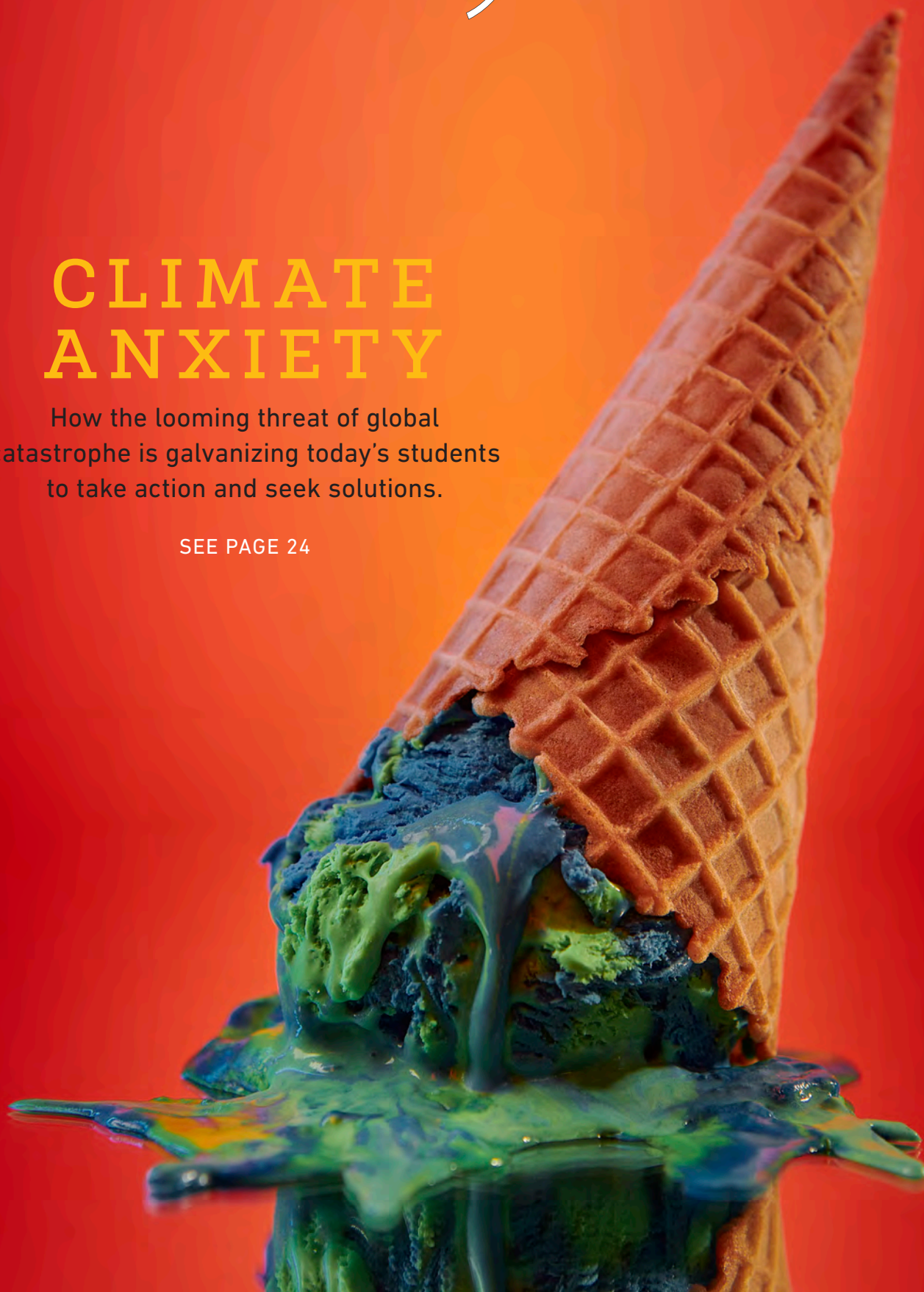


# Today

## CLIMATE ANXIETY

How the looming threat of global catastrophe is galvanizing today's students to take action and seek solutions.

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PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY CHARLES JISCHKE





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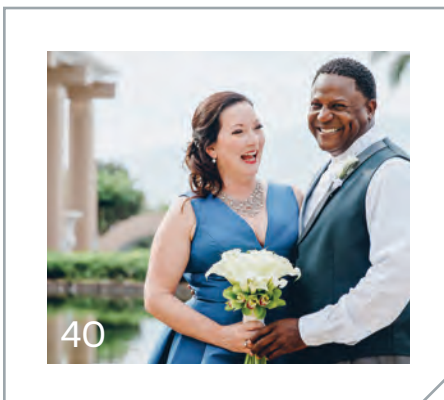
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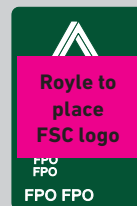
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## ALMOST GONE

A column with lots of annotations

BY BRIAN ROSENBERG



Brian Rosenberg (in costume for his role in the college's Rocky Horror Show production last fall) is president of Macalester College.

"Plastics....There's a great future in plastics." Those of you who've seen *The Graduate* will get it. Those of you who've not seen *The Graduate* should see *The Graduate*.

To be fair, one of the definitions of "dead man walking" is "any person in a doomed or untenable situation, especially one about to lose his or her job." So, why not?

What is the best Tim O'Brien book?

- a) *Going After Cacciato*
- b) *The Things They Carried*
- c) *In the Lake of the Woods*

(Hint: The correct answer is c.)



This is Tim O'Brien in a baseball cap. Now imagine a top hat instead of the baseball cap and you have it.

The passage through my seventeenth and last year as president at Macalester has been undeniably strange. This is not to say that it has been better or worse than the 16 other not-my-last-years, but it has been odd and different, colored by the awareness virtually every day that I am doing something for the final time. Move-in Day. Opening Convocation. Family Fest. The November faculty meeting.

Among the most peculiar aspects of my runway to "retirement" has been its sheer length. Between the announcement of my impending departure and the thing itself will be a period of 14 months. This is done to allow for a presidential search process that is deliberate, inclusive, and more or less interminable, but it is, to be honest, really weird. My personal preference would have been to behave like people in most professions, give a couple of months' notice, and gracefully depart. Maybe some balloons. Since my announcement last April, more than a few people have given me that "is he still here?" look, and a few have even openly expressed surprise that I am, in fact, still here. I don't blame them; occasionally I am myself surprised that I'm still here.

Most of the questions I get asked these days are ones to which I have no easy answer. **What do I plan on doing next?** (I have no idea, though I do have more empathy with our graduating seniors.) Where do I plan to live? (Ditto, though the absence of snow would be a strong selling point.) What do I consider my most significant accomplishment as president? (Persisting.) How do I explain the fact that the Red Sox have won four World Series and the Yankees one during **my presidential term?** (And how many, exactly, have the Twins won, hotshot?)

Recently a fellow president whom I like a good deal saw me enter a meeting room and said, wryly, "dead man walking." Harsh, perhaps, but **I didn't argue with her.**

One of the highlights of my year has been reading the new book by **Tim O'Brien '68**, his first since 2002. Do read it: it's entitled *Dad's Maybe Book* and is chiefly about a father's love for his two sons but also about Minnesota, writing, Hemingway, war, aging, memory, and magic—the Harry Houdini kind, not the Harry Potter kind. There is a photo in the book of the author of *The Things They Carried* in a top hat and tails, which is **not something I ever expected to see.**

Tim is older than I am—I am quick these days to note when anyone is older than I am—but his reflections on aging capture much of what I am feeling in this winter of the year 2020. Somehow without my really noticing it I went from being a youngish college president to being the one to whom everyone turns when they are looking for a remark from an **elder statesman.**

Tim writes about "the pitiless voice of my own mortality, bubbling up from somewhere in my belly, jabbering away as I wash dishes and polish the kitchen counter." I hear that voice, too. (Along with another voice that says, mockingly, "on your best day you could never write a sentence that good." That voice also

By the time my presidency at Macalester concludes, I will have attended nearly 300 faculty meetings during my career as a professor, dean, and president. Sometimes it's okay for things to end.

I actually don't plan on "retiring," as in, "I'm not going to work any more and might move into one of those senior communities where people ride around in golf carts." That's why I put the word in quotes. Plus there's no good word for "I'm going to stop doing this thing and do some other thing."



I was born in the Bronx. Sorry.

When I began at Macalester in the fall of 2003, most of our current first-year students were watching *Blue's Clues*—which, by the way, has been rebooted by Nickelodeon. Nothing can replace the original.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: MAXWELL COLLARD; ISTOCK.COM/MENTALART; NICKELODEON; TIMMY O'BRIEN



jabbers at me a lot when I read Marlon James.)

I try to take comfort in the fact that I will carry from Macalester nearly two decades' worth of memories, but Tim messes with that bit of reassurance as well. "What we call memory," he observes, "is failed memory. What we call memory is forgetfulness....Memory speaks, yes. But it stutters. It speaks in ellipses." If I sometimes can't remember whether I just **shampooed my hair** or what I had for breakfast last Tuesday, how can I possibly recall with any reliability things that **happened in 2009**? As I write this, I have no idea who spoke at Commencement that year, though this is less a reflection on the quality of the speech than on my own faulty synapses. (Fortunately there is the internet: Tonderai Chikuhwa '96, who does some of the world's most difficult work at the United Nations, and he was compelling.)

Still, I do retain many memories, and I will cling stubbornly to the belief that they are accurate. Many of them are good—inspiring students, grateful parents, generous donors, that same Tim O'Brien reading in the chapel in 2008 and bringing the audience to tears—and some are less good—funny how many of those seem to involve **The Mac Weekly**. All hold meaning and are important markers in my path since August of 2003.

Now that I am nearing the end of that path, I can say with confidence (not certitude, but certitude about our choices seems to carry a whiff of arrogance) that I am glad I followed this one. That is, I think, a thing from which to draw no little pleasure. **M**

*I swear I have shampooed my hair twice at least 20 times, just to make sure, which is particularly silly given how little hair I actually have.*

*In my own defense, 2009 was the last year the Yankees won the World Series, so I was probably distracted by the anticipation of euphoria.*

*I love The Mac Weekly. Really. I look forward with great anticipation to their May headline: "Rosenberg Farewell Party Sparks Campus Pushback."*

## Faculty Wisdom

Wanted to send my kudos regarding the Fall 2019 Macalester Today, specifically "The Classroom Wisdom I Carry With Me" piece on page 38. The tidbits you've included are 100 percent spot on. I almost want to suggest repackaging this kind of stuff in some "cutesy and optimized for social media but can also be PDF'd and printed for my cubicle" way. Thank you. For each and every page.

**John Jensen '96**  
Hillsboro, Ore.

## Curious City

It used to be when Macalester Today arrived, I would turn to Class Notes and look for friends I knew. I often got no further. Now I start at the beginning and rarely skip a page. This is a fascinating issue...and I've only gotten to page 10. I grew up in the Macalester-Groveland area in the 1930s and '40s and would really like to read Elliot Wareham's "Rock Around the Block." Is Curious City available? Now I've got to get back to reading!

**Alice Perrin Lyon '52**  
Billings, Mont.

*Editor's note: Hard copies are sold out, but our fingers are crossed for another print run! Email instructor Ashley Nepp '08 (anepp@macalester.edu) to get on the list. For now, the Curious City atlas is still available at St. Paul Public Library locations and online: macalester.edu/curiouscity.*

## In Memoriam

I was saddened to see the brief announcement of Judy Percy Christianson's December 2018 death (Fall 2019). Judy was my roommate in Wallace Hall and Summit House for three years, and she was very busy on campus, including singing in the choir

and serving as the Macalester Community Council's recording secretary for all four years. After graduation, she worked as a political analyst for the Central Intelligence Agency in Washington, D.C. Back in Minnesota, she served on many local and state boards (such as Red Wing Public Schools) and received numerous awards for her volunteerism. In 2010 she was Reunion Chair for our Class of 1960 and received Macalester's Distinguished Citizen Award.

When I saw her photo in her obituary online, my first thought was that she was the spittin' image of her mother, whom I met the fall of 1956 as a freshman. Almost 64 years later, I clearly remember her parents and Judy, who was an excellent example of a Macalester graduate.

**Ann Williamson '60**  
Oakland, Calif.

## State of Confusion

I was reading the latest edition of Macalester Today, which I always enjoy and want to thank you for the perspective and content. Arriving to Mac from Massachusetts in 1973, I also encountered a good many students from Illinois and see that that trend continues today. Having lived in the Chicago area since graduation and having taken just a few geography courses at Mac, however, I did notice the map has misplaced Illinois into the boundary lines of Indiana—not that Indiana doesn't send a few up to St. Paul every year!

**David Fenn '77**  
Evanston, Ill.

*Editor's note: David, we sincerely regret this error. Thanks, too, to Brianna Besch '13, who alerted us that the country formerly known as Swaziland (noted in the same infographic) is now Eswatini.*

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

1600  
GRANDWHAT WE CAN LEARN  
FROM ANCIENT CITIES

If there's a single way to win the hearts of 15 sleepy college students, it's free doughnuts. On a rainy Tuesday, classics professor Andy Overman greets his first-year course with a variety box from Lunds and Byerlys, taking time at the beginning of class to ask individual students about their weeks, their sports, their other classes—no rush. When the discussion begins in earnest, it feels natural, just an extension of the previous conversation.

The course is "Cosmopoleis: Building Global Diverse Cities," and today the city up for discussion is Constantinople (called Istanbul, in the modern lexicon). Students remark on the ancient city's preoccupation with pageantry and spectacle, considering whether or not those qualities persist in cities today.

Overman prompts them to think about it a little differently: "You don't necessarily need to have gladiators killing each other every Thursday to have a little glamour," he says.

"Here's a question," he continues: "Do you think a cosmopolis needs to have some mechanism for maintaining order?" Sitting at the front of the room, he leans back and lets the students bounce ideas off each other.

"No," one student replies. "Because most cities didn't have anything but the military." A pause. "But, then again, Alexandria's library got sacked because of riots."

"Like every other control mechanism, it depends on how it's used: whether it's a mechanism for stability or for power," another

replies. "What's the difference between the military and the police?"

In the Macalester tradition, a first-year course (FYC) is a seminar with a 16-student cap that works to ease the transition into college. Last fall's FYCs spanned nearly every department and included "Music and the Meaning of Life," "Digital Ethics," and "Politics and Inequality." Under the counsel of the professor (who is also a student's initial academic advisor), students are introduced to campus resources and academic expectations, and build what is often their first point of connection to the Macalester community.

When Rose Ruedisili '23 (Long Lake, Minn.) first introduced her family to Overman, she says, they described him as a cross between her grandfather and Indiana Jones. Sitting in his classroom, it's hard to miss the comparison: he nonchalantly quotes ancient texts verbatim, discusses the scholarly discoveries he made over the weekend, pauses to ask students how they feel, what they think.

As for the class itself, Overman says that Macalester presents the perfect conditions for its success. "We're one of the few leading liberal arts colleges in a city," Overman says. "That, with the college's emphasis on global thinking, makes 'Cosmopoleis' a great introduction to Macalester. It begs questions like, are we in a diverse global city? I think there are lessons from these ancient cities that we could learn from. 'Diverse' and 'global' aren't just concepts within present paradigms—that's limiting." —**Rebecca Edwards '21**



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

**Megan Vossler** is a studio art professor and artist specializing in drawing.

### Any standout books you've read recently?

*Braiding Sweetgrass*, by Robin Wall Kimmerer, envisions a reciprocal relationship between humans and nature. The author is a botanist who views the natural world through an indigenous lens. Each chapter centers on a different element of the natural world, from the exalted to the commonplace, interspersed with indigenous history and poetic storytelling.

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

*The Summer Book*, by Tove Jansson. She is best known for the Moomintroll books, but this one is about a young girl who spends the summer with her ailing grandmother on a tiny Finnish island. Their days are shaped by the ever-changing presence of the sea. It's very tender and whimsical, but also a meditation on grief and resilience.

### What book is crucial to understanding your academic niche?

My niche is drawing, but it's also creativity in general. These two little treasures address different challenges of being an artist. *Keep Going*, by Austin Kleon, includes 10 rules for how to structure your creative life in a way that honors the process as much as the end result. *How to Not Always be Working*, by Marlee Grace, addresses the other side: creating boundaries around your working life. When your work is very integrated with the rest of your life, as it is for many artists, it can be hard to know when the work stops and your life starts.



### Any guilty pleasure reads?

I adore picture book illustration, so I read a lot of picture books. *The Shortest Day*, written by Susan Cooper and illustrated by Carson Ellis, is a gorgeous new book about the winter solstice. One of the great things about having a young child is revisiting this whole world of children's literature that I'd forgotten about for a while.

### What one book would you recommend to everyone at Macalester?

*Hope in the Dark*, by Rebecca Solnit, is a history of progressive social change in the last 30 years. She believes that hope is a necessary part of activism, which she sees sometimes getting mired in despair. A necessary part of hope for her is recognizing the significance of incremental change, even when drastic change is your goal. —Rebecca Edwards '21

Whose shelf should we visit next? Email [mactoday@macalester.edu](mailto:mactoday@macalester.edu).



KURT STEPnitz

## LET'S DO THE TIME WARP

"Hot patootie bless my soul/I really love that rock and roll!" Over two weekends last fall, Mac's *Rocky Horror Show* production—the new theater and dance building's first musical—had audiences shivering with anticipation. The spectacle included the requisite midnight showings and costumed theatergoers—and featured a few twists and surprises, including a guest appearance by President Brian Rosenberg. (Pictured here: Ndunzi Kunsunga '22, an environmental studies major from Minneapolis, as Eddie.)



1600  
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Twilight falls on Old Main and a snowy  
Great Lawn in December.

PHOTO BY KURT STEPnitz







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GRAND

# CREATIVE SPACES

Tori Gapuz and Swopnil Shrestha's Mac friendship began before they were even in college: the now-juniors became fast friends at a Spring Sampler for admitted students. "We've always shared this bond of checking in with each other, especially as first-generation, low-income women of color," says Shrestha (Minneapolis).

They continued those check-ins the following summer, reflecting on how both women finished the year feeling frustrated about how they presented or concealed their identities as they navigated campus and academia. An idea took shape: a creative outlet for Mac's students of color, produced by students of color. "The conversation started out as, 'Wait, should we really do this?' and turned into, 'No, we have to really do this,'" Shrestha says. "By the end of the summer, we had everything in one super-unorganized Google doc."

Research and mood boards evolved into a magazine they named SPACES and a 25-person production team, which created a whirlwind of logistics, finances, and deadlines (and "a big hit of reality," Shrestha says). They asked for help. They

released one issue, then a second.

But as that timeline raced along, SPACES was spinning into more than just a publication. It became a new community in its own right, with a vibrant social media presence featuring "day in the life" vlogs, curated playlists, and shout-outs to cultural orgs—and the production team knew its work was resonating. "The love and support from the Macalester community overwhelmed us with joy," says Gapuz (Plainfield, Ill.). "I felt the change when SPACES debuted on campus. It was empowering to see students of color come together to create something meaningful to them."

With the two founders studying abroad last fall, interim directors Amanda Ortiz '21 (Chicago) and Ayize James '22 (Berkeley, Calif.) oversaw the third edition. Plans continue to expand—a documentary team is in the works—but the big goal remains the same, explains James. "We hope people see the magazine and want to start creating, with or without us," he says. "We're trying to put an authentic microphone to the voice of students of color on campus."







# REMOVING NEILL'S NAME

"[Edward Duffield] Neill was the college's founder and first president, as well as a significant figure in Minnesota's history more broadly: he founded numerous churches and schools around the state, was the first chancellor of the University of Minnesota, and helped to found the Minnesota Historical Society," *Mac Weekly* editor-in-chief Abe Asher '20 wrote in a Nov. 21 article. "But he was also a white supremacist who advocated the genocide of indigenous people in Minnesota, stole from indigenous graves in St. Paul's Mounds Park, and consistently described indigenous people in virulently racist terms."

Earlier in the fall, the student newspaper had published the special edition "Colonial Macalester," laying out in print concerns about Neill's writings raised by the Proud Indigenous People for Education (PIPE) student organization, and calling on the college to reverse its 2013 decision to rename the Humanities Building in Neill's honor. In November, President Brian Rosenberg reviewed Neill's writings and told *The Mac Weekly* he was "repulsed." Days later, he recommended that the Board of Trustees rename the building.

The board acted quickly and agreed unanimously, announcing it would remove Neill's name from that building as well as Weyerhaeuser Hall's Neill Room. The board will establish a committee to recommend new names for both spaces and determine a different, appropriate manner through which to acknowledge both Neill's accomplishments and racism.

The decision six years ago to find a new name for the Humanities Building was grounded in removing confusion, since most of the humanities departments aren't actually housed in that build-

ing. "It was neither controversial nor extensively discussed at that time," Rosenberg and board chair Jerry Crawford '71 wrote in a statement. "Only when students, including members of PIPE, went back to the primary texts—Neill's historical writings—were his beliefs brought to our attention. Those students should be commended for engaging in a level of research that reflects well on them and their teachers, and we should acknowledge that such research should have been done by the college much earlier. Had it been done, the Board of Trustees is convinced that the building would not have been named in honor of Neill."

"Now that those writings have been discovered, however, they cannot be ignored or dismissed. All on the board are keenly aware of the complexity surrounding the question of renaming buildings and of judging figures in the past by the standards of the present. We are aware that even people who do good things can also do bad things, and that history is complicated. But we believe, too, that abhorrent beliefs and writings that stand out even within an historical context should not be overlooked, and that continuing to honor Neill as if these beliefs and writings were not unearthed would be wrong."

"The board does not see this as the beginning of a process of reexamining the names of all our buildings or of erasing from history any individual who was imperfect. Indeed, we do not suggest erasing Neill from our history, but instead that we recognize both his accomplishments and his deep flaws in some way other than through the naming of a building."

Read the Board of Trustees' full statement: [macalester.edu/2019-humanitiesbuilding](http://macalester.edu/2019-humanitiesbuilding)



FROM LEFT: KALALA KIWANUKA-WOERNLE '22; DAVID J. TURNER





1600  
GRAND

ATHLETICS

# HIGH POINT

Jackson Henningfield '21 (Lake Mary, Fla.) scores two of his 23 points in a Dec. 7 match-up against Bethel University. Henningfield celebrated a big milestone that afternoon, becoming the 23rd men's basketball player in program history to score 1,000 career points. He led the Scots in scoring last year with an average of 18.4 points per game, which ranked fourth in the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. The physics and applied math double major's season got off to a strong start, including a career-high 35 points in a 92-85 overtime victory at Crown College on Nov. 21.

CHRISTOPHER MITCHELL '01





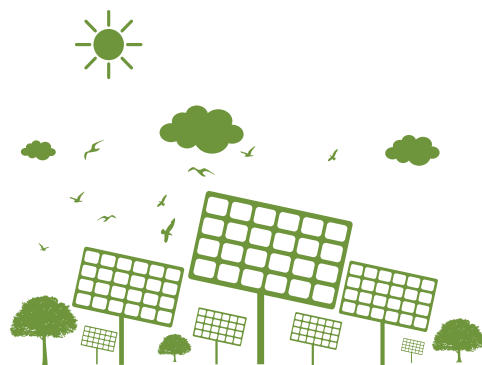
## Taming the Wild Beasts of Fermentation

Biology professor Robin Shields-Cutler loves to talk about cheese, chocolate, beer, and coffee. He also loves to talk about microorganisms like bacteria, fungi, and viruses. The overlap? More common than you'd expect, at least in his microbiology class.

Last fall, Shields-Cutler's students got to see firsthand how microorganisms shape one of the world's biggest industries, during a visit with Surly Brewery Company founder Omar Ansari '92 at the company's original brewery in Brooklyn Center. As they toured the microbiology and quality control lab, the class got a glimpse into what it takes to control "these wild, living creatures in the pursuit of a consistent, marketable product," Shields-Cutler says. While the fermenta-

tation's complexity surprised the class, the quality-control measures were familiar: "They got to see the team carrying out daily experiments, cultures, and molecular tests using the exact same techniques that the students were learning and practicing in class."

And that's a key reason why the professor weaves this kind of learning into his syllabus. "With these connections, I want to get students away from academia," says Shields-Cutler, whose current research projects include gut microbiome studies in collaboration with the Como Zoo, University of Nebraska Food for Health Center, and University of Minnesota Masonic Cancer Center. "I want to present different modes of applying the skills they're developing in class."



## SUSTAINABLE INVESTMENTS

In response to recommendations from student-led Fossil Free Macalester (FFM) and the college's Social Responsibility Committee (SRC), Macalester's Board of Trustees announced in October that its Investment Committee will approve new investments in private oil and gas partnerships only when the committee believes the investment is reasonably likely to result in a net reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. The board approved several additional initiatives focused on fighting climate change, including hiring a sustainability director charged with weaving sustainability throughout the curriculum, implementing and leveraging more solar panels on campus and in the Twin Cities, and forming an Environmental, Social, and Governance policy to assess all future investments.

Read the full statement: [macalester.edu/2019-sustainabilitypractices](http://macalester.edu/2019-sustainabilitypractices)

“

*“These actions will bring Macalester's investment policies and institutional practices into closer alignment with our mission and will send a clear signal to our internal community and an external audience that we believe climate change to be a threat that must be confronted immediately and forcefully.”*

”









# WELCOME TO MINNEAPOLIS

Michelle Rivero '94 shapes how the city supports immigrants and refugees.

BY JAN SHAW-FLAMM '76

During almost 20 years as an immigration attorney, Michelle Rivero '94 heard many heartbreaking stories from clients who were seeking safety and the potential for a better life for themselves and their loved ones. Many were fleeing violence and unimaginable threats. Although she had to know the details, she was often reluctant to ask clients to tell their stories and relive their trauma.

For Rivero, the immigration experience is personal. "My mother is from Sicily, Italy, and my father is from Colombia," she says. "They came to the United States as adults and met in New York City. They migrated again to New Orleans when I was six. I know that without their immigrant story, I wouldn't be doing the work I'm doing now."

Today Rivero leads the City of Minneapolis's Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs (OIRA). As the OIRA's inaugural director, her responsibilities include helping to keep the mayor and other city officials current on federal immigration policy, helping the city develop policies to support and empower immigrant and refugee communities, and ensuring that community members have access to immigration legal resources.

Rivero speaks Italian and Spanish (her parents' native languages) as well as French and English. After majoring in French and international relations and earning her law degree, she began work as an immigration attorney. She no longer works directly with clients in her current role but draws on years of experience with the challenges facing the city's immigrant population.

In the late 1800s, an estimated 37 percent of Minnesotans were foreign born, and today people still come seeking safety and the opportunity to work for a better life. The OIRA opened in July 2018 to ensure that everyone feels welcome in Minneapolis. As part of the larger Neighborhood and Community Relations Department, she collaborates with legal services organizations and cultural community specialists. The OIRA also offers information sessions in person and on Spanish-, Somali-, and Hmong-language radio stations.

Rivero speaks at gatherings about immigration, citizenship, legal assistance, and resources, often bringing along immigration attorneys or law enforcement representatives. She shares City of Minneapolis welcoming policies, including that the Minneapolis Police Department does not conduct investigations based on immigration status alone and does not participate in immigration enforcement-only operations with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

It's an octopus of a job. Rivero is a connector between many affected people, and the immigration landscape is endlessly shifting. "My career as an immigration attorney spanned four presidents," she says, "and yet I never experienced the consistent onslaught of encroachments on a person's ability to enter and remain in the U.S. as I have seen during this administration, from increased pro-

cessing time for citizenship applications and applications for work authorization to restrictions on the ability to apply for asylum."

Other current challenges, she explains, include the Attorney General's restrictions on who qualifies for asylum, the denial of routine employment-based applications like H-1Bs, and the ongoing reduction of refugee resettlement numbers. Under President Obama, the refugee resettlement cap was raised to 110,000 people. President Trump lowered the cap to 45,000, then 30,000. This year, the cap will be 18,000 refugees.

In 2014, Rivero went to Artesia, New Mexico, as part of the Artesia Legal Defense Project to help women and children who were being detained during the Obama administration because of concern about the sheer numbers of women and children arriving from Central America. The typical asylum process, she says, is that after a person passes their credible fear interview and pays bond, they're released into a family member's custody. Then they appear in court and ultimately receive the decision.

But in Artesia, she saw a different system because of the bond cost. "It was an exorbitant amount of money—\$30,000 or \$40,000—that people couldn't pay," Rivero says. "So people would stay in custody while pursuing their asylum cases, incarcerated with their children in substandard conditions. Some of the stories I heard were horrific. It was incredible to me that the awesome power of our government was being used against the most defenseless people, who were just claiming asylum to pursue a pathway that is established within our laws. While that was during the Obama administration, things have gotten so much worse."

What keeps her going? "It's the realization that there are people who are very seriously impacted and they have so much more courage than I do," Rivero says, "including people who take a stand and challenge the injustice of the immigration system and openly state that they themselves are undocumented. Many are leading organizations and being very visible and vocal, regardless of the risk to themselves."

She also finds inspiration in how Minnesotans have become advocates for the new immigrants among them. People who speak a foreign language, for example, volunteer to translate at asylum interviews. Mental health providers offer free services. Even a simple driver's license is a valuable tool: people can provide transportation to asylum interviews and medical appointments.

"It's very meaningful for people to dedicate energy to what's happening at the border," Rivero says, "but it's also important to understand that Minnesota has had the largest refugee resettlement population per capita in the United States. There's a lot to do at home, too." [M](#)

Jan Shaw-Flamm '76 is a Twin Cities freelance writer and editor.









# SECOND ACT

**How Macalester alumni are finding meaningful work and service in the second half of their lives**

BY MARLA HOLT

PHOTO BY MARIA SIRIANO

F. Scott Fitzgerald once wrote, “There are no second acts in American lives,” but that pessimistic sentiment doesn’t hold sway with those over 50, who are expected to live longer and healthier lives than ever before. For many at the midpoint of their lives, creating a second act after retiring or leaving a former occupation is increasingly common.

For Macalester alumni, that means devoting their talents and passions (often developed while in college) to entrepreneurial start-ups, social activism, and artistic endeavors. They admit that starting something new later in life can be scary and certainly isn’t easy. But these innovators—who’ve found meaningful work and service a second time around—say it’s worth the risk.



## Tools of the Trade

Howard Zitsman '76, a former investment banker and current metalsmith, says that his dual careers of helping businesses make the best deals and designing high-end, one-of-a-kind belt buckles have more in common than you might think. It's all about using and sharpening the tools at hand to craft the best result.

"Craft is a fundamental approach to everything I do," says Zitsman, the founder of H. Perle, an Ohio-based luxury jewelry company that handcrafts belt buckles featuring natural gemstones set in sterling silver.

Zitsman's interests in investment banking and metalsmithing reach back to childhood. His family owned both a clothing store and a jewelry store in Springfield, Ohio, so he learned the ins and outs of the retail business early on, discussing corporate prospectuses and annual reports with his grandfather. Zitsman was first exposed to the concept of craft as a boarding student at Cranbrook—a leading center of education, science, and art in Michigan known as the birthplace of mid-century design. As a beginning metalsmith, "I learned by doing, by exploring how metals react," Zitsman says.

At Mac, Zitsman majored in psychology and continued to work with metals, making jewelry and sculpture under the tutelage of art professor Tony Caponi and in his apartment studio. While considering his future—"I'd always assumed I'd go home to run the family business," he says—Zitsman read a *Business Week* profile of Chicago investment banker Ira Harris, who worked in mergers and

acquisitions. Zitsman was intrigued by the idea of working with companies to solve their problems, or as he says, "applying craft to finance by using newly developing tools, valuation models, and option pricing to address corporate finance questions and problems."

He packed away his metalsmithing tools and began a career in finance by earning an MBA at Ohio State University. He advised on billion-dollar M&A deals at Lazard Freres and Drexel Burnham in New York City, ran his own investment firm in Columbus, Ohio, and worked for the boutique firm Ladenburg Thalmann. "I loved investment banking," he says. "There's a real thrill in seeing the valuation you crafted being affirmed in the market."

When the recession hit in 2008, Zitsman commuted to Washington, D.C., to help the FDIC implement the Dodd-Frank legislation, but after two and a half years grew weary of the commute.

Looking for a change, Zitsman dug up his old metalsmithing tools and began crafting jewelry. He refreshed his skills with a few classes, started buying gemstones, invested in modern machining technology, and eventually founded H. Perle. Today, he and his small production team make luxury belt buckles that retail for \$2,000 to \$4,000, selling their wares individually and through retail stores in Aspen, Vail, and Las Vegas.

"As an investment banker, I learned to identify opportunity and analyze markets," Zitsman says. "I'm applying those same skills to my jewelry making, focused on creating a luxury item that can be seen as art."



## Troubled Waters

After graduating from Macalester with majors in English and dance, Mary Ackerman '70 was determined not to work for "the man."

"I'd gone to school in the '60s, which was the era of being worked up about and protesting everything," she says. "I just couldn't work for a corporation or a big insurance agency."

She was hired as a Macalester admissions counselor, eventually rising to the position of director of admissions, one of the only women in the country at the time doing such work. From 1979 to 1991, Ackerman created a nationally recognized student affairs program as Macalester's dean of students. "As a student I'd worn buttons that said, 'Challenge authority!' and then I was working with students whose job it was to think critically and push boundaries," she says. "I was very comfortable in that role."

Ackerman moved on to work as a family mediator and then as director of national initiatives at Search Institute, which partners with organizations to conduct and apply research that promotes positive and equitable youth development. She retired in 2011, moving with her husband to their lake home in rural Cass County in northern Minnesota to begin "our lake chapter," she says.

But Ackerman's days of activism weren't yet behind her. The move landed her in the midst of a community protesting Enbridge Corporation's proposal to build the Sandpiper oil pipeline, which would run through wetlands, wild rice paddies, tribal lands, and across the Mississippi River. "The route was just unacceptable," Ackerman says. The more she learned, the more she noted that none of the groups protesting were communicating with each other.

"My experience of protesting and community organizing at Macalester kicked in, as well as my career in empowering other people's voices to be heard," Ackerman says.

She and her husband gathered leaders from nearly a dozen advocacy organizations invested in water conservation work in northern Minnesota around their kitchen table. Those efforts launched the Northern Water Alliance of Minnesota to help activists strategize and stay informed on pipelines, aquatic invasive species, and agricultural practices that leak chemicals into the aquifers. The group succeeded in stopping the Sandpiper line, but is now fighting an Enbridge proposal to create a new east-west energy corridor in Minnesota. "Our strategy is to keep delaying until it's just not feasible for a corporation to build a new pipeline," says Ackerman, noting that "it's been exciting to speak up in retirement—and amazing to know that finding my own voice has helped empower others to effect change, too."



FROM LEFT: DAVID J. TURNER, G. Y. STEPHENS



## Radical History

When Larry Kenneth Alexander '73 was a child, he asked his older relatives why his great-grandfather was born a slave. "They shushed and offered no insights—they didn't know," he says.

Alexander went on to become a first-generation college student, majoring in history at Macalester as part of the Expanding Educational Opportunities program's inaugural cohort. He earned a JD degree at the University of Iowa and had a distinguished career in both business and government as a commercial real estate developer and a planning commissioner for the City of St. Paul, before relocating to Texas.

But the unanswered question from his childhood stuck with him, and Alexander continued to reflect on the stories he'd heard of his great-grandfather's life in Tennessee. "I was profoundly affected by the graphic accountings of the institutional devaluation of his humanity and by extension, all of black America," he says.

For his second act, Alexander has turned his eye to social anthropology, critically examining the horrors of slavery through writing books, including *Smoke, Mirrors, and Chains: America's First Continuing Criminal Enterprise* and *King's Native Sons*, the story of James Somerset, a slave who was liberated by the English high court in 1772. Alexander's third book, *Hidden in a Book: \$40 Trillion—Keep the Mule*, posits that because slavery was never legally constituted, restitution—not reparations—is the proper remedy for this criminal wrong. "Early American black people were placed below the rule of law, and it's a core ideal that laws must apply equally to everyone in a democracy, even the lowest of the low in a society," he says. "Their legal status as Afro-Britons under British law entitled colonial blacks to liberty and due process upon the ratification of the Treaty of Paris of 1783 that ended the Revolutionary War, but instead, they were disenfranchised and then exploited as slaves."

An advocate for reconceptualizing U.S. political culture, Alexander founded The Obsidian Policy Colloquium, a non-profit think tank with a mission to educate and advance policy discussions, initiatives, and long-term solutions. He also recently collaborated with his Macalester history professor and mentor, James Wallace professor emeritus James Brewer Stewart, to present a forum on this provocative topic during Reunion last June. They hope to host a similar forum on campus during Black History Month in February. "The thesis that U.S. slavery was not legal creates cultural and cognitive dissonance—it necessitates a rewriting of America's historiography," Alexander says. "This has radical implications for academia."



## Ancestral Ties

Sonya Anderson '65 has never been constrained by “the standard options in life,” she says. She describes her life in four segments, all of which took some risk and required a bit of reinvention.

Segment one included majoring in public address and rhetoric at Macalester, then landing a job as a technical writer at Control Data—even though she was unfamiliar with computers at the time. “The research, questioning, and writing skills I developed through debate at Macalester helped me greatly in that career,” Anderson says.

In 1974, Anderson got married and her husband’s job brought her overseas. She spent segment two in Hong Kong, Rome, and Montreal immersed in continuing education in art history, Italian and French language, couture sewing, and cooking and travel. “Most people wait until retirement to do things like that,” she says. “I was lucky in that I woke up and realized the learning opportunities before me.” Her time overseas also fed her curiosity about the world, first piqued in 1964, when she spent a summer working for Hilton in Tehran, Iran, through the college’s Student Work Abroad Project.

After returning to the United States, Anderson was hired at Cray Research as a technical writer and then became the company’s Midwest region analyst manager in Boulder, Colorado, thus beginning segment three. She was responsible for the group providing software technical support on Cray’s supercomputer systems at customer sites such as Los Alamos National Laboratory and the automotive industry. “It was a dream job,” she says. “I was a liberal arts-educated person managing super-talented specialized engineers.”

Segment four began after restructuring at Cray, when Anderson decided to take a year off from work to attend to family members who were in failing health. Then, 15 years ago at age 60, she began working as a home furnishings and small business consultant at the newly opened IKEA in Bloomington, Minnesota. “I told them I plan to work until I’m 80,” she says. The job has brought Anderson close to her family’s Swedish roots and she thoroughly enjoys the work, which includes interacting with people from all over the world, supporting local businesses with their furnishing needs, and helping people her age furnish newly downsized retirement spaces. “For me, it hasn’t just been about a second act, but about incorporating many experiences and interests to extend my working life,” Anderson says.







FROM TOP: DAVID J. TURNER; PHOTO PROVIDED

## Torched Earth

Gene Palusky '79 began his career in the fine arts, struggling to pay the bills as a sculptor for about 15 years. "I realized I needed to do something else to support myself," he says, a decision that led him to the art of home restoration. He spent the next 20 years buying, renovating, and operating old apartment buildings in the Twin Cities.

"Ultimately, working on these turn-of-the-century brownstones became my art," says Palusky, who studied fine arts and English at Macalester and earned an MFA at the University of Wisconsin. He sold his home renovation business in 2010 with tentative plans to retire—before he learned another lesson: "I'm not the retiring type," he says. He began to look for his next venture.

For inspiration, Palusky considered his past mission service in Equatorial Guinea and the Dominican Republic, where he'd witnessed how people—particularly schoolchildren—suffered because of a lack of reliable light and power. Kids often studied by dangerous kerosene lamps or candles and small business owners struggled with communication because they couldn't keep their cell phones charged. "I realized that reliable light and communications could be a game changer for people in developing countries," Palusky says.

Informed by work he'd done at Renew World Outreach,

a Christian-based nonprofit that creates solar-powered tech equipment for use in global mission work, Palusky designed the XTorch ([xtorch.org](http://xtorch.org)), a portable, waterproof, handheld device that is a rechargeable, solar-powered flashlight, lantern, and cellphone charger all in one. It can light up an entire room, and its battery can hold power for three years without a charge.

In 2015, Palusky founded EJ Case, which manufactures and distributes the XTorch. Retail sales at \$60 a piece and at-cost sales to nonprofits subsidize the company's work with humanitarian aid organizations in distributing the device in areas where it's most needed, such as in Puerto Rico in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria. Palusky estimates EJ Case sold 1,300 XTorches domestically and 1,000 internationally last year alone. An additional 2,000 were given away.

For Palusky, the XTorch has been a labor of love, and he shares this advice with others looking toward a second act: "Regardless of how great your idea is, how profound your efforts are to help people, if you don't love what you do, you won't do it." **M**

Marla Holt is a freelance writer based in Owatonna, Minn.





*for colored girls who have considered suicide / when the rainbow is enuf*, featuring (left to right) Tafadzwa Pasipanodya '01, Nisreen Dawan '04, Jimica Dawkins Howard '03, LaNeisha Stanford Murphy '01, Danai Gurira '01, Marissa Lightbourne-Kleinow '02, and Cerissa Chaney '01 (2001).



*Romeo and Juliet*, featuring Stephen Yoakam '75 and Mary Karr '76 (1974)



*Macbeth*, the oldest existing photo of a Macalester theater production (1908)



# DAN KEYSER'S CURTAIN CALL

BY REBECCA DEJARLAIS ORTIZ '06

Theater professor emeritus Dan Keyser is recounting a story from a *Merry Wives of Windsor* rehearsal that starts with a memorably long missed cue—think minutes, not seconds—involving former students whose names he's ticking off on his fingers as if they graduated last spring. “While the two actors on stage waited for the third actor to finally make her entrance, they just started adlibbing Shakespearean dialogue!” he says, laughing so hard that you can’t help wishing you’d been there, too.



When did this happen? “That was 1980.” Forty years ago.

Keyser is a bank of details and memories that he holds dear from 41 years at Macalester. When he entered the college’s phased retirement program in 2015, he wanted to find a way to give back—and he developed the perfect project. Over the past four years, Keyser has created a digital catalog of more than 100 years of Mac theater and dance—more than 600 productions—thanks to countless hours spent combing newspapers, yearbooks, programs, and other items in the college’s archives.

The site ([omeka.macalester.edu/theatre](http://omeka.macalester.edu/theatre)) is a timeline as well as a database (searchable by name, show title, and date) that weaves in directors, designers, and stage managers as well as the cast. Decade by decade, you see productions directed by people whose Macalester legacies loom large, names like Grace Whitridge (who founded the department in 1900), Mary Gwen Owen and her Drama Chorus, Doug Hatfield, and Sears Eldredge. The department’s home shifts over the years, from Old Main’s fourth floor to the Little Theater (where the Joan Adams Mondale Hall of Studio Art is now) to the current Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center, recently renovated for a new era of theater and dance. And through the decades, Keyser says, you can see the production choices often reflecting what was happening in the world at the time, such as 1987’s *Runaways*, a show about homeless young adults.

The database still lacks a comment field, but that’s one big dream for the project’s next phase: Keyser wants alumni to be able to view an image and share their own stories from that production (“things that I’ll have no idea happened!”). And he wants the database to be a time capsule illustrating how theater shaped the college. “Theater doesn’t exist at Macalester just for the majors,” Keyser says. “It’s here for our whole community.”

Read on for a small—very small—sampling of the images Dan Keyser collected. **M**



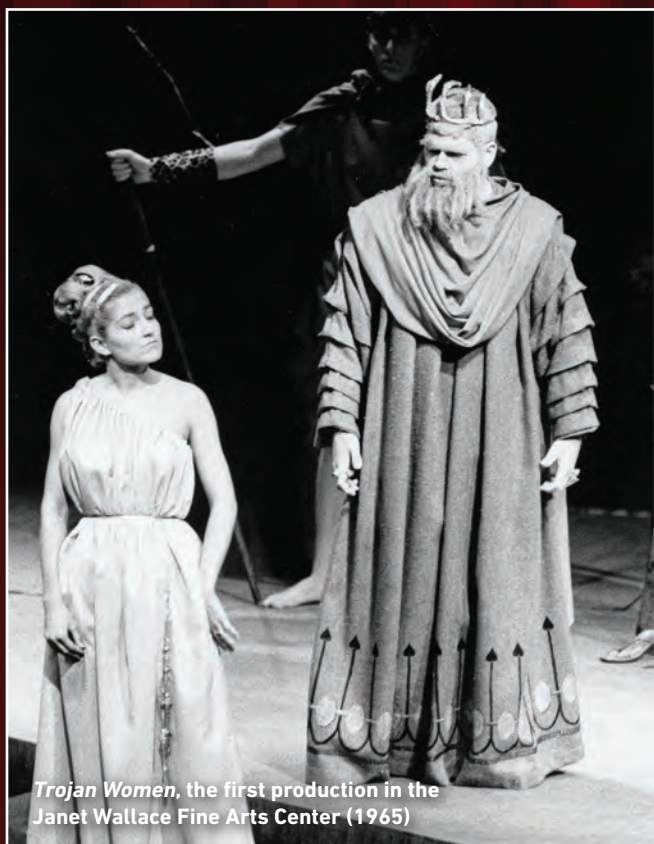
COURTESY OF MACALESTER COLLEGE ARCHIVES (4); DAVID J. TURNER



*Death Takes a Holiday* (1942)

**What was your favorite Mac theater production?**  
**Tell us: [mactoday@macalester.edu](mailto:mactoday@macalester.edu).**





*Trojan Women*, the first production in the Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center (1965)



*Sisters*, Dan Keyser's first show at Macalester (1978)



Drama Choros (1967)



*Waiting for Lefty* (1998)





COURTESY OF MACALESTER COLLEGE ARCHIVES (7)





Through education,  
organizing, and growing  
activism, Macalester  
students are finding  
the cure to

# CLIMATE ANXIETY

BY LAURA BILLINGS COLEMAN  
PHOTO BY KORI SUZUKI '21



"I want you to act  
as if your house  
is on fire ...  
because **IT IS**"

-Greta Thunberg

A group of Mac students rallied with 6,000 Youth Climate Strike attendees at the Minnesota State Capitol in September 2019.



## During finals week last December, Helen Meigs '21 decided to ditch her schoolwork and travel to Washington, D.C.

A new Democratic majority had been elected to the House of Representatives, and Meigs wanted the chance to witness history as a diverse crop of freshman lawmakers like Ilhan Omar and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez were sworn into office. But she also wanted to lend her voice to a chorus of nearly 1,000 young people from around the country who were gathering to demand that the 116th Congress do what its predecessors had failed to do: halt the pace of carbon emissions and commit to building a greener and more sustainable economy.

"I had this whole big internal quandary asking myself whether I should risk my grades and go on this trip, or if I should stay on campus and concentrate on my schoolwork," says Meigs, an international studies major and environmental studies minor from Portland, Oregon. "But in the end, I realized I just had to go, because if we don't solve this climate emergency, then what does my GPA even matter?"

Meigs is part of Macalester's chapter of the Sunrise Movement, a national youth-centered campaign to move America to 100 percent clean energy by 2030 and to make climate change the leading issue of the 2020 presidential campaign. Though she's always had an interest in social justice issues and the great outdoors, Meigs never expected that concern about the climate would come to dominate her college experience. But when the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released a special report in October 2018 warning that in just 12 years, the planet could reach a tipping point from which it may never return, Meigs—like many in her generation—quickly found her calling.

"I had the realization that if we don't solve this crisis, every other issue and injustice around the world will be exacerbated by the changing climate," she says. "It's beginning to feel like thinking about our futures is pointless if we don't solve this problem. This is not something I intended to do when I came to Macalester, but when I think of what I'll do when I graduate, I just can't picture myself doing anything other than trying to stop this crisis."

### A New Degree of Urgency

Worries about what will happen to a warming planet aren't confined to college campuses. In fact, headlines about extreme hurricanes, catastrophic fires, melting sea ice, and other signs of our climate crisis have given rise to new words like "solastalgia," a neologism to describe the pain of living in a threatened environment. Mental health professionals also use the terms "eco-anxiety" and "climate grief" to describe a deep sadness about the landscapes



and resources already at risk, as well as a distressing sense of powerlessness about preventing many of the worst-case scenarios the scientific community predicts. While this anguish affects people of all ages, the rise of high-school activists like Sweden's Greta Thunberg, and the success of recent youth climate strikes around the globe, suggest that Generation Z is especially hard hit by these anxieties. In fact, a 2019 Gallup poll found that 54 percent of 18- to 34-year-olds worry "a great deal" about global warming, while only 38 percent of those aged 35 to 54 share the same concerns.

"Adults have trouble understanding climate change in its radical sense, which is that it's the greatest global health threat of the twenty-first century," says Bruce Krawisz '74, a retired physician who now researches and writes about the health effects of climate change. "But when you talk to younger people, they get it—and they have reason to be worried."

Environmental studies and psychology professor Christie Manning, who teaches a course called "Psychology and/of Climate Change," says that while the scientific literature about "climate anxiety" is just beginning to emerge, she and her colleagues see anecdotal evidence of the condition every day. It comes from students who question whether it's ethical to have children or wonder if they really have time for graduate school if the predictions about





a 2030 tipping point prove true. “Another thing I observe in my classes is the confusing disconnect between the scientific data telling us what’s happening, and the beautiful fall day with blue skies and the nice breeze,” she says. “The signals we’re getting from science don’t match the signals we may be getting from the world.”

That disconnect is even more pronounced in the world of politics, where Donald Trump’s election in 2016, and America’s subsequent retreat from the historic Paris climate accord and other environmental protections, suggest there’s little political will for turning the tide. “When people in power are saying, ‘Calm down, quit worrying,’ that actually magnifies the distress for many young people,” Manning says. “The data say we should be taking action now, but that’s not necessarily what students are seeing from the adults in their lives.”

“Frustration really isn’t a deep enough word to describe how students are feeling about their future,” says Roopali Phadke, environmental studies professor and chair, who believes the political climate may be fueling students’ growing interest in coursework that connects to climate change. To meet the demand, her department offers a specialized study path devoted to climate change and policy, while many departments are featuring climate-related content in courses such as “Moral Psychology,” “Language and

Climate,” “Energy Justice,” and “Environmental Politics and Policy.” “We’re seeing more and more students attracted to these classes—in part because climate is so interdisciplinary, but also because they’re not only interested in learning about climate science,” Phadke says. “They want to connect that with the tools to change the policies that we have in place.”

In fact, while climate issues in the media can often divide along partisan lines, among Macalester students there’s consensus that the status quo is no longer sustainable, says political science instructor Michael Zis, who helped design a “Sustainability for Global Citizenship” seminar and taught “Environmental Politics and Policy” this past fall. “What I’ve observed is that there’s no room for skepticism anymore. Even among the most conservative students, the debates are not about the science, or whether climate change is happening, but over the merits of competing paths proposed to address it.

“But what I’m also seeing is a shift toward greater support for more radical or drastic action,” he says. “A few years ago, you might have heard students express support for privatized or market-based or incremental solutions, but with the climate strikes we’re seeing and the Greta Thunberg effect, there’s a lot more interest in protest and public acts that can move the needle.”





## 3 WAYS TO AVOID CLIMATE BURNOUT

**GET OUTDOORS:** As a glacier scientist, geology professor Kelly MacGregor has lost track of how many times she's heard people say, "You'd better study those glaciers now, before they disappear." Though comments like that can be depressing, MacGregor says that taking students to glaciers to conduct research is motivating. "It actually makes you feel empowered to understand the science of climate," she says. Connecting with nature and finding a source of personal meaning in the natural world can also inspire conservation-minded behavior long after you've returned home.

**CONCENTRATE ON THE BIG PICTURE:** If you've been concerned about how humans are contributing to climate change, chances are you're already carrying a reusable water bottle and trying to take the bus. While individual choices like flying less do make a difference, "This problem is bigger than any of us," says Margaret Breen '20. To expand the impact of your own environmentally sustainable choices, look for ways to support nonprofits and grassroots groups that are committed to a cleaner economy and climate justice—you may even know the Macalester alums who work for them.

**IMAGINE THE FUTURE YOU WANT TO SEE:** "When our bodies are quivering with anxiety, it doesn't feel good and it doesn't make us very effective at our work," says Jason Rodney '10, a youth program coordinator at Climate Generation. When Rodney meets with high school climate activists, "We start with storytelling, and we work together to visualize what a healed world would look like." Instead of feeling overwhelmed by the weight of climate change, "we're laughing together, we're singing, and we're really feeling hopeful about the future."

### Activism Over Anxiety

To cope with climate anxiety, mental health professionals often recommend becoming more active in the search for solutions—an approach to self-care that seems to be part of Macalester's DNA. "I have to laugh when I hear that because at least a few of my students say activism is what they really do at Macalester, and they fit their classes in around that," says Manning.

One of the most visible signs of student climate activism has been the Fossil Free Mac (FFM) movement, a student-led initiative urging the Board of Trustees to divest from private oil and gas partnerships over the next 15 years. In response to FFM and the college's Social Responsibility Committee proposal, the board voted in October to continue and expand work to reduce Macalester's carbon footprint, and to approve new investments in private oil and gas partnerships only when the Investment Committee believes the investment is reasonably likely to result in a net reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

"It took seven years for that one step," says Sasha Lewis-Norelle '21 (Madison, Wis.), one of the students who led the charge. Though he's frustrated Macalester hasn't joined the ranks of universities and colleges that have committed to full divestment, he's inspired to do more when he graduates. "I'd love to keep working in environmental justice, and Macalester has taught me to think more critically about things," he says. "I think those skills are going to be really important when we're dealing with issues as intricate and systemic as climate change."

Challenging existing systems in innovative ways is another approach Macalester students are applying to environmental challenges, says Margaret Breen '20 (Minneapolis). She's a member of the Youth Climate Intervenors, a group of Macalester students working to oppose Line 3, a proposed tar sands oil pipeline through northern Minnesota. Making the case that their generation will be disproportionately affected by climate change, and the environmental damages that would be caused by a tar sands oil pipeline spill, the group petitioned for and earned party status by the Public Utilities Commission in 2017. While the state Supreme Court just declined a request to hear indigenous and environmental groups' complaints about Line 3's environmental review process, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency denied a key water permit for the pipeline. Those losses and wins are teaching Breen and her teammates what it takes to be effective climate activists for the long haul.

"Worrying about the future can be paralyzing, because there's this feeling that nothing we can do is bold or impactful enough," she says. "But it's been really empowering and exciting for me to be part of a community of people imagining what climate justice will look like, and learning where I'll need to focus my energy in the future."

Major youth-led climate strikes have also mobilized large numbers of Mac students and recent graduates, including Marco Hernandez '19, who spoke on the steps of the Minnesota State Capitol during a September 2019 climate strike that was expected to attract 2,000 students. Instead, more than 6,000 attended. "I spoke about how I'm originally from Richmond, California, where the second-largest refinery in the state of California resides," he says. When the refinery caught fire in 2012, gas prices across the country shot up, but Hernandez saw that the health impacts were



concentrated among his neighbors, “black and brown people who were filling up the hospitals, getting sick and having respiratory problems. That was the moment where I started to make the connection to environmental discrimination.” That issue now drives his work as an environmental justice organizer for COPAL MN, a Minneapolis organization focused on uniting Minnesota’s Latinx community through grassroots democracy.

Anticipating the ways that communities will have to cope with climate-related impacts and emergencies has also become a growing focus for cities. Kira Liu ’17 contributed to this effort when, while a student in Roopali Phadke’s class, she worked on a NOAA-funded project with the City of St. Paul called “Ready & Resilient,” showing residents how to look out for one another in the face of possible climate emergencies like flash floods, icier winter roads, and more mosquitoes. Learning how communities will have to come together to cope with climate-related problems is what now inspires her work as community engagement coordinator at Climate Generation, the organization founded by Arctic explorer Will Steger, which focuses on collective action to combat climate change. “It’s no longer enough to act individually, because it’s going to take all of us, standing together, to develop climate solutions and create a more equitable society,” she says.

Seeing how much energy and enthusiasm Liu and other Mac alumni are bringing to the climate crisis is one way that Christie

Manning manages her own climate anxiety. “What I see is that Macalester is giving students resources and tools to practice their skills, be more effective in their activism, and to raise their voices in really important ways.”

Although there are days when it’s distressing to talk to her classes about what will happen if the earth warms another degree, Manning says, the critical thinking they’re bringing to the climate emergency is cause for hope. “There are also these moments of silence where they sit back and absorb and say, ‘Okay, I understand what we’re facing here psychologically. I understand what we’re facing as a species.’ And then they lean forward and ask, ‘What’s the path forward? Can we talk more about solutions?’ Those are the questions you really want your students to be asking.” **M**

Laura Billings Coleman is a freelance writer and frequent *Macalester Today* contributor.



**Marco Hernandez ’19 speaks at the Minnesota State Capitol during the September climate strike. Below: Climate strike attendees fill the capitol rotunda, viewed from the lens of *Mac Weekly* photographer Kori Suzuki ’21.**





A man with short brown hair and blue eyes, wearing a dark blue pinstripe suit, a light blue shirt, and a red striped tie, is sitting in a black leather armchair. He is looking slightly upwards and to the left with a thoughtful expression. His hands are clasped in his lap, and he is wearing a ring on his left hand. The background consists of a wall of grey metal lockers with silver handles and labels.

# HOW MACALESTER MADE ME THE **REPUBLICAN** I AM TODAY



## RJ Laukitis '02 parlayed debates on campus into bipartisan collaboration on Capitol Hill.

BY TEQUIA BURT

In the early 1990s, plenty of fourth graders were gobbling up episodes of *The Simpsons*, *The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air*, and *Full House*.

And then there was RJ Laukitis '02, whose must-see TV included some decidedly different fare: "I remember watching shows like *Meet the Press* and *Face the Nation* as young as 11," he says.

So perhaps it shouldn't come as a surprise that two decades later, Laukitis has found a home in politics. He is chief of staff for Rep. Tim Walberg (R-Mich.), helping shepherd the congressman's legislative plans and serving as a bridge among the congressman, staffers, and constituents.

A political career might have been in the cards all along, but Laukitis says that Macalester helped hone his political chops—and his conservative viewpoint. In fact, Laukitis credits going to college at Macalester as an "out Republican" with being able to work across the aisle during a time when Washington, D.C.—and our entire country—is more politically polarized than ever before.

"Mac definitely prepared me for working and operating around people with different views than my own," Laukitis says. "I hope Mac students, faculty, and alums with views different than mine feel the same way. So often, it's easy to fall into the trap of surrounding yourself with peers and news sources that only complement your views and interests."

Laukitis has spent the past 15 years on Capitol Hill, serving members from his home state of Michigan. Before becoming Rep. Walberg's legislative director in 2011, Laukitis worked for Rep. Pete Hoekstra (R-Mich.).

Though Walberg is solidly conservative, his constituents have complex and varied views, choosing Barack Obama in 2008 and Donald Trump in 2016. Walberg's team has emphasized bipartisanship since Laukitis joined his office. In the 2018 election, Walberg even touted his work with President Obama to highlight his willingness to work with those outside his party.

"Our office recognizes that if you ultimately want to get work done in Washington, it almost always has to have bipartisan support," Laukitis says.

Collaborations have included bills addressing human trafficking, energy reform, and the opioid crisis. Last Congress, Laukitis partnered with Minh Ta '97, then-chief of staff for Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-Del.), to get a piece of retirement security-related legislation through the House. Though the bill didn't get signed into law, Laukitis says he relished working with someone who was focused on outcomes rather than party. "We both share the same belief that Hill service is about getting results and not just political bomb throwing," he says.

Although Laukitis has fond memories of his experience at Macalester, he says it wasn't always easy being a Republican on a left-leaning campus. Along with Brent Nichols '03 and Stephanie Seidl '03, he launched Mac GOP (Macalester's chapter of the Minnesota College Republicans and the current version of a campus Republican student organization) for support. Nonetheless, Laukitis says that Macalester's strong emphasis on the importance of public service profoundly affected him, so much so that after college he became a Peace Corps volunteer for two years on the island nation of Dominica. His experience at Macalester also reinforced his conservatism—and his choice to launch a political career.

"Ultimately, being a Republican at Macalester is definitely challenging," he says. "Regardless, it's a great school for a dialogue and understanding other people's points of view. It also makes you strongly reflect on why you feel a certain way or why you might have a different outlook than someone else; it's that intellectual journey that gets you to a good understanding of why you care about what you do." **M**

Tequia Burt is a Chicago-based freelance writer.

## How to talk about politics when you don't agree

These days, the divided, partisan nature of politics in Washington, D.C. is seeping into everyday conversations with neighbors, friends, and family. Exchanges can get heated, but Laukitis says he has learned how to lower the temperature of these important discussions:

**Engage honestly and kindly.** Don't start off a conversation having preconceived notions of the person you're talking with. Listen earnestly to their concerns and don't be dismissive. "It's really important to be respectful," Laukitis says. "We have to go back to hearing people out, trying to understand them. Keep listening and keep learning."

**Be well-read.** Having a solid grasp of current events will enable you to make fact-based arguments. "Don't put all your faith in one figure or type of resource," he says. "If you watch MSNBC all day, try to also watch a bit of Fox and vice-versa. If you read *The New York Times*, you probably should also be reading *The Wall Street Journal*."

**Find common ground.** "People automatically turn off if they think you're just going to disagree with them," Laukitis says. Conversely, they are more open to listening to your opinion if you've already found some things you share in common.

**Know when to walk away.**

It's important to realize when you aren't making headway and each side is just digging in more. "Sometimes, it just gets to a point where you're just going to have to agree to disagree," he says.





# NEWS IN A NEW ERA

BY REBECCA DEJARLAIS ORTIZ '06 / ILLUSTRATION BY BENJAMIN CURRIE

In Macalester's media and cultural studies program, Michael Griffin teaches courses on the history and analysis of film and photography, media representation, media institutions, and community media. We asked him about how news has changed in the twenty-first century—and what that means for media consumers today.

## What was happening in newspapers 20 years ago?

In the early 2000s, newspapers weren't experiencing a significant readership drop-off yet, but they were starting to lose advertising money. Before the rise of the web, if you lived in Minneapolis and you were looking for a used car, you'd go to the *Star Tribune* classifieds section, the paper's single biggest revenue source prior to the 2000s. When the web became more accessible, sites like Craigslist or Cars.com were more efficient resources. Who would still pore over the classifieds when you could just do a quick search online?

That was the first really serious blow to the traditional news media. When their ad and classified revenues dropped, the only recourse in their view at the time was to cut costs. By 2005, this was leading to newsroom layoffs. Newspapers became smaller, with fewer printed pages and less content. And then, not surprisingly, people weren't as interested in subscribing. A death spiral for newspapers began to develop even before the great recession hit.

## What's changed in our news consumption?

We're getting more of our news online at the same time that the reliability of online information is increasingly suspect. When some-

one sends me a story on Facebook or Twitter, the first thing I look for is the source of the report. If the source is unfamiliar or unclear, then red flags go up for me right away.

The web, because it is algorithmic, directs us to sites and information that mimic our previous patterns of internet activity. Hyperlinked material tracks with our predispositions and therefore most often leads to content that resonates with our preexisting worldview. The sheer volume of information being passed along in these online echo chambers has accelerated, and political forces are taking advantage of this to spread rhetoric that in a previous era we would have called propaganda. Political influencers—sometimes using automated bots—are able to control news agendas in ways that would have been unheard of in the past. Governments have tried to shape news agendas in the past by strategically releasing information and controlling their interactions with the press. But in such interactions government officials were often subject to interrogation and pushback from reporters.

## What's different now?

President Trump can shape the news agenda by what he decides to tweet in the morning. He doesn't have to speak with anyone or take any questions. The media are forced to reflect and respond to that content, even when trying to debunk it. Many observers think President Trump has been brilliant about taking advantage of this environment.

Also, reputable media are continually under attack by political





forces willing to discredit them for short-term gain. It's literally a daily assault: "You can't believe the liberal media," "It's all fake news."

### What signs of hope do you see?

Slowly but surely, the idea of paying for quality news online has gained greater acceptance. Five years ago, everybody thought web content should be free. Then certain publications realized that survival demanded a paywall—so they put one up and hoped for the best.

And that's worked out really well for publications like *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The New Yorker*, and even regional newspapers like the *Star Tribune*. Adopting paywalls stabilized revenues during the crisis period following the recession. News organizations discovered that many people are willing to pay for reliable, higher-quality content.

Today, I don't think we have to fear that *The New York Times* or National Public Radio is going to disappear anytime soon. And online news organizations like *Vox* and *Politico* have also started to prove their value. There have been enough success stories that there's a foundation for future development.

### Where are news organizations struggling?

They're struggling with how to responsibly navigate the interactive social media world. They have to distinguish their work online as professionally produced reporting—in contrast to sponsored content, strategic political communication, or social media com-

mentary. Reporters now use Twitter to publicize their own articles and respond to other news, and news organizations have to monitor their own fact-checked content as it is shared and commented on in social media.

This is an environment that myriad online entities (including bots) exploit regularly. News sites have had to devise strategies to contend with trolling in their comments sections, and with attempts via social media to challenge, undercut, and even alter their content in linked messages and memes. And news consumers must resist clickbait: The most reliable news sources are deliberately accessed by users, and are not in the business of snaring casual web surfers. That's one dimension that separates reputable news organizations from news businesses whose primary purpose is to attract attention and revenue even at the cost of news standards.

### How can a news consumer support journalism?

Identify reliable, trustworthy sources—and then support those organizations. Subscribe or donate money if you can. If you don't have resources to donate, continue to support them with your readership or clicks. No news organizations are perfect; reporting should always be critiqued, but we should support outlets that adhere to a transparent set of standards. You should know who owns the organization, what their mission is, how they do their work, and how to hold them accountable. Help those sources keep doing what they're doing. **M**



# CLASS NOTES

## 1948

Paula Arnold and Dick Arnold '49 celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary in September with a family gathering in Stillwater, Minn.

## 1953

Nationally acclaimed organist David Gehrenbeck was named music minister emeritus by Saint John in the Wilderness Episcopal Church this past Oct. 6.

## 1957

Barbara James Schue published *The Allure of Hope*, a collection of 23 short stories "written to raise readers' spirits," this past July.

## 1963

This past October, Howard Mielke published research on lead exposure in New Orleans in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. His work showed an association between decreased levels of lead in the environment and lower levels

of lead in children's blood. "The relationship between leaded gasoline and degree of lead contamination of various-sized cities was first demonstrated by research conducted by students from my geography classes at Macalester," Howard wrote. He is a research scientist in the Pharmacology Department at Tulane Medical School.

## 1964

Anne Harbour has been working since September 2017 to revive a historic monument and rose gardens in Hereford,

### CLASS NOTES PHOTO POLICY:

We publish one photo per wedding.

We do not have space to publish baby photos.

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

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

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

England. She has gathered community volunteers to do the restoration and replanting work and has been publicizing and raising funds for the effort. Anne expects the project to be completed in spring 2020.

## 1968

After her 50th Macalester Reunion in the summer of 2018, Ruth Lee Copp and her husband traveled to North and South Dakota, Montana, and Wyoming. She met up with classmates in Minnesota this past summer.



Six alumni who have competed at the National Sports Center Velodrome in Blaine, Minn., Anna Schmitz '14, Jason Lardy '90, Erin Porter '16, Mandla Shongwe '98, Sophie Nikitas '14, and Emily Wade '14 (clockwise from top left), gathered on Aug. 29, 2019, to celebrate the final night of bicycle racing at the facility before its demolition. Erin won one of the races that night, and Jason served as an announcer. Jason is leading an effort to build a new velodrome in Minnesota.



# WHAT'S ONE SUSTAINABILITY TIP THAT WORKS FOR YOU?

"I eat my lunch out of old pickle, salsa, and other glass jars to reduce waste and have an easy leftovers receptacle that I can put in the microwave. Even if my co-workers look at me funny at lunch, I'm gonna keep doing it. Glass jars rock!" —**Andrew Kessel '07**

"In addition to larger steps, seek small incremental actions that can be done each day, like seeking recreational and dining opportunities that are nearby. Walking to locations in the neighborhood supports local businesses, enhances health through exercise, and helps build a better sense of community." —**Matt Friedman '80**

"I bike-commute year-round. It helps me reduce my carbon footprint and gets me outside enjoying Minnesota and my fellow Minnesotans." —**Erin Porter '16**

"Spending my time organizing with Extinction Rebellion to sound the alarm: individual actions alone will do nothing to stop climate change. We have to dismantle the fossil fuel industry, stop building new fossil fuel infrastructure, and pass a Green New Deal." —**Becca Krasky '19**

"Backyard composting is an easy way to keep food waste out of the landfill. It's an amazing miracle that my moldy leftovers, used coffee grounds, and shredded documents become dirt and something to grow tomatoes in next year." —**Sarah Turner '05**

"Reducing my home's carbon footprint. Recycling since the mid-1970s." —**Angela Gill Saunders '73**

"Save energy by setting your thermostat so that you are usually—but not always—comfortable. When you find yourself cold (or hot), check what you're wearing and if suitable, manually change the thermostat." —**Brian Frey P'21**

"I focus on reusing containers and buying bulk (thanks co-op!), and wherever possible not buying things contained in plastic. It's a challenge but one that offers great rewards for the planet and creates awareness in all my purchase decisions, which is where the real power lies." —**David Nelson '82**

"Take public transport or drive an electric vehicle when you can't bike." —**Beth Scudder '98**



"Our family decision to live right in our 'downtown core' here in little Montpelier, Vermont. We walk and bike to school, work, and many activities within our small but vibrant community." —**Jon Copans '96**

"I leave myself lots of reminders to bring reusable bags whenever I buy food or anything else. It's a simple thing but so easy to forget!" —**Sally Herman '22**

"Remove screens from south-facing windows in the winter! It lets in 40 percent more warm sunshine, reducing the need for heat." —**Caley Long '09**

"Every time I recycle or reuse something, I allow it to be a spiritual moment that connects me to all of life and all future generations. It makes those few extra steps to the recycle bin a gift rather than a chore." —**Mary Gorhan P'21**

## NOW TELL US:

**What's the first book Mac's graduating seniors should read after Commencement?**

Send your answer via Twitter (#heymac), email ([mactoday@macalester.edu](mailto:mactoday@macalester.edu)), or mail (*Macalester Today*, Macalester College, 1600 Grand Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105).





In September, Macalester Athletics and the M Club inducted four new members into the Hall of Fame. From left: Kaela Schramm '07 (track & field), Bob Berquist '58 (football, basketball, and baseball), Anna Bacho Flory '00 (soccer), and Nick Adams '96 (soccer).



When Karen and Bob North (both from the Class of 1964) visited Connie Charles '64 in Santee, Calif., last May, they took a trip to Tecate, Mexico, for a dining experience at Amores restaurant that started off with a unique version of sangria.



Fifteen Macalester friends traveled together this past October, taking a Danube River cruise and visiting Romania, Bulgaria, Serbia, Croatia, and Hungary. Nine of them are Class of 1965 classmates (Judy Anderson Tolbert, Margee Smith Wheeler, Sonya Anderson, Barb Wildung Kramer, Donna McDowell Beestman, Gay Tempas, Jon Tempas, Kay Hutchins McCarthy, and Bruce Norback), joined by spouses and close friends.

## 1970

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

## 1971

Barbara Phillips has been elected to the board of the Mississippi affiliate of the American Civil Liberties Union.

After 20 years on the bench, Bob Sillars has retired as judge of the Clarence, N.Y., Town Court. He lives in Clarence, practices law part time, and manages a charitable trust.

## 1972

Michelle O'Laughlin received the Minoru Yasui Community Volunteer Award in June 2019 in Denver. She has volunteered for 13 years with Girls on the Run of the Rockies.

## 1975

*The Class of 1975 will celebrate its 45th Reunion June 5–7, 2020.*

## 1977

Peter Coladarci received the 2019 Trial Lawyer Excellence Award from the Jury Verdict Reporter for the record-setting

\$14 million settlement he secured in a case involving a fraternity hazing death. He also worked on news stories related to the case with Rob Stafford '80, a news anchor at WMAQ in Chicago, and Lisa Capitanini '83, Rob's producer at the station. Rob and Lisa won a regional Edward Murrow Award in 2015 for their coverage of the case.

During his 30-year career in chemical product development with 3M, Steve Kantner was a co-inventor on more than 40 patents, including technologies used in the coating of Post-it Notes. After retiring from 3M, Steve traveled, volunteered, practiced yoga, got divorced and remarried, and spent time with his daughter and her dogs. He suffered a stroke in November 2017, and since that time has launched two companies, Queen of Denial Skin Care (of which he is vice president of research and development) and the intellectual property holding company R-evolution (of which he is chief information officer).

## 1978

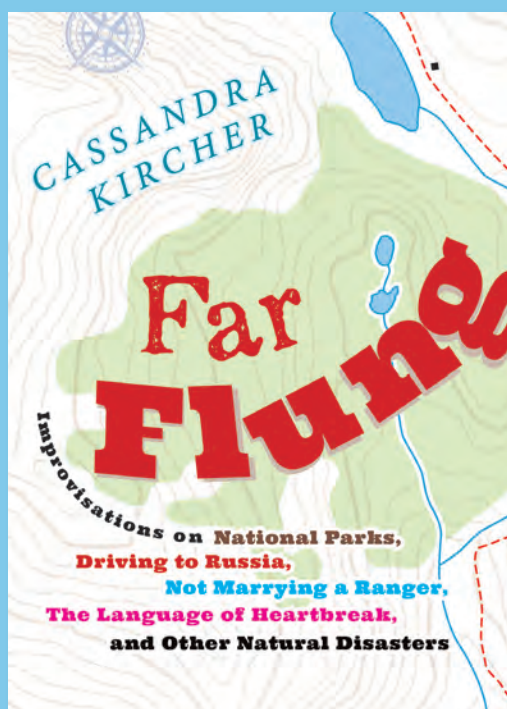
Donald Kaiser served as chair of Gaylaxicon 2019, a national LGBTQ+ science fiction, fantasy, and gaming convention held in Minneapolis in October.





## Cassandra Kircher '77

*Far Flung: Improvisations on National Parks, Driving to Russia, Not Marrying a Ranger, the Language of Heartbreak, and Other Natural Disasters* (West Virginia University Press, 2019)



## “A Portrait of My Father in Three Places”

Most mornings my father fishes alone, coming back for lunch empty-handed and frustrated. Most afternoons we hike Glacier's trails. By day two when we surprise a grizzly eating huckleberries beside Hidden Lake, all five of us have read through chapter four of the *Night of the Grizzlies*, and my father finally decides to purchase the bells we have seen other hikers wearing. These little backpacking gems warn bears you are present, sort of like a doorbell, but instead of being frugal, my father overbuys and ties several bells to each of our fanny packs so we look and sound like Santa's reindeer, or a small, moving cathedral.

After dinner most evenings, we walk over to the amphitheater and listen to the free campfire programs offered by the park service. It's my father who makes us attend these productions. I'm not sure about my brothers, but I resent sitting on a log looking at slides of tundra and granite when most kids my age are attending rock concerts somewhere. On our fourth night at the amphitheater, I know we're in trouble with a program called something as

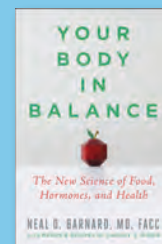
boring as “Animal Friends of Glacier Park.” The ranger in charge—a real go-getter—talks about how he's been fishing a place called Goat Lake on his days off. It's hard hiking to get there, he says, but worth every uphill step. He even recommends using a fly called, for God's sake, the Yellow Humpy, and he shows us a couple slides of other flies he has wasted valuable time tying. Not two minutes into the program, I notice my father taking notes in the margins of our park map.

When we return to the campsite, my father radiates enthusiasm. “Goat Lake, anyone?” he asks in a happy voice, spreading the map out on the picnic table. In the glow of our Coleman lantern, I follow his index finger over masses of topographical lines up to a tiny blue oval.

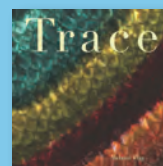
“Dad,” I say after a few minutes of studying the situation, “Goat Lake is eight miles into the backcountry—it's in Canada.”

“It's nothing but a personal theory,” my father says, “but I think fishing another country's waters will bring us luck.”

**Neal Barnard '75**, *Your Body in Balance: The New Science of Food, Hormones, and Health* (Grand Central Publishing, 2020)



**David Bressoud**, DeWitt Wallace Professor of Mathematics, *Calculus Re-ordered: A History of the Big Ideas* (Princeton University Press, 2019)



**Melanie Figg '90**, *Trace* (New Rivers Press, 2019)

**John Leaney**, former soccer coach, *From the East End to the West Coast and Halfway Back* (Outskirts Press, 2019)

**Anthony Nadler '01** with AJ Bauer, *News on the Right: Studying Conservative News Cultures* (Oxford University Press, 2019)

**Cláudia Tatinge Nascimento**, theater and dance professor and chair, *After the Long Silence: The Theater of Brazil's Post-Dictatorship Generation* (Routledge, 2019)

**Jim Tincher '90** with Nicole Newton, *How Hard Is It to Be Your Customer? Using Journey Mapping to Drive Customer-Focused Change* (Paramount Books, 2019)

**Kathleen (KC) Williams West '99**, *Minor Dramas & Other Catastrophes* (Berkley, a Penguin Random House imprint, 2020)

**Pauline Knaeble Williams '88**, *Night Shade* (Forty Press, 2019)



**Deanna Ferree Womack '04**, *Protestants, Gender and the Arab Renaissance in Late Ottoman Syria* (Edinburgh University Press, 2019)

**Sam Yamashita '68**, *Hawai'i Regional Cuisine: The Food Movement That Changed the Way Hawai'i Eats* (University of Hawaii Press, 2019) and *Daily Life in Wartime Japan, 1940-1945* (University of Kansas Press, 2015)



## 1980

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

## 1985

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

## 1987

Lance Keller's New Orleans funk band, Alligator Beach, released its first album, *Throwin' a Party*, in August.

## 1990

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

## 1991

Joe Heyman was named editor in chief of *Entertainment Weekly* this past July. He previously oversaw *People* magazine's entertainment coverage as deputy editor.

## 1994

After seven years at Bowman and Brooke LLP in Austin, Texas, Bill Childs has joined 3M's litigation and preventive law group as senior counsel. Bill and Dena Majeski Childs '93 plan to return to Minnesota next summer as empty-nesters.

## 1995

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

## 1998

Martha Aby recently defended her PhD dissertation and gave birth to Elena Clara Aby-Rodriguez a week later.

## 1999

Genia Hesser has been named executive director of the Winona County Historical Society in Winona, Minn.

## 2000

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

April Fleck practices massage and works at the CenterPoint School of Massage and Shiatsu in Minneapolis as a Swedish massage instructor. She is serving on the committee for her 20th Macalester Reunion.

## 2004

The Oregon Art Education Association named Addy Kessler the 2019 Oregon Art Educator of the Year.

*Continued on page 43 >*



Sarah Fleming '14 visited her Mac roommate Hannah Rasmussen '14 in Nairobi, Kenya. When the two traveled to where Hannah grew up in Mwanza, Tanzania, a detour led to another reunion: "Hannah and I had some misadventures in our attempts to book a direct bus to Mwanza, and we accidentally ended up in Arusha, Tanzania, where Clementina Sanchez '14 lives," Sarah wrote. "We were able to meet up with her and see her baby!"



Drew Nelson '90 is the provost at Des Moines Area Community College's Boone campus. At a recent performance on campus, Drew wrote, he learned that "the singer who'd just rocked 'Folsom Prison Blues' was also a Mac alum: Luke LeBlanc '18."



Faye Bassford Bosak '68 and Maryanne Foote Law Sunde '68 were among the first residents of Doty Hall when it opened in 1964 and remained roommates throughout their years at Macalester. They are still in touch and take time to celebrate their friendship whenever they can. "We even include our husbands," they wrote.





1



2

**1. Ronit Zemel '15 and Ethan Porter** were married on Nov. 10, 2019, in Washington, D.C. They celebrated with many Mac friends. "Eight of us in this picture lived on Turck 4," Ronit wrote. From left: **Eura Chang '15, Noah Westreich '14, Jacob Kraus '15, Jonah Freed '15, Ronit, Lucy Westerfield '15, Joyce Kim '15, Samantha Burlager '15, Anne Marie Buron '15, and Sam Swenson '15.** Not pictured: the bride's mother, **Louise Sherman Zemel '83.**

**2. Jesse Carroll '13 and Rachel Higgs '13** were married on Sept. 14, 2019, in Minneapolis. They celebrated with many Mac friends, including **Jason Swanson '07, Phillip Higgs '07, Will Johnson '13, Laura Moulton Sutherland '13, Graham Sutherland '13, Ian Cave '13, Angela Whited '07, Sarah Lambert '07, Dresden Gagne '13, Allison Gottwalt '13, and Shaina Davis '13.**

**3. Diana Marianetti '05 and Dieter Bowar '03** were married on Nov. 8, 2019, in Minneapolis. Their Macalester roots reconnected them in 2018 after not seeing each other for 15 years. **Clark Boyesen '03, Chris Marianetti '03, Natasha Suelflow '05, and Kier Palmer-Klein '06** joined them to celebrate.



3



## WEDDINGS



1



2



3

**1. Jyothi Dhanwada '15 and Damion Prendergast '15** were married Sept. 1, 2019, in San Mateo, Calif.

**2. Sam and Beth Morlock Walker '90** were married on the island of Hawaii in February 2018.

**3. Lila Kitaeff Lakehart '01 and Ali Yeates Lakehart** were married in May 2019 in Seattle. From left: **Jessie Carr Shmool '01**, Ali, Lila, **Rachel Robinson '01**, **Betsey Elda Guest '01**, and **Jay Guerrero '01**.

**4. Liz Scholz '10 and Mike Mommsen** were married Sept. 1, 2019, in St. Paul. They were joined by many Mac friends and family members, as well as Macalester professor Olga González.

**5. Brooke Collins Simons '16 and Jacob Simons '17** were married July 26, 2019, in Delafield, Wis. Their wedding party included **Trey Johnson '17** and **Sierra Pancoast '17**. Brooke and Jacob now live and work in San Francisco.

**6. Jason Thomas and Sarah Van Etten-Thomas '10** were married Aug. 17, 2019, in Woodbury, N.Y. **Laurie Sorenson Bakkum '71** officiated, and **Ari Ofsevit '06**, **Ernesto Nunes '10**, **Camilla Engblom '10**, **Charlie Cosimini '09**, **Amy Hill Cosimini '09**, **Zach Lazar '10**, **Collin Cousins '10**, and **Munadir Ahmed '10** joined them to celebrate.







# ALUMNI CONNECTIONS, ATHLETICS MENTORS, AND CAREER HELPERS

Across the Alumni Board, our top priority is focusing on what alumni care about—and how we want to connect with Mac. As alumni, we value the relationships that shaped our own Mac experience and see this path as a way to reconnect and give back now, wherever we are in the world. There are many ways to engage with the college—and through conducting interviews and testing concepts, we've learned that mentoring opportunities rise to the top for many alumni.

On the Alumni Board's athletics working group, we've developed a mentorship program that links current student-athletes with alumni who played sports at Mac. We started with the volleyball team, then expanded to women's soccer. This winter, we're matching alumni with basketball student-athletes—and testing out the best ways to expand the program to include more students and alumni.

Want to be part of the effort to support career pathway development and networking? You can get started by signing up to be a Career Helper through Mac Direct, our alumni database. Mac Direct is great for connecting with old friends and creating new connections in a specific city, company, or field. Through our work, we've learned that it can also be an important resource for coaches providing support for student-athletes as they explore professional paths. Visit [macdirect.macalester.edu](http://macdirect.macalester.edu) and update your profile (and then search for other alumni and friends!).

Most alumni mentors don't live near campus—we've seen great mentoring relationships develop from calls and Facetime sessions once or twice a month. And we love seeing reverse mentorship happen: the alumni often learn as much as the students do. Contact Erin Updike in Engagement at [eupdike@macalester.edu](mailto:eupdike@macalester.edu) to join the mentoring network.

—Glafira Marcon '13, athletics working group



## STAY ENGAGED

with the Alumni Board's athletics working group:

- Update your Mac Direct status as a Career Helper: [macdirect.macalester.edu](http://macdirect.macalester.edu)
- We're still hosting events! Learn more about our watch parties and tailgating events (at Mac and around the country), then meet up with us! [macalester.edu/alumni/groups](http://macalester.edu/alumni/groups)
- Come back to campus for Back to Mac, Sept. 4-6, 2020. Watch for more details soon.





At St. Paul's Harding High School's graduation this past June, four Harding staff members and three 2019 graduates gathered as past and future (now current) Macalester students (from left): JT Rissman '88, Emiliano Huerta '23, Julia Shepherd '92, Erik Brandt '95, Mattie Ebbesen '23, Aisha Mohamed '23, and Jane Law '82.



Joanna Kepka '95 and her family (including her son Milosz Fernandez-Kepka '23) visited Niki Paschalidou '96 and her family in Cyprus this past July. They also met up with Ioanna Tymbiotou '95 and Tina Pavlou '95 and their families in Limassol, Cyprus.

> Continued from page 38

## 2005

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

After three years in New Delhi, India, Dhruva Jaishankar, Cassandra Berman '06, and their daughter, Vivica, have moved to the Washington, D.C. area. Cassandra is completing her PhD in American history from Brandeis University while working as an archivist at Georgetown University. Dhruva is director of the U.S. initiative of the New Delhi-based Observer Research Foundation.

Since graduating from New York University in 2008, Emilia Klajn has worked in communications, done voice-over and acting work in film, and provided translation and interpreting services in English and French. Her voice work is featured in both the English and Bulgarian versions of "Tasks of the Day," which is the Bulgarian submission for the Academy Awards' best animated short film category and the winner of the 16th In The Palace International Short Film Festival.

## 2006

Chelsey Olsen Smith has left the corporate world and is now the



This past September, Cara McChesney Leuchtenberger '93, Sara Hayden '93, Sara Peterson '93, Julie Kerssen '93, Jordan Sadler '93, and Beth Goodpaster '92 spent four days in the Twin Cities "revisiting our old stomping grounds and basking in our 30th anniversary... of friendship." They also visited Jordan's son Baxter Gordon '22 at Macalester.

owner and operator of a Molly's Cupcakes franchise in Chicago's West Loop neighborhood. The shop opened this past July.

## 2009

Charlie Cosimini graduated from the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine in 2015. He looked forward to practicing at the Animal Medical Clinic across the street from Macalester beginning this past fall.

Dimpho Orionzi has moved from Minneapolis to San Francisco to enroll in the PhD program in medical sociology at the University of California.

## 2010

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

## 2013

Yacoub Shomali has joined the Boston Consulting Group's Middle East office as a consultant. He is based in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

## 2015

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



## CLASS AGENT

### Sierra Pancoast '17

#### MACALESTER FUND CLASS AGENT

##### After Mac

I worked at College Possible, a local nonprofit, though AmeriCorps. As a college coach for students who experienced the foster care system, I saw the many barriers that prevent students from being successful in college. I decided to pursue a master's degree in student affairs. I graduate from the University of St. Thomas in May and I hope to support students in navigating higher education.

##### Best campus tradition

I love a good rivalry. The Mac-Tommies Ultimate Frisbee matches always bring out a crowd—you can always count on colorful jumpsuits and some spirited competition.

##### Favorite Cafe Mac food

It isn't brunch without cheesy eggs!

##### Getting involved

Being a Class Agent is a great excuse to stay in touch with my classmates. I also enjoy being able to give back to Mac through volunteering. I'm currently not in a position to be donating large amounts, so I like to supplement my donations by giving my time.

##### Ripple effect

I try to help my classmates understand that a donation to Mac is an investment in many of the social issues that they want to support. They're investing in students who will enter the workforce and do important work as engaged members of their communities.



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](http://macalester.edu/classagent) or contact [macalesterfund@macalester.edu](mailto:macalesterfund@macalester.edu) or 651-696-6909.

# MacPack

## Share the Mac Spirit

**Are you planning an event with Macalester alumni and friends in your area? Get a MacPack of event supplies!**

Tell us about your gathering—no matter how small or large—and we'll send you a MacPack to help bring the Macalester spirit to your event. Best of all, it's free. Consider it a thank you for showing pride in Macalester and taking the time to host an event that allows the Mac community to come together.



Learn more about hosting and request your MacPack of event supplies online at [macalester.edu/alumni/macpack](http://macalester.edu/alumni/macpack)

Please submit your request a minimum of three weeks prior to your event for US domestic and eight weeks for international addresses.



## 1937

**Evelyn Phillips Petersen**, 101, died Oct. 1, 2016. She is survived by a son and a sister.

## 1943

**Miriam Peake Mitchell**, 97, of Bloomington, Minn., died Sept. 24, 2019. She is survived by a daughter, two sons, nine grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, and a great-great-grandchild.

## 1944

**Betty Carlson Kindem**, 97, of Bellevue, Wash., died Oct. 3, 2019. She is survived by daughter Heather Kindem '77, three sons, eight grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, and a brother.

**Arvel M. Steece**, 93, of Shelburne, Mass., died Nov. 28, 2015. In addition to serving as minister of Congregational churches in Illinois, Minnesota, Connecticut, Michigan, Vermont, and Massachusetts, he was involved in the formation of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches and was a founder of the Congregational Press. Steece was also director emeritus of the Congregational Library and Archives and president of the American Congregational Association from 1975 to 1999. In recognition of his donation of more than 4,000 books, Olivet College named its theological library after Steece and his wife, Kathleen. He is survived by three sons, eight grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren.

## 1946

**Roe Neverman Forbes**, 95, died Aug. 28, 2019, in Edina, Minn. She is survived by two sons (including Scott Forbes '70), four grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

**Gloria Parriott MacDermott**, 93, died July 25, 2019. During a 46-year teaching career, she worked in Hawaii, Colombia, and California, and retired from

the Osseo, Minn., school district. MacDermott is survived by a daughter, a son, four grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and a brother.

**Irene Svanda Micka**, 95, of Hopkins, Minn., died Sept. 10, 2019. She worked as a school librarian. Micka is survived by a son and a brother.

**B. Richard Siebring**, 94, of Stoughton, Wis., died Sept. 10, 2019. He served with the U.S. Navy in Japan during World War II, and later taught chemistry at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, for more than 30 years. Siebring wrote several college textbooks, taught chemistry at West Point, and chaired the Milwaukee section of the American Chemical Society in 1981.

## 1947

**Margaret Uppgren Ely**, 94, of Woodbury, Minn., died Sept. 21, 2019. She is survived by two daughters, as well as grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**Dorothy K. Karlen**, 93, of Minneapolis died Sept. 18, 2019. She worked for 39 years as a medical technologist and scientist for Swedish Hospital and Hennepin County Medical Center.

## 1948

**Robert W. Rose**, 93, of Minneapolis died Nov. 22, 2019. He worked in public education for 47 years. In 1970, he led a teachers' strike that resulted in fundamental changes to educators' negotiation rights and working conditions. Rose also served as a teachers' union president, a board member of a teachers' retirement fund, and president of Macalester's Alumni Association. He received the college's Distinguished Citizen Award in May 2019. Rose is survived by a daughter, three granddaughters, a great-granddaughter, and a brother.

**Betty Erickson Thompson**, 93, died Nov. 3, 2019. She was a social worker with the Head

Start program in Madison, Minn. Thompson is survived by four daughters, 12 grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

## 1949

**Lois Dodge Rogers**, 91, died Aug. 24, 2019. She is survived by two sons and several grandchildren.

## 1950

**Maxine Sigfrid Allert**, 96, of Rochester, Minn., died Oct. 16, 2019. She served as a cadet nurse at the San Diego Naval Hospital during World War II and was later a nursing instructor at Rochester Community and Technical College. Allert is survived by her husband, Don, a daughter, three sons, six grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

## 1951

**James E. Franz**, 93, of Hudson, Wis., died Aug. 29, 2019. He served in the U.S. Army in Japan after World War II. Franz worked in sales with IBM for 25 years and went on several mission trips to Mexico. He is survived by his wife, Arlene, three sons, 22 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren, and two sisters.

**Patricia Ladd Swanlund**, 85, of Newport, Minn., died Aug. 4, 2015. She is survived by her husband, Earl, a daughter, a son, five grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and a sister.

## 1952

**John F. Hansen**, 90, of Eden Prairie, Minn., died Oct. 8, 2019. He served in the U.S. Army Special Services from 1952 to 1954 and formed the Hut Four quartet, which sang around the country and performed on two USO tours during the Vietnam War. Hansen taught elementary school in Edina, Minn., for 18 years and also worked as a real estate agent and financial services planner. He is survived by his wife, Caryl, two daughters,

two sons, and three granddaughters.

## 1953

**Nancy Kyle Bogart**, 88, of Bloomington, Minn., died Nov. 8, 2019. She is survived by a daughter, two sons, nine grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchildren.

**Floyd B. "Govie" Olson**, 88, of Gilbert, Minn., died Sept. 24, 2019. He served in the U.S. Army from 1953 to 1955. During a 34-year career at Cook High School, Olson taught social studies and physical education and coached football, track, golf, and basketball. He also served as a sports announcer at Vermilion Community College for two years and at Virginia High School for 37 years. Olson was inducted into the Minnesota Basketball Coaches Hall of Honor in 2016. In recognition of Olson's more than 20,000 hours of volunteer service at Essentia Care Center, the residents named their dining room "Govie's Diner" in 2000. He is survived by his wife, Betty, five children, 13 grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren, two great-great-grandchildren, a sister, and two brothers.

## 1954

**Theodore B. Anderson**, 87, of Shoreview, Minn., died Oct. 20, 2019. He served in the U.S. Army and worked as a property tax accountant for Ramsey County. Anderson is survived by his wife, Evelyn, two daughters, a son, four grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

**David H. Coulson**, 88, of Huntington Beach, Calif., died Oct. 8, 2019. He taught for several years before embarking on a career in sales and management with imaging and printing solution companies, including University Microfilms and Konica Minolta. He is survived by his wife, Kaoru, and two sons.

**Barbara Meyer Martineau**, 86, of Elbow Lake, Minn., died Oct. 29, 2019. She worked as



## IN MEMORIAM

an accountant for local businesses for 65 years. Martineau is survived by her husband, Marius, a daughter, two sons, 12 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren, and a brother.

**Thomas Ross Paden**, 86, of Edina, Minn., died Sept. 8, 2019. He served with the U.S. Army in Korea as a first lieutenant. Paden joined Merrill Lynch in Minneapolis as a stockbroker and retired as vice president. He served as a deacon, elder, and trustee of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis and was a member of the board of directors of Abbott Northwestern Hospital. He is survived by his wife, Joann Johnson Paden '55, a daughter, a son, and two sisters (including Jeanne Paden Reinhart '53).

### 1957

**Grace Lindberg Hammar**, 90, of San Jose, Calif., died Dec. 2, 2018. She began her teaching career at Mountain Lake Bible School in Minnesota. Hammar is

survived by a son, two granddaughters, a sister, and a brother.

**David L. Kofoed**, 83, died Oct. 5, 2018. He worked as a personal injury attorney. Kofoed is survived by his wife, Virginia, two daughters, two sons, and six grandchildren.

**William M. McQuillan**, 83, of Pine City, Minn., died Oct. 18, 2019. He traveled with two friends to the Amazon to film *Three Men and a Raft*, which was later featured on television and in magazines. McQuillan then returned to the United States and began a career in social work, first in Duluth and later in various Minnesota counties. After his retirement, he raced his sailboat on Lake Superior. McQuillan is survived by his wife, Mary, a daughter, a son, and a grandson.

### 1958

**Etlar A. "Duke" Johnson**, 85, of Eau Claire, Wis., died Oct. 4,

2019. He served in the U.S. Navy and was president of banks in Michigan and Wisconsin. After graduating from Luther Seminary in 1975, Johnson served various Lutheran churches. He is survived by his wife, Marilyn, a son, four grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

**Ernest Miel**, 91, of St. Anthony Village, Minn., died Oct. 3, 2019. He served in the U.S. Army infantry in Korea and retired from the Mounds View, Minn., school district. Miel is survived by his wife, Jill Trescott Miel '58, a daughter, a son, five grandchildren, and a sister.

### 1959

**Dorothy Longman Rosetter**, 83, died Oct. 9, 2019, in Spring Park, Minn. She is survived by her husband, Roger, a daughter, a son, three grandchildren, and two sisters.

### 1960

**Judy Anderson Bartz**, 81,

died Nov. 10, 2019, in St. Paul. She is survived by her husband, Richard, two daughters, and two granddaughters.

**N. Craig Johnson**, 84, of Hopkins, Minn., died Nov. 6, 2019. He served with the U.S. Army Security Agency from 1954 to 1957 in Japan, Korea, and the Philippines. After working in residential mortgage banking with Knutson Mortgage and commercial lending with Eberhardt Company, Johnson operated his own practice in real estate appraisal and feasibility analysis for 35 years. He is survived by his wife, Evelyn, three sons, 15 grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

**Douglas D. Reid, Jr.**, 81, of Excelsior, Minn., died Oct. 30, 2019. He retired as a personal injury lawyer in 1993. Reid is survived by two daughters, a son, and two grandchildren.

**John R. Ward**, 87, of Andover, Minn., died July 4, 2019. He served in the U.S. Navy as a

## REKINDLE 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 LGBTQIA+ affinity reunion in 2020.

Come just as you are—we'll be thrilled to see you. Registration opens in March:  
[macalester.edu/reunion](https://macalester.edu/reunion)

## REUNION

JUNE 5–7, 2020





dental technician, worked on the Great Northern Railroad, and was a pharmaceutical representative from 1965 until his retirement in the mid-1990s. Ward is survived by his wife, Karen Cutter Ward '58, two sons, two grandchildren, two sisters (including Natalie Ward '61), and brother R. Bruce Ward '58.

## 1963

**Mary Knudtson Johnson**, 78, of Apple Valley, Minn., died Oct. 3, 2019. She is survived by her husband, Don, two sons, four grandchildren, three sisters, and two brothers.

## 1966

**John G. Allen**, 75, of Stratford, Wis., died Oct. 7, 2019. He served in the U.S. Army Signal Corps in Vietnam and Fort Snelling, Minn., from 1967 to 1970. He taught physics, chemistry, and mathematics at schools in north central Wisconsin, retiring in 2001. Allen is survived by his wife, Peg Jaeger Allen '67, a daughter, a son, four grandchildren, and a sister.

**Pauline A. Roll**, 71, of Kerrville, Texas, died Sept. 15, 2016. After earning a master's degree in counseling, she taught science in Hastings, Minn., and was a school counselor and district administrator in the United States and Australia. After her retirement in 2004, Roll volunteered as a court-appointed special advocate for abused and neglected children and their families.

## 1969

**Julie Bongard Christianson**, 72, of Blomkest, Minn., died Nov. 2, 2019. After working as a cookbook editor for the Betty Crocker Company and farming for three years in the Blomkest area, she joined her husband, Frank, and his brothers in launching Christianson Systems Inc. Christianson worked as a technical writer for the company until her retirement in 1998. She is survived by her

husband, Frank, two children, and a grandson.

**Sara Kemp Graffunder**, 72, died Dec. 7, 2019. In addition to working at the University of Minnesota, Cray Research, and the Science Museum of Minnesota, she was a prize-winning stitcher and a member of local and national stitching guilds. Last year, Graffunder co-chaired the Class of 1969's 50th Reunion communications committee. She is survived by a son and three grandchildren.

## 1972

**James O. Langmo**, 69, died Sept. 21, 2019. He worked in public libraries in Grand Rapids and East Lansing, Mich., and retired from the Washington County Library in 2015. Langmo is survived by his ex-wife, Emily Fuerste '73, a daughter, a son, and a granddaughter.

## 1973

**Joyce Way Bowman**, 68, of Stoughton, Wis., died Nov. 4, 2019. She is survived by a daughter, a son, and five siblings.

**Elizabeth "Cris" Higgin**, 68, died Aug. 18, 2019. After spending her early 20s on a communal organic farm, she became a clinical social worker. She worked with Family and Children's Service in Minneapolis, and later practiced out of her home for 30 years. Higgin is survived by her husband, John, and a daughter.

## 1979

**Steven W. Kaepfel**, 60, of Flower Mound, Texas, died Aug. 18, 2017. He is survived by his wife, Sharon, a son, his mother, Joan Kaepfel Nickells '55, and a sister.

## 1983

**Ken L. Port**, 58, died Sept. 27, 2019. A law professor at Mitchell Hamline School of Law for 18 years, he founded the school's Intellectual Property Institute

## // OTHER LOSSES



Macalester trustee **Mauritz A. "Mort" Mortenson** died Nov. 9, 2019, at the age of 82. After serving in the U.S. Navy, he joined his father's construction business, M.A. Mortenson Co., in 1960 as an estimator and project manager. Mortenson took

over as president in 1969, and later assumed the roles of chief executive officer and chairman, as well. Under his leadership, the business grew to become the 16th largest construction firm in the United States and Minnesota's second largest privately held company. Its projects include U.S. Bank Stadium, TCF Bank Stadium, and Allianz Field. Mortenson was an elder and trustee of Westminster Presbyterian Church, president of the Association of General Contractors, and co-founder (with his wife, Alice) of the Mortenson Center in Global Engineering at the University of Colorado. He and Alice are members of the Charles Macalester Society. He received lifetime achievement awards from numerous organizations, including the Boy Scouts of America, Junior Achievement, and the University of Wisconsin's Construction Club. Mortenson is survived by his wife, Alice, four sons, and 10 grandchildren.

and served as a faculty advisor to the Student Intellectual Property Law Association and the Cybaris Intellectual Property Law Review. Port also received two Fulbright Research Grants to write and teach in Tokyo. He is survived by his wife, Paula, two daughters, his parents, five sisters, and a brother.

## 1988

**Charles E. Roth**, 53, of Spokane, Wash., died Sept. 1, 2019. During a 20-year career in banking, he worked for Seafirst Bank, Bank of America, Home Street Bank, and Wells Fargo. Roth is survived by his husband, Mark, his mother, and a brother.

## 1989

**Hanna N. Cooper**, 52, died in October 2019. During her career in public health, she worked as an executive, leadership, and team coach in nonprofit and government settings. Cooper is survived by her husband, Tom Moberg '86, a daughter, a son, her father, and a sister.



# A Flurry of Activity

Ten students assembled this impressively gigantic snow creature, but we don't know who they are or when it happened!

Recognize yourself or a friend?  
Tell us: [mactoday@macalester.edu](mailto:mactoday@macalester.edu)





# MACALESTER MOMENT

For those of you approaching your 50th Reunion (or any milestone Reunion), Anne Silvers Lee '69 has some advice: "Just GO already!" she exclaims. Anne, who celebrated her 50th Reunion in June 2019, had never been to Reunion and didn't know what to expect. "I had a fabulous time," she says. "The lovely, big surprise for me was that while it was great to catch up with friends I hadn't seen for so long, I really enjoyed all the great conversations I had with other people. We all had Macalester in common."

In honor of her 50th Reunion, Anne participated in her class gift, making a significant planned gift designated for scholarships. A French major, Anne says she was only able to attend Macalester because she got a scholarship. "I feel a sense of urgency now to 'pay it forward,'" she says, "and to help others attend college, preferably without a whopping big loan."

Anne says that while Macalester was a wonderful school 50 years ago, she thinks it's even better now. She's thrilled that the college has an even stronger international focus and new programs like entrepreneurship.

"I want to do my part to help the school that gave me my push into the big world," she says, "and that includes a planned gift for the time when I am no longer here to give annual contributions."

For more information on supporting The Macalester Moment campaign through a planned gift, contact **Theresa Gienapp** at 651-696-6087 or visit [macalester.edu/leaveittomac](https://macalester.edu/leaveittomac).



MACALESTER

"I WANT TO DO MY PART TO HELP  
THE SCHOOL THAT GAVE ME MY  
PUSH INTO THE BIG WORLD."

—Anne Silvers Lee '69



Anne Silvers Lee '69



# MACALESTER COLLEGE

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DAVID J. TURNER

"Was just gifted this incredible hand-stitched work of art by Maya Shenoy '20, who I was privileged to have on staff here at Briggs House this past summer. Mac students are some of the kindest, most amazing humans I've ever met; they teach me new things and inspire me every day." —Briggs House manager Catherine Westby, via Instagram