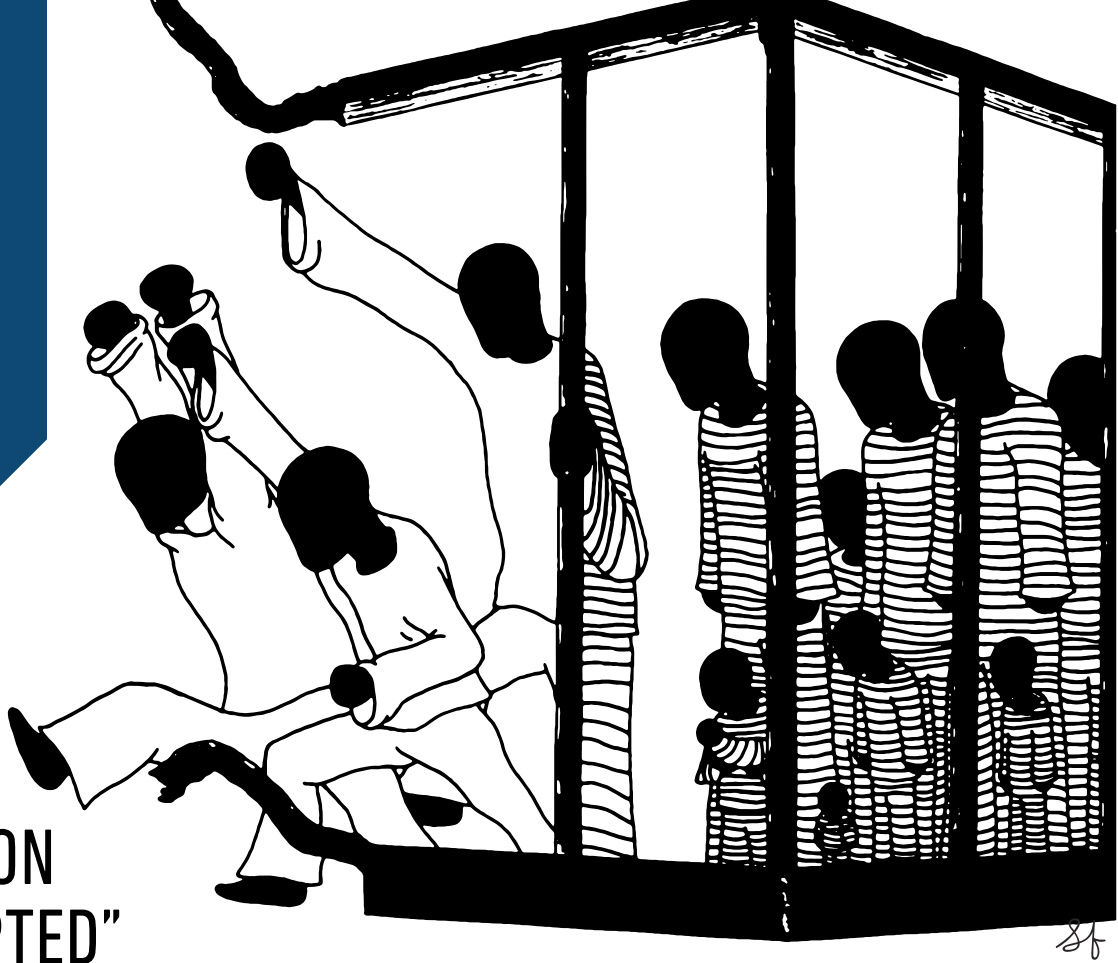


All of the “Big Questions” conversations can be seen at macalester.edu/bigquestions. More will be added as the year progresses, and more events will be held in various cities during the course of the next few months.

I would encourage you to listen to the voices. [M](#)

Brian Rosenberg is president of Macalester College.

Listen to the new “Macalester Big Questions” podcast at macalesterbigquestions.buzzsprout.com and subscribe on your favorite listening service.

1600
GRAND“INCARCERATION
(UN)INTERRUPTED”

When International Roundtable organizers asked **Samuel Fleming '19** to create art for the annual October event, he knew he wanted to depict “a clear shattering of incarceration imagery: the drive to become free, the breaking of chains and barriers,” he says. “The faces have no defining characteristics—they’re just human beings who want to be free.” Mass incarceration, immigrant detention, and the removal of indigenous people from their lands were among the topics discussed at the 26th annual Roundtable, “Incarceration (Un)Interrupted: Reclaiming Bodies, Lands, and Communities.”

SETTING THE AGENDA

This fall, **Blair Cha '20** (Seoul, South Korea) is choosing data sets for her statistics capstone and proving arguments in “Intro to Symbolic Logic.” She’s also accelerating plans for her Macalester College Student Government (MCSG) presidency. This year’s MCSG priorities include expanding Open Pantry, the food and hygiene distribution program for which Cha helped secure steady funding last year as MCSG’s vice president; coordinating student-faculty collaborations to create more inclusive classrooms; and building Title IX education programs. “Our collective effort and continual care for our community are a foundation for the strong reputation that our college holds,” Cha told the audience at opening convocation in September. “I love Macalester because we are loud. We are willing to face the truth and protect our peers. Never stop making noise, Macalester.”

“I LOVE MACALESTER
BECAUSE WE ARE LOUD.
WE ARE WILLING TO
FACE THE TRUTH AND
PROTECT OUR PEERS.
NEVER STOP MAKING
NOISE, MACALESTER.”

—BLAIR CHA '20



PHOTO: DAVID J. TURNER

Ever wonder about all those books lining professors' offices? We're with you.

Liz Jansen is a longtime professor in the biology department, where she teaches courses on neuroscience and women's health and reproduction. She's also the director of the Olin-Rice Hub, which connects STEM students to research, internships, and career opportunities.

Any stand-out books you've read recently?

Last Call, by Daniel Okrent. It's a history of Prohibition in the 1920s, but it was especially interesting to read now, as we're having this national experiment with cannabis legalization. There were a lot of surprising parallels.



What's one of your all-time favorite reads?

I don't know if I'd say all-time, because it's kind of kooky, but I loved Mary Roach's *Stiff*. It's all about dead bodies—the science of decomposition, but also things like the history of people digging up graves to study anatomy, and how cadavers have contributed to science. It is actually a very funny book!

What book is crucial to understanding your academic niche?

For great books about my two fields, I might pick Jack El-Hai's *The Lobotomist*—a biography of Walter Freeman, a neuroscientist and psychologist who turned the lobotomy into an outpatient procedure, basically—and Jonathan Eig's *The Birth of the Pill*—about four people who helped to develop the first modern oral contraceptives. Both books really get at how much of our understanding of a subject is shaped by the individuals who do the work on those subjects, something that isn't often discussed in the sciences.

Any guilty-pleasure reads?

Steve Rushin's *Sting-Ray Afternoons*, a memoir about growing up in the '70s. It was just this amazing throwback with all the references to pop culture, and the TV shows, the cereals, the language used. It was hilarious.

What one book would you recommend to everyone at Macalester?

Oh, that seems presumptuous! I really liked *Cutting for Stone*, by Abraham Verghese. But I don't know that I have something I'd want to recommend to everybody.

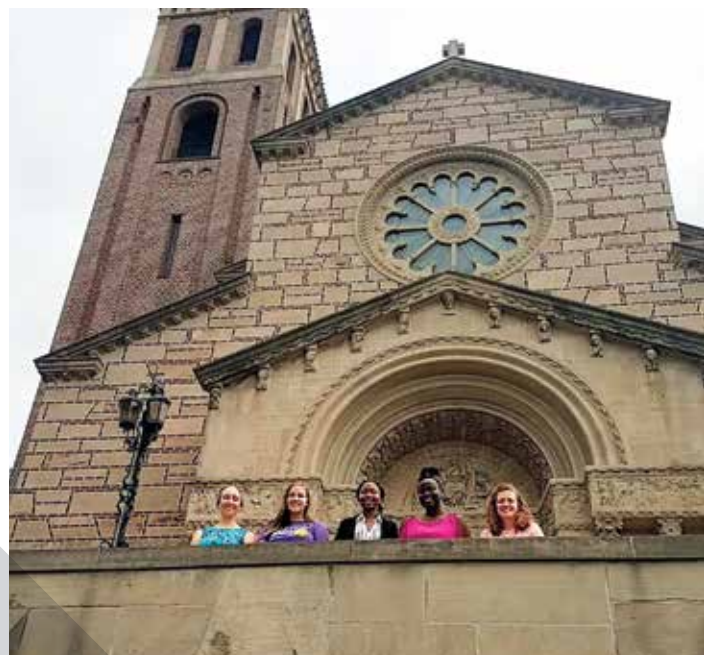
Whose shelf should we visit next?

Email mactoday@macalester.edu.

THE FUTURE OF SCHOOLS

THREE YEARS AGO, an article in a local newspaper about Saint Paul Public Schools' (SPPS) declining enrollment caught political science professor Lesley Lavery's attention. Lavery, along with St. Catherine University economics professor **Kristine West '01**, approached SPPS to see how they could help provide the school district some context about the declines.

Over several years, with help from students at both institutions (including **Khadija Ngom '19**, **Andra Boca '20**, **Sophia Hannauer '19**, and **Maxwell Kent '20**), their research has focused on class size limits, special programs and pathways, and school demographics and location. As each research section is completed, Lavery and West have supported their students in presentations to school district officials. "One of the most rewarding things is meeting district officials," says Lavery of the research process. "The officials have been so impressed with what is largely students' work." The team is working on publishing an article about class size limits based on research involving split classrooms in St. Paul.



1600
GRAND



The Health Promotion student team registers participants for a wellness program.

PHOTO: LISA BROEK

BEYOND THE CLINIC

How Macalester is reframing mental well-being as a campus-wide effort

AMID THE NATIONAL conversation about the mental health of today's college students, Macalester is building a big-picture plan that expands well beyond the doors of the health and wellness office—and well beyond symptom treatment alone. The goal: create an environment that supports all students, all over campus, in prioritizing their well-being as they grapple with pressure that has followed them from an early age. "This is prevention," says director of counseling Liz Schneider-Bateman, "and this is where we can make the most significant impact."

The strategy reflects what's happening—and what has to change—at colleges around the country, says Schneider-Bateman, where traditional solutions such as adding more counselors and creating new ways to access care simply aren't quelling demand from a growing number of students who struggle with anxiety and depression. Macalester continues to experience an increase in the need for mental health services, despite expanding

the counseling team's service capacity by 40 percent since 2013 and adding a 24/7 counseling support phone system, among other outreach initiatives. "This isn't going to get solved in the clinic, which is the traditional approach," says associate dean of student services Denise Ward. "If we view this as a clinical problem, only practitioners can deal with it. But if we see this as a community effort, then we can all get our hands around it."

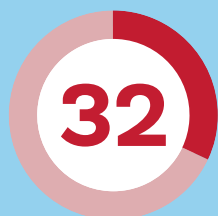
This fall Macalester launches a four-year partnership with the national JED Foundation's campus program, joining 250 institutions that enroll three million students. With support from the foundation, cross-campus teams (including student representatives) will develop comprehensive plans to promote well-being, including substance abuse and suicide prevention. They'll also administer a national mental health survey to begin and conclude the collaboration. "We'll create a model that can be owned and implemented by the entire community," Ward says.

For faculty, that could mean setting an assignment's deadline for 8 p.m. instead of 8 a.m. to discourage staying up late. Last year, three dozen professors incorporated a statement about mental health resources into their syllabi. Longtime health promotion programs—for example, weaving a sleep education curriculum into first-year courses and offering free movement classes—will further focus on self-care and resilience initiatives. And across campus, Ward hopes to hear more honest conversations about juggling expectations and pressure about perfectionism—and less chatter glorifying packed schedules or pulling all-nighters.

It's a long-term initiative, but staff expect the increased emphasis on emotional health to be more visible almost immediately this fall. And that's progress, says Ward: "This gives us the opportunity to deepen the student experience and enrich the learning experience. We're helping students build the skills—and this is something we all can do."

CLASS OF 2023 BY THE NUMBERS

502 class size



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

Most common preferred first names:

- 1 Grace
- 2 Charlie
- 3 Lily
- 4 Max
- 5 Emma

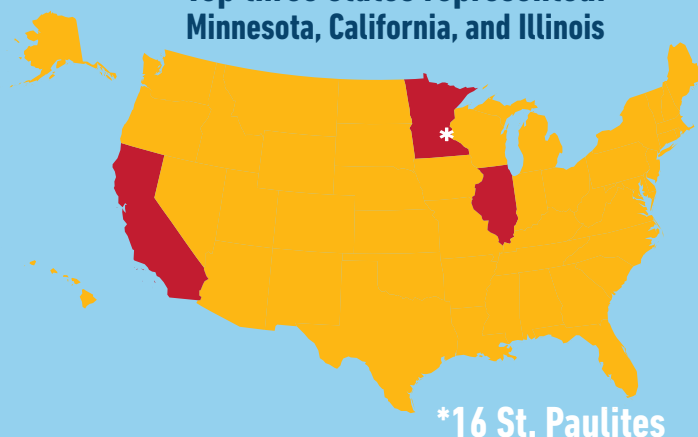
Most common last names:

- 1 Nguyen
- 2 Smith
- 3 Rodriguez
- 4 Brown
- 5 Tran
- 6 Li
- 7 Zhang



Top three countries represented:
China
Canada
Vietnam

Top three states represented:
Minnesota, California, and Illinois

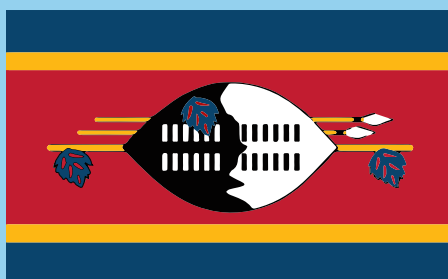


*16 St. Paulites

46 Countries represented, by citizenship

Number of languages spoken at home

41



Farthest hometown from Mac:
Mbabane, Eswatini (9,130 miles)



Percentage of students who identify as first-gen

THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN

Meet this year's new tenure-track professors.

Taryn Flock

Mathematics, Statistics, and
Computer Science

Big question: When is an inequality actually an equality?

Now teaching: "Applied Multivariable Calculus II"



Christine Sierra O'Connell

Environmental Studies

Investigating: How climate-connected events like severe droughts or hurricane disturbance influence soil greenhouse gas emissions in a Puerto Rican wet tropical forest

Now teaching: "Ecology and the Environment"



Ariel James

Psychology

Investigating: How an individual's experience with their language (both recent and habitual exposure) and cognitive abilities (like working memory) impact language comprehension in real time

Now teaching: "Cognitive Psychology," "Intelligence"



Michael Prior

English

New title: His second book, *Burning Province*, will be published in 2020 and explores intergenerational memory and cultural trauma.

Now teaching: "Intro to Creative Writing," "Crafts of Writing: Poetry"



Gabriel Lade

Economics

Recent projects: Studying natural gas flaring restrictions in North Dakota; the effects of air pollution on visitation at U.S. national parks; and the impacts of the Flint water crisis on local housing markets and avoidance behaviors

Now teaching: "Intermediate Microeconomic Analysis"



Anna Williams

Physics and Astronomy

Big questions: What is the origin of galactic-scale magnetic fields in galaxies, and how do these magnetic fields affect the star formation and evolution of galaxies?

Now teaching: "Modern Astronomy 1," "Electromagnetic Theory"



William Mitchell

Mathematics, Statistics, and
Computer Science

Research focus: Viscous fluid mechanics (the field of mathematical physics that describes the motion of swimming bacteria and sliding ice sheets)

Now teaching: "Mathematical Modeling," "Differential Equations"





DIVE IN

Earlier this year, **Kieran Cuddy '21** (Northfield, Minn.) earned All-America honorable mention awards by placing 13th and 14th in the one- and three-meter diving events, respectively, at the NCAA Division III Swimming & Diving Championships. We asked the women's, gender, and sexuality studies major about life on and off the board.

NOTABLES

All-MIAC (2018 and 2019)

School record: One-meter six-dive

CHOOSE YOUR ADVENTURE

"I was a gymnast for nine years. I usually see two paths for a gymnast: pole-vaulting or diving. I love acrobatics and I've always loved being by the water, so I chose diving."

FAVORITE DIVE

5235: Back one-and-a-half somersaults, two-and-a-half twists

COMPETING AT NATIONALS

"It was one of the best meets of my life. The back one-and-a-half somersault is always tricky for me, but when I went underwater, I knew I'd nailed it."

BOARD STRATEGY

"Some athletes go through rituals before they dive. I get impatient—I don't like to spend a lot of time up there. I think about small corrections, but I like to go fast and be in the flow."

STUDY AWAY DESTINATION

Sweden

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVIST

"A lot of my life has this water theme right now. I'm helping build a movement to fight the Line 3 pipeline, which is under pre-construction in northern Minnesota. It literally feels like I'm trying to stop the end of the world."

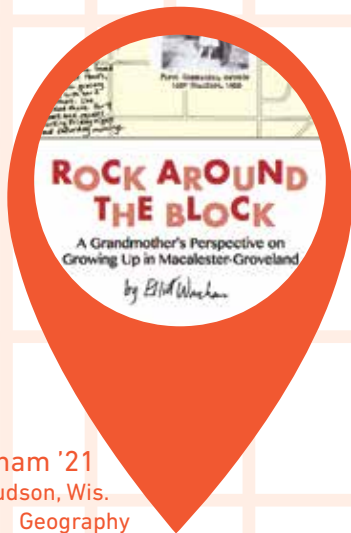
MAKING MUSIC

"I play the banjo in a folk-punk band. My band went on a monthlong West Coast tour last summer. It was magical."

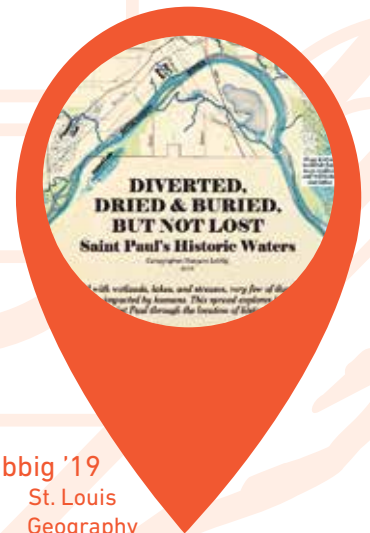
Elston Tortuga '19

Evanston, Ill.
International studies

St. Paul has always felt to me like a very historic city, defined by the capitol building and the cathedral down the road, the mansions lining Summit Avenue and the 1st sign glowing red in downtown. As a lover of books, I checked out 13 novels and memoirs about St. Paul, planning to capture the literary ghosts that this city is home to. What I found instead was a more recent history of St. Paul: the story of Kao Kalia Yang and her family's making of home in this city, a story of the Hmong influence on St. Paul and a whole different capital—the Hmong capital of the United States, here in St. Paul.



Elliot Wareham '21
Hudson, Wis.
Geography



Margaret Lobbig '19
St. Louis
Geography



Madeline Murnane '19
San Francisco
International studies



Geology



Geography


IN, OUT, ABOVE, BEYOND

FALL 2019 / 11

WOMEN IN MODERN MEGAMINISTRY

Kate Bowler's new book delves into the world
of evangelical women celebrities.





"This is a history of the modern Christian marketplace that explains why most women are asked to lead with their personality rather than their credentials," author and historian Kate Bowler '02 says of her new book, *The Preacher's Wife*.

INTRODUCTION BY REBECCA DEJARLAIS ORTIZ '06

In 2013, **Kate Bowler '02**, a historian at Duke Divinity School, published her debut book, *Blessed: A History of the American Prosperity Gospel*. It was the first comprehensive history of a movement defined by—as she explains in a 2016 *New York Times* essay—"the belief that God grants health and wealth to those with the right kind of faith."

Two years later, she was diagnosed with Stage IV cancer at 35. "I did the things you might expect of someone whose world has suddenly become very small. I sank to my knees and cried. I called my husband at our home nearby. I waited until he arrived so we could wrap our arms around each other and say the things that must be said," Bowler wrote in the same essay, "Death, the Prosperity Gospel and Me." "But one of my first thoughts was also *Oh, God, this is ironic*. I recently wrote a book called *Blessed*."

Bowler's words appeared in *Macalester Today* when we reprinted her essay later that year. Since her diagnosis, she has navigated what it's like to be an expert on health, wealth, and happiness while being ill. She published a memoir, *Everything Happens for a Reason (and Other Lies I've Loved)*, which became a *New York Times* bestseller, and hosts the podcast "Everything Happens." Released this fall, her book *The Preacher's Wife: The Precarious Power of Evangelical Women Celebrities* follows the rise of celebrity Christian women in American evangelism. "This is a history of the modern Christian marketplace that explains why most women are asked to lead with their personality than their credentials," she says. "It is a critical look into the evangelical world, those who are given power, and mainly, those who aren't. It might reveal things about your own life, or show you more about the culture in which you live, or introduce you to a new world of female leaders whose books line every shelf at Target."

What surprised her during more than 100 conversations with Christian celebrities? "The way they let a complete stranger into the deepest parts of their lives," Bowler says. "This book wouldn't have been possible if the interviewees didn't decide that it is better to be known than to be deemed perfect. That's a lesson I'll take with me."

[Read on for an excerpt from *The Preacher's Wife* >](#)

UNDER THE CHURCH'S website banner, Ed and Lisa Young were smiling at the camera in matching denim, her hand lightly touching his chest and his arm around her back. "For just a moment, forget everything you've ever thought of when it comes to church," reads the caption beside them. "Imagine a home for all who are looking for hope. This is Fellowship Church!" Though in their mid-fifties they looked a cool decade younger, which did not hurt sales for *Sexperiment*, their *New York Times*-bestselling guide to sex that had the couple spending 24 livestreamed hours in a staged bed on the roof of their church. She was the founder of "Flavour," the women's ministry for their 25,000-person congregation, and the author of a few books on marriage, beauty, children, and a cookbook, *A Dash of Flavour*. Together, they were the branded image of the largest Southern Baptist church in the

country, which met at seven different locations throughout Texas and Florida or via the streaming of Ed Young's "Fifty Shades of THEY" on Netflix. Everywhere one looked for Fellowship Church, the two of them were pictured smiling and inviting all to join them next Sunday for the latest sermon series like "Shark Weak" or "Espresso Yourself."

In the world of modern megaministry, a pastor's wife was the welcome mat. She was the smile, the open arms, and the "Hello! Won't you come in?" to a church experience with a dizzying array of ways to participate. With multiple services and a half dozen campuses, a pastor's wife like Lisa Young could not simply stand by the door handing out bulletins and greet people as they entered. The country's largest churches had outgrown any leader's capacity to know the majority of their congregants. Every megachurch wife I spoke to described what it was like to look out over a flood of attendees and not recognize a soul. Although she may not always know them, they know her; somewhere in the sea of digital and in-person experiences of a single ecclesial community, the pastor and his wife were anchoring figures. If there was a billboard on the side of the highway advertising a church, she would be there, leaning over her husband's shoulder or slipped under his protective arm. And on megachurch websites, a photograph of the pastor and his wife was the most common advertisement for the church.

The omnipresence of women's images was matched only by the dearth of substantive information about them. Most churches wanted to make it clear that the pastor's wife had no actual position on staff or, in any case, that her importance was relative to his. This made introductions into a linguistic obstacle course, because as women were presented they almost instantly disappeared. An 8,000-member Arkansas megachurch introduced its senior pastor, Rick Bezet, to online audiences in a very typical way.

Next to an image of him beside his wife Michelle, were the words:

Rick & Michelle Bezet // LEAD PASTOR

Rick Bezet is the founder and lead pastor of New Life Church of Arkansas. Since starting [New Life Church] Conway in 2001, New Life has grown to include ten churches in nine cities with 20+ services, and two online services. . . . Rick and his lovely wife, Michelle, have been married for over 20 years and they have four children. They live in Conway, Arkansas.

Michelle appeared next to a title she did not possess as part of the branding for a church that may or may not employ her. In the Christian public's mind's eye, a famous wife was a block of marble chiseled mostly by the imagination. She might be the neck that turned her husband's head, the Salome that turned his heart, or the Ruth that laid herself at his feet. Her defining qualities and acts in shaping the ministry must be interpreted in gestures and

shadows. Did she stand tucked behind him or sit quietly in the front row? Was she alone on stage explaining how she would give up ministry in a heartbeat if her husband simply told her to? Perhaps she sat beside him as the cameras filmed their television show, but when the credits rolled the show was in his name only. Sometimes I wondered if the fastest way to identify a woman's role in megaministry was to interview all of the lighting technicians on every mainstage in the country. Who would the spotlight fall on when the lights went down? Did the crowd know her face? Her role was a curious one. Whether she eclipsed everyone in the room or was an unseen partner to her husband's ministry, her mere existence sparked with power.

Assessing questions of significance and power were further complicated, as I discovered, by the ambiguity with which most public women in ministry narrated their own significance. Almost all women in the largest churches, parachurches, and on other platforms went to great

lengths to hide their importance as a way of shielding themselves from criticism.

The self-presentation of Proverbs 31 founder Lysa TerKeurst was a study in deflected significance. Though she ran a multi-million-dollar organization that reached hundreds of thousands of women every day, making her one of the most powerful women in modern evangelical circuits, she described her success as being able to: "get through the day having spent time with the Lord, exercised in some way, had a laugh with one of my kids, had clean underwear in my husband's drawer when he needed them and made a friend smile." Before their marital woes became public knowledge, Lysa described her husband as a loving leader and a longsuffering man, who, once a month, "simply puts up with me and my bout of the Princess Must Scream syndrome." While no one expected Oprah to keep her partner Stedman's underwear drawer stocked, these audiences were keenly attuned to indications that

In the world
of modern mega-
ministry, a pastor's
wife was the wel-
come mat. She was
the smile, the open
arms, and the
"Hello! Won't you
come in?" to a
church experience
with a dizzying
array of ways to
participate.

TerKeurst grounded her identity in relationship, motherhood, and wifehood. Superstar Beth Moore was quick to assure audiences that her husband, Keith, wore the Wranglers in their relationship, while televangelist Joyce Meyer continually invoked her husband Dave's benevolent approval of her media empire. As icons of the middle class, these women were expected to embody its trials and triumphs. They must be hard-working but not competitive, polished but not fussy, wholesome but not perfect. And as famous women, they must do what all famous women do and pretend to be average, subject to the acid test of "relatability." Their stories should be peppered with mishaps—they broke the eggs bagging their own groceries, put their shirts on inside-out, and ruined their children's Halloween costumes.

Some of these women were particularly formidable given that most cobbled their skills together on their own, without men in ministry's equivalent pastoral education. As we will discuss in Chapters One and Four, women had rarely been expected or encouraged to be theologically credentialed.

As a result, most never sat in classes to learn systematic theology, scriptural exegesis, counseling, Christian history, or preaching. Instead, they assigned their own reading, honed their own preaching skills (often before female audiences), and earned their place in the Christian industry without the benefit of formal training. They were queens of self-mastery.

Or not. Some women earned their place in the sun and others simply basked in the reflected glow of others. While most women fought to be worthy of their status, it was possible to find megaministry women happy to float on the credentials of their mates, offering what skills they already had with mixed results. Like any inherited job, women may assume a church position as an entitlement and a perk. A megachurch wife might cheerfully list "shopping" as her primary hobby, knowing that her massive church salary and limited obligations give her plenty of money and time for it.

Regardless of whether she craved the public eye or longed for anonymity, she must pick her place. A famous Christian woman could be many things—ambitious or deferential, canny or naive, intuitive or clueless, sweet or with a dash of salty language. But, whoever she was, she lived in front of many audiences.

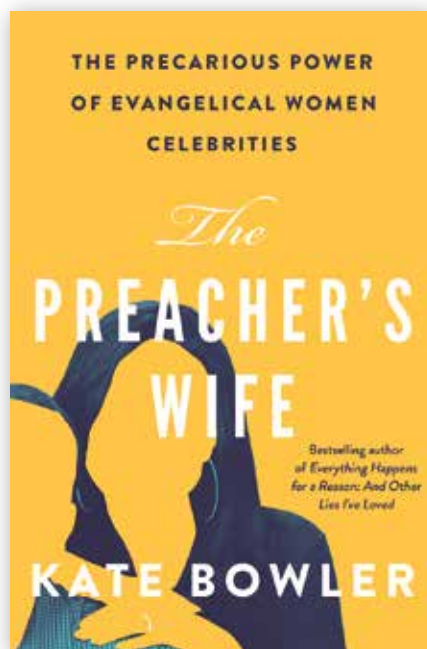
Though not all famous Christian women were pastors' wives—and in fact, many of the most widely recognized were not—the most common role for a woman in megaministry was that of the preacher's wife. Like Whitney Houston's famous movie character, the preacher's wife was married to the ministry and her talents were inexorably drawn into the life of the church. This should come as no surprise: the complementarian theologies that governed the largest Protestant churches installed hundreds of men at the helm of institutions and pressed their willing (and sometimes unwilling) wives into service. Further, many of the leading

women in itinerant or parachurch ministry were also married to men in ministry. For this reason, a famous megaministry woman found that her power maintained the appearance of being borrowed. Regardless of her own credentials, she drew fame from the familial role she held as a mother, sister, daughter, or, most often, wife of an important godly man. It was seen in almost every small gesture like her Twitter handle or the way the conference host announced her onstage: Taffi was Creflo Dollar's wife. Dodie was Joel Osteen's mom. Priscilla was Tony Evans's daughter. Though there were some scrappy women who built their ministries from scratch it was hard and lonely work. Most women built on the poured foundation of marriage and family.

The woman who professionalized her role as wife or family member could build a career of her own. It was a convenient arrangement for both churches that affirmed women in ministry and those that did not, because audiences presumed that a wife's actions were subject to her husband's approval and therefore

sanctioned. She could likewise benefit from the administrative staff, publicity, in-house audiences, and personal and professional relationships that floated his career. In the pages that follow, the preacher's wife serves as an embodied argument for the twin forces—complementarianism and capitalism—that steered the careers of evangelical women celebrities. The preacher's wife was the safest woman in ministry: authorized to exercise her gifts by her husband's pastoral oversight and shielded from the worst excesses of the marketplace. Most women's careers in ministry depended on borrowed institutions, a guest spot on a television program, or a women's conference in someone else's church. Certainly, women without famous husbands could build a career on their own with a skeleton staff, but their livelihoods hung on a delicate web of relationships and connections. They depended on each other to keep their content and their brand in circulation and to find that sweet spot between irrelevance and controversy.

For women, this is an era of almost—almost feminist, almost patriarchal, almost progressive, and almost regressive—and in these pages we hold the prism of their experiences up to the light. The lives of public women invite us to ask again what Americans expect from women in the spotlight; and whether they will ever grow used to women's presence in the main seats of power, in the pulpit, in the corner office, or in the White House. The women of megaministry are exceptional, but they are not simply exceptions. They are religious reflections of almost-mythic American ideals of women as wives and mothers, pillars and martyrs, in a culture divided over whether women should lean in or opt out. [M](#)



Excerpted from *THE PREACHER'S WIFE: The Precarious Power of Evangelical Women Celebrities* by Kate Bowler. Copyright ©2019 by Kate Bowler. Published by Princeton University Press. Reprinted by permission.

GLOBAL CITIZENS

GLOBAL SECURITY

BY BRYAN BARNES / PHOTO BY DAVID J. TURNER

The United States has been engaged in a worldwide military campaign for the last 18 years. Most of today's Macalester students (and some alumni) have grown up with war constantly in the background. For others, it has been a lot more personal.

TEST FLIGHT

The stall horn blared in **Eric's*** ear as his airplane began to drop toward the suburban houses below. His flight instructor sat calmly next to Eric, waiting for him to figure out the problem before they crashed into one of the subdivisions of Eden Prairie, Minnesota. The stall horn meant the wings of Eric's training airplane were losing lift.

It was Eric's second time behind the controls after a few weeks of ground school and simulator time. He was up there to answer one pressing question: did he really like flying? The Macalester alumnus needed to know that for sure before he signed a minimum of 12 years of his life away to the U.S. Air Force (USAF). Eric's father, also a Macalester alumnus and a conscientious objector during the Vietnam War, insisted that Eric be sure.

Eric's mind raced through the procedures he'd just learned in ground school and pushed the controls forward while increasing the throttle to gain airspeed. The stall horn stopped. They weren't dropping anymore.

His instructor gave a curt nod. "Let's try a landing now. Think you can find the airport?" Eric smiled a little as he turned the plane. Flying was indeed his thing.

**Eric's last name, class year, aircraft type, and specific deployment locations were omitted to protect his identity as a U.S. Air Force Special Operations Command pilot.*





Jeong-Won "Jackson" Tak '21 is back on campus after a two-year leave of absence to serve in the Republic of Korea Army Military Police Special Duty Team. "I would love to see Macalester students stay interested in international security topics and ultimately have Macalester alumni making decisions in these spaces," he says.

MAC AND THE MILITARY

Macalester's relationship with the military can be best described as complicated. Its alumni (and even presidents) have served in the U.S. military since the college's founding in 1874. Its international students and alumni have served in their home militaries, either by choice or conscription. Yet Macalester also has a long history of challenging militarism. Perhaps because of this historical tension, Macalester has no overarching programs on national or international security or war and peace studies.

"There's a hunger for that kind of policy-focused course on campus," says political science professor Andrew Latham. His "Regional Conflict/Security" course is always full, often with students who aspire to join the U.S. Department of State, USAID, or the Peace Corps. "We look at the practical policy realities of managing conflict," says Latham. "I say to my students: 'You are going to run the world someday.' And I mean it, because they go on to do that."

Anthropology professor Ron Barrett also touches on these topics in class. "Military issues come up from time to time in my courses," he says. "In 'Stigma and Disabilities,' we focus on PTSD during one segment."

Both Latham and Barrett are veterans. Latham served in the Reserve Forces of the Canadian Army, while Barrett served in an elite Ranger Battalion in the U.S. Army.

Barrett's veteran status comes up in his discussions with students: "And they are curious—quite curious—about veteran experiences regardless of what some of their views are regarding these conflicts. There is a strong feeling of wanting to support veterans regardless of people's views about national security policy or military involvement."

Latham has had several Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) students in his classes (while Macalester has no ROTC program, students participate in programs at the University of St. Thomas or University of Minnesota). "No, no one has pointed a finger at them and cried, 'Warmonger!' Never in 22 years of teaching."

Hyo "Scott" Lim '20 (Atlanta) took a slightly different path than ROTC. He completed Officer Candidate School over the past two summers and will lead a platoon of Marines as an officer in the

United States Marine Corps upon graduation from Macalester.

Lim says Macalester is neither pro- nor anti-military. "I would describe Macalester as merely detached and unfamiliar with the military community in general," he says. "Despite this, I feel comfortable at Macalester discussing my path to the Marines, and I never feel afraid to talk about it with new people."



"I'd say Macalester is a good place for someone like me to learn about various perspectives that I hadn't considered and for Macalester students to learn more about the military. For some of my friends, I am their first contact with the military at all."

—Hyo "Scott" Lim '20

Barrett remembers a time when academia was not as supportive. "I was in grad school in the '90s, and I had a professor who recommended that I not make any mention of my veteran experience, that I keep it hidden," Barrett says. "And I had a problem with that. I wasn't intending to wave it around, but at the same time I didn't feel like I should be concealing it either. I am proud of having served my country. And I don't think that pride is restricted to anyone of any particular political belief."



“I would rather Mac students run the world—being the colonels and the generals.”

—Andrew Latham, political science professor

SMALL WORLD

Eric walked into the base Officers' Club. He'd made it through initial USAF pilot training, and even student pilots had to take a step back and unwind on a Friday night. Before Eric could place his order, something blue and orange caught his eye at the far end of the room.

His jaw dropped. It was a Macalester College sweater. On a fellow student pilot.

Eric sprinted over and blurted, “Who are you? What are you doing here?” The other Mac pilot was only a few classes behind and had just hit the T-38 Talon part of flight training, learning to fly the same twin-engine supersonic jet trainer that Eric had just mastered. Eric shared that his next step was to start training on an unusual aircraft where he'd eventually have to land on dirt runways in austere locations and provide air support for special operations missions. Neither alumnus could believe the odds of running into another Macalester graduate—here.

A HISTORY OF PROTEST

Macalester has a history of questioning militarism going back at least to 1917, when a group of students launched a letter-writing campaign urging Minnesota Congress members and senators not to lead the nation into war. The resulting backlash made national news. Archival records show similar questions have been raised by Macalester students in the lead-up to every major U.S. military conflict, including the 2003 Iraq War. For some of those wars, questions continued at Mac even after the bullets started flying overseas.

“I can't think of any significant student protests against U.S. military engagement during my time at Macalester,” says **Karinna Gerhardt '20** (Seattle), a political science major and Truman Scholar who has taken security-focused courses and debated military issues in Ethics Bowl. “However, I do believe many Mac students embrace a peaceful world view and are critical of military and law enforcement institutions, particularly in the U.S.”



With a recent string of 50-year anniversaries, the Vietnam War and Macalester's intense opposition to it have been covered in depth elsewhere, including at recent alumni Reunions. One question posed by some returning alumni who graduated during the '60s: Where is the Macalester antiwar movement today?

American studies professor Karín Aguilar-San Juan has an explanation after hosting several symposia and editing a book on the Vietnam antiwar movement. “How do students discern when something is enough of an emergency to protest?” she asks. “Does the increase in militarization abroad measure up to the killing of Philando Castile? There are just so many more specific issues now. How do you choose? That to me is one of the factors behind a lack of an antiwar movement or peace movement. It is the compelling nature of the many terrible things happening right in your face.”

This generation doesn't hate authority, Aguilar-San Juan adds. “They've always assumed there will be a military and there will always be war, because for their whole lifetimes, there's only ever been war. So this is a given for them.”

Instead, Aguilar-San Juan sees the seeds of the next antiwar movement being planted by the veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan, not students. She hopes to bring Macalester alumni veterans into her classroom to share these experiences and perspectives.

FIVE-YEAR REUNION

Three years into his service with the Air Force, Eric had finished all of his flight training. Macalester Reunion happened to occur three weeks before his first overseas deployment, and he decided to attend.

His Mac friends were stunned when they found out about his military career. After a few beers, they became even more blunt in their questioning about why he joined. Methodically, Eric talked with his friends one by one and explained his thinking.

Eric said he felt that what he learned at Mac might help him influence military decisions for the better: “We can't just complain about our decisions and actions abroad and not try to at least be there to understand what is happening and try to make things better...would you rather have me doing this, having gone through a liberal arts education at Macalester, or somebody more likely to think of things in black and white? People who might not speak their mind or who will simply follow orders without question?”

“This generation doesn't hate authority. They've always assumed there will be a military and there will always be war, because for their whole lifetimes, there's only ever been war. So this is a given for them.”

—Karín Aguilar-San Juan, American studies professor

CHOOSING TO SERVE

Less than 0.5 percent of the U.S. population serves on active military duty today. Why Macalester students and alumni choose to join them is often personal.

"We had a friend from my neighborhood who had died in Iraq in 2007, when I was actually at Macalester, and so it had hit our neighborhood pretty hard," remembers U.S. Army Major **Stephanie Nelson Pagano '07**. "And so any time I talked about joining, it would kind of throw my family for a loop."

U.S. Army Major
Stephanie Nelson
Pagano '07 (pictured
flying over Afghanistan)
connects her military
career to the emphasis
on service she learned
at Macalester.



"I know there aren't that many service members from Macalester," she says. "But something that really is fostered in the education we got at Macalester was serving the underserved. There was a plethora of ways people did that: Teach for America or what have you. I always felt like me choosing to join because there weren't enough mental health providers in the Army fit perfectly with what had been fostered in me at Macalester."

Pagano was the third generation of her family to join the Army when she took a commission as an officer. Both grandfathers had served (one in the Navy, the other in the Army), and her father was a Vietnam War veteran. His struggles with PTSD drove her interest in psychology. While working on her psychology major at Macalester, Pagano planned to later work with veterans in the Veterans Affairs health system.

"But hearing that there was a shortage of psychologists in the Army serving active duty bugged me and bent me out of shape," she says. "I had numerous friends come back from Iraq with PTSD, and I had a father who experienced PTSD symptoms on and off throughout my life, so it was something that didn't sit well with me." Pagano joined the Army's Medical Service Corps as a doctoral candidate, completed her pre-doctoral internship while on active duty, and works now as a clinical psychologist.

Not everyone at Macalester has the choice of serving voluntarily. Twenty-eight nations currently require some form of national service from their citizens. Because of this mandatory service, a number of international students arrive on campus as veterans. Others must take a leave of absence to serve because of their country's requirements. **Jeong-Won "Jackson" Tak '21** (Seoul, South Korea) returned to Macalester this fall after taking two years away from his studies to meet his service requirement as a sniper and senior team leader in the Republic of Korea Army Military Police Special Duty Team.

"When I told friends, swim teammates, classmates, and professors about my [service], I remember a lot of them being worried mostly because of the heightening tension in the Korean Peninsula," Tak says. "At the end of the school year, it was not easy to say goodbye to my friends, knowing that they would all graduate by the time I [would] come back to Mac."

"Thankfully, my close friends visited me multiple times in South Korea during my service," Tak recalls. "I am forever grateful for Macalester for allowing me to make such amazing friends. Throughout my entire service, I kept in touch with my friends through social media."

SEE YOU IN AFRICA

Eric was in a restaurant in Minneapolis with two Mac alumni from his graduating class. He was deploying to Africa again the following week, but for now, he was as close to being home as he ever got these days.

One of his friends revealed that he, too, was going to Africa, to film a documentary on refugee camps for a project he was working on for his film production company, co-owned with an East African entrepreneur and refugee. In fact, he'd be in a country that bordered the one where Eric was deploying. The third alumnus was heading to the same region of Africa, too, as part of a business trip for a market-research firm.

They shook their heads at the amazing coincidence of three Macalester classmates going to the same region of Africa at the same time, all in different capacities.

THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX

"I've had the FBI in [my office] many times for [security-clearance] background checks on former students. At least once a year," says Latham. He is pleased to see Macalester students, armed with a rigorous liberal arts education, enter national and international security careers: "I would rather Mac students run the world—being the colonels and the generals."

Barrett echoes the sentiment. "Critical thinking—a liberal arts education—can prevent a lot of tragedies and inform policy in a military setting," he says. He believes that any type of social service, from military to public health, can also "open students' eyes to new perspectives."

As for the students who have served, they agree that Mac students are uniquely equipped to serve in their home militaries.

Lim, the soon-to-be Marine officer, found the Macalester com-



“Critical thinking—a liberal arts education—can prevent a lot of tragedies and inform policy in a military setting.”

— Ron Barrett, anthropology professor

munity to be very involved in and knowledgeable of the world: “I’d say Macalester is a good place for someone like me to learn about various perspectives that I hadn’t considered and for Macalester students to learn more about the military. For some of my friends, I am their first contact with the military at all.”

“Macalester taught me how to think outside the box and stay curious rather than just taking in information,” says Tak of his service in the Republic of Korea Army. “I tried to get everyone to express their feelings and ideas instead of just following superiors’ commands. In training, I always told my teammates to think and ask ‘Why?’ when doing drills, exercises, and anything so that they could become a better leader.”

OVERFLIGHT

The night-vision goggles were locked in place over Eric’s eyes, allowing him to see the moonlit wilderness beneath the roaring engine of his aircraft. He was flying over Africa, again, on his third deployment there in two years.

Part of why Eric had joined the Air Force was to see parts of the world that were less traveled. He hadn’t anticipated it would be so warzone centered. After consecutive deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan, he requested to deploy to Africa instead for a change of pace.

That, and so he could blast “Africa” by Toto inside his headset while flying across the savannahs, forests, and deserts of the vast continent. On slower nights with a tired crew, music helped to fill the silence as the hours ticked by.

Instead of music, Eric had something for his crew to consider that night. Special operations personnel (like him) attended classes on regional culture, history, and politics before deploying. They were expected to consider all the facts without being tied to a single narrative. That openness and holistic thinking, which he’d also encountered at Macalester, suited Eric well.

While chatting to pass the time, he heard some dehumanizing comments about the local populace. Eric’s mind flashed back to the Mac students he had met from the very country now under his aircraft. With a few of them, he’d studied, played soccer, and shared countless meals at Café Mac.

“Well, there’s probably a bit more to it than that,” Eric said over the headset. That was all he had to say to get the others to bite. They started asking him questions, and Eric helped them to see that maybe the people on the ground were like them—just trying their best to live a good life under the circumstances into which they were born. That maybe they weren’t the enemy. **M**

Bryan Barnes works on the Macalester website. Long before that, he served in a non-combat role with the Wisconsin Air National Guard from 1996–2002.

Number of countries that require national service

28

14

Number of current U.N. peacekeeping operations

0.5

Percent of U.S. population serving in active duty military

7.6

Percent of U.S. population who are veterans

Number of countries where the U.S. military is actively engaged

80

327

Number of living Macalester alumni with records that show military employment

NON-U.S. MILITARIES IN WHICH ALUMNI HAVE SERVED

| | | |
|---------|---------------|----------------|
| Canada | Greece | United Kingdom |
| Cyprus | Israel | United Nations |
| Finland | Rep. of Korea | |



KOFI ANNAN AND U.N. PEACEKEEPING

Before becoming the Secretary-General, Kofi Annan ’61 was the head of U.N. Peacekeeping Operations from 1992–1996. While he served in this leadership role, peacekeeping operations peaked in 1995 with the deployment of nearly 70,000 military and civilian personnel from 77 countries.



HAS YOUR LIFE INCLUDED THE MILITARY OR OTHER RELATED INSTITUTIONS?

Share your story: mactoday@macalester.edu.



V I S I O N



HOW NEXT YEAR'S CENSUS
WILL HELP ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT
SEE 10 YEARS INTO THE FUTURE



BY ROBYN ROSS / PHOTO BY DAVID J. TURNER

While the political spotlight is on next year's presidential election, another event, equally important for democracy, will occur in 2020: the census. The nation's decennial headcount is used for everything from drawing congressional district lines to funding Medicaid. Macalester alumni are helping Minnesota and other states prepare by building relationships that will encourage every single person to stand up and be counted.

"It's not surprising that people from Macalester are engaged in something that's as important as the census," says **Andrew Virden '96**, Minnesota's director of census operations and engagement. "It connects with Macalester's ideals of internationalism and community service." For those who aren't already knee-deep in planning for Census 2020, we offer this introductory course.



"In August we were at the state fair in our Complete Count T-shirts, talking with citizens about the importance of the census while they ate fried food on a stick," says **Sharon Sayles Belton '73**, pictured with **Andrew Virden '96**. "Our goal is to saturate the market with information about the census and build awareness."



hires hundreds of thousands of census workers. With years of planning and thousands of employees across the country, “the census is our largest civic mobilization outside of going to war,” says **Bob Tracy '82**, director of public policy and communications for the Minnesota Council on Foundations.

In 2020, for the first time in history, the census can be completed online. Starting in mid-March, roughly 75 percent of households, generally in parts of the country with broadband internet access, will receive a postcard directing them to the census URL. The other quarter will receive a letter followed by a paper form (these folks also have the option to fill it out online or over the phone). Households that haven’t responded by late April will begin to receive in-person visits from census workers called enumerators. These federal employees, typically hired from within the local community, can visit an address up to three times before census operations cease in the summer.

LECTURE 1: THE OVERVIEW

Let’s start with the basics. The census is a survey of the entire U.S. population, mandated in Article I of the Constitution and conducted every 10 years for the purposes of apportioning congressional seats. The data are also used for allocating federal funds. Each household fills out the census once for all the people who live there. The form asks about the number of people in the household as well as their sex, age, and race, and whether the home is owned or rented.

While the census is conducted in years that end in zero, preparation begins much earlier. In the months before census day, April 1, the Census Bureau establishes offices in each state and

“The census is our largest civic mobilization outside of going to war.”

—Bob Tracy '82

LECTURE 2: WHAT’S AT STAKE?

The federal government uses census data to determine how to spend its money. That money funds programs like Head Start, school breakfast and lunch programs, foster care, highway construction, student loans and Pell Grants, SNAP (food stamps), and Medicaid—just for starters. Based on the decennial census count, Minnesota, for example, receives \$15.5 billion per year from the federal government.

That translates into \$2,796 per person per year.

Viewed another way: that’s \$28,000 per person, over 10 years, that the state loses if the census misses someone. So it pays—literally—to ensure the census is accurate.

“Accurately counting folks is the way to make sure we get all the money back that we are due for our programs and services,” says **Maria Paschke '11**, a former research and outreach coordinator for census activities at the Minnesota State Demographic Center.

Equally important, census data determine how many congressional representatives are apportioned to each state. And within the states, the data are used to draw congressional districts as well as boundaries for state, county, and city offices. School district boundaries are based in part on census numbers, as are decisions about where to place fire and police stations.

The census is also used by many entities outside of government. Nonprofits rely heavily on the data, says Paschke, now the head of a nonprofit focused on behavioral health. “When I worked at the state demographic center, some of our most frequent emails and calls were folks from nonprofits asking, ‘What’s the poverty

"The census is one of the few bipartisan things that we all do together as Americans. Gaining accurate information about what's happening in our country is the foundation of almost all the research that's happening in our colleges and universities, and all our laws and bills. It benefits everybody. Apart from how much money we get or how many representatives we get, this is how we know what's really happening and what's not fake news. This is how we make sure that our scientists and researchers and businesses have accurate information about what's happening in our communities and in our country."

—Maria Paschke '11



rate in my area?' 'How many people of color live in my area?'—trying to get basic information so they could write grants or develop services to better serve the community."

Businesses use the data to decide where to locate stores, which has ripple effects beyond the companies' bottom line. "When CVS decides to put a store in your neighborhood, it now means you might be able to walk to get your prescriptions," Virden explains. "And it means that your neighbor might not have to take a bus and connect three times in order to get to a job. They might be able to just walk across the street."

LECTURE 3:

THE CENSUS AND POLITICAL REPRESENTATION

Article I of the U.S. Constitution mandates a census to apportion representatives "among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective Numbers." The total number of representatives was capped at 435 by the Permanent Apportionment Act in 1929. Since the 1960s, Minnesota has had eight. The size of the state's delegation to the Electoral College is also determined by the census: it's equal to the number of House and Senate members combined.

SPECIAL TOPICS:

How Redistricting Works in Minnesota

by Karen Saxe, professor emerita of mathematics who served on the Minnesota Citizens' Redistricting Commission after the 2010 census

"The first step in doing good redistricting is making sure that there's a good census. Once the census is done, the congressional seats are distributed according to a mathematical formula called the Huntington-Hill method, which has been used since the 1940s. Each state gets one representative, and then, after that, they're doled out in order, based on population, until the count reaches 435. After the last census, Minnesota got the last seat—seat No. 435.

Once the state knows how many seats it gets, it draws the House districts. Within a state, the districts all have to have roughly

equal population, and that information comes from census data. In Minnesota, the House and Senate are supposed to agree on the same map and then pass it on to the governor, who either approves or vetoes it. But that hasn't happened in a long time, because all three chambers haven't been run by the same party.

This dysfunction created an opportunity for citizens to get involved, and our commission was established to weigh in on redistricting.

The commission had a number of constraints: the new map had to resemble the old map as closely as possible. The districts needed to be as compact as possible. You try to keep communities of interest together by drawing districts that include areas with common geography, culture, and economics. We tried to keep the Twin Cities in one district, as much as possible, but the population distribution across Minnesota requires that the urban area be split into multiple districts. And people move within the state, so even a state that keeps roughly the same number of people may need to adjust district boundaries to account for migration patterns."



Minnesotans typically complete the census: in 2010 the state's 81 percent participation rate ranked second only to Wisconsin's, a point higher. But Minnesota's population is not growing as quickly as that in some Southern states. After the 2010 census, Minnesota held on to its eighth congressional seat by a margin of fewer than 8,800 people. The state is again at risk of losing one of its congressional representatives: yet another reason to make sure every household fills out the census.

"We need our voices and our concerns to get to Washington, D.C., and be heard by our national leaders," says **Sharon Sayles Belton '73**, co-chair of the state's Complete Count Committee. "The best way for that to happen is to get counted and to make sure that we've got all the representation that we are entitled to."



LECTURE 4:

CHALLENGES FOR CENSUS 2020

Mac alumni likely are aware of the Trump administration's attempt to add a citizenship question to the 2020 census. Advocates for immigrant communities worried that the question would have a chilling effect, and that undocumented or mixed-status households would forgo completing the census altogether. The question was ultimately struck down by the Supreme Court, but it contributed to the administration missing its own July 1 deadline to start printing materials.

Although the citizenship question was nixed, Census 2020 is still at a disadvantage. Its operations have been funded behind schedule because of repeated disagreements about government spending between Congress and the President, which resulted in the passage of continuing resolutions that kept the government open but delayed appropriations for the census. The delayed funding meant the Census Bureau opened its regional and state offices a few months late.

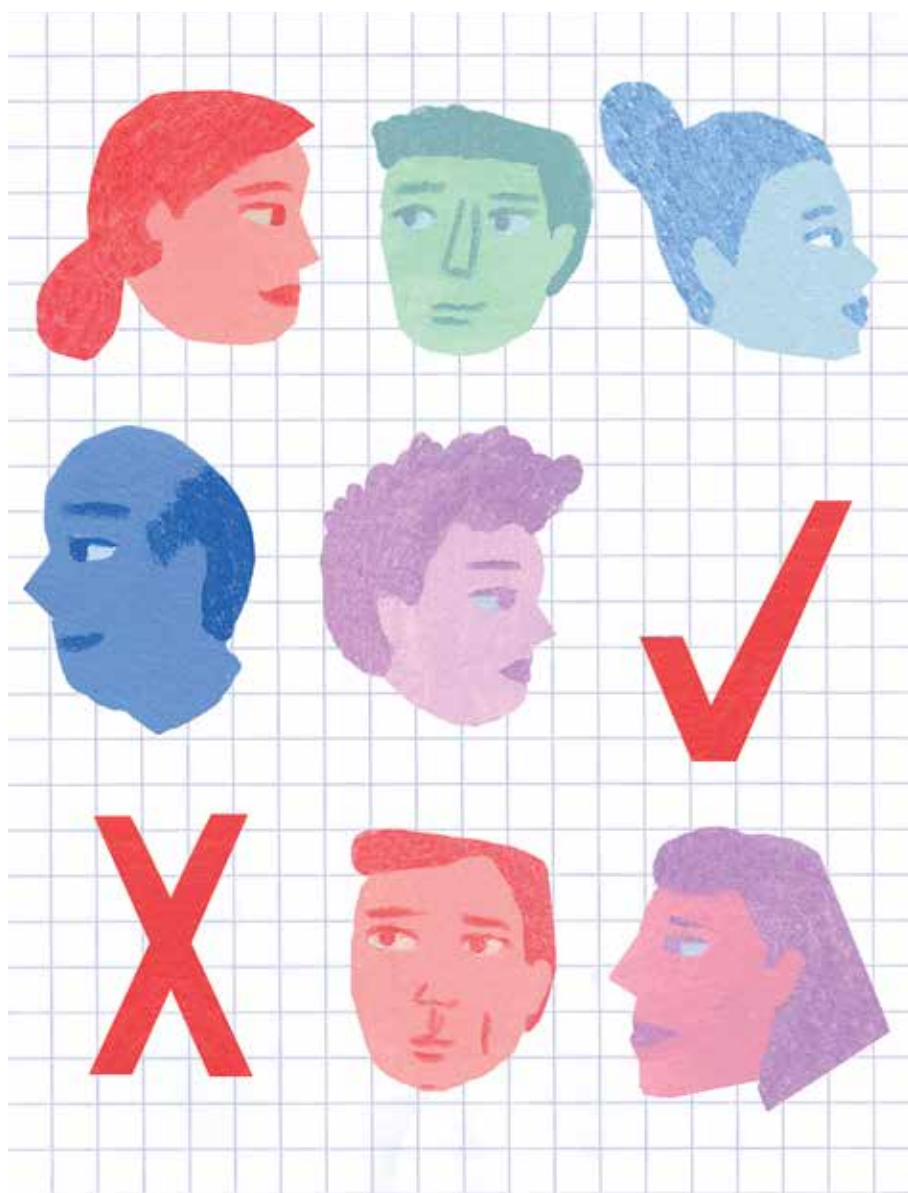
That's not all: although it infused additional money into the census in 2018, Congress appropriated relatively less money for Census 2020 than it did Census 2010 during the years leading up to the headcount. As a result, the bureau conducted only a third of the end-to-end tests it intended to run. "The end-to-end tests are sort of a dress rehearsal for the census," says **Charmaine Runes '15**, who studied the census at the Urban Institute in Washington, D.C. "It's enumerators going around and making sure that they have the right addresses and seeing what the response is like. They also test outreach strategies, particularly for rural and tribal communities."



Three tests were planned, in Providence, Rhode Island; Pierce County, Washington; and several rural counties in West Virginia. But only the Providence test happened. That's a problem, because messaging strategies and the logistics of reaching respondents vary widely between cities like Providence and rural areas. The stakes are even higher because this census is the first that will encourage participants to respond online, and because enumerators will be allowed to make half as many visits to each household—three instead of six.

While a digital-first census may save paper and, for some people, time, it also creates challenges.

Some households don't have computers. And at least a quarter of residents in rural areas





of the country don't have access to broadband internet. In some communities in the west, the only broadband access may be via three laptops at a county library.

The government's reputation for building websites to handle massive traffic in a short time isn't stellar: witness the launch of healthcare.gov, the Affordable Care Act Marketplace.

"People were having to drive 50 miles to a library site and stand in line to do that," says **Allen Smart '83**, who studies and advocates for rural philanthropy. "There, you had a critical incentive: you needed health insurance. In this case, the incentives are a little more global—resources for your community or state—rather than so personalized." Rural residents are unlikely to make the same herculean effort for the census.



LECTURE 5:

UNDERCOUNTING

The census can fail to count people for a number of reasons. A household might not have internet access or anyone who's computer literate. A family could live where a census worker can't reach them: in a restricted-access apartment building or down a private road in a rural area. People might not complete the form because they don't understand how important it is, or because they have a negative perception of government.

QUIZ:

Who's at risk of being undercounted? Answers may vary and may include:

- Undocumented and mixed-status households. Even though the citizenship question wasn't added to the census, Andrew Virden says, "I don't know that the message has gotten out that it's no longer on there, that you won't suffer any consequence for filling this out." An important message for such households: if you respond to the form before April 15, census workers likely won't knock on your door. The more questions you answer, the less likely you'll receive a visit, Virden says.
- Renters, partly because they move more frequently than homeowners, and partly because it can be difficult for enumerators to get into apartment buildings to knock on doors.
- Children younger than five.
- Racial and ethnic minorities, some of whom are recent immigrants who don't speak English fluently (the census is available in 13 languages, but that number doesn't include Somali or Hmong, commonly spoken in the Twin Cities). Some of these populations have higher rates of poverty and less computer or internet access.
- Snowbirds. Minnesota has an estimated 44,000 residents who winter in warmer climates. Because census day is April 1, the state is urging Minnesotans to return home by then—or at least identify as Minnesotans when they complete the census so they can be counted for their home state.
- College students who aren't counted as a member of the household when their family fills out the census, and who don't fill it out themselves. (Students who live in campus housing are counted by the college.) Children of divorced or separated parents who spend time with each.
- Anyone with an unusual or itinerant housing situation: people who are experiencing homelessness or living in shelters or staying with friends.
- People with limited access to computers or broadband internet.

LECTURE 6:

MAKING IT COUNT: GETTING AN ACCURATE CENSUS IN MINNESOTA

Faced with the possibility of an undercount—and losing one of its congressional seats—Minnesota has sprung into action. Although many states didn't appropriate any money for the census, Minnesota allocated \$1.6 million for the 2020 fiscal year, thanks in part to the advocacy efforts of Bob Tracy of the Minnesota Council on Foundations. That money supports the state's efforts to coordinate with cities, nonprofits, and neighborhood associations to maximize census participation—efforts led by Andrew Virden's office.

Maria Paschke managed some of those on-the-ground efforts when she worked for the State Demographic Center. She traveled the state, helping cities and counties brainstorm ways to reach locals the census might miss. Community leaders came up with ideas like working with the local radio station, incorporating the census into an annual festival, and coordinating with churches to offer laptops and volunteers so people can fill out the census after services. "It's way more effective for a local city to be thinking about which parts of the population are likely to be undercounted and making a strategy to reach those people," she says.

Like many states, Minnesota has an all-volunteer Complete Count Committee (CCC) that works parallel to, but separately from, the Census Bureau. The committees partner with local governments and nonprofits to customize outreach efforts for the state. Minnesota's CCC, co-chaired by Sharon Sayles Belton, is developing a strategy to hire enumerators who will be trusted by the communities they visit and has created social-media-friendly videos explaining the census. Sayles Belton sits on the CCC's faith community subcommittee, which is building relationships with religious leaders and congregations. "If we can partner with the faith community to ensure they can support us in educating the citizens," she says, "we are more likely to get a complete and accurate count."

Meanwhile, on a national scale, a coalition of philanthropies has raised nearly \$80 million to promote the census, especially in historically undercounted communities. The Minnesota Census Mobilization Partnership is raising \$4.3 million, split evenly between public and private sources, for activities in the state.

The Partnership, a network of nonprofits, grantmakers, and businesses working alongside government to promote the census, is headed by the Minnesota Council on Foundations. The Partnership funded a communications plan developed with heavy input from leaders in historically undercounted communities, who suggested messages that would resonate with those groups. It's supporting initiatives to share those messages through nonprofits, tribal nations, and local Complete Count Committees—and by getting neighbors talking with one another about the census.

"Education around the census is really important," Charmaine Runes says. "People have different standards for what counts as personal information, so if you get a form that says 'fill this out,' and you don't know what it's going to be used for, I can understand why people wouldn't want to fill it out."

When a household isn't counted, it doesn't mean those specific people will be excluded from government services. It just means that the community as a whole has to make do with less. Undercounting a few dozen school-age kids could result in an allocation of money for school lunches that's tens of thousands of dollars less than it should have been. And the need to fund school lunches, roads, and public health programs cuts across political lines. "The financial incentives for even the most conservative red states or red counties to get the census count right are profound," says Allen Smart.



"We want this organizing effort to move people to feel a greater sense of civic engagement and power," Tracy says. "The census is not about filling out a form. The census is as important as voting—it's that fundamental to our democracy. So it's an expression of power."

Your homework

Talk to your neighbors and your networks about the census—starting today. Next spring, ask your friends if they've completed it. Enumerators can only visit a household three times, but there are no such limits on civic-minded neighbors.


Complete the census as soon as you receive the postcard. Virden, who worked on the 2010 census, says costs rise sharply when enumerators have to get involved. Back then, the basic cost to administer the census—printing the form, mailing it to the household, and covering return postage—was about a dollar. Sending enumerators to make follow-up visits raised the cost to around \$35.

> Sign up for reminders about the census at 2020census.gov/en/how-to-help.html

Your summer internship?

The Census Bureau needs roughly half a million employees nationwide to execute the 2020 headcount. That might be difficult, Virden says, because of the robust economy. In Minnesota, for example, the Census Bureau will need 7,500 workers for peak operations between March and June. Filling that many jobs requires close to 40,000 applicants—a tall order in a state with an unemployment rate under 4 percent.

The jobs are part time and offer flexible schedules that particularly suit students, school and college employees, and retired or semi-retired folks. Employees must be 18 or older, proficient in English, and U.S. citizens—or, in a few circumstances, legal residents.

The bureau prefers to hire enumerators to work in their own communities. Locals know the culture and geography and, in small towns, have a personal network they can activate to reach people. "You know what the back roads are, you know which houses aren't occupied, and you have that local trust, where someone's going to recognize your name or your car," Paschke says. "That's going to be much more effective than a random person from the city who's here for a week." 

> 2020census.gov/jobs



Faculty Bios

Maria Paschke '11 is the executive director of Well Being Development in Ely, Minn., and a former research and outreach coordinator at the Minnesota State Demographic Center.

Charmaine Runes '15 is a student in the master's program in computational analysis and public policy at the University of Chicago. She previously worked at the non-partisan, nonprofit policy research organization the Urban Institute in Washington, D.C., on a Gates Foundation-funded project about potential undercounts in the 2020 census.

Karen Saxe is a professor emerita of mathematics and director of government relations for the American Mathematical Society. She served on the Minnesota Citizens' Redistricting Commission after the 2010 census.

Sharon Sayles Belton '73, who served as mayor of Minneapolis from 1994 to 2001, is a co-chair of the state Complete Count Committee.

Allen Smart '83, founder of PhilanthropywoRx, directed the national Rural Philanthropic Analysis project at Campbell University. He has 20 years of experience leading foundations that serve rural populations in North Carolina and Louisiana.

Bob Tracy '82 is the director of public policy and communications at the Minnesota Council on Foundations.

Andrew Virden '96 is the director of census operations and engagement for the state of Minnesota. He worked for the Census Bureau in recruiting and field operations for the 2010 census.

A photograph of Roberto Ochoa, a middle-aged man with dark hair, smiling at the camera. He is wearing a light green button-down shirt with intricate black embroidery on the yoke and pockets. He is standing in a church with a large, circular, multi-tiered ceiling illuminated by warm, golden lights. Red columns are visible in the background.

FIGHTING FOR JUSTICE WITH FAITH

"When I visit congregations, I'm there to listen," says Roberto Ochoa '76.

On June 26, 2015, the United Church of Christ (UCC) was gathered in Cleveland for its General Synod, a biannual meeting to elect leaders and establish goals and policies for the denomination. That morning, a murmur rippled through the convention hall: the U.S. Supreme Court had just issued its ruling in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, recognizing legal protection for same-sex marriages. The news, first passed around the room in giddy whispers, quickly took center stage as the attendees erupted in celebration.

"There was a lot of hugging and crying," **Roberto Ochoa '76** says. "At a church assembly!"

At the time, Ochoa was serving as a pastor at a church in Worcester, Mass. Today he serves the UCC within its Congregational Assessment, Support, and Advancement program. He is the program associate for congregations of color—a growing part of a mainline Protestant denomination that has, historically, been predominantly white. Congregations of color and ethnic-identified congregations seek his support and he, in turn, ensures that these congregations know about, and take advantage of, grants and other forms of assistance from the denomination. While he's new to this position, Ochoa has been part of the United Church of Christ for 20 years.

"We strive to be a church that spreads the good news for a just world for all," Ochoa says. "I bring a lot of Mac curiosity to my work. When I visit congregations, I'm there to listen."

Ochoa didn't always plan to serve in the ministry, just as he never planned to leave his home in East Los Angeles for a college in Minnesota. A high school counselor, however, thought Mac would be a good fit.

"Doesn't it snow up there?" Ochoa remembers asking. Still, he grew up on Minnesota Street—which the 18-year-old took as a sign. He received a scholarship as part of a growing initiative to provide equal opportunities for students of color—a second good sign.

A third point in favor of Macalester: in 1971, Jack Baker, a law student at the University of Minnesota, had become the nation's first openly gay student body president—just as Ochoa was beginning to understand his own sexual orientation. Later, he would come to identify as gay. "I thought, 'Wow, if I got to Minnesota, I could be authentically me,'" he says.

But he hadn't counted on the cultural shift involved in trading a huge, nearly 100 percent Mexican American high school for a small liberal arts college with 1,900 students and fewer than 20 Latinx students. "It was a whole different world," he says. "I had to learn how to deal with being a minority."

Ochoa met his first boyfriend in his second year at Mac, and the two, along with other students, formed the Gay Student Union. Even as he wrestled with being both gay and Latinx, he says he'd found a community where he could be himself for the first time.

In the early 1970s, the GSU sponsored events about the gay and lesbian experience in the Twin Cities. Informal conversations about gay rights bled into classrooms—though, Ochoa notes, students in the GSU were wary of being too public because professors were not always supportive of gay students, even as

they tolerated a spirit of activism and civic engagement.

This spirit stayed with Ochoa after he left Mac to join the U.S. Air Force. During his time in the military, he formed a relationship with the divine. "Once I accepted the fact that I had every right to a relationship with God, I started pursuing faith," he says. In 1979 Ochoa moved back to Los Angeles for a career in the new computer software industry and began attending Metropolitan Community Church, which had a large Latinx community.

Ochoa felt the call to ministry in the 1980s—right as the AIDS epidemic was sweeping through the gay community. Ochoa recalls that at the time there were few in the ministry who spoke Spanish—and there were fewer churches willing to ordain a gay man.

In 1991, he began attending First Presbyterian Church of Baldwin Park, a congregation that was part of the More Light network, the Presbyterian Church (USA)'s movement to fully welcome LGBTQ believers. The church ordained him as an elder, or church trustee, a practice that was not allowed by Presbyterian doctrine at the time.

It was at that church that he also met a Mac grad from the Class of 1919, who reconnected him with Mac's alumni community. Ochoa served for seven years as Mac's alumni coordinator for the San Gabriel/Pomona Valley area, organizing alumni events and speaking at high schools, before moving to Worcester in 1996.

There were no More Light churches in Worcester, so Ochoa joined a United Church of Christ congregation instead. There he served first as a lay pastor, working outside the church as a housing counselor with people experiencing homelessness and as a supervisor for a cable company's call center. Then, with the blessing of his Roman Catholic husband, Jim, he attended seminary at Andover Newton Seminary to finish a master's degree in divinity he'd put on hold a decade before.

Fast forward to the General Synod in 2015, to the joy of being among people of faith celebrating a historic win for LGBTQ communities.

"Belonging to a denomination that gives us hope, in the middle of things that cause hopelessness—that's important to me," Ochoa says.

Churches within the UCC started ordaining gay people in the 1970s, and in 2005 the General Synod in Atlanta upheld the rights of same gender couples to marry—a decade before the U.S. Supreme Court ruled on legal protections for gay marriage.

Ochoa points out that even in a progressive denomination he regularly confronts white supremacy. The United Church of Christ offers resources for majority-white congregations seeking to address racial justice; his role is to support congregations of color and ethnic identified congregations.

He still draws every day on the skills honed forming the GSU at Macalester: "I learned how to respond to people who are different from me, and to respond to people who see me differently. The UCC is on the front lines when it comes to immigration, women's reproductive rights, LGBTQ rights, the environment, the poor, and marginalized communities. It's the essence of global citizenship." **M**



THE ECONOMICS OF

BY REBECCA DEJARLAIS ORTIZ '06

For more than a decade, economics professor **Sarah West's** teaching load included "Public Finance," a course focused on taxation. Five years ago, she demolished that syllabus and built a new class. "I was tired of its narrowness," says West, who graduated from Mac in 1991. "I wanted students to dabble in any element of public policy." The senior-level course that emerged, "Economics of Public Policy," requires students to collaborate on a policy brief assignment similar to what you'd find in a master's-level program: a high-level analysis of a policy question, geared toward the general public.

How does economic analysis shape public policy?

In analyzing public policy, economists develop theories that help us predict a policy's likely effects, which helps us quantify well-being.

For example, an economist approaches the question of whether we should increase the minimum wage by first trying to understand what the effects might be. What are the conditions under which we might expect a lot of people to lose their jobs as a result of a minimum wage increase? We construct "if/then" statements to help understand what we need to look for in markets to see the effects. Can workers, for example, be easily replaced by machines or touch screens? After we understand the conditions

under which we might expect effects to go one way or the other, then we attempt to measure the extent to which these conditions exist and what has happened when a policy change has been implemented in the past.

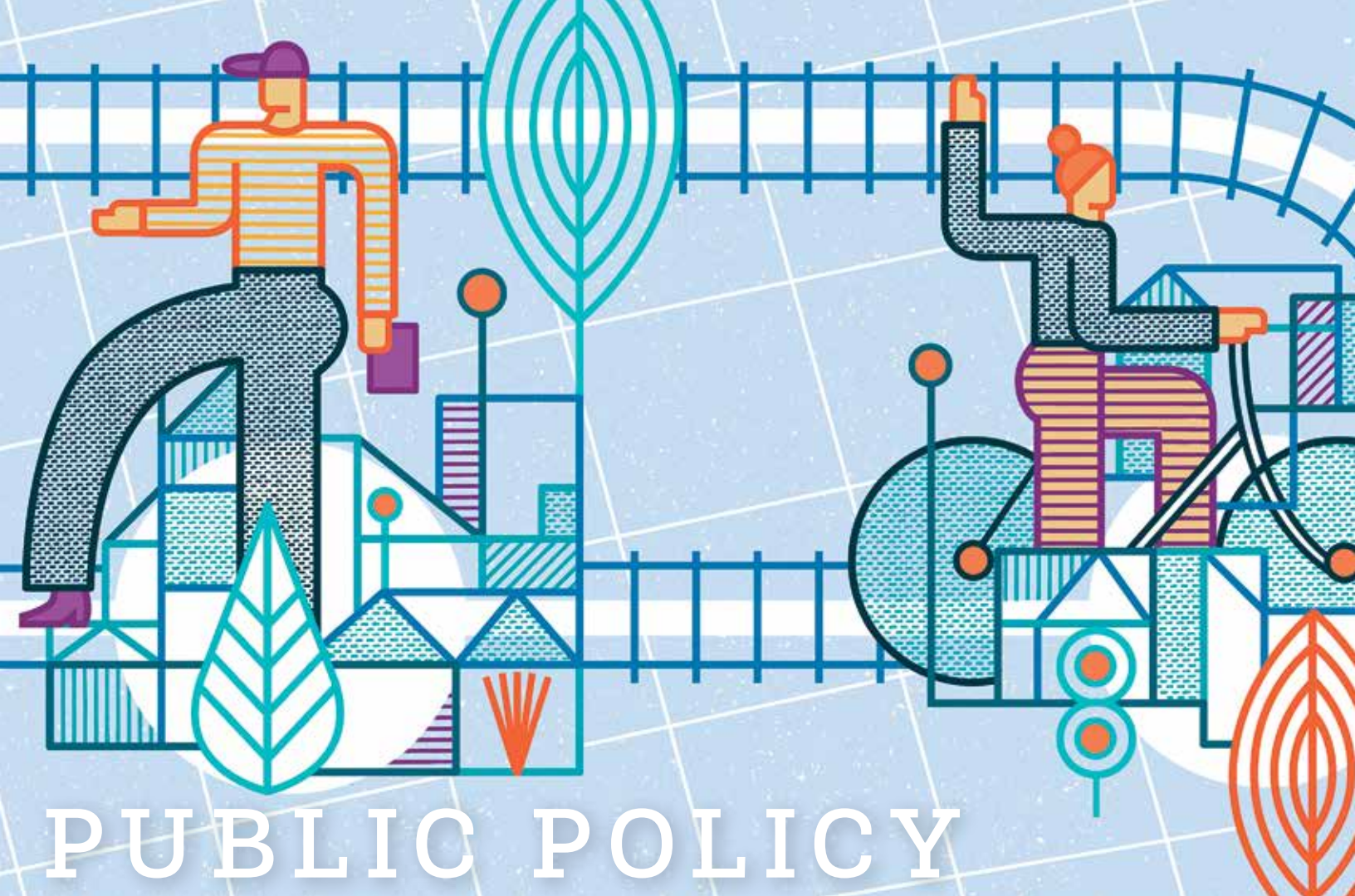
That's part of what distinguishes economics from other social sciences: our level of comfort with the quantitative. We're willing to engage in some simplification in order to try to uncover quantitative realities. We desperately need our other social science colleagues to help us fill in the overall picture. But what economists can contribute is a strategy for estimating the effects of a policy change in isolation from all the other complex things that are happening.

What questions have you investigated in your own research?

Several years ago, my former student **Needham Hurst '11** and I looked at the effects of the METRO Blue Line light rail on land use surrounding station areas. If you drive down Highway 55 in Minneapolis, you can see a number of relatively new apartment complexes, and you might think, "Wow, that must be the result of the changes that took place because of the Blue Line."

When we compared the rate of change along Highway 55 with what's happening in the rest of the city, though, we found that the Blue Line's introduction in 2004 had very limited effects. We weren't able to find much evidence that it was more than just a ripe corridor for redevelopment.

ILLUSTRATION BY THOM SEVALRUD / i2iART.COM



Did that surprise you?

Totally and completely. When we discussed our results with the public, it surprised the public, too. It nagged at me—I grew up in that neighborhood, crossing Highway 55 on my way to high school, and I've seen the changes over time. I just couldn't imagine that the train didn't have some effect.

What bothered me the most after that initial study was that when we measured the effect of the new Blue Line stations, we did what's typical in urban economics: we drew circles around those stations. We figured that developers would be interested in creating new apartment complexes near stations to market to commuters. The problem is, you can't actually develop some of the parcels within these circles. And furthermore, the real catchment areas—the spaces where commuters pass through en route to the train—aren't actually circles. The most likely places to build new apartment complexes for commuters may be along existing streets like 38th and 46th, which have the most direct access to Blue Line stations—which means the area that is affected by an active station looks more like a squished oval than a circle.

What did you do next?

Vergi Agustini '19 and I reexamined the hypothesis that the introduction of rail will induce land use change but instead measured the areas not as circles but as ovals along the arterials. I've found very few studies that estimate change along arterials rather than in the traditional circles. We did something very different—and we found substantial evidence that the train mattered.


How has doing qualitative work shifted your research practice?

It's not that people haven't had these ideas before. Any urban planner will say, "Of course you shouldn't just blindly draw a circle around a station." They think qualitatively all the time about effects on a community.

Economists, on the other hand, have been less likely to use the more complicated qualitative analysis because our expertise is in statistics. When you're doing statistical analysis, you seek neat and tidy ways of measuring—and circles are simple. I'm learning from urban planners about how cities work, then applying the intensive statistical analysis to try to uncover the Blue Line's quantitative impact. I'm working now with **Clemens Pilgram '15**, who just started a PhD in urban planning, on two other questions: How do a station area's characteristics affect whether and how people use the light rail? And how do those characteristics affect property values around stations?

Has your perspective as an economist changed?

I entered economics with an interdisciplinary approach—so I don't know that my views have changed, but I feel more freedom and comfort to explore them. Now, later in my career, I've been able to think more broadly about questions, when there's less pressure to establish a reputation for being a technical wonder as an economist. At Macalester, interdisciplinary work on complex, long-term projects is appreciated and supported. I feel very lucky to be in that environment. **M**

A woman with long brown hair and a grey top is shown from the waist up, smiling. She has a blue, metallic, robotic arm attached to her right shoulder. The arm is raised and has a blue wireframe overlay. In the bottom right corner, a brown cat is shown with a blue wireframe overlay. The background is a futuristic, blue-toned environment with a grid pattern and some glowing elements.

When we asked Wei-Chuan Hsu to imagine her own superhero portrait, she knew exactly what she wanted: her cat (Cat) and a robotic arm, a shout-out to the Hulkbuster, the powerful Iron Man armor suit. "One of my dreams was to animate the Hulkbuster," Hsu says. "And I got to do it."

MOTION STUDIES

From wolves to Marvel heroes and villains, animator **Wei-Chuan Hsu '07** makes things move.

In the final battle of *Avengers: Infinity War*, Don Cheadle's Colonel James Rhodes (also known as War Machine) tries to destroy Josh Brolin's evil Thanos. Clad in his sleek armored suit with golden eyes gleaming, War Machine hovers above Thanos, firing missiles at the hulking supervillain on the ground, smoke trails snaking around him as he descends. But Thanos is still too powerful. He grabs War Machine, tosses him aside with a clank, brutally secures the final Infinity Stone that he's been seeking, and turns almost everyone good to dust—at least for now.

This scene's floating War Machine and flaming missiles are the work of **Wei-Chuan Hsu '07**. After freelancing around Los Angeles, she landed a job as an animator on the 2018 Marvel Studios movie at Industrial Light & Magic, the Lucasfilm animation studio that provided the film's visual effects.

As part of the previs (pre-visualization) team at The Third Floor visualization studio, Hsu brainstormed ideas for the movie's design phase. Early on, she got to animate one of the first motion studies of Hulk battling Thanos, so the directors could get a sense of the scene's visual possibilities. Hsu says that to get a creature's movement just right, animators use references—snippets of motion gleaned from YouTube or real life that they can refer to while working. "We took a ton of references from other Marvel movies, regular Hollywood movies, Japanese anime, video games, kung fu movies, and all styles of martial arts movies," she says.

The previs team creates a lot of content. Then the directors go in and make an edit of it. "We also made libraries of motion that would be used again and again, like walk cycles, run cycles, jump cycles, so that if the director wanted the creature to run from point A to point B, we could just drop it in—that's the previs process," Hsu says. Later, with real-life actors, animators use motion capture or "mocap," in which people act on a stage and their movements are captured as computer-graphics characters in the computer.

Although Hsu says the eventual battle between Hulk and Thanos was mostly different from what she created, she got to animate Hulkbuster (the armored Iron Man suit used by Hulk to fight Thanos), the Outriders (Thanos's horde of humanoids), and War Machine for the film. You will see her name twice in the movie's credits, as a visualization and digital artist.

Hsu, who was born in Taiwan, moved to Malaysia when she was eight and lived there through high school. She chose Macalester for two reasons: it offered a good liberal arts education, and its cold weather provided a break from Malaysia's heat.

Hsu knew she liked art, but she didn't know how to turn it into a career. Her parents encouraged her to try something else first, so she took a lot of biology and math, with some computer science classes. "But eventually I realized that I still really liked art, so I started taking more of it," she says. "I was almost in my senior year when I thought, hey, animation could be kind of cool."

Hsu studied animation at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design and drew on those skills at Mac to make "Worker," her capstone project. After graduating with an art major and computer

science minor, Hsu left for Los Angeles, where "Worker" helped her secure an internship.

"When I came to Hollywood, I realized that 3D is where the jobs are," Hsu says. Eventually, she enrolled in the Gnomon School of Visual Effects, Games & Animation, where she learned 3D software. She trained to be a generalist, learning every part of the 3D program, including the lighting, rigging (creating a skeleton so a 3D model can move), and texture that provide depth and motion to a creature. "I'm not going to say I'm an expert in all of it, but I know how to do it," she says, "and that helps me troubleshoot if something goes wrong."

Other skills, like extraordinary patience, seem to come from within Hsu herself. For the Taiwanese movie *10,000 Miles*, Hsu animated a short, action-packed sequence of a wolf rescuing its human companion and fighting off bad guys. For that movie, she referenced her co-worker's "giant dog" as well as countless dog videos. The final version, she says, took more than 100 iterations, as the director asked her to fine-tune the wolf's movements, making adjustments to where it jumped and how it wiggled its ears.

Having quadrupeds around the house helps. Hsu's two cats contribute a lot, she says: "Sometimes I just film them. Once you get to know how a quadruped moves, it gets easier."

Since wrapping up work on *Infinity War*, Hsu joined Fox VFX Lab as an animator in January 2019. Her team had been busy working on *Mouse Guard*, based on David Peterson's bestselling comic series, but after The Walt Disney Company purchased 21st Century Fox in March, that project was cancelled, and the Fox VFX Lab was shut down in September.

Just like her animations, Hsu's on the move. She just landed a three-month job as a freelance animator with MPC Film LA. "I do jump around quite a bit," she says. "This industry shifts really fast." **M**

LIGHTNING ROUND

Location: Downtown Los Angeles

Dogs or cats: Both! Cats for now.

Late-night animation snack: Chips

Luke Skywalker or Iron Man: Oh, that's hard. Iron Man?

Fortnite or League of Legends: League of Legends, definitely. I played that for eight years.

Favorite movie: *Pulp Fiction*

Favorite anime character: "L" from *Death Note*

Fun fact: I animated Kai'Sa for the 2018 League of Legends opening ceremony.

CLASS NOTES

1965

Michael Davidson is the president and a sponsor of the Washington International Piano Artists Competition and Festival of Music, the longest-running annual competition for nonprofessional piano artists in the United States. He previously served WIPAC as a parliamentarian and chairman of the jury.

The Class of 1965's annual holiday tea is from 2–4 p.m. on Dec. 8 at Briggs House on campus. "Come early to help set up or stay late to help clean up," **Ruth Lippin** wrote. "It's a potluck finger-food event—savory or sweet."

1970

The Class of 1970 will celebrate its 50th Reunion June 5–7, 2020.

1972

Cindy Cannizzo has moved from Colorado back to Alabama due to family and health issues. She owns two Shiba Inu hunting dogs and teaches online for The Princeton Review.

1973

Anne Sterling Haselhurst graduated in June from the School of Divinity at St. Andrews University with an M.Litt. degree focused on the Bible and the contemporary world. Her dissertation examines the different stories about Martha in the Gospels of Luke and John and their impact on women's ministry.

1975

The Class of 1975 will

YOUR CLASSMATES LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU.

Share your story and send us your class note via email (mactoday@macalester.edu) or mail (Class Notes Editor, Communications and Marketing, Macalester College, 1600 Grand Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105-1899).

CLASS NOTES PHOTO POLICY: We welcome photos of alumni gathered together anywhere in the world. Photos must be high-resolution, approximately 2MB or larger in file size. If you have a question about your class note, call Editor Rebecca DeJarlais Ortiz at 651-696-6123.

celebrate its 45th Reunion June 5–7, 2020.

As the recipient of the 2019 Harvard Film Study Center-LEF Foundation Fellowship, **James Rutenbeck** will continue working on the nonfiction feature film *inVisible*.

1976

Laura Blau's firm BluPath Design is one of five finalists for Green Building United's Groundbreaker Awards. Laura and her firm were recognized for their zero-energy Italian Market Passive House project, the first custom home in Philadelphia designed to meet the Passive Plus House standard.

1977

Mara Adamitz Scrupe has been named dean of the School of Art at University of the Arts in Philadelphia, where she has

been serving as a professor of fine arts and creative writing. She is also a visual artist and the author of six poetry collections.

1979

Karen Dicome Bradtke became a grandmother in 2018 when Clark was born to her son **Benjamin Bradtke '10** and his wife, **Ronny Watkins Bradtke '10**, of St. Paul.

1980

The Class of 1980 will celebrate its 40th Reunion June 5–7, 2020.

1983

Jessie Thompson Eustice is teaching world history online for Piedmont Community College in Roxboro, N.C. She looks forward to teaching history in the classroom in the future, but in the meantime is pursuing

certification to teach TESOL classes at North Carolina State University.

1984

Jane Buchmiller Zimmerman has been named John and Ruth McGee Director of the Dean Rusk International Studies Program at Davidson College. "Like Mac, Davidson is a small liberal arts college with Presbyterian roots and a strong global outlook and commitment to diversity," Jane wrote.

1985

The Class of 1985 will celebrate its 35th Reunion June 5–7, 2020.

1986

Hal Studholme showed 25 photographs at Johnny's Gone Fishing in Carrboro, N.C. The exhibit closed at the end of June.



While hiking on Mount Constitution in Orcas Island, Wash., this past August, Andy Sullivan '92 and Meg Goetz '96 encountered current Macalester students Maddie Prentiss '21, Emma Verges '21, and Brooke Hoppe '21.



Nadia Milani Fifita '99 met up with Rachael Finglovsky '05 and future Mac alumni Amara, Margo (not pictured), and Victor in Minnesota's north woods at the William Sears Baha'i School.

1987

As "hidden publicity" for his alma mater, **Georg Leidenberger** included a reference to Macalester's slogan in his article "Bauhaus100.com: Reflections on a National and Global Celebration" for the *Los Angeles Review of Books* in July.

1988

Freelance medical writer and Chion Foundation President **Lara Pullen** contributed a piece to *Scientific American's* blog, "A Streamlined Pathway to Drug Approval." Citing the case of her son, who has Prader-Willi syndrome, Lara argued that, by drawing on real-world patient experience data, the Food and Drug Administration and pharmaceutical companies could expedite the approval process of breakthrough therapies for rare diseases. Lara also debuted a short film about a new therapy for PWS in May.

1990

The Class of 1990 will celebrate its 30th Reunion June 5-7, 2020.

1992

After several years in Miami, **Pamela Mazza** has returned to New York City. She lives in Queens and focuses her private practice on trauma reprocessing and independence coaching for young adults with high-functioning autism. "If you want to know about Cuban salsa in

the city, I am your information source," she wrote. Pamela will serve as a Macalester alumni regional event coordinator.

1993

For the past two years, **David Pacheco** has worked part time for the City of St. Louis Park, Minn., as a firefighter and emergency medical technician. He continues to work as manager of information technology architecture for The Walt Disney Company.

"[We] felt our first California earthquake not long after the announcement that I have taken on the role of director of education and public programs at the Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens," **Elee Wood** wrote. "I'm ready for anything now!"

1994

Nicki Groves reported that she waved to **John Beaulieu** from a Venice pier as he departed on a cruise ship, met **Nicole Forbes '04** at the Piazza della Signoria in Florence, and tried unsuccessfully to connect with **Kate Howe '94** while they were both in the London area.

1995

Kate Hopper's essay "Stumbling Into Joy" was published in the Creative Nonfiction Foundation's *True Story* publication. She is the author of *Use Your Words: A Writing Guide for Mothers* and *Ready for Air: A Journey*

through *Premature Motherhood* and co-author of *Silent Running*.

1995

The Class of 1995 will celebrate its 25th Reunion June 5-7, 2020.

1999

Celi Clark Haga has been named director of communications and community relations for the Eastern Carver County Schools. She previously worked for more than five years with the State of Minnesota's Board of Water and Soil Resources in communications and legislative affairs.

2000

The Class of 2000 will celebrate its 20th Reunion June 5-7, 2020.

2001

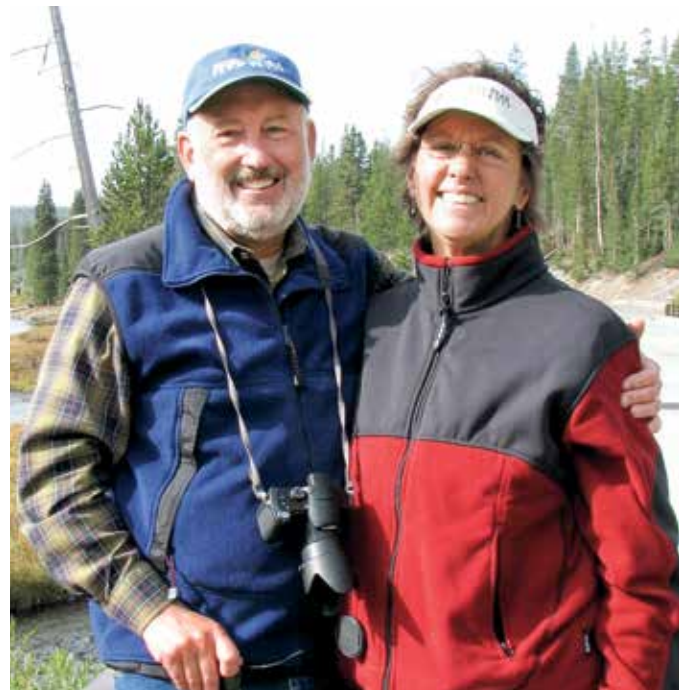
Leslie (Lars) Hunter has

received tenure in the English Department at Baldwin Wallace University in Berea, Ohio, and has been named an inaugural premiere fellow in playwriting at Cleveland Public Theatre. He lives in Cleveland with his wife, Elana, and son, Asher Leor Hunter.

Elizabeth McKay Jobst, and her partner, John, of San Leandro, Calif., adopted 18-month-old twins Amy and Joseph from foster care on March 25, 2019. The twins join a brother, Henry. Elizabeth is active in the foster community and currently serves as a board member with the Alameda County Foster Parent Association.

2004

Tallerita Tunney Rogers earned MPA and MSW degrees from Arizona State University in 2018. Earlier this year, Tallerita and her family moved to Flagstaff, Ariz., to be close to relatives on the nearby Navajo reservation. She is a medi-



Fifty years after they married in Macalester's chapel, **Connie Porteous Cole '69** and **Dave Cole '68** celebrated their wedding anniversary in June in Helena, Mont., with family and friends. **Dave** retired after 37 years with the State of Montana as **Division Administrator of the Department of Commerce**. **Connie** retired after working as an environmental consultant throughout Montana, the western U.S., Manitoba, and Alaska. They are enjoying retirement and volunteering for several local organizations.

cal social worker with Little Colorado Medical Center, a rural hospital in Winslow, Ariz., and a part-time therapist with H&H Treatment in Flagstaff. She has been elected to a two-year term on the board of directors of the



On a boat cruise in Glacier National Park in June, Maureen Acosta '69 met sisters Ellie Kurth '99 and Valerie Kurth '99.

National Association of Social Workers' Arizona chapter.

2005

The Class of 2005 will celebrate its 15th Reunion June 5-7, 2020.

2006

Anne Marie Wirth-Cauchon Spidahl '06 launched Still-point Engage, an international humanitarian non-profit rooted in interdisciplinary approaches to psychology.

2009

Katie Levy, her husband, Brien, and their son, Sebastian, have moved from Harlem to the home they now own in Maplewood, N.J.

2010

The Class of 2010 will celebrate its 10th Reunion June 5-7, 2020.



Steve Barbee '68, Claudia Hunsicker Barbee '69, Richard Cunningham '69, Susan Cunningham, Paul Letourneau '69, and Carol Letourneau spent seven days together at a country estate in Gascony, France.

2014

Akilah Sykes is in her final year of medical school. She plays with the University of the West Indies' Panoridim Steel Orchestra and helped plan

the 2019 installment of the ensemble's biennial Panfest concert series.

> Continued on page 43

THE CLASSROOM WISDOM I CARRY WITH ME

"Chuck Green always talked about 'discussing alternatives' rather than giving answers during office hours. It continues to help me keep an open mind in discussions where there is no easy answer and be able to sit with uncertainty." —**Sarah Puro '99**

"Sociology professor Michal McCall used to tell us to always use pencil to correct someone else's work—red pen was too severe. She gave feedback (and asked us) to use the framework 'What I really liked about this piece' followed by 'What I'd like to see more of.' I use this routinely as a manager and co-worker and at home helping with homework." —**Katherine Branding '96**

"David Lanegran taught me how to 'see' the city—how to read urban landscapes (and rural ones, too). After that, even a casual walk down the street was never the same. I'm always seeking to understand what I see." —**Marcia Nation '85**

"I have never read a poem that could not be improved by making it shorter.' James Dawes shared this wisdom in a creative writing class. I remind myself of this principle every day in my developing career as a research scientist. There is power in brevity. If you have something important to say, find a way to fully convey your message in the least number of words. Focus on what matters." —**Samuel Erickson '17**

"Philosophy professor Karen Warren: 'Be aware of your biases.' On the first day of class, she opened with, 'By a show of hands, how many of you are racist?' No hands went up. She asked again. Again, no hands. 'You're all wrong. We are all racist, because—by virtue of our ability to see skin color—we assign meaning and make broad assumptions based on that information.' The exercise that followed was a thought-provoking primer on inherent bias." —**Elizabeth Stevens '88**

"In the early 1960s, finance teacher 'Doc' Young urged students to purchase less expensive 'term' insurance for protection. I always passed along his advice to my business law students. During the 1960s, insurance representatives rarely recommended term insurance. Today, 'term' insurance is much more acceptable and prevalent in the insurance industry." —**Thomas Rossi '64**

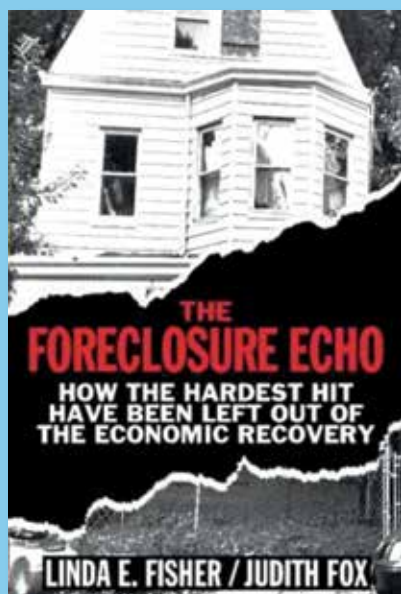
"'You will find that exercise is very task-specific,' Macalester physical education professor John Bachman said. I've repeated it to my kids so many times, they finish the sentence before I can." —**George Smeaton '83**

"'It's all relative,' from physics professor Sung Kyu Kim's Contemporary Concepts class." —**Matt Dawson '00**

NOW TELL US:

What's one sustainability tip that works for you?

Tell us—or show us with a picture. Send your answer via Twitter (@heymac), email (mactoday@macalester.edu), or mail (Macalester Today, Macalester College, 1600 Grand Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105).



LINDA FISHER '76

The Foreclosure Echo: How the Hardest Hit Have Been Left Out of the Economic Recovery

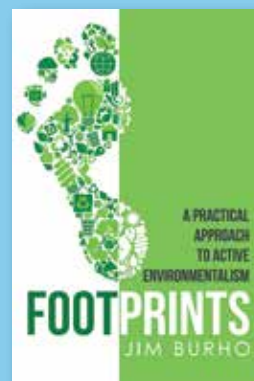
(Cambridge University Press, 2019)

There is a neighborhood in South Bend, Indiana, a short distance from large, affluent homes and a major university. A school stands on the corner, yet no children play in the street. House after house is boarded up. Occasionally, through an open door, you can glimpse a bedroll on the floor, suggesting someone has claimed the house, at least for now. Newark, New Jersey—far away from South Bend—has similar blocks with jerry-rigged electrical wires strung to boarded-up homes next door to burnt-out husks of buildings. You probably have a neighborhood like this in your community. Scattered across America, they are the legacy of the great foreclosure crisis that began in 2008.

In *The Foreclosure Echo*, we examine the long-term consequences of this crisis through the eyes of our clients. We are both law professors whose work includes supervising law students as they represent real people with real legal issues. Our clients are largely lower middle-class, often the

first in their families to have owned their own homes. They are black, white, and Latino. They have worked hard at blue, pink, or low-level white-collar jobs—at least until they were laid off, got sick, or were scammed.

The long-term consequences of the financial crisis are only beginning to emerge. Even as certain higher-income, predominantly white neighborhoods across the country have largely recovered, other communities continue to suffer, with no end in sight. Communities of color, originally targeted for the worst loans, remain in crisis. The ever-increasing wealth inequality in this country is one obvious result. This book introduces you to the people who bore the brunt of the crisis and illustrates how the governmental response protected the assets of the wealthy while neglecting a newly emerging middle class. This version of *A Tale of Two Cities* has also exacerbated patterns of re-segregation, as displaced homeowners tend to move to poorer, more segregated neighborhoods after foreclosure.



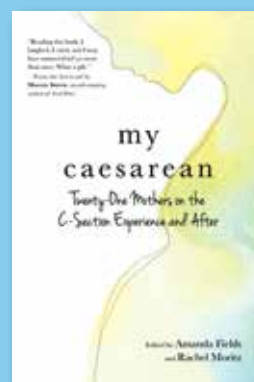
Jim Burho '70,
Footprints: A Practical Approach To Active Environmentalism

(iUniverse, 2019)



Duchess Harris,
professor of American studies, and Julia Jordan-Zachery, *Black Girl Magic Beyond the Hashtag: Twenty-First-Century Acts of Self-Definition*

(University of Arizona Press, 2019)



Rachel Moritz '95
and Amanda Fields,
My Caesarean: Twenty-One Mothers on the C-Section Experience and After

(The Experiment, 2019)



Email book publication news to
mactoday@macalester.edu.

WEDDINGS



1. Dadri-Anne Graham McLeod '13 married Jahvaughn McLeod on April 26, 2019, in Discovery Bay, Jamaica. They celebrated with many Mac friends.

2. George Robbins '07 married Alexa Robbins on June 1, 2019, in Minneapolis.

3. Sarah Peck '01 and Aryeh Marcovski were married recently in Gloucester, Mass., joined by Mac friends. "Aryeh is the bearded one in pink," Sarah wrote. Sarah works as communications manager at the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy at Harvard Kennedy School.

4. Jo Trigg '08 married Sarah Meckler in summer 2019 in front of many Macalester family and friends—including Mac women's club ice hockey teammates—at a farm in rural Ohio.

5. Nick McMullen '18 and Lexi Hagler were married on April 13, 2019, at South Mountain Park in Phoenix. Their wedding guests included Mac baseball alumni.

6. Alisa Khananashvili Sieg '18 and Michael Sieg were married June 22, 2018, in Loretto, Minn. Their wedding party included **Anna Steele '18** and **Rachel Z. Meyer '18**.



MEET THIS YEAR'S SIX NEW ALUMNI BOARD MEMBERS.



**MOLLY THORSEN
CONNOLLY '93**

Batavia, Ill.

**Political science, international studies,
economics**

MAC LESSON: In Chuck Green's political science class, we had to write a grant proposal. At the time, I remember talking with classmates about how challenging it was

to guess what something you hadn't even done was going to cost, then research and plan to back it up. Every job I've had since graduation has drawn on that skill.



ANDREW KAUFTEIL '01

Oakland, Calif.

**Communication studies, political
science, anthropology**

FAVORITE PROFESSOR: Duchess Harris. She's brilliant, passionate, authentic, and thought-provoking. I made lifelong friendships with classmates from her Race, Ethnicity, Politics class in 1999.



ANNA MIN '09

Minneapolis

Economics and statistics

ADVICE FOR NEW STUDENTS: Remember to bring your whole self and celebrate your uniqueness while becoming a part of something large and impactful in society. When you feel like you are stretching beyond your limits and cannot

see the road ahead, you are growing beyond measure.



AYIZE JAMES '22

Albany, Calif.

FAVORITE MAC MEMORY: Going outside to hang out on the first warm day of spring. The ground was so wet but it was worth it for the sun!



KEVIN WILLIAMS '09

St. Paul

Psychology

MAC LESSON: In my senior year, I was in a play called *The Colored Museum*. That experience taught me so much about myself, how I view relationships with others, how I processed, what it meant to sacrifice yourself for something. It helped me understand the importance of not losing yourself in what you do—particularly as a person of color in a very white-dominated space.



MATTHEA NAJBERG '22

**St. Paul and Tai Tam Hong Kong
Island, Hong Kong**

ADVICE FOR NEW STUDENTS: Be spontaneous. High school can be super structured, leaving little time to just have fun. I've learned that studying is not all that matters in life and that taking care of yourself and enjoying the present moment is just as important.

WHO SHOULD JOIN THEM NEXT YEAR?

> macalester.edu/alumni/alumniboard

When I moved to San Francisco in 2007, the Macalester alumni community became my core group of friends. Through our book club, social events, and planning activities with other chapter leaders, I built a community. I was selected to join the Alumni Board in 2016. Serving on the board has renewed my relationship with the college and broadened my Macalester alumni connections beyond class year or geography. Being part of this board also challenges me to find ways to integrate Macalester's mission into my life and work. By connecting with the Macalester network, I developed



relationships with vibrant, committed, and active people.

Now we're seeking more of those people to join Mac's Alumni Board. Nominations for next year are now open! Board members commit to serving a three-year term and meet at Macalester twice a year, in addition to regular calls to plan programs focused on creating connections between alumni and the college. Learn more about the board, then nominate someone you know—or yourself—by Jan. 10, 2020. We can't wait to hear from you.

—David Wick '91, Alumni Board president

> Continued from page 38

2015

The Class of 2015 will celebrate its 5th Reunion June 5-7, 2020.

Ariel Estrella has begun the doctoral English program at Cornell University. They will focus their research on queer of color lyricism.



Roommates LeeAnn Eggert Kuhn '86 and Lilliana Montero '86 were reunited in June 2019 for a day of catching up and kayaking at Lil's place on the Mullica River in New Jersey. LeeAnn ("Annie") teaches writing and literature at SUNY Oneonta and Lilliana is the proprietor of Sweetwater River Yoga.

2016

Kate Gallagher and **Emma Swanson** bought "a sweet little bungalow" in St. Paul's Rondo neighborhood in February.

2018

A few months after graduating from Macalester, **Madeline Cook** moved to Tunis, Tunisia, with a fellow Mac student. "We both found jobs within a month and are working to improve our language skills in French and Arabic," Madeline wrote. A Macalester alumna from the early 2000s who has lived in Tunis for about five years helped them make the transition and has become one of their closest friends there. [M](#)



In August, Peter and Alyson Muzila '96 and Loren and Brian McCabe P'22 co-hosted the New England summer send-off for alumni and incoming and current Mac students and families (including Patty Hurley '82 P'10) at the Muzilas' home in Boston.

From Memphis, Tenn., to Muldersdrift, South Africa, Mac alumni and friends gathered in more than 30 cities worldwide last month for the college's annual Mac in Your City celebration. Thanks to more than 650 alumni and friends who hosted and attended gatherings!

MAC IN YOUR CITY

View more event photos:
macalester.edu/macinyourcity
macinyourcity@macalester.edu

Want to host an alumni gathering in your area? You don't have to wait until next year. Email Erin Updike in Alumni Engagement at eupdike@macalester.edu.



Mac in Your City: Denver

"MAC HELPED FORM MY VIEWS AND VALUES."

—Steve Burns '79

ANTHROPOLOGIST LENS

As an engineer, I did a good deal of troubleshooting and problem solving. My anthropology major helped me to categorize systems in ways that helped to understand them better.

FORMATIVE MAC COURSEWORK

"Urban Anthropology" and its observational ethnographic techniques taught me to look at the world in different ways and slowly figure out what hidden rules were guiding behaviors. It made me a better observer and more aware of applying my biases to the world.

REUNION PITCH

I've found at Reunions that our lives have taken unexpected and intriguing paths, and people are endlessly interesting. My wife even likes Mac Reunions, despite being neither an alum nor an extrovert.

VOLUNTEER NETWORK

My friend Bonnie Eldridge '79 asked if I could help on our recent Reunion committee, then she wrangled me into helping with Class Agent duties. Jobs like these are best done in community with others, sharing the load so that a few aren't overly burdened.

HELPING MAC THRIVE

Mac helped form my views and values and gave me most of my closest friends. It's important to me that the institution thrives and continues to offer great learning and life lessons to the coming generations.



By encouraging their classmates to support the Macalester Fund, Class Agent volunteers help strengthen the Mac experience for students on campus today. To learn more about joining this network, visit macalester.edu/classagent or contact macalesterfund@macalester.edu or 651-696-6909.

ROUND-ROBIN REUNION

Seven 1961 graduates who were Mac roommates for four years spent a day together in Wayzata (Minn.) in June. It was the first time the entire group gathered since graduation—"a jubilant event," says Peggy Watson.

We asked Peggy to tell us more about the group's friendship:

SINCE 1961, we've had a round-robin letter, in which each person gets the package in the mail, takes out her old letter, and adds a new one before sending the package on. Sometimes we add pictures and articles for the others to see. We each get it about twice a year. I email and text now, but this is different. I wish I'd saved all the letters—it'd be a chronology.

In our senior year, we all lived in the Summit House together. The [civil rights movement] sit-ins in the South were just starting, and I remember Kay and Jan and I sitting on the Summit House bathroom floor after everyone was asleep, just in awe of how times were changing.

We were all born in 1939 or 1940, into the *Ladies Home Journal* era, where our roles were programmed for us: I'd go to Mac, teach for two years, and then be a housewife. In my generation, there were no sports for girls. My daughter was able to play three sports

because thousands of us worked to get Title IX passed. I've worked on all kinds of causes. We were born in an era where women were silent, and a lot of us have become vocal working for what we believe in. That's how we've changed.



The group reunites: Peggy Peet Watson, Boo Joos Groth, Jan Nelson Johansen, Judith Kommerstad Lund, Gail Hofmaster Nelson, Kay Lorans Clarkson, and Allison Kohn Schirado.

1945

Ruth Forbes Turner, 95, of Hudson, Wis., died March 28, 2019. She was a homemaker and active volunteer who tutored adults in English as a second language. Turner is survived by three daughters, two sons (including **Andrew Turner '72**), 11 grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

1946

Mary Reeves Pruitt, 95, died June 17, 2019. She had two daughters, three sons, 10 grandchildren, and 19 great-grandchildren.

1948

Keith M. Brings, 93, of Edina, Minn., died June 27, 2019. He was a U.S. Army veteran who served in Gen. George S. Patton's honor guard during World War II and was involved in the liberation of several German concentration camps. He later managed his family's publish-

ing businesses, Northwestern Press, Brings Press, and T.S. Denison and Company, Inc. Brings had a daughter, two sons, seven grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Phyllis Smith Chickett, 92, died Aug. 17, 2019. She was an educator and social worker. Chickett is survived by two sons, as well as grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

1950

W. Bruce Clark, 90, of Roseville, Minn., and Tucson, Ariz., died July 14, 2019. After serving as an ophthalmologist for the Project Mercury astronauts and teaching aerospace medicine in the Air Force, Clark practiced as an ophthalmologist in St. Paul. He was also a professor at the University of Minnesota. Clark is survived by his wife, Nancy, a daughter, four sons, seven grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Robert E. Esterly, 93, died July 19, 2019. During a 30-year career with Sandia Labs, he worked as a computer engineer and was a member of the management staff. He was active in grassroots politics with the Democratic Party and served on the New Mexico Constitutional Revision Commission. After his retirement, he was elected president of the Genealogical Society of New Mexico, served as a founding member of the TVI Emeritus Academy, and was inducted into the Albuquerque Senior Citizens Hall of Fame in 1999. Esterly is survived by his wife, Patricia, daughter **Janet Esterly Haist '78**, two sons, eight grandchildren, a great-granddaughter, and a brother.

Robert B. Law, 93, died June 6, 2019. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II and took part in the landings at Normandy Beach. Law later was a sales representative with Blue Cross/Blue Shield. He also worked for Cascade Health

Care. Law and his wife, **Carol Johnson Law '53**, had four children, as well as grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Roger W. Petersen, 97, of Hopkins, Minn., died Aug. 15, 2019. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II and taught in Herman, Minn., and at Hopkins High School. Petersen is survived by a daughter, a son, two grandchildren, and a brother.

Virginia King Reher, 89, of North St. Paul, Minn., died July 29, 2019. She had a 40-year career as a social worker, worked for the American Red Cross, served as a guardian ad litem, and provided foster care for more than 20 years. Reher is survived by three daughters, four sons, 16 grandchildren, 25 great-grandchildren, and two sisters.

1951

Robert J. Florin, 90, of Richfield, Minn., died June 23, 2019.



REUNION 2020, JUNE 5-7, 2020

SAVE THE DATE
FOR REUNION

Reunion is about rekindling your Mac spirit with friends, old and new. You'll leave reconnected, and re-energized. In addition to milestone Reunions, we'll be celebrating a Scots Pride LGBTQ+ affinity reunion in 2020. Come just as you are—we'll be thrilled to see you!

macalester.edu/reunion

He served in the military during the Korean War, sold insurance and annuities, and worked as a financial advisor. Florin is survived by a daughter, two sons, two grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Joyce Burger Nagel, 91, of Gastonia, N.C., died July 17, 2019. She is survived by her husband, **Spencer Nagel '50**, a son, and two grandchildren.

Patricia Gable Solomonson, 87, of Siren, Wis., died April 8, 2017. She wrote for the *Sun* newspaper, advocated for mental health legislation, and was a synchronized swimmer with the Aqua Follies. Solomonson is survived by her husband, Rudolf, a daughter, two sons, six grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, and sister **Mickey Gable Backlund '53**.

Reuben G. Westphal, 90, died June 9, 2019, in Altoona, Wis. He owned a farm, worked for US Steel Corporation, and was involved in various business ventures. Westphal also served on the board of Chippewa Valley Technical College. He is survived by his wife, Trudy, two daughters, two sons, 12 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

1952

Malcolm A. MacFarlane, 94, of Bay City, Wis., died March 16, 2019. He is survived by a daughter, two sons (including **Malcolm MacFarlane '72**), six grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and a great-great-grandchild.

Nancy Hauser Ringold, 89, of Minnetonka, Minn., died July 22, 2019. She was the learning center coordinator at North Junior High School in Hopkins, Minn. Ringold is survived by her husband, Tim Kiecker, a daughter, five sons, six grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and brother **Bud Hauser '61**.

Jay W. Skoglund, 96, died July 19, 2019. He served in the U.S. Navy in the South Pacific during

World War II and taught and coached basketball at high schools in Benson, Minn., and Minneapolis. Skoglund later became a counselor at San Diego Mesa College and was chair of the school's counseling department from 1972 to 1974. He is survived by his wife, Lorraine, two sons, seven grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

1953

J. Craig Edgerton, 87, of Aztec, N.M., died July 30, 2019. He served as a captain in the U.S. Army and directed its ear, nose, and throat clinic in Stuttgart, Germany, for four years. After launching the first head and neck surgical practice in the Dallas/Fort Worth area, Edgerton moved to Durango, Colo., in 1969, where he was the region's first ENT surgeon. With his wife, Dorrie, he bought the Silver Saddle Girls Camp on the Florida River. A Macalester Athletic Hall of Fame inductee in swimming and track, Edgerton launched a year-round swimming program in Durango in 1973. He retired from medicine in 1997. Edgerton is survived by his wife, two daughters, three sons, and 10 grandchildren.

1954

Janet Werness Cornish, 87, died April 13, 2019, in Edina, Minn. She is survived by a daughter and a son.

1955

John C. Charn, 87, of Oak Park Heights, Minn., died June 20, 2019. He is survived by three daughters, a son, eight grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

1956

Alice Laughlin Aylesworth, 85, died July 16, 2019, in London, Ohio. She was a retired land-lord and a co-founder and first president of Tug Hill Tourathon. She also worked with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to open trails in Winona

State Forest for recreational use. Aylesworth is survived by brother **David Laughlin '58**, daughter **Katie Arneson Aiken '81** and two sons (including **Peter Arneson '79**).

Janet Geske Buhler, 85, of Rocklin, Calif., died June 15, 2019. She sang in the choir and worked as the secretary at the church her husband, **Richard Buhler '53**, served as pastor. She is survived by her husband, two daughters, three sons, and 10 grandchildren.

1958

Ralph K. James, 85, of Bloomington, Minn., died Jan. 25, 2019. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War and worked as a teacher at schools in Luverne and Bloomington, Minn. James is survived by his wife, **Mary Jane Budolfson James '58**, a daughter, a son, four grandchildren, sister **Lois James Larson '53**, and brother **R. Alan James '56**.

Nancy Slaughter, 83, of Minneapolis and Stillwater, Minn., died July 31, 2019. After 20 years as a teacher, she worked as a development officer at Courage Center and did public relations for Winston-Seabury Press. She was an active alumna of Macalester, serving on the college's Board of Trustees, and also serving as president of the Alumni Board, chair of the Annual Fund, chair of trustees emeriti, and interim alumni director. Slaughter received the Macalester's Distinguished Citizen Award in 1983 and Alumni Service Award in 2013. She also served on the boards of numerous community organizations, including the Women's Foundation of Minnesota, the Minnesota Humanities Commission, Westminster Presbyterian Church, the Friends of the Minneapolis Public Library, and the Dale Warland Singers. Slaughter is survived by a sister.

1959

Crist E. Langelett, 88, died July 21, 2019. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War and taught biology in North St. Paul, Minn. He helped build Polar Arena in 1969 and worked as a manager there for 24 years. Langelett also helped found Camp Dellwater, a small Christian camp, and served on its board until 2008. He is survived by his wife, Norma, four daughters, and numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren. Two sisters and a brother also survive him.

1960

Judy Pearcy Christianson, 80, of Red Wing, Minn., died Dec. 19, 2018.

Keith J. Hempel, 81, of Zimmerman, Minn., died Aug. 11, 2019. He launched Hempel Income Tax Service in Elk River, Minn., in 1983. Hempel is survived by his wife, Colleen, two daughters, a son, and nine grandchildren.

1961

Rita Crawbuck Leier, 80, died Aug. 13, 2019, in St. Paul. She taught in the St. Paul school district and worked as an in-home daycare provider. Leier is survived by her husband, Lenny, a daughter, two sons (including **Chris Leier '94**), and four grandchildren.

1962

Lee A. Mitchell, 80, of Huntersville, N.C., died May 26, 2019. He served for eight years as a Presbyterian minister and was a customer service manager for an automobile dealership. Mitchell is survived by his wife, **Beverly Jones Mitchell '62**, a daughter, a son, and five grandchildren.

1967

Karen Rhedin Benoit, 73, of Owatonna, Minn., died Aug. 13,

2019. She worked for Federated Insurance for many years. Benoit is survived by her husband, **Graham Benoit '67**, a daughter, a son, four grandchildren, and a brother.

1968

Roger W. Quant, 72, died July 11, 2019. He is survived by his wife, Kay, four daughters, a son, 12 grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, a sister, and a brother.

1970

Erinn J.C. Melby, 70, of Davis, Calif., died May 18, 2019. She served in the Air Force and retired as a hospice chaplain. Melby is survived by a daughter, two sons, and four grandchildren.

Wesley J. Miller, 71, died July 15, 2019. A clinician and researcher at the University of Minnesota, Miller became vice chair for education and eventually chaired the Department of Medicine. He retired in 2015. Miller is survived by his wife, Nancy, his mother, three sons, a granddaughter, and a sister.

Catherine L. Wood, 71, died July 26, 2019. She is survived by her husband, Frank, a daughter, a grandson, and a sister.

1971

Donovan J. Struck, 72, of St. Paul died Feb. 16, 2019. He worked as an insurance claim adjuster. Struck is survived by two sisters.

1972

Pamela Brock Lappies, 68, died June 9, 2019. She was a former teacher and a freelance developmental editor for educational publishers. Lappies is survived by her husband, Jeffrey, two sons, a grandson, and a sister.

// OTHER LOSSES

Eunice F. Weisensel, a longtime staff member in Macalester's Development Office, died June 6, 2019. She was 87. Weisensel participated in the Macalester Chorale and also worked as a medical technician, a remedial reading aide, and a real estate agent. She is survived by her husband, history professor emeritus Peter Weisensel, two daughters (including **Judith Sandeen Bartel '82**), five grandsons, and two great-grandchildren.

1977

James R. Luke, 64, of Manassas Park, Va., died June 7, 2019. He collaborated with multidisciplinary teams in mental health research and therapy at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, studying genes related to schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and obsessive-compulsive disorder. Luke is survived by two sisters and two brothers.

1980

David F. Steele, 61, of Lake Elmo and Stillwater, Minn., died June 9, 2019. He spent his entire life as an educator and mentor and worked in Macalester's Grants, Foundation, and Corporate Relations Office in addition to serving in positions at the University of Minnesota, University of St. Thomas, and Hamline University. He was a gifted professor and proponent of learning "history in place," an ethos that developed into many trips with students to places of historical significance around the world. He is survived by his wife, Deb, and two daughters (including **Anna Steele '18**).

1988

Jeffrey M. Edelman, 50, died July 11, 2016. He was married to Susan Edelman and had a daughter, a son, and a brother.

1996

Paul M. Gaziano, 47, of Minneapolis died June 23, 2019. He was a research assistant and partner with the education website company Obimages.net. Gaziano is survived by his parents and a brother.

2011

Marissa S. Leow, 29, died July 24, 2019. She worked as a physician assistant and went on a medical mission to Haiti. Leow is survived by her parents and a brother.

Nicholas R. O'Connor, 29, died March 10, 2019, in Berkeley, Calif. He did research at the Chulabhorn Research Institute in Thailand and pursued a PhD in organic chemistry at the California Institute of Technology. At the time of his death, he was a postdoctoral fellow at the University of California-Berkeley. O'Connor is survived by his mother and father, three grandparents, and four siblings.

2018

Ian B. Luebbers, 24, of Downingtown, Pa., died June 17, 2019. He was an Irish dancer who performed with Riverdance for Pope Francis and was the winner of multiple national and regional championships, as well as the 2018 World Championship in Glasgow, Scotland. He is survived by his parents, two grandparents, a sister, and a brother. [M](#)

EVERY VOTE COUNTS

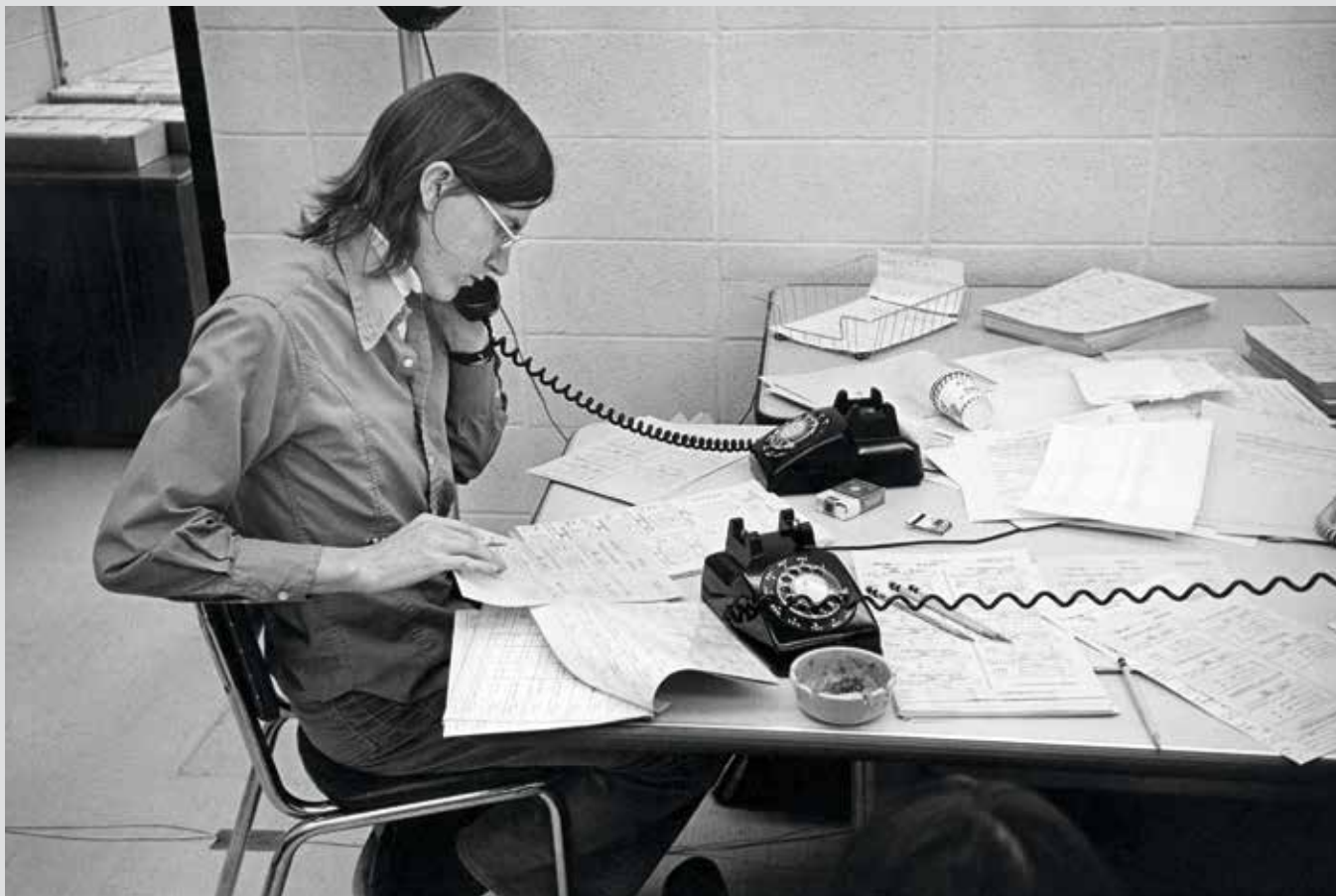


PHOTO: COURTESY OF MACALESTER COLLEGE ARCHIVES

There's a long legacy of Mac students volunteering each fall with campaigns and watching election results closely. In 1972, 15 students actually helped tally the votes on Election Day. They worked—most of them all night—at the state election pool headquarters, counting the Minnesota vote and distributing results to the media. All 15 were studying that semester with journalism professor George Moses, who selected them for the job.

For **Paul Wesslund '75** (pictured), then a sophomore and based today in Louisville, Ky., that night flows into his career arc. Wesslund became a *Mac Weekly* editor, then worked at daily newspapers in North Dakota before 36 years in communications for electric cooperative utilities.

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

11.13.19
24 HOURS TO GIVE

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

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

Nine students traveled to Montana over the summer for a Keck Geology Consortium project led by Mac faculty Kristi Curry Rogers and Ray Rogers, collecting fossils and describing rocks by day (and debriefing at the campfire by night). Their goal: explore the classic Cretaceous record of Montana to better understand diversity before the mass extinction event that wiped out the dinosaurs.

PHOTO: JEFF THOLE

