

# TODAY

A photograph of an older man with white hair and glasses, wearing a dark sweater and jeans, standing in a room with large wooden bookshelves. He is holding a book in his right hand and leaning on a desk with his left. The room is filled with books and boxes, suggesting a library or a study. The lighting is warm and the atmosphere is quiet.

“The  
greatest  
privilege  
of my  
professional life”

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LEFT TO RIGHT: PHOTO PROVIDED DAVID J. TURNER; PHOTO PROVIDED USA HANLEY TRACEY BROWN

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"You've got to be authentic," says President Brian Rosenberg, who will leave Macalester at the end of May. "So many presidents, because of all the pressure they're under, forget that."

Photo by David J. Turner

## STAFF

**EDITOR**

Rebecca DeJarlais Ortiz '06  
dejarlais@macalester.edu

**ART DIRECTION**

The ESC Plan / theESCplan.com

**CLASS NOTES EDITOR**

Robert Kerr '92

**PHOTOGRAPHER**

David J. Turner

**CONTRIBUTING WRITER**

Julie Hessler '85

**ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT FOR  
MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS**  
Julie Hurbanis



MACALESTER

**CHAIR, BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
Jerry Crawford '71

**PRESIDENT**

Brian Rosenberg

**VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADVANCEMENT**  
D. Andrew Brown

**ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT  
FOR ENGAGEMENT**  
Katie Ladas

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**TO UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS:**

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

**TO SHARE COMMENTS OR IDEAS:**

Email: [mactoday@macalester.edu](mailto:mactoday@macalester.edu)  
Phone: 651-696-6123



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Variety of viewpoints

Thank you for publishing “How Macalester made me the Republican I am today” (Winter 2020). I appreciated Mr. Laukitis’s reflections on being an “out Republican” on campus and hope Macalester continues to be a place where students engage in the challenging work involved in “understanding other people’s points of view” and clarifying their own beliefs. Reading a variety of perspectives on the value of a Macalester education based on the personal experiences of students and what they take with them into their careers is part of what I appreciate about your magazine.

Nan Jackson '74  
East Lansing, Mich.



Theater memories

I enjoyed reading of Professor Dan Keyser’s catalog of Macalester theater and dance productions through time in Macalester Today (Winter 2020), then going through the collection online. I had a sneak preview of it last June at my 40th Reunion. My parents, Mary Ann MacDonald '47 and Howard Huelster '49, met as the leads during the 1945 production of Pygmalion. My father was Henry Higgins to my mother’s Eliza Doolittle. My parents had season tickets to the Guthrie Theatre from its inception and the last play they saw together before their passing was the Guthrie’s production of Pygmalion.

Ross Huelster '79  
St. Paul

Last Look mystery

We loved this photo from Mac’s archives but didn’t know many details —and alumni were glad to help solve the puzzle. Thanks to all who sent messages, including Candice Belanoff '90, who recognized the group right away: “This looks like a lot of 1986-87 Bigelow freshman kids.” We even heard from one reader who was part of that group:

I did recognize myself in the picture! I’m on the far right, with short, curly hair. I can’t claim any credit for the building of the snow person. We happened to be wandering by when they were looking to take the picture. Thanks for the memory!

Ronda Hedger Hageman '87  
San Antonio, Tex.

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

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- Tweet: @macalester using the hashtag #macalestertoday
- Mail: Macalester Today, Macalester College, 1600 Grand Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105

Editor’s note

Flatten the curve. Shelter in place. Quarantine. As 2020 began, few of us could have imagined that these words would become part of our vocabulary by March.

Life looks very different this spring, including on Macalester’s campus. As the COVID-19 outbreak surged across the United States, Macalester joined other institutions by announcing its decision to move to remote learning as of March 30, part of a nationwide effort to slow the virus’s spread and prevent overwhelming the healthcare system. With the exception of a small number of students with extenuating circumstances who petitioned to stay on campus, the college instructed students to go home and stay home. Per the CDC’s recommendation to limit large gatherings, Macalester will replace traditional in-person Commencement and Reunion events with virtual celebrations.

Most of our spring issue was completed well before the pandemic accelerated, including our interview with President Brian Rosenberg (p. 18) as he prepares to leave the college at the end of May. In late March, we spoke with Macalester medical director Dr. Steph Walters about her approach to the crisis, as well as students and faculty to learn how they’re supporting one another from afar and transitioning to remote learning (see p. 12). This edition went to press in early April. For current updates, visit [macalester.edu/COVID-19](https://macalester.edu/COVID-19).

This summer, we will share more about how faculty and students navigated remote learning, as well as stories about alumni who are working to combat the pandemic. Please tell us about those people and share your stories: [mactoday@macalester.edu](mailto:mactoday@macalester.edu).

In the meantime, we will continue to celebrate (and not fear) our global connections and deep friendships. We’ll support one another and honor milestones in new ways. We will share stories about our community’s curiosity, hope, and resilience. Keep connected, and take care.

—Rebecca DeJarlais Ortiz '06

GONE

I sought a theme and sought for it in vain,  
I sought it daily for six weeks or so.  
Maybe at last, being but a broken man,  
I must be satisfied with my heart...  
—W. B. Yeats, “The Circus Animals’ Desertion”

To be honest, I don’t feel especially like a broken man (though my back and my knees ache more than they used to), but the quote from Yeats was otherwise too good not to use for the final edition of “Household Words.” After 17 years and close to 70 columns about everything I could think of and some things I couldn’t—see Spring 2012, “A Column About Nothing”—I am done.

The challenge of leaving, I have found, is captured in a single question that has been haunting me for the past several months.

What do I do with all my stuff?

This might appear to be a relatively trivial question in the context of ending a college presidency, but, after all those years of living in a big house, of inhabiting an office larger than many apartments, of raising two children in St. Paul, there is in fact nothing trivial about it.

What do I do with all those books? Lining the shelves behind my desk are hundreds of paperbacks—novels, poetry, plays, literary criticism—that measure out my years as a student, teacher, and scholar, years that now seem long ago but that defined in a profound way who I became. The copy of Dante’s *Inferno* that was the first book I read in college; the copy of Dickens’ *Little Dorrit*, held together by a rubber band, that I used in writing my doctoral dissertation; the copy of Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein*, covered with notes, that I assigned in perhaps a dozen different classes over the years: where do they go? A box, to grow even more brittle? Half Price Books, for a few dollars or some store credit? Maybe Books for Africa. The thought of a child halfway across the world reading Shakespeare or Toni Morrison pleases me.

Anyone out there want a 40-year-old copy of Edwin Morgan’s translation of *Beowulf*? One of my three copies of *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*?

Then there are the photos and memorabilia. Me with Walter Mondale '50, Paul Farmer, the Dalai Lama, that same Toni



Morrison, Hillary Clinton (too bad!); Carol and me with Kofi Annan '61 in his office in Geneva and at a dinner on campus; me in a nightcap with a cow (check out YouTube); drawings and prints created and given to me by faculty and students; a football signed by the members of the team that won the Midwest Conference Championship in 2014.

I have no room. I must make some room.

And then, at home, there are the toys. A whole closet full of toys. Disposing of these might be the hardest of all. Boxes of Playmobil sets opened on Christmas and assembled (with no little frustration and some cursing) over hours; pounds of Legos, once organized and now tossed together in giant plastic containers; games and action figures and dozens and dozens of Beanie Babies. Hard to believe that we once thought they’d be valuable.

They will go to children less fortunate than mine who have no toys. That softens the pain.

We still have the stuffed animals that Adam (“Doggie”) and Sam (“Spot”) kept close as infants and toddlers. I wonder if they want them.

The boxes that we moved into 1635 Summit Avenue in 2003 and have never

opened? The pants that I wore when I had a size 32 waist (I had that size 32 waist for a long time)? Those will be easy.

If I had to choose one item in my office with which I will never part, it would be a photograph, framed in black, taken in 2006 during Kofi Annan’s visit to campus while Secretary-General of the United Nations. He sat at lunch that day with Carol and Adam and Sam and me, and Sam, then 12 and growing about an inch a month, was worried because his sport coat was very obviously too small. Carol mentioned this, in some small talk, to Kofi, and the photo shows one of the most famous and influential men in the world complimenting my 12-year-old son on how nice he looked in his sport coat. The look of pleasure on Sam’s face, the look on all of our faces, the kindness of a great man: all are captured in that moment.

To all who have been a part of granting me the profound and unexpected privilege of being president of Macalester College for a quarter of my life, of gifting me such moments: thank you.

Now it is time to go. [M](#)

Brian Rosenberg will conclude his tenure as president of Macalester College on May 31, 2020.



1600  
GRAND

## MACALESTER'S NEXT CHAPTER

"There are unanimous votes and then there are unanimous votes," Board of Trustees chair Jerry Crawford '71 told *Mac Weekly* editors Hannah Catlin '21 and Abe Asher '20 in February. "This was a unanimous vote where everybody's hand shot into the air."

He's describing the board's final vote to approve appointing bioethicist Dr. Suzanne Rivera as the college's 17th president, nearly a year after current president Brian Rosenberg announced that he would leave Macalester in May 2020 after 17 years of service.

Rivera—who will begin her term as president this summer—comes to Macalester from Case Western Reserve University (CWRU), where she is serving as Vice President for Research and Technology Management. She is the first female president and first Latinx president in Macalester's history.

In her role at CWRU, Rivera oversees the university's \$400 million research enterprise. She has also served in administrative and research leadership roles at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center and the University of California, Irvine. She is active nationally in research policy and in a range of social justice and equity initiatives.

Rivera holds a BA in American civilization from Brown University, a master of social welfare degree from the University of California, Berkeley, and a PhD in public affairs from the University of Texas at Dallas.

She carries with her a deep belief in a liberal arts education's transformative power. As a child, Rivera says, she dreamed of going to college but didn't know exactly what that meant, nor that someday working in higher education was a possibility. "When I started college, I was one of very few Latina students in the entering class. I was on financial aid, I had a work-study job, and I had to turn over my summer earnings—it was very difficult to make ends meet," Rivera says. "Despite all those difficulties, the liberal arts education I received was absolutely transformative for me, not only because it opened up a world of intellectual possibilities for me that I wouldn't have otherwise, but it also changed the trajectory of my life and opened up a new path for my entire family."

"When we talk about a college like Macalester having an impact in the world, it's not only what the students who leave a place like this can do when they enter the workforce, but it's also in that personal transformational power, to take someone who started with one set of circumstances and open up for them the possibility of completely different circumstances. That's really powerful stuff. It's very profound. And I look forward to helping to write Macalester's next chapter."

Watch for more on Dr. Rivera's story and vision in *Macalester Today* later this year.

DAVID J. TURNER

## Pushball

on the Great Lawn in early March



## REMEMBERING JIMM CROWDER



more than 100 countries, worked in international student programs, and had a profound impact on the lives of many international students. When Crowder joined Macalester in 1980, 75 percent of international students had come from only five different countries, but now more than 90 nations are represented in the student body.

After Crowder's retirement in 2013, he continued for two years as a temporary admissions application reader for the college. "I always felt that I wanted to make a difference in the world," he told *Macalester Today* in 2002. "I realized at some point that the best way to do that was to put a world of exceptional people in a position to make a difference." Crowder is survived by his wife, Jutta, and two children, Max and Anja '13.

A Macalester scholarship fund is named for Crowder and Steve Colee, another longtime staff member who worked in international admissions. The Jimm Crowder and Steve Colee Endowed Scholarship supports the college's international students.

This year, alumni and friends around the world mourned the loss and honored the legacy of Jimm Crowder, Macalester's director of international admissions for 25 years. Crowder, who lived in St. Paul, died Jan. 29. During his 33 years at Macalester, he visited

"Jimm will always be remembered throughout the world for his kindness and open mindedness—the low-profile subtle force to which Macalester owes, to a large extent, its international reputation, recognition, and success." —Yiannis Ioannou '85

"Jimm recruited me from Li Po Chun UWC. I knew almost nothing about Macalester except that Kofi Annan was on the poster, and I was pretty dubious about going to university in the United States at all. But sitting down with Jimm was like sitting down with an old friend. Jimm's warmth and thoughtful answers to my questions played a big part in my decision to apply to Mac. That was the first step on a wonderful adventure for which I am so grateful." —Stephanie Rail Jayanandhan '06

"Jimm moved with this restlessness in those clogs. That restlessness I now understand was really Jimm's

energy and drive to transform Macalester into a truly international space. I believe very few among us can comprehend what an incredible mission he was on. When I ended up on probation in my first semester, a not-so-uncommon symptom of transition angst, I thought I let down one person more than anyone—and that was Jimm. He took it well, and said something like, 'It will all work out.' If I could tell Jimm one thing, it would be this: it all worked out, Jimm, and I didn't let you down." —Mihir Desai '90

"Over the years I found that Jimm could look at you in a way that made you wish to be the person he already saw in you. I think that this is perhaps the real reason so many of us committed to spending four years of our lives at this small liberal arts college in Minnesota: because we wanted to become the kind of person that Jimm Crowder already saw in us." —Gerbrand Hoogvliet '11

FROM TOP: KURT STEPNITZ; PHOTO PROVIDED



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GRAND



## HUNGER AND HIGHER EDUCATION

Fatiya Kedir '21 keeps the Kagin Commons kitchen carefully stocked each week with produce, snack foods, instant dinners, canned goods, hygiene products, and more. On Mondays and Fridays, students can anonymously take as much as they need—the program is called Open Pantry, and it's part of Kedir's mission to combat food insecurity on campus.

For Kedir, the subject is personal. She's from the Cedar-Riverside neighborhood in Minneapolis, where food insecurity is no small concern. Watching hunger impact her community spurred her passion for eradicating its influence at Macalester.

Kedir believes that food insecurity at colleges and universities is a problem oft overlooked but ever present. "There's such a huge need," Kedir says. "One-sixth of Macalester students are Pell Grant-eligible—their home income falls in a range where they could be considered food insecure, which means that you don't have access to nutritious meal options three times a day."

As Macalester College Student Government (MCSG)'s vice president, Kedir has prioritized improving access to basic needs items. She partnered with MCSG president Blair Cha '20 and senior class representative Jason Kohn '20 this year to address those needs in other ways, too. "We want to make sure there are options for food over spring break, when Café Mac closes for cleaning," Kedir says. "That one week leads to huge spikes of food insecurity around campus, and that's actually when we see Open Pantry used the most."

After conversations with administrators, students now have additional funds to help meet that need, which continued to surge in the weeks surrounding spring break this year with more students on campus than usual because of COVID-19 concerns. Some campus partners contributed out of pocket. Student organizations have also pitched in: when the Outing Club cancelled spring break trips because of the public health crisis, the group donated the food it had purchased.

In February, Kedir was elected MCSG president for the 2020-21 academic year. In that role, she hopes to continue to make big strides toward equal access at Mac. In addition to expanding Open Pantry hours, she wants to provide students with a way to donate unused meal swipes, so that those in need can benefit from the otherwise wasted meals.

Kedir hopes to pursue this work after graduation, too. "The U.S. has enough food to feed itself eight times over," Kedir says. "It's just the accessibility that's not there, and that's really hard to hear. I want to work on this long-term." —Rebecca Edwards '21

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

**Michael McGaghie** is a music professor and director of choral activities.

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

*The Courage to Teach*, by Parker Palmer, is about how teachers must cultivate their own inner identity and integrity in order to be truly present in the classroom. Both of my parents are educators, and this book was a gift from my father that's been sitting on my shelf. I only just read it, and I wish I'd done so a long time ago.

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

That would be Søren Kierkegaard's *Works of Love*. A little backstory: one of my favorite college professors was a man named Peter Gomes. Shortly after his death, I re-read all his books. One of them mentions *Works of Love*'s influence on his own thought, so I read the Kierkegaard next, and I was floored. It discusses love as a virtue by which and for the sake of which we exist for others. As a choir director, I'm constantly thinking about things like community and belonging, so it's become one of the foundational texts that informs my work.

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

This one is hard, but I'll choose *Hearing Bach's Passions*, by Daniel Melamed. I teach a class on J.S. Bach and his influence on modern settings of the Passion story. It's some of my very favorite music.



### Any guilty-pleasure reads?

I love cookbooks, and I was a chemistry major in college, so I get a huge kick out of Harold McGee's *On Food and Cooking: The Science and Lore of the Kitchen*.

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

Elaine Scarry's *On Beauty and Being Just* is this tiny treatise about how beauty inspires our search for truth and urges us to act on behalf of justice. Her argument has to do with how beauty incites us to create, and how justice requires creative acts of human intervention. I love it, and I have a lot of questions about it. I'd love to discuss it with other folks.

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

## SHIFTING POLITICS IN RURAL AMERICA



**BEN TRUMBLE '20**  
Weare, N.H.

**Honors project:**  
"Collective pasts and present community on the Iron Range"

I came across geography in Laura Smith's "Regional Geography of the U.S. and Canada" course. In that class, we had a big final research project that I got so engrossed in.

I was looking at the 2016 election, and I was really interested in the Iron Range region [of northern Minnesota] because we'd just gone there on a class trip. It used to be a staunch Democratic voting area, and I was interested in how there was such a big swing in the 2016 election toward Donald Trump. That kind of conservatism reminded me of my own hometown. Why would something like that happen? The question prompted my class project, and then snowballed into summer research.

Laura and I applied for a student/faculty re-

search grant. Last summer, I spent five weeks in northern Minnesota interviewing people, looking at public art, public history, and seeing what life is like for people living on the Iron Range.

This semester I'm finishing an honors project about the Iron Range and the change that's going on there today. I went into it with the idea that the politics of the region were the most interesting aspects, but now I'm seeing that the political change is a symptom of larger problems that rural America as a whole faces. My thesis is that a crisis in belonging is what's swept up so many people across the country. I've been able to research what it means to be part of a community—in my own small town, on the Iron Range, and even here at Macalester.

DAVID J. TURNER '21





"I want to thank my mom," says 400-meter record-holder and MIAC champion David Palmer '20. "She came to every single meet and was halfway to North Carolina when she found out the national championships were canceled."

## UNEXPECTED ENDINGS

**ATHLETICS** Mac's indoor track season technically got underway in January, but David Palmer '20 (River Falls, Wis.) saw it differently. "This season started for me as soon as last season ended," he says. Palmer got to work right away last summer, with two big goals on his mind: qualifying for nationals and improving his 400-meter run enough to compete at a Division I level in graduate school. (Because he didn't start running track until his sophomore year at Mac, he'll still be eligible to compete in NCAA athletics next year.)

And for the first 10 weeks, the season unfolded according to plan. The psychology and studio art major collected four school records and won the 400 at the MIAC indoor track & field championships, becoming Macalester's first men's conference champion on the track since 2013. At the last regular-season meet, Palmer ran the 400 in 48.89 seconds, lowering his school record by nearly a second. That performance ranked fifth in all of Division III and qualified him for the indoor track & field championships in Winston-Salem, N.C.

That's where Palmer was in mid-March when everything came to a halt for his season—and then swiftly, for all of college

athletics. Coronavirus concerns were accelerating nationwide, but the surge of sporting-event cancellations was just beginning. Two days before the meet, Division I teams started withdrawing from their national meet, and the day before Palmer's preliminary heat, he found out by scrolling Instagram in his hotel room that the NCAA had canceled all remaining winter championship competitions. He flew back to Minnesota the next day, when Macalester joined other MIAC schools in canceling the entire spring sports season because of the pandemic.

This spring, instead of competing for another MIAC title outside, Palmer will figure out how to wrap up his studio art capstone remotely. He'll also decide his next step: he's applying to master of sports management programs with a goal to go into coaching—and hopefully get a chance to race one more season on the track. "I'm trying to control what I can control," Palmer says. "I'm going about this as if I still have practice six days per week; I'm just not racing on the weekends. It doesn't feel like the end for me yet, but you never know when you could be having your last race. And I'm grateful for the half-season I got."

CHRISTOPHER MITCHELL '01



Olivia Nyman '20 (left) and Elika Somani '20

## Hatching sustainable plans

Macalester's EcoHouse is home to four students and four chickens.

"Their names are Kitty, Dodie, Torti, and Pinky Fluffernutter," says EcoHouse resident Olivia Nyman '20 (New Berlin, Wis.).

"Well, it depends who you ask," Elika Somani '20 (Singapore) counters. "One of my friends renamed one of the chickens 'Hennessy,' but we don't know which one it is."

The chickens, which eat plant-destroying insects and food scraps while also providing the house with a seemingly endless supply of fresh eggs, are a recent addition to the catalog of projects that EcoHouse students take under their wing (pun intended) for the duration of their residency.

As well as contributing to initiatives managed collectively by the housemates, each resident takes on a semester-long independent study in sustainable living. "EcoHouse was founded with the mission of being an in-house laboratory," Somani says. "A large part of its purpose is to develop, understand, and test out different sustainable practices."

Students apply for a yearlong commitment to the program. During that time, they can use EcoHouse funds to sponsor new projects. Last year, the house got funding to buy a crank-controlled washing machine. Now, for ease of use, this year's residents are modifying the contraption to include a sitting bike—as they pedal, the

crank turns, washing their clothes without any electricity and using at least 10 fewer gallons of water per load.

The EcoHouse has long been a space for collaboration among different sustainability organizations on campus, including an ongoing relationship with Macalester's MULCH (Macalester Urban Land and Community Health) garden.

The residents have also worked toward engaging the broader Mac-Groveland community. Purchased in 2007, the house itself has undergone significant sustainable renovations, like the inclusion of a dual-flush toilet system, central cooling, and a solar-powered water heater. St. Paul locals can tour EcoHouse on request to see those changes for themselves, as a blueprint for redesigning their own homes in an environmentally friendly way.

Somani has an independently designed major in global health and international development. While her studies are closely related to sustainability and environmentalism, she says that life at EcoHouse is a good fit for students without that experience. "I'd really encourage students who aren't as environmentally minded to apply," Somani says. "The house has even more payoff for them in terms of learning sustainable practices. That's part of the mission of the house—to engage people whose first instinct isn't toward sustainability." —Rebecca Edwards '21

## MACALESTER BIG QUESTIONS

The Macalester Big Questions podcast brings you into the conversations happening in the Macalester community and around the world. From Professor Duchess Harris discussing the #MeToo movement to Cuauhtemoc Cruz Herrera '19 sharing his experience with immigration and opportunities, the podcast is about broadening our dialogue.

Jump into these episodes and more:

- Ep. 3: Andrew Latham on conservative political thought
- Ep. 4: Kristi Curry Rogers on what we can learn from fossils
- Ep. 9: Fred Swaniker '99 on the misconceptions about Africa
- Ep. 15: Karen Saxe on the importance of the census
- Ep. 28: Donnie Brooks and B. Todd Jones '79 on athlete activism

[macalesterbigquestions.buzzsprout.com](http://macalesterbigquestions.buzzsprout.com)







# “THE WORLD WILL NEVER BE THE SAME”

## Q&A

with Dr. Steph Walters,  
Medical Director at Hamre  
Center for Health & Wellness

This spring, COVID-19 mitigation efforts swept across daily life like a blur, but medical director Steph Walters remembers exactly when everything began to change at Macalester. “That day will be forever burned in my brain,” she says. “I woke up and said, ‘This is coming, and we have to do something.’”

She walked into the Hamre Center that February morning—when just 53 COVID-19 cases had been diagnosed in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention—and asked director Denise Ward who she needed to talk to about starting an infectious diseases task force. The group that quickly assembled included representatives from all over campus, including residential life, facilities, and health services.

In the weeks that followed, the group discussed challenging questions and decisions, advising senior staff on what became a total shift to remote learning for the rest of the semester. Shortly before Minnesota Governor Tim Walz issued a statewide stay-at-home order in late March, we asked Walters for her perspective on COVID-19.

### When a task force forms, what are some of the areas of concern?

The task force has focused on identifying areas of weakness, pressure, and stakeholders. Can we safely house students here, and if so, how many? What are the financial implications if we send people home? If there’s literally one empty room on campus, how do we plan for quarantine?

### How did the task force assess the question of whether to close campus?

The decision to not close campus completely was evidence-based, but it showed some of the challenges in this pandemic and in our own microcosm: How do we hold up all of these different groups of vulnerable people and support them? Who is the most vulnerable to the illness? What students are most vulnerable to a “you have to go home” message? Who among our faculty and staff are at highest risk?

And I totally agree that we can’t kick students out. But if we stay open, who does that put at risk? The issue of who this impacts, who has the most skin in the game, is playing out all over the world. Medical providers are heroes in a pandemic, you bet, but society recognizes and appreciates that for the most part.

The people who are cleaning residence halls or working in food service or stocking shelves at Target are as heroic, but are just feeling it and facing it differently. These aren’t easy decisions.

### What misconceptions are you working to correct?

After we notified the community about confirmed cases on campus, everyone wanted to know if they had been exposed. I understand that urge. No one likes uncertainty. But we need to start thinking of this virus as everywhere—not to instill panic, but because this is exactly why social distancing and staying home when you’re sick are so important. Sometimes it will be about when and where and how someone was exposed: we would, for example, contact people who shared a household with someone who got sick. But it’s also just a lot about limiting. The risk for these campus cases was probably quite low for the majority of us, but that doesn’t mean we didn’t just get exposed at Target last night.

### What’s the best way to navigate information, especially as false information and rumors circulate?

I have two tabs open at all times on my computer. Right now, it’s the CDC and Minnesota Department of Health. I’ve been saying [University of Minnesota epidemiologist] Mike Osterholm’s name probably six times a day—he’s one of the primary voices I want to hear on this. That’s basically it. I don’t really want to hear hive mind stuff right now. For me, that’s not helpful.

### What do you want our readers to keep in mind?

The world will never be the same as it was when this is done. There will probably be loss and suffering and challenges that will touch each of us differently. But this will also shine a light on practices that weren’t sustainable: how we talked about health care, who put themselves on the front lines of this pandemic without the luxury of working from home, what we asked of our most vulnerable populations, where disparities in access and resources are most glaring. I hope that the way we’re forever changed by this is also somewhat positive: that people realize that there are pieces of our society that are not sustainable, just, or healthy.

told them that she doesn’t feel very capable with technology: she knows she will fumble and make mistakes, but they will all figure this out together.

“Years from now, I told her, your students may or may not remember many specific details of what they learned in your class, and they’ll very likely not think at all about the content they missed out on because of the changes required by the shift to virtual teaching. They will, however, no doubt remember how real and honest and human you were when you shared how you were feeling about the possibility of having to teach via Zoom.”

### Maintaining community

After a month marked by uncertainty, the focus for the rest of the semester will be on adapting to new technology, supporting one another, and maintaining community as much as possible, in creative and new ways. Through a Student Affairs-created online hub, students can connect and find community through student organizations, chat rooms, and programming, including wellness activities like yoga and fitness classes. The Civic Engagement Center created Mac Solidarity, an initiative to encourage mutual aid and other support efforts. The biology and chemistry departments donated gloves to M Health Fairview hospitals and clinics.

Students are also mobilizing, individually and collectively. On March 24, Macalester College Student Government passed a resolution via Zoom to redirect some of its own remaining budget and ask student organizations to do the same, to support students with unexpected expenses and needs because of the COVID-19 crisis. Instead of immersing themselves in Jordan during study away, Lewis hopes to reconnect

with Macalester’s Voices on Mental Health chapter, which they co-chaired in the past. “With all the added stress, mental health becomes a huge part of the equation,” Lewis says. “I know when I’m struggling with mental health, it’s hard for me to know how to reach out to get help. And right now, it would be so easy to not reach out. There’s definitely room for action.”

### Connecting from afar

Like Schmidt and her friends doing crossword puzzles together, students—spread out unexpectedly all over the world—are finding new ways to stay connected despite the difficult circumstances. Back at home in Sarasota, Fla., Sy Schimberg ’22 has been keeping in touch with friends via texting and Snapchat, with one unexpected effect. “There are a lot of people who I’m closer to now than I’ve ever been,” he says. “With my friends, I’m keeping up almost out of necessity because I just miss them like crazy and can’t wait to live with them again. But I’ve been talking to people I wasn’t that close with before this, and that’s surprised me. One thing I’m looking forward to: knowing how excited we’re all going to be to see each other again.”

In the meantime, students, faculty, and staff will support one another as best as they can from afar. “I hope that we can cultivate a spirit of compassion and patience and flexibility to get us through this situation, and that on the other side of this current crisis—and there will be another side—that spirit is what remains,” Ostrove wrote in a message originally directed at faculty but applicable more broadly. “We’ll need it, and one another, for whatever is next.”

Additional reporting by Rebecca Edwards ’21

## mac social

@macalesterosle



Get used to seeing our faces a bit differently. We’re still here just in our living rooms and on a screen. Any questions about Leadership, Student Orgs, Student Government, life, your cute pets... we’re here for you. #heymac #macOSLE

@mrodwogin



Today I was proud to donate 77 boxes of gloves on behalf of @Macalester bio department to @MHealthFairview. Donation from @MacalesterChem is coming in the next few days! #COVID19 #WereInThisTogether

## HOW TO SUPPORT STUDENTS

Alumni Engagement offers advice on how alumni can help students—and find comfort for themselves in the Mac community.

### ► Support the college’s Macalester Student Relief Fund: [macalester.edu/student-relief-fund](https://macalester.edu/student-relief-fund).

Created to help students with unexpected expenses, this fund will help pay for transportation, housing, distance learning, and support of Open Pantry, the student-run organization to address food insecurity at Mac.

### ► Share career advice during this tumultuous time.

Update your profile in MacDirect, our online alumni directory, and turn on your CareerHelper badge to show students you are open and willing to connect: [macdirect.macalester.edu](https://macdirect.macalester.edu).

### ► Hire a graduating Mac senior.

Have an opening at your organization, even for part-time work? Email Toni Phelan at [aphelan@macalester.edu](mailto:aphelan@macalester.edu).

### ► Show your Macalester pride.

Share your love for students and each other. Reach out to friends and classmates through your local or class-year social media channels as well as through MacDirect. Cultivate and find reassurance in our community: visit [macalester.edu/mactogether](https://macalester.edu/mactogether) for more ideas and virtual gatherings.




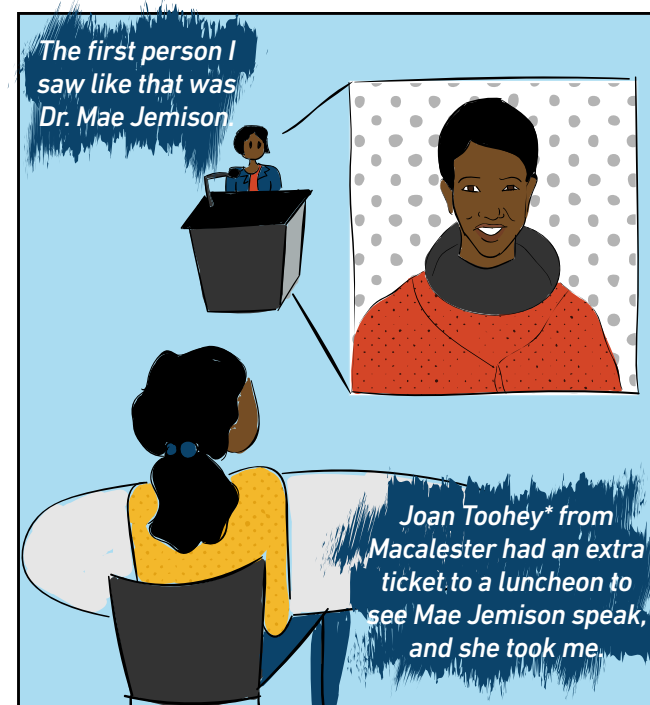
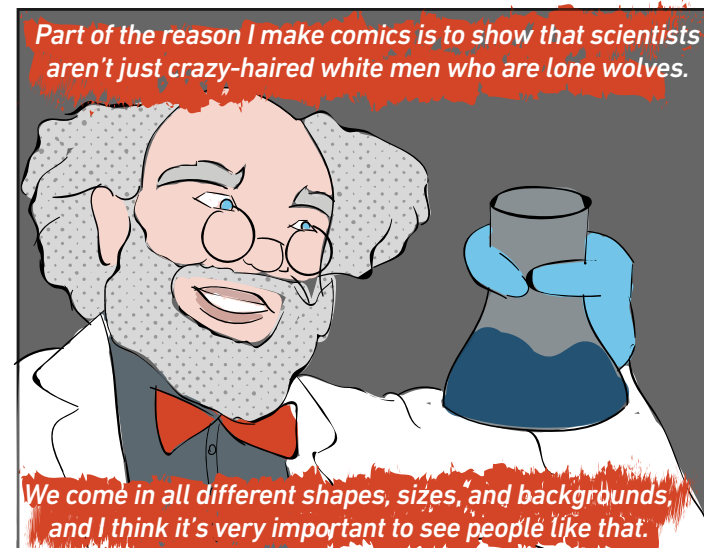
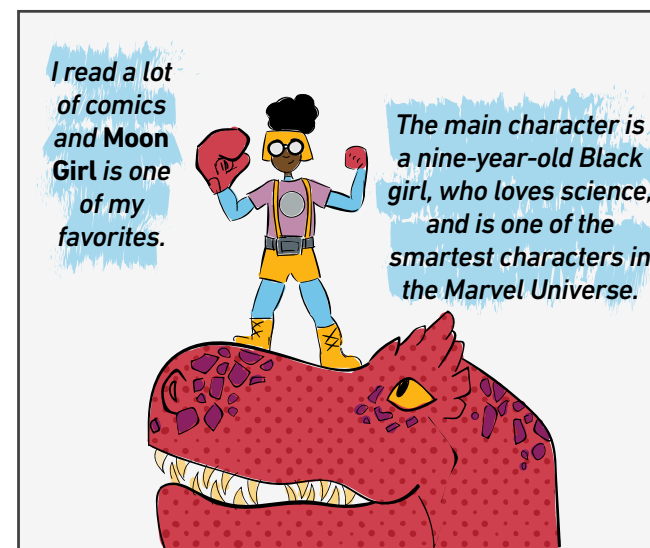
# "I LIKE TO DREAM BIG"

BY JULIE HESSLER '85 Google Jaye Gardiner '11 and you'll quickly discover that she's a comic book-worthy superwoman of sorts: a post-doctoral research trainee in Philadelphia's Fox Chase Cancer Center. A recent winner of the American Cancer Society's Pennsylvania/New Jersey Pay-If Research Council Grant to improve treatment options for patients with pancreatic cancer.

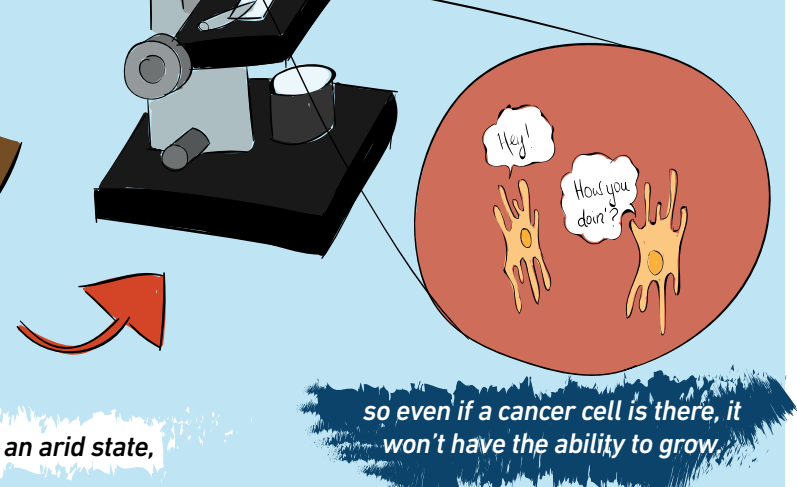
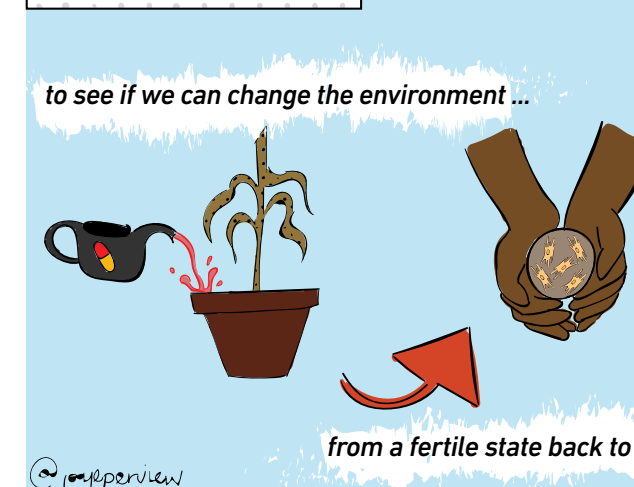
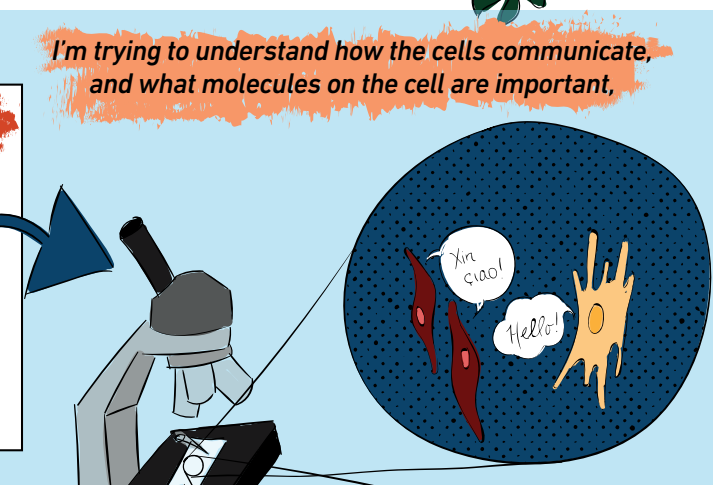
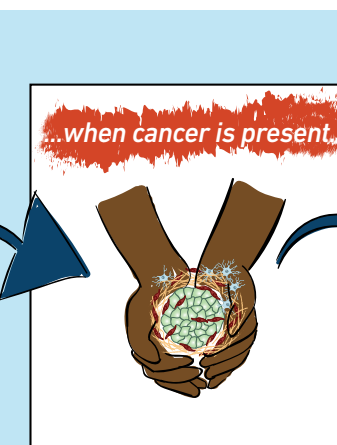
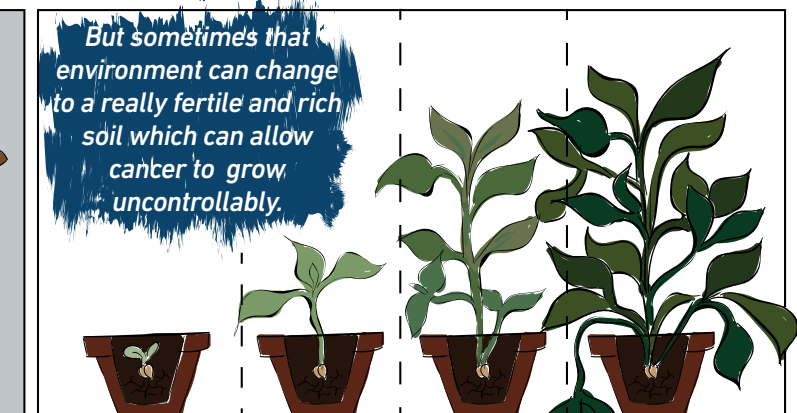
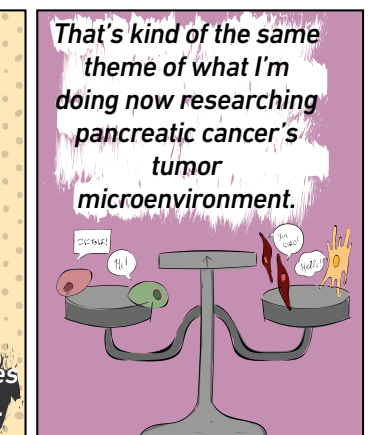
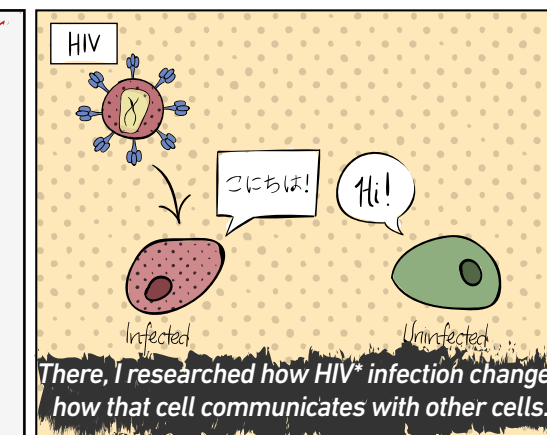
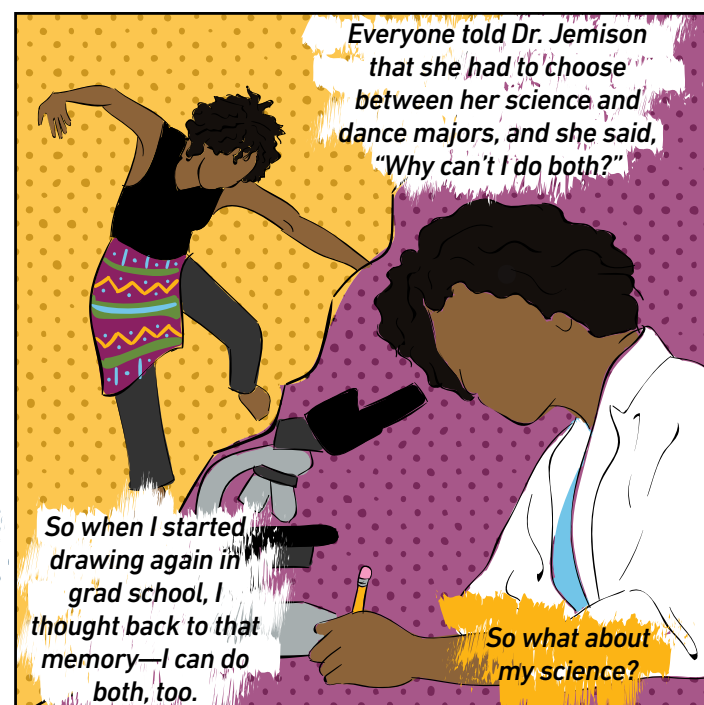
A founder and creator of JKK Comics and #Unique-Scientists trading cards, which promote science diversity, access, and literacy. A leader of the annual Communicating Science Conference (ComSciCon). A Mac biology major

with minors in linguistics and chemistry. Owner of the lively @jayeperview Twitter account.

A champion of fostering inclusive spaces in STEM: "Everyone's perspective is unique and based on their lived experience, and they will tackle problems, find solutions, and solve problems in a different way than someone else will," she says. "Having all of these diverse minds in the same room will help propel science farther, faster." Gardiner told us about her research and a few things Google missed—"I like to dream big," she says—and she illustrated the conversation, JKK-style. 



\*former director of science and research



@jayeperview

\*HIV does not cause cancer, but can be associated with cancers.



A woman with short brown hair, smiling, stands in a snowy, mountainous landscape. She is wearing a long purple puffer jacket, dark pants, and brown boots. The background features snow-covered mountains under a clear blue sky. The foreground is a mix of snow and dark, rocky ground.

# HOW TO PRACTICE MEDICINE IN ALASKA

*Heidi Baines '95 on the tools  
she carries with her in the  
frontier and beyond*

BY JULIE HESSLER '85

Physician Heidi Baines '95 has spent much of her career working in frontier (that's "beyond rural") Alaska, including four years at the Kodiak Area Native Association (KANA), a health care nonprofit for Alaska Natives. Each month, she flew from Kodiak to Karluk (population: 28) and sometimes to other remote villages as well to provide care. The four-seater plane always carried mail and groceries. One time, Baines flew with a box of turkey and chicken chicks beside her. Weather was always a factor. "There's a lot of waiting and gambling on the weather," she says, "or you can get stuck."

A Russian studies major at Macalester, Baines discovered her path in the Career Development Center (now Career Exploration). Career interest tests indicated a strong affinity for health care, so she volunteered at St. Paul's Family Tree Clinic, complementing

her coursework with reproductive health training. During fall semester of her senior year, she interned at a nonprofit HIV prevention organization in Moscow, and she returned there to work for another year after graduation.

In medical school at the University of Washington–Seattle, Baines did a semester of rotations in Alaska, then completed her residency there and stayed. Her first four years of practice were in Unalaska, 800 miles and a three-hour flight from the nearest hospital. She also spent four years in "less"-remote Kodiak, and last year Baines and her family left Kodiak for Anchorage, where she's now the lead physician at Vera Whole Health. We talked about her medical bag—the tools she's found most useful for treating patients in frontier Alaska.

## — PERSPECTIVE —

People who live in these areas have a sense of their own mortality. If you need hospitalization, it may take hours or even more than a day traveling by boat, plane, or four-wheeler (or all three) to get there. Like most Americans, they still expect that you're going to fix them, but there's also an understanding that you have limitations on what you can do, and that humans cannot control the weather.

## — CONTINUITY —

My goal is to establish a relationship with the patient so that over time we can make progress. Primary care often focuses on chronic, unsolvable problems. You have to have a good perspective for that or else you're going to get really tired. Maybe the win is that really grumpy elderly patient who came in rarely, and mostly with complaints about her care, who now comes every month and tells you about going berry-picking. And you're that link. If something does happen, she's going to talk to you about it.

## — CONTEXT —

There are a lot of reasons why people come to the health care system in the way that they do. Helping people not feel abandoned has been an issue I've encountered. With our native population, what have they experienced? They have experienced new health care providers every couple years for their whole life. They've experienced a lot of someone else's culture being imposed upon them. They've experienced a loss of culture, infrastructure, and tribal knowledge over generations that still impacts them today. I think about how I can create a relationship and a space with this person so that they feel taken care of, understood, and respected for the time I have with them.

## — SOMEBODY'S SOMEONE —

At KANA, we started a medication-assisted treatment program for people who experience opiate use disorder. Remembering that everybody is somebody's someone is really important. So is maintaining your compassion while being realistic and recognizing that change is up to the patient, and remembering the incredible barriers to getting well. Addiction is a chronic disease and there are real brain changes that happen. Judging people isn't helpful. It doesn't make anything in life go away.

## — POWER CORD —

When I was traveling to the villages, I always took with me a plastic tote that contained a flannel sheet, a towel, toiletries, *The Time Traveler's Wife* because I can read it multiple times, and a change of clothes. I also had medical supplies, in case the clinic wasn't well-stocked, and nonperishable canned food. I used all those things at one time or another. I got stranded in Karluk for three days twice, and I slept on the floor of the two-classroom schoolhouse. I did forget my power cord, but luckily someone let me borrow theirs so I could charge my phone. There was no wifi or cell service at the time, but I appreciated the music and my podcasts. [M](#)

MICHAEL DINNEEN



# “ THE GREATEST PRIVILEGE OF MY PROFESSIONAL LIFE ”

**President  
Brian Rosenberg**  
looks back on  
17 years at Macalester.

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



**EACH WINTER**, Macalester's seniors gather in Kagin Commons for "Beer with Brian," a chance to celebrate the start of their final semester and clink glasses with President Brian Rosenberg after he shares a few words of wisdom.

This year, Rosenberg told them, he felt keen empathy for seniors fielding all the questions about what's next—especially when there's no answer yet. Nearly a year after announcing that he'll leave Macalester on May 31, 2020, his only plan so far was that he and his wife, Carol, were about to sign a lease on a Minneapolis apartment, as he later told *The Mac Weekly*. Beyond that, Rosenberg didn't know what the next chapter might look like. Believe in your ability to navigate uncertainty, he told the seniors.

In that last semester of college, plans often unfold quickly and in unexpected ways. A few weeks later, Harvard University staff invited Rosenberg to spend the fall in Cambridge as the president-in-residence in the Harvard Graduate School of Education's higher education program. The opportunity was a great fit.

"The one thing everyone tells me is that I've got to take a break, and they're right, but I also can't imagine sitting around for a year doing nothing," says Rosenberg, who will instead attend classes alongside students, anchor academic discussions with real-world experience, and meet with students one-on-one and in groups. "This feels like a nice balance to me: I'll be able to work directly with students, but I won't have the same kinds of responsibilities I do now. It also gives me the opportunity to help shape future leaders in higher education."

Rosenberg came to Macalester in 2003 from Lawrence University, where he was dean of the faculty and an English professor. A Charles Dickens scholar, he has written two books on the Victorian author as well as *Creative Tensions: Civility, Empathy, and the Future of Liberal Education*, a compilation of essays and speeches from his Macalester tenure.

Over the past 17 years, his leadership has shaped the college in both key ways and countless ways. The student body's demographics have shifted significantly, especially among the college's U.S. students who identify as students of color, which increased from 12 percent in 2003 to 28 percent in 2019. Rosenberg led the five-year, \$156 million Step Forward campaign as well as the \$125 million Macalester Moment campaign that the college will wrap up at the end of May. He has written prolifically on issues including higher education access and quality, tuition costs, and college rankings, as well as public policy.

"The opportunity to serve as president of Macalester has been by far the greatest privilege of my professional life," Rosenberg wrote in an April 2019 message to the community announcing his departure. "The longer I have stayed, the more impressed I have been by the excellence of our faculty, the dedication of the staff with whom I have worked side by side, and especially the passionate determination of our students and alumni to create a more just and peaceful world."

In the past two years, Rosenberg conducted nearly 40 Big Questions interviews with students, alumni, faculty, and staff. Now it's his turn to answer some big questions.



## People have been asking for your advice on leadership a lot this year. What's the first rule?

You've got to be authentic. So many presidents, because of all the pressures they're under, forget that. Yes, you're a public figure and you're defined by your role, but be a human being. Listen to people. People have to have some trust that you're going to speak to them honestly.

## And then what?

When I talk to college presidents or people who might want to be college presidents, I want to make sure they understand that being a leader in an academic setting is very different from being a leader in most other settings, because you're not in a position to tell very many people exactly what to do. Don't expect to come in and give orders. It doesn't work that way. You have to lead through example, inspiration, and political skill. If you want people on campus to behave a certain way, you have to set that example yourself. You have to have the skill and the evidence to persuade people. And sometimes you win arguments by not arguing—that's a lesson I've had to work on over my whole career.

"Brian told the Board of Trustees that he didn't want Macalester to simply be one of the best colleges in the country—he wanted Macalester to be the best-managed college in the country. There's been a lot of turmoil in the financial state of many colleges over Brian's tenure, and Macalester has managed to emerge not just unscathed but in a very strong position. That's clearly a function of leadership."  
—Jeff Larson '79 P'10

## What do you remember from your first few weeks on campus?

I remember feeling kind of overwhelmed. I did feel prepared for the job, but everything in your life gets upended at the same time. I was worried about starting a new job, but then also about where my young kids were going to go to school. At the time, my wife, Carol, had temporarily stopped practicing medicine, and I wondered how she'd do with that. I tend to be a worrier.

"Brian worked to encourage greater engagement with the Twin Cities. He provided course development funds for faculty to create urban engagement in the curriculum. Today more than 60 classes include a community-based learning component, and that's in large part because of his long-term vision."  
—Karine Moe, provost

## What surprised you about being a college president?

I don't think you can really prepare yourself for just how visible you are all the time as a college president. I knew intellectually that would be the case, but it still caught me by surprise. Every time you walk into a room, you're the center of attention. People are always watching—not in a creepy or negative way, but they're just noticing what you do. What's your facial expression when you're walking across campus? Are you smiling? You have to be attuned to the fact that every moment for you is a public moment.

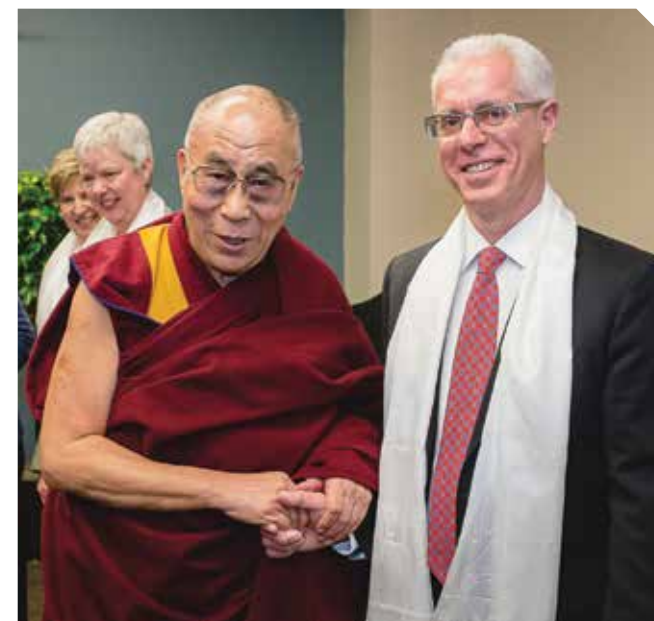
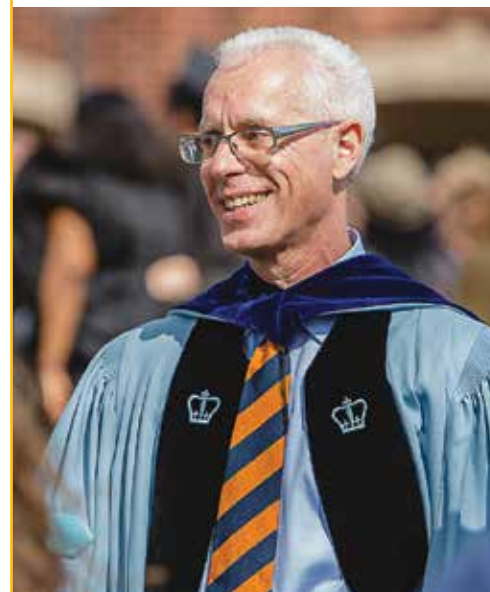
## A few years in, you began to be more outspoken about your views on public policy. How did that happen, and do you wish it would have happened sooner?

From the beginning, I wanted to have an authentic voice, but I certainly didn't feel comfortable right away with having what could be described as a more controversial voice around public issues. That's completely natural for a new president. You're trying to learn your constituency, you're trying to get the Board of Trustees comfortable with you—honestly, you just don't want to lose your job.

As I settled into the presidency, I felt more open talking about matters of public policy. Around the same time, the world around us changed. A lot more happened, particularly in the past four or five years, that I felt touched directly on Macalester's mission. Many presidents will say the same thing: you stay out of public issues. You stay out of divisive issues until and unless they touch upon your institution's mission, and then you have an obligation to speak the truth. It's my responsibility as the president to defend the mission of the college even when the issues are controversial.



"I vividly remember PBR saying in an interview that the single most important characteristic of an educated person is empathy: being able to see the world through the eyes of someone other than yourself. That idea became central to the education I was hoping to get at Macalester—cultivating a sense of wonder and depth of inquiry in engaging in the world and with those who inhabit it. I'm guided by that ethic that PBR instilled in me about the need to foster a more empathetic world."  
—Forest Redlin '16



## During your tenure, Macalester's demographics shifted significantly. How did that change happen?

Virtually from the moment I got here, students of color told me that a) there aren't enough of us here and b) our experiences here aren't good enough.

One person or office can't change a college's composition: lots of people have to prioritize it. First, we made sure that becoming a more diverse institution was an admissions priority. If I could point to one institutional decision that had the most impact, it's probably joining the QuestBridge program, a college and scholarship application process that helps outstanding low-income high school seniors gain admission and full four-year scholarships to selective colleges.

Then the whole Student Affairs division, including the Department of Multicultural Life, works hard to make sure that students have a good experience here. That helps current students encourage prospective students of color to enroll. The importance of that piece cannot be overstated. If prospective students visit a college and current students tell them not to enroll there, they're going to listen. The only way they're going to enroll is if students who are already there say, "This is a place where you want to be. We want you here, and you can succeed here."

In the last two years, we've brought in the most diverse groups of students in the college's history. That's no accident.

## What else have students advocated for over the years that will stay with you?

The first group of activists that blew me away advocated for changing our policies for admitting

"During my senior year, when I became the college's first student liaison to the Board of Trustees, Brian took hours out of his busy schedule to mentor and empower me to create connections among trustees and students. He always remembered that educating students was the core purpose of Macalester. In the years since I graduated from Mac, I've tried to apply Brian's best attributes to my own life: his work ethic; his ability to focus on the person in front of him, regardless of the many other things on his plate; the care with which he speaks and writes; and his willingness to stand against injustice, even when it is unconventional for someone in his role to do so."  
—Blythe Austin '08

undocumented students. At the time, undocumented applicants were part of the very large international applicant pool, and students argued that they should be treated as part of the domestic pool for both admissions and financial aid.

What was so impressive was that they didn't just come in and say, "Here's our list of demands." They came in and talked to me, to Student Affairs, to Admissions, and they said, "What challenges do we need to overcome to make this happen?" They worked diligently and patiently, and they viewed the work as not so much protesting or challenging, but collaborating with campus partners to achieve an outcome. We ended up with not just more undocumented students, but undocumented students who had a better experience. I've always held up those activists as a model.





# ⚡LIGHTNING ROUND

## Current pop culture favorite:

I love *The Mandalorian*. I'm obsessed with Baby Yoda. It's the wallpaper on my phone.

## Now watching:

My son Sam talked me into signing up for Disney Plus. I love a show called *The World According to Jeff Goldblum*. It's just Jeff Goldblum doing these little half-hour episodes on things like bicycles or coffee. He's so funny and quirky.

## Best campus tradition:

The Peace Prayer

## Best Grille menu item:

Grilled cheese

## Best recent nonfiction:

Tim O'Brien's *Dad's Maybe Book* was really powerful. There's something almost inexplicably strange about getting older, and I think he captures that really, really well.

## Best recent fiction:

Marlon James's *Black Leopard, Red Wolf*. It's hard. It's hard, but really good.

## Unexpected fun:

Public speaking. That still surprises me because it's not my natural personality. I can't quite figure it out.

## Choose a new career:

Winemaker

The Fossil Free Mac students, over multiple generations of students, were another really positive model. They were strategic, tenacious, respectful, practical, and realistic in their goals. They didn't get everything they wanted, but they got a significant amount. I'll never forget the sit-in outside the October 2019 board meeting. It was silent. Students were there for most of the day, doing homework. They weren't disruptive, but they were really present, and that profoundly impressed the Board of Trustees. That sit-in will be something I'll always remember.

## How else has the community changed?

When I got here in 2003, I feel like there was a lot more negativity about Macalester. I think that today there's a greater understanding among students, faculty, and staff of the importance and the excellence of Macalester's work. That doesn't mean that we're not still a very self-critical community. We are. But [vice president for Student Affairs] Donna Lee likes to say that the criticism comes from a place of love, and I think she's right: students love this place, so they push for it to be better. We're certainly still on a journey, but we're a stronger community now.

## You've advocated for improving the Macalester experience for first-generation college students. How did that priority emerge?

By observing and talking to students, I've gained over time a deeper understanding of just how different going to school at a place like this is for someone who is the first member of their family to attend college, particularly if you come from a family that has been struggling with all of the inequities built into our society. It's just a wholly different experience.

My wife, Carol, is a first-generation college student who came from a working class family. We met during freshman orientation at Cornell. My family was middle class, and my mother didn't go to college, but my father did. Very few people in Carol's extended family went to college, and if they did, they stayed close to home. Carol went six hours away from home.

That was so much more of a challenge for her than it was for me, and as an 18-year-old, I just didn't get it. I don't feel like I ever fully understood why her college experience was so different from mine—why she felt so much pressure to succeed and so much more guilt if, say, she got a B on an exam. That formative part of my life with her resonates very powerfully with me when I see what Macalester students are going through, and seeing what Macalester students experience has helped me understand my own history with Carol. I'm quite grateful for that.

## Your two sons went through their own college searches during your presidency. What did you learn from that process?

Visiting campuses with them gave me a sense of how important it is when you talk to prospective students to be very clear about how your institution is different from others. So much of what we heard from colleges was the same, and you could just see 17-year-olds tune it out: "Here we go again about pizza with faculty members."

I was also struck by how welcoming institutions were or weren't. There were colleges we visited where it almost seemed like they were doing you a favor by letting you be there. And then there were other institutions that felt very welcoming, and it wasn't always tied directly to status. Whenever I speak at events like spring samplers for admitted students, I always say, "Thank you for your interest in Macalester, and know that we appreciate it." That's not something colleges say all the time.

It was also fun because they had spent so much time with me that they were able pretty easily to see through the bullshit. They were a little bit more jaded than a typical 17-year-old consumer, just because they grew up here, listening to me jabber on for so many years.



"I've learned as much about humanity from Brian as I have about how to do the work. Brian's legacy will be both about his excellence as a leader and his reasoned, steady voice, but also someone who cares about humans, on a grand scale and on an individual level."

—Andrew Brown, vice president for Advancement



"When Brian asked if I would paint the official portrait that will be displayed with the other presidents' portraits in Weyerhaeuser, I felt really honored and also a responsibility to get it right. I have a lot of respect for him—he has shown great leadership and kindness. In the portrait, I wanted to bring out the part of Brian that people don't always see: that he's really funny. In part, he has to present this formal quality as a president, but you see his humor and lightness in places like the 2010 President's Day video. In one scene, he was in my studio on the model stand, just hamming it up. I wanted to bring that sense of humor and warmth to the portrait and make it colorful and friendly and real."

—Chris Willcox, art professor

## You've said that college campuses are an intense reflection of the society around them. What do you see on campus this year?

The most intense issues on college campuses are the same issues that are most intense in our society, except college campuses are in some ways more concentrated versions because you have thousands of young people in an enclosed space. The issues that seem top of mind to me among students are issues of sexual assault and harassment, race and equity, and climate change. Out of all of the inexcusable things about my generation, the failure to wrestle with climate change is probably the worst. The level of awareness and anxiety about climate change among students now is much higher than it used to be.

There's also the broader issue of mental health. In society, the level of anxiety and depression is epidemic and far beyond the ability of our health care system to manage and treat. That's reflected on college campuses, where levels of anxiety and depression are extraordinarily high. I've yet to talk to a college president who feels like their institution is equipped fully to deal with that.

## What's the most important development in higher ed that you've seen in 17 years?

Among at least a lot of schools, there's an increased awareness that they need to do something to work against our system's embedded inequities. That just didn't seem to be top of mind in higher ed 20 years ago. Although higher education can't fix the K-12 system or housing or health care and everything else that creates inequities in our society, we're doing a lot more now to make our campuses more diverse.

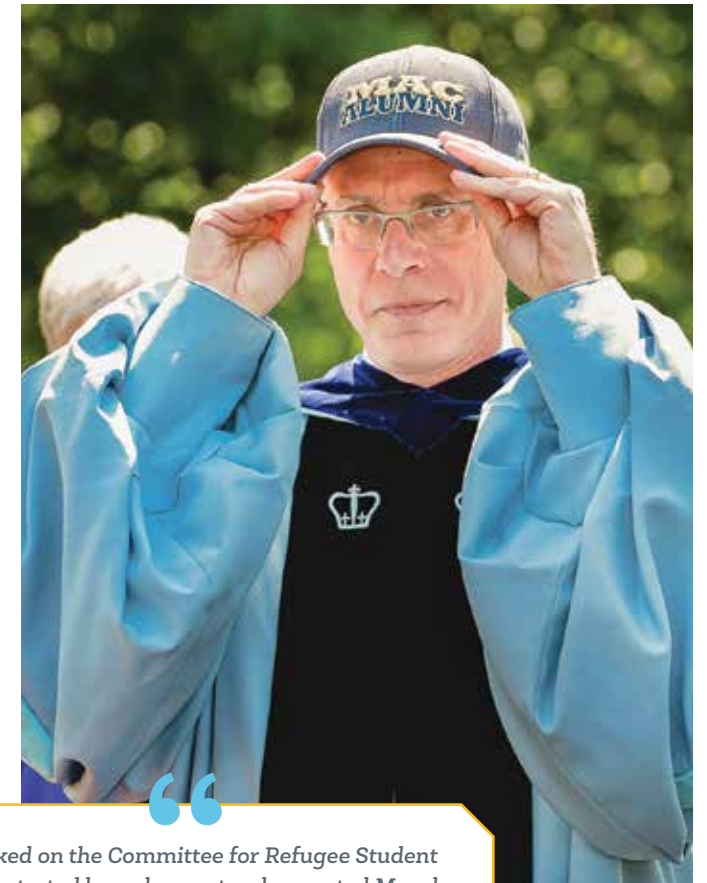


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“Brian recharged the college’s commitment to internationalism through his vision for the Institute for Global Citizenship, a site for the confluence of high intellectual performance and the imperatives of civic life. He was instrumental in strengthening the study abroad experience for students. He understood deeply the importance of having international students represented on campus. When he arrived, we had 80 countries represented among our students. Today we have 98. That requires an intellectual and financial commitment—the college had to go out of its way to sustain that support, let alone expand it.”

—Ahmed Samatar, international studies professor

”



“

“I worked on the Committee for Refugee Student Access, started by a classmate who wanted Macalester to recruit one or two students who are refugees or otherwise displaced. We met with PBR, and he talked to us about how things happen through the administration—what parts he could do and what parts needed to go through Admissions or other offices. Then he’d connect us with those people for those meetings. I can’t emphasize enough how much it meant that PBR was willing to meet and share ideas with us. It showed us that we could help make Macalester a better place for everyone.”

—Muath Ibaid ’17

”



### What’s the greatest challenge facing higher education?

The single biggest threat is cost. We’re just too expensive. For my entire career, I’ve heard speculation that people would stop paying the comprehensive fee once it hit \$30,000, then \$40,000, then \$50,000. And for the most part, people kept coming. Now we’re going to cross \$70,000. Within a decade, there will be colleges that cost \$100,000 per year.

We’re nearing a breaking point. There’s an inability to figure

out how to control costs and stop that relentless march upward, with the cost rising at a faster rate than revenue. It’s an unsustainable model. And that’s the most disappointing thing: that we haven’t figured out ways to bend that cost curve yet.

### What would you do if you started a college from scratch?

One thing I’d do is not divide the college into 35 different departments. That model is expensive. It’s structurally complicated. It makes decision-making harder. And I’m not convinced that it provides students with the best education. The world that they’re going to move into isn’t divided into departments.

I really like the model that Fred Swaniker ’99 has developed in his African Leadership University. There, students don’t come in and pick a major—they define a problem they want to solve, and then they organize their studies around that problem. The Yale-National University of Singapore College, which was started in 2011, has done something similar.

At Macalester, it’s really exciting to see programs emerge such as Human Rights and Humanitarianism; Community and Global Health; and Food, Agriculture, and Society. Higher education needs to move more in that direction.

### What role will you play in the transition to Macalester’s next president, Dr. Suzanne Rivera?

I want to be available as a resource but not to intrude myself in any way. That’s exactly the way Mike McPherson was when I came, and I found that really reassuring. It’ll be up to her. I’ll always be at the other end of a phone call or email, but I’m going to get out of the way.



### In your first Macalester Today interview, you talked about the Dickens themes that guided you as you got started. Is there a different story on your mind 17 years later?

The lesson I’ve always tried to take away from Dickens is this: don’t lose your humanity when you become part of a structure. You always have to remember that even though there are rules and policies, sometimes you just have to be a human being. I’ve occasionally frustrated some people around here when I say, “I know we have that rule, but break it, because I want to do something for this person.” I’ve tried to carry that lesson from Dickens throughout all of my time here.

Dickens writes a lot about separations and partings—how they’re both painful and sad but also bring new beginnings. Many of his early novels have beaming, unrealistic happy endings. His later novels don’t. Most of them end on a bittersweet tone, with a mix of sadness and joy and hope and fear.

That’s very much what it feels like when you go through a major shift in your life. I’m thinking a lot, right now, about those endings. **M**



# POINTS OF Struggle,

POINTS OF

# PRIDE

Charting Macalester's queer history  
over six decades

BY HILLARY MOSES MOHAUPT '08



## SUMMER 1971

University of Minnesota law student Jack Baker (right) and Michael McConnell are married in what is believed to be the first gay marriage ceremony. In May 1974, Macalester students attend the Gay Rights Conference at the U of M. Anonymous letters to the editor promote the event in *The Mac Weekly*, noting that posters on campus have been torn down. The following year, Mac students invite Jack Baker and Karen Browne, co-founder of the Lesbian Resource Center, to speak on campus. About 20 students attend.

## OCTOBER 1975

In October 1975, the Gay Student Collective receives funding from the Community Council. In December, Minneapolis passes the nation's first protections for trans individuals. In February 1976, Mac's Feminist Organization opens the Women's and Gender Resource Center. In late 1978, St. Paul voters approve the repeal of the city's Human Rights Ordinance, making it legal to discriminate against gays and lesbians, and the Macalester Lesbian and Gay Coalition (the group's new name) holds a dance at 30 Macalester Street. Approximately 40 people attend. The following year, November 14, 1979, is declared Gay Blue Jeans Day. Gay students and allies are encouraged to wear blue jeans to demonstrate awareness of discrimination faced by gay and bisexual students at Mac.



*"Jack Baker was my personal hero at the time, without knowing him. He was saying things we didn't think we'd see in our lifetime. We didn't think that marriage was going to be something that was possible. He was a radical for his time. I think that was the first time that Macalester hosted an openly LGBT event."* —Roberto Ochoa '76

## 1960s

From almost the first moment I stepped on campus as a first-year student in 2004, I knew two things: that I was thrilled to finally be at Mac, and that I was pretty sure I was a lesbian.

A few years later, in 2007, the *Princeton Review* ranked Macalester as the most welcoming campus in the nation for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, and asexual (LGBTQIA) students, but Mac has not always been a haven for queer students. Like me, generations of first-years have arrived on campus and embarked on the exciting project of growing up from a teenager to a young adult and learning, in the process, how to be queer.

For this story, I spoke with alumni who identify as LGBTQIA to chart Macalester's queer history from the 1960s through the 2010s. For many of these alumni, Macalester was a pivotal place to figure out who they were and what they wanted to be. Some of that discovery was related to sexuality and gender, but just as often, it also involved learning how to be a critical thinker, advocate, activist, leader, party-goer, writer, and friend.

Another common theme among alumni: the enduring need for safe space and positive role models before commencing adulthood in a world that does not always recognize or celebrate intersectional identities. I spoke with two of my own college mentors for this piece, program associate for vocation and reflection Eily Marlow '97 and psychology professor Joan Ostrove, whose input on this story and my Macalester journey I gratefully acknowledge.

*"The prevailing cultural tenor on campus reflected society at the time. In addition to earning a college degree, it was the job of the co-eds, the female students, to find a husband. It was extraordinarily traditional and extraordinarily heterosexual."*  
—Phoebe Wood Busch '64

*"I arrived on campus in 1967 and from what I could tell gayness on campus didn't exist. It was completely invisible to me and I thought that I was the only one."* —Bruce Fisher '71



Glenn Peterson '68 (left) and Gary Armstrong at their commitment ceremony in 1995.

*"Prior to 1962, sex between two men was a felony in all 50 states. A family friend was arrested in a raid on a gay bar in Minneapolis in 1961. I was 14 and immediately decided on a plan: I'd go to college, move to New York, see a psychiatrist, and be cured."*  
—Glenn Peterson '68

FROM TOP: MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY; PHOTO PROVIDED

## 1980s

### OCTOBER 1980

The new decade is marked by repeated vandalism to the MLGC's bulletin board—fliers are slashed and burned. October 14, 1980, is declared Gay Awareness Day.

*"When I first arrived at Mac, the gay student union met in the Women's Center. I was afraid to come out, but decided to go to a meeting one Sunday night. The lights were out on the second floor, but the lights were on in the center. The door was ajar and I could hear people laughing. Sadly, I was too afraid to step into the room. I didn't come back until junior year. What a metaphor for why coming out matters—all I needed was to step out of the dark hallway into a room full of light and laughter, but fear held me back."* —Marc Purinton '85

### DECEMBER 1982

MLGC hosts Gay Men's Films night. About 150 people attend. The following October, the group organizes the Gay Men's Support Group and Lesbian Support Group.

*"In 1989 there was already a strong impetus to have the gays and lesbians be the party people. I think we were intentional about throwing great visible parties that straight people came to. It helps to have great dance music."* —Rachel Gold '93



*"I spent second semester of my junior year in Kenya and I came back feeling better about myself than I ever had. And I met this woman and had the self-esteem and the strength and the bravery to come out."*  
—Julia Wolfe '86

### APRIL 1985

Macalester adds "sexual orientation" to its non-discrimination policy, after lobbying from the Macalester Lesbian and Gay Coalition with support from the Staff Advisory Council. On October 11, 1987, 15 Macalester students join 500,000 people in the March on Washington. National activists organize the first National Coming Out Day on October 11, 1988. The following fall, MLGC changes its name to Gays, Lesbians, and Bisexuals United (GLBU).





**Rachel Gold '93** (they/them) is teaching “LGBTQ Literature in America” at Macalester this year.

“This year is exactly 30 years since I started as a first-year,” they said. “I keep feeling like I’m going to run into myself on campus.” For Gold, seeing and learning from out faculty played a huge role in helping them understand how to have queer identity. “Now that I’m one of the out professors, I can show people that you can be a successful queer and trans adult.”

Three books on Gold’s “LGBTQ Literature in America” syllabus:

*Queer: A Graphic History*  
*The Gilda Stories*  
*The Stars and the Blackness Between Them*

# 1990s

## FEBRUARY 1990

GLBU hosts a campus dance in Doty Hall. Later that year, St. Paul reinstates its ordinance protecting gays and lesbians from discrimination. In October 1991, GLBU members chalk campus sidewalks to celebrate National Coming Out Day, including a “Walk of Flame.” They clash with MacConservatives and are taunted with anonymous notes and verbal harassment. Controversy erupts on campus over free speech.



*“I decided to come out on National Coming Out Day, fall of 1992, slick my hair back with hair gel, and put on a new outfit I’d bought. I walk outside and overnight someone has chalked some really violently homophobic stuff on the sidewalk.” –Erik Christensen '95*

## APRIL 1993

Macalester students take part in the March on Washington for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender rights. In February 1994, the GLBU changes its name to Queer Union (QU) to reflect the political mood after the march.



*“In 1996 I stopped by the alumni office. I mentioned that my partner and I recently had a commitment ceremony, and the alumni director asked if I would send him a picture. It was published in the wedding section of Macalester Today. I believe it was the first. Macalester was ahead of the curve—the New York Times didn’t publish same-sex unions until 2002.” –Glenn Peterson '68*

## SEPTEMBER 1996

Students can major in Women’s and Gender Studies, which had been available as a minor since 1987. In the mid-’90s, Bruce Fisher ’71 and his partner at the time establish the Fund for Lavender Life, to underwrite campus activities and resources related to gender and sexuality.

*“When we set it up, Macalester Today interviewed just me because my partner was not out at work. It was a little bit of an event to have something gay on the cover.” –Bruce Fisher '71*



PHOTOS PROVIDED (2); MAC WEEKLY

# 2000s

## APRIL 2000

Queer Union cancels the QU Dance; the campus observes its first Day of Silence to “protest the silencing of Queer voices throughout history.” An estimated 150 students participate. The college hires its first professor of LGBT studies, and the QU Dance returns in October 2000. In 2002 the Queer People of Color Collective is formed in the Department of Multicultural Life. The Queer Cabaret debuts in April 2003, featuring a drag show, music, and poetry. In 2003 the Lealtad-Suzuki Center creates the Allies Project to train campus faculty, staff, and students to support multiple social identities. That fall an unprecedented 90 students attend QU’s first meeting of the year.

*“I didn’t land at Macalester expecting to get support. The Mac chapel funded us to attend these gay Christian conferences, where I would meet amazing people. Making the shift from the Spotlight to Facebook made it easier to keep up with gay folks at other Minnesota schools.” –Dan Murphy-Cairns '07*



*“The fact that the Scots Pride reunion in 2006 even happened—I don’t think that would have been possible in the early years. The institution has embraced the notion that this is an important part of who Macalester is.” –Jeremy Kurtz '86*

PHOTOS PROVIDED (2); MAC WEEKLY

*“There were definitely lots of queer kids at my high school. But Macalester was more nuanced. Taking a queer studies course with Scott Morgenson was amazing. To take some of that academic language and break down homophobic arguments in literature, to understand my lived experience as valid—that was really important for how I was thinking about myself then and continue to think about myself now. I learned that we don’t all approach it in the same way.” –Stephanie Kobbe '08*

## OCTOBER 2004

The Mac Weekly reports, “Gender-blind housing at Macalester is back on the table nearly a year after a blitz of media coverage sparked widespread disagreement and stalled discussions on the issue.” In spring 2005, the administration approves gender-blind housing for George Draper Dayton Hall, Grand Cambridge Apartments, college houses, and cottages. Commencement that year includes the first Lavender Graduation to recognize LGBTQA students. Macalester comes in second in Princeton Review’s list of LGBT-friendly colleges. In September 2005, Women and Gender Studies is renamed Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. The following fall, the college hosts its first Scots Pride Reunion, including a keynote address by political science professor Adrienne Christiansen, an intergenerational panel discussion, and oral history recordings with alumni.

## NOVEMBER 2007

The feminist student organization hosts a gathering to discuss gender-blind bathrooms. Five students and two staff members attend. That same year, the Princeton Review ranks Macalester as the most welcoming campus for LGBT students. In February 2008, Macalester denies tenure to one of the two full-time professors in the Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Department; students protest. Open Gender Housing Area is established in Kirk. In 2009, the Gender Variant Collective is formed.



*“I didn’t feel like I needed to hide myself, which is partly why I chose Mac in the first place. No one asked questions about my sexuality, it just was. It finally felt like I could just be myself.” –Will French '13*



# 2010s

## OCTOBER 2010

Coming Out Week activities include a Candlelight Vigil on Bate-man Plaza, to remember those who have died nationwide from suicide due to anti-LGBT harassment. In 2011, the Women's and Gender Resource Center is renamed the Gender and Sexuality Resource Center. The first all-gender bathrooms appear on campus in 2012, in the Campus Center, the Kirk computer lab, and some academic buildings and residential halls. That November, Minnesota rejects Amendment 1, which would have banned marriage between same-sex couples.



*"There are things you learn in the classroom and there are things you learn outside of it. I came into my queerness through the Free Cece [McDonald] campaign my junior year. It's impacted everything I do, from teaching to being an organizer." —Raynise Cange '14*

*"My position as a working class person of color wasn't represented in the discussion in QU. Who is prioritized in queer spaces at Macalester? To understand gender and sexuality, you have to see a person as a whole person, incorporating different facets." —Ariel Estrella '15*

## MARCH 2014

A Macalester student government resolution calls for greater transgender inclusivity across campus; students of color continue to urge campus to strive for the inclusion of queer students of color, too. That summer, bathrooms on the fourth floor of the library, the second floor of the humanities building, and the basements of Doty and Dupre Halls are converted to all-gender bathrooms.

*"I joined the Alumni Board and said I'd love to have another Scots Pride Reunion. They came up with this new thing to make it part of the regular reunion in 2015. The events were hugely popular; one of the panels was so much in demand that people were overflowing from the room." —Adrian Moran '91*



*"I was asked to be on the 50-Year Reunion committee. I inquired about specific efforts to reach out to members of our class who were LGBTQ. The alumni director at the time suggested that we do a decade by decade panel on LGBTQ life at Macalester and I said I would be happy to chair it. What stuck with me was how forthright everybody on the panel was." —Phoebe Wood Busch '64*

FROM TOP: VANICE PHOTO; PHOTO PROVIDED; DAVID J. TURNER

## OCTOBER 2018

Queer Faith Community is chartered by the student government's student organizations committee. The following fall, all-gender locker rooms are added to the Leonard Center.

*"I came to campus last semester and talked to the Bonner scholars. Every one of them said their pronouns. That was not the case when I got to Mac. Even before I was out as trans, I kept pushing. And Sedric [McClure, currently assistant dean for College Access, Retention, and Success] said pronouns are so easy now because of you." —Ariel Estrella '15*



*"Queer Faith Community has been one of the most important formative spaces for my time at Macalester. We want people to feel comfortable being their true full selves." —Jessi-Alex Brandon '20 (back row, far left) at EuroPride 2019 in Austria*

# 2020



*"We're challenged in the classroom to have hard conversations about our identity. Like every place, Macalester has the things they do right and things they struggle with—especially supporting trans students on campus. Macalester is a place where we can learn about ourselves through the stories of other people. So many people are in transition coming to college and questioning—does this space resonate with me? It's a wayside for people to go back into their history and figure out what their identity means to them, then and now." —Amelia Gerrard '20 M*

## CONNECT

If you identify as LGBTQIA, let us know: [macalester.edu/alumni-identity](mailto:macalester.edu/alumni-identity)

Find us on Facebook: [Macalester Scots Pride](#)

Send a message of support (or share one with the #heymac hashtag) for this year's Class of 2020 queer graduates at Lavender Graduation: [alumnioffice@macalester.edu](mailto:alumnioffice@macalester.edu).

Hillary Moses Mohaupt '08 is a freelance writer based in the greater Philadelphia area.

PHOTOS PROVIDED





# Legends OF THE Night

*These sleep experts share their best advice—as well as some of their own sleep practice.*

By Matthew Dewald  
Illustrations by Lisa Haney

About 40 percent of the patients that Dr. Inell Rosario '87 sees are having trouble with one of life's most basic needs: eight nightly hours of restorative sleep.

Rosario—founder and president of Andros ENT & Sleep Center in Inver Grove Heights, Minn.—treats patients suffering with disorders including sleep apnea and insomnia. If her patients asked her about her own sleep habits, they might be surprised by her answer.

"I definitely try to practice what I preach most of the time, except when you see an email from me at one in the morning," she says. "My goal is to get seven hours of sleep. I wake up, I feel fine, and I can get through a long day."

When it comes to sleep, there's no one-size-fits-all prescription—as evidenced by Rosario's six or seven hours a night. Ideal sleep duration, like so much else about our bodies, varies, but consensus agreement is that at least six hours is a must. We asked Rosario and other Macalester alumni who are experts in sleep to talk about what's true, what's not, and what's best when it comes shuteye.



## [LEGEND 1]

### Catch-up sleep helps balance the body

It's early afternoon, and you're dragging because you barely slept the night before. The couch and a comforter beckon. Time for a quick catnap?

"One of the classic problems that people run into when they try to compensate for not sleeping well is that they try to catch up on sleep wherever they can get it. They might take a nap or sleep in on the weekends," says Bennett Goltz '99, a physician assistant for Fairview Health Services.

Contrary to popular wisdom, and his own practices during his days at Mac, "it's generally not a good idea to sleep in the daytime," he says, noting that naps typically make people less tired for the following night. "It just perpetuates the insomnia."

Rosario says that if you must nap, it should last no longer than 45 minutes. For some, a 10-minute nap can be all the body needs to power through a productive afternoon.

She encourages her patients to set a timer if they nap. "You want to not go into REM sleep at all," she says.





[LEGEND 2]

## Sleep problems are just sleep problems

Goltz stresses that there is a deep connection between sleep and mental health. “It’s generally a two-way street,” he says. “You’re not going to fix somebody’s depression by treating their insomnia, and you’re not going to cure somebody’s insomnia by treating their depression. You have to work on both.”

The relationship between sleep and mental health was very personal for Tyler Skluzacek ’16. When he was growing up, his father returned from combat in the Middle East with PTSD that manifested in traumatic nightmares.

“The overall quality of his sleep was affected,” he says. “He got more tired and more irritable, and the vicious cycle continued.”

The problems strained the family and led to his parents’ divorce when Skluzacek was in tenth grade. His father was still suffering nighttime symptoms when Skluzacek was at Mac. When Skluzacek was a senior, he entered HackDC2015, a programming competition focused on leveraging technology to address PTSD in veterans. He walked away with the prize for best mobile application for clinicians.

His winning app analyzes biometric signals from a smartwatch to sense and interrupt the onset of night terrors without waking a person up. It gives them a chance at a better night’s sleep and a foundation for better mental health.

As Skluzacek puts it, “You fix the sleep, you have an opportunity to fix the problem.”

His idea came from talking about his dad’s problems with psychiatrists at the competition.

“The root of my dad’s issues is sleep, and that’s the case with many other people,” Skluzacek says. He remembers psychologists at HackDC2015 telling him, “Without solving the sleep problems, you just remain in the vicious cycle of PTSD where your depression and anxiety symptoms worsen because you’re not getting enough sleep.”

Early versions of the app helped his father tremendously, he says. He has since sold his patent to a company that’s still developing it. Skluzacek is now in a doctoral program in computer science at the University of Chicago—where, he reports, he gets enough sleep.

[LEGEND 3]

## REM sleep is nighttime’s holy grail

“A myth I hear all the time from patients is the idea that REM sleep—rapid-eye movement—is the most important and that, in particular, it’s the deepest stage of sleep,” says Ashley Rudnick ’04, a licensed clinical psychologist who practices behavioral sleep medicine in the Chicago area.

Not so, she says. REM sleep is important, especially for things like memory consolidation and emotion regulation. But it can’t be accurately described as deep sleep, which is more characteristic of the slow delta waves of stage 3 NREM (when growth hormone is released). Stage 3 NREM occurs in intervals throughout the night, but is most concentrated in the first half, comprising about 20 percent of total sleep duration in adults.

“If we look at a person’s polysomnogram when they’re in REM sleep, it looks very much like wakefulness,” she says. “The brainwaves are very similar—hence all the dream activity that’s associated with REM sleep. There are definitely restorative aspects of our cognitive and emotional functioning that happen during that time, but it is not the deepest stage of sleep from a brainwave perspective or physically the most restorative.”

Still, if you’re not getting enough sleep, you’re probably impacting your REM sleep the most, Rudnick says. The REM stage gets a little longer with each 90-minute sleep cycle, so cutting sleep time short means missing the longest REM periods that happen toward morning.



## Sleep at Mac

The average Macalester first-year student gets a visit from Lisa Broek or Abbey Sanborn three times during their fall semester classes. The pair, who make up the health promotion staff at the Laurie Hamre Center for Health & Wellness, come bearing “sleep swag.”

“Eye masks, ear plugs, and decaffeinated tea are the three items,” says Broek, director of health promotion.

The swag helps drive home the lessons of Macalester’s First-Year Sleep Well Initiative, which is designed to teach students the importance of developing good sleep habits early in their academic careers. Broek and Sanborn also offer advice on how to make a room “sleep-friendly,” talk about the effects of poor sleep and benefits of good sleep, and manage a “nap map” that identifies some of the best spots on campus for a brief power nap.

“We know good sleep is a good mental health, self-care, and resilience practice,” Broek says. “We also know good sleep is related to better grades. It’s the foundation of success, academically and socially.”



[LEGEND 4]

## Stay in bed, even if you can’t sleep

Counterintuitive though it may be, if you can’t sleep, the best strategy is to stop trying. When Rudnick’s been tossing and turning for more than 15 to 20 minutes, she calls a timeout and gets up. Clock-checking is best avoided during the night because it tends to increase anxiety.

Her aim: “Do something that’s low key, relaxing, and calming. We don’t want to get into that pattern where our mind is starting to race and we’re lying there struggling to sleep and failing at it.”

That might mean reading, listening to a podcast, or even doing a routine household chore, like emptying the dishwasher or folding laundry.

A nightcap? Not a good idea.

“In the first half of the night, alcohol actually does cause people to go to sleep,” Goltz says. “But it just causes a lot of brief awakenings—and sometimes not so brief—after that.” **M**





# WAGING PEACE

**Two alumni  
collaborate to  
support unarmed  
peacekeeping in some  
of the world's most  
volatile conflict zones.**

BY KATE HAVELIN '83



The story of Mel Duncan '72 and Bob Van Heuvelen '72 starts on Dupre 4, then spans from Capitol Hill to South Sudan—and back to St. Paul.

As sophomore political science majors, they went east for congressional internships, sharing a cramped Washington, D.C., efficiency. Back on campus in 2017, at their 45th Reunion, the two reconnected for the first time since graduation. Standing in the big tent's beer line, Van Heuvelen and Duncan swapped stories about their work and the world.

Both alumni had launched successful organizations. In Washington, Van Heuvelen founded the lobbying and public advocacy firm VH Strategies LLC, grounded in his extensive experience as a federal prosecutor with the Department of Justice and Environmental Protection Agency, then as chief of staff to former North Dakota Senator Kent Conrad. Duncan co-founded Nonviolent Peaceforce (nonviolentpeaceforce.org), an international peace corps that uses unarmed strategies to protect civilians in violent conflict. Based in Geneva and St. Paul, Nonviolent Peaceforce has trained 5,000 unarmed civilian protectors, building relationships and trust that prevent injuries and deaths. In 2016, Nonviolent Peaceforce was nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize; the organization received the Luxembourg Peace Prize in 2018.

A major shift for many countries, unarmed civilian protection is effective from the bottom up, rooted in community engagement. In South Sudan, for example, Nonviolent Peaceforce has trained more than 2,000 national and international civilian protectors since 2011. Now, South Sudan has 16 unarmed civilian protection teams plus 60 women's protection teams.

Nonviolent Peaceforce trains local women to protect themselves and their communities. Before the teams were trained, government and opposition soldiers often raped women who went to collect firewood. Teams also protect young boys from being abducted and forced to become child soldiers. Duncan says soldiers are less likely to attack people accompanied by trained protectors: "Most people do not want to commit atrocities. Our presence reinforces that internal inhibition. People don't like to fight in front of the neighbors." Over half of Nonviolent Peaceforce protectors come from the host country—they are the neighbors.

In her new book *The Dissent Channel: American Diplomacy in a Dishonest Age*, Elizabeth Shackelford—a former diplomat assigned to South Sudan—calls Nonviolent Peaceforce "a plucky international organization that goes to the most dangerous places on earth and deploys civilians to help locals stay safe." In one instance, she describes how two Nonviolent Peaceforce staffers

protected more than a dozen women and children from militiamen. Threatening them with rifles and an axe, the militia repeatedly ordered the peacekeepers to leave. The peacekeepers stood firm, guarding the civilians in a mud hut until the gunmen left. Armed with nothing more powerful than their Nonviolent Peaceforce badges and a commitment to nonviolence, two peacekeepers saved the lives of 14 people.

At Reunion, Duncan and Van Heuvelen kept talking about the unarmed protectors, and by evening's end, Van Heuvelen knew he wanted to help rally support among fellow Mac alumni and beyond. And as someone who once dreamed of joining Doctors Without Borders in retirement, he jumped at the chance to serve instead, in his son's words, as a "lobbyist without borders."

By summer 2018, Van Heuvelen's team was working pro bono with Nonviolent Peaceforce. They began what Duncan calls "a little effort" to get unarmed civilian protection into the fiscal 2020 Appropriations bill.

Although UN agencies and governments including the Dutch and the Swiss are increasingly supporting Nonviolent Peaceforce, the United States has been slow to respond, now providing a little over \$1 million per year. Together, Duncan and Van Heuvelen were seeking an additional \$25 million—funding that would help Nonviolent Peaceforce develop new projects in countries like El Salvador, Nigeria, and Yemen.

Before Nonviolent Peaceforce could get new appropriations, Congress needed to include policy language backing unarmed civilian protection. By last spring, VH Strategies managed to get Duncan testifying before a crucial House Appropriations subcommittee. After three VH staffers prepped him, Duncan testified and the subcommittee voted to support the bill and unarmed civilian protection.

By December, the Senate passed the Appropriations bill with language recommending the State Department support unarmed protectors of civilians. Duncan and Van Heuvelen achieved their first goal: Congressional approval of unarmed peacekeepers.

Their next goal: securing the requested \$25 million. "Funding for all unarmed civilian protection carried out in the world is a pittance, less than \$40 million, compared to the Pentagon's more than \$700 billion," Duncan says.

As the climate crisis worsens, and more people are displaced or become refugees, there's growing urgency for effective ways to protect civilians and encourage non-violent behavior. In Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, and Nigeria, Nonviolent Peaceforce is already doing online training with youth teams as unarmed protectors. Duncan envisions a worldwide culture of peace in which conflicts are managed using nonviolence instead of weapons.

And three years after their Reunion reconnection, Duncan and Van Heuvelen stand behind those unarmed protectors, striving to build more support for that culture of peace. [M](#)

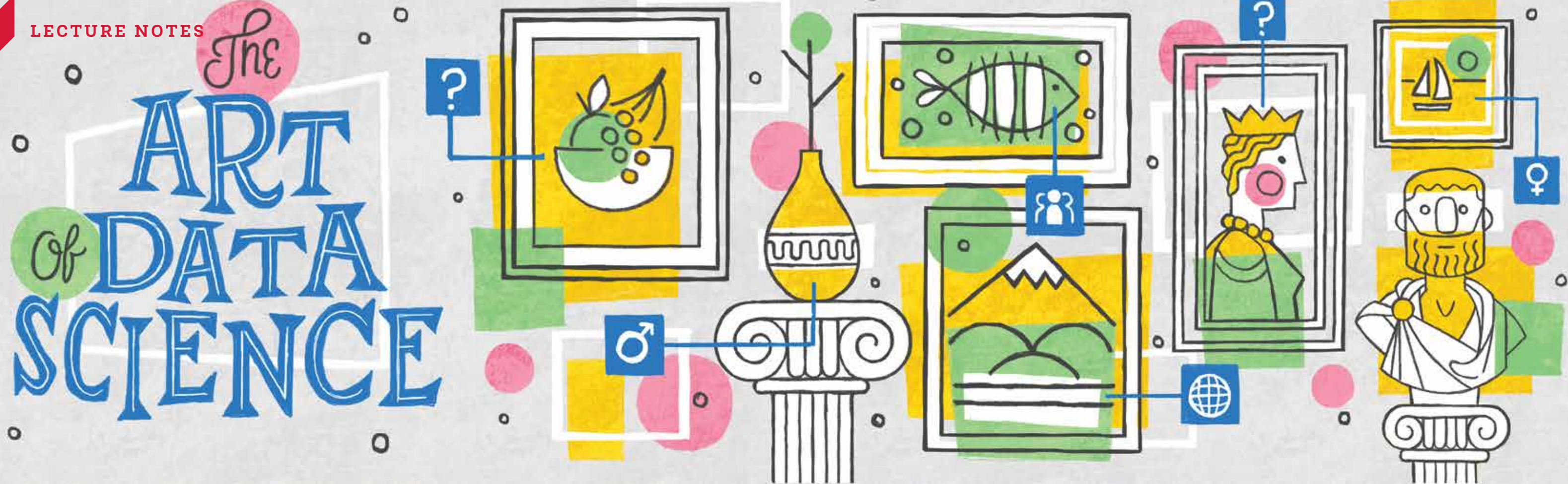
Kate Havelin '83 is a Minneapolis freelance writer.

FROM LEFT: PHOTO PROVIDED; TRACEY BROWN

**At left: Mel Duncan '72 and Bob Van Heuvelen '72.**

**Lower left: Macalester students serving as congressional interns attend a White House ceremony in 1970. From left: Bob Van Heuvelen '72, Jeff Goltz '71, Mel Duncan '72, and Jon Schroeder '72.**





BY REBECCA DEJARLAIS ORTIZ '06 / ILLUSTRATION BY JON BENSON

Not every mathematical paper generates international press, but that's exactly what a research team including statistics professor Brianna Heggeseth experienced a year ago with "Assessing Diversity in Major US Art Museums," published in *PLoS ONE*. Last fall Heggeseth built on those findings in a National Gallery of Art datathon, using data science to quantify representation on the museum's walls and help curators reflect on past choices. "I'm looking to build bridges across disciplines—that's the reason why I structure my scholarship and teaching the way I do," she says. We sat down with Heggeseth to learn more.

### Why did last year's paper make waves?

Our analysis reflected people's anecdotes: generally, there isn't much diversity at art museums. We got press for that paper not because our findings shocked anyone, but because it was one of the first large-scale studies of artist representation. We looked at 18 art museums, with thousands of objects in each collection, and we wanted to quantify representation by making inferences about gender, race, and ethnicity. But if you tried to tackle that task manually, it would probably take years.

### What did you do instead?

We utilized crowdsourcing through the Amazon platform Mechanical Turk and got our results much faster by dividing the work into very small tasks. Guessing one artist's gender identity and noting when they lived, for example, might take a min-

ute. It's like if we took all of Macalester's students and divided up the tasks, the work could be done in an hour. Mechanical Turk's technology gives us access to many people, who we pay for their time.

But we also didn't look at every single artist and object. We used random sampling to make statistical inferences. After our work with the National Gallery's full collection, we found that our original inferences were right on target, with very similar results. That reassures me that it's a fairly accurate process to do at scale. And that's the big takeaway: that someone could do this at scale rather than thinking it's an unattainable task because of the work hours required. It opens up possibility.

### What did your team's work at the datathon actually involve?

After two months with the National Gallery's data set, we spent two days in Washington, D.C., touring the museum and talking with senior curators. But the vast majority of our work involved cleaning up the data set before we could analyze it: the provided data set had artists' names, titles of objects, and other metadata, but not gender identity, race, or ethnicity. We were able to merge our data set with a Getty Museum database to add gender information for some of the artists, then we made educated guesses for the rest. We used historical databases to make gender inferences about first names, and for about 700 artists, our art historian used his own contextual knowledge.

### What are the implications of these findings?

If we don't feel like there is representation and we want change, then we need to know where we've been and where we want to go. This work provides a baseline to track initiatives aimed at diversifying collections. Most curators and art historians have so much data and knowledge stored in their brain, and they're juggling many parameters and restrictions on the art. This gives them a data-driven approach to see how things have changed. It's validating, because it matches what they think is going on and provides leverage for funding.

There are many people thinking about this problem, and the datathon brought us all into one room. It was an opportunity to bridge collaboration not only among disciplines (art history, statistics, data science, and marketing) but also across institutions. I don't think anyone created the tool, but sharing our ideas and approaches moved us all forward quite a bit.

### How did you land on such an interdisciplinary approach in your work?

In an introductory college statistics course, I realized that data has the power to impact many fields to make a tangible difference in the world. It's through cross-disciplinary collaborations that we can make the most meaningful impact: taking the qualitative work that humanists do and complementing it with data-driven approaches. One is not better than the other, but together you can make more progress and gain more insight.

### How does data science fit into academia?

Data science as a field did not exist when I was an undergrad. What we envision as data science has mostly been driven by industry's need to analyze large amounts of data—and academia is generally working to catch up. I think that our department does a great job of supporting data science, but many other institutions are struggling to revise their curriculum in a way that prepares students for this type of job, which requires subject knowledge (in this case, art history), critical thinking, and technical skillsets. Liberal arts colleges are in a unique position to produce students that have all these skills, because their students are able to translate between research questions in the field and statistical or data science approaches.

### How has your understanding of representation changed through this work?

I talk to my classes about the fact that there's tension in being a statistician: you need to put people in categories to summarize representation, even as you recognize that individuals don't fit nicely into boxes for gender, race, and ethnicity. I've learned from my students how to better think about race and the gender identity spectrum. It's made me more reflective in how I define these variables and how I present them. [M](#)



# CLASS NOTES

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

**CLASS NOTES PHOTO POLICY:**  
We publish one photo per wedding.  
We do not have space to publish baby photos.  
We welcome photos of alumni gathered together anywhere in the world and publish as many photos as space permits.

Photos must be high-resolution, approximately 2MB or greater in file size.  
If you have a question about your class note, call Editor Rebecca DeJarlais Ortiz at **651-696-6123**.

## 1942

The American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery Foundation presented its 2020 Chang Humanitarian Award to Lowell Gess. Lowell will use the \$50,000 stipend to support the work of the Lowell and Ruth Gess Eye Hospital in Sierra Leone.

## 1950

Doug Anderson has written two books, one about his experience serving in the Korean War and one about the Cold War. He has shared his story with senior and veterans groups as well as the Samford University history department. Doug and his wife, Mary, live in Florida.

## 1962

M Club Hall of Fame member

Ron Stolski announced his retirement from coaching after a Minnesota state-record 58 years as a high school football coach. Stolski coached at Brainerd High School for the past 45 years, and all told, his teams collected 389 victories, which ranks second all-time in Minnesota. He will continue to serve as executive director of the Minnesota Football Coaches Association.

## 1965

After spending five years researching why the average golf score has remained unchanged for decades despite innovations in club technology, course maintenance, and instruction, Bob Mullen decided that the problem "is not what is being taught, it is the fact that no one understands how to teach and how golfers learn." His conclusions form the basis of his second book, *Golf: Learn from the Legends*.



On a knitting retreat in Portland, Ore., last November, Cindy Weldon '89 visited Shibui Knits, where the "St. Paul" on her name tag prompted a discussion with the store's bookkeeper, Judy Friedman '71. A fellow knitter, Pam Soderholm, overheard them discussing their Mac connection and chimed in that her husband is part of Mac's Class of 1963. "Here we thought the only thing we had in common was knitting," Cindy wrote. From left: Cindy, Judy, and Pam.



In February, nearly 30 alumni, parents, and friends connected with current students on campus about careers in medicine. The program, Mac to Medicine, included roundtable discussions on topics including medical ethics, rural and global health, and work/life balance.

# WHAT'S THE FIRST BOOK MAC'S GRADUATING SENIORS SHOULD READ THIS SUMMER?

"Radical Candor: Be a Kick-Ass Boss without Losing your Humanity, by Kim Scott. As many students go off to be in the workplace and hold management positions, this book reminds us to care personally about employees and challenge them directly. It also provides ideas on how to give feedback to superiors. Very helpful info!" **—Sierra Pancoast '17**

"The Impossible Will Take a Little While, by Paul Rogat Loeb." **—Consuelo Gutierrez-Crosby '98**

"Designing Your Life: How to Build a Well-Lived, Joyful Life, by Bill Burnett and Dave Evans." **—Jamila Hussein '12**

"Wait, What? And Life's Other Essential Questions, by James E. Ryan." **—Rachel M. Kristy '93**

"The Alchemist, by Paulo Coelho." **—Konnor Fleming '15**

"The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up, by Marie Kondo. I struggled with moving on and moving away from my life at Macalester. Although this book has become cliché at this point, it really did help me start fresh in my new apartment and new phase of my life." **—Victoria Guillemard '18**

"We Are The Weather: Saving the Planet Begins at Breakfast, by Jonathan Safran Foer." **—Susan Graham '65**

"The Faraway Nearby, by Rebecca Solnit." **—Elias Tezapsidis '10**

"Minnesota 1918: When Flu, Fire, and War Ravaged the State, by Curt Brown '82." **—Larry Bogolub '82**

"Daring Greatly, by Brené Brown." **—Akila Copeland '16**

"Barbara Kingsolver's Animal, Vegetable, Miracle changed the way I eat and think about food." **—Alexandra Toledo '07**

"Ego is the Enemy, by Ryan Holiday." **—Siyabonga Ndwandwe '15**

"David Horowitz's political autobiography Radical Son." **—Bob Hazen '73**

"Meditations, by Marcus Aurelius." **—William Clarke '07**



"Priya Parker's *The Art of Gathering* is a remarkable book that describes techniques to bring people together in more meaningful ways, whether for a dinner party or a conference of 2,500 people." **—Elizabeth Steiner Hayward P'21**

"Active Hope: How to Face the Mess We're in Without Going Crazy, by Chris Johnstone and Joanna Macy." **—Tricia Wendt '11**

"The Razor's Edge, by W. Somerset Maugham." **—Alexander Gray '10**

"Men We Reaped, by Jesmyn Ward." **—Celeste Prince '10**

### NOW TELL US:

What words of wisdom have you relied on this year?

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).



1966

After graduating from Macalester, Robert Whalen earned a doctorate in history from the State University of New York at Stony Brook and pursued a career in business in New York City. Following his retirement as chief executive officer of a financial company, he embarked on a second career in education. He taught at an inner-city school in New York and retired in 2018 after 11 years at St. Agnes R.C. School in St. Paul. Robert now lives in Orange County, Calif., with Julie Tilgner Ramphal.

1967

On New Year's Eve 2019, Mark Burns celebrated the fifth anniversary of his retirement from Applegate & Thorne-Thomsen, P.C., the Chicago law firm he helped establish in 1998. On the day Mark retired, he also adopted a dog, Katie.

1969

Six years ago, Glenn Olsen retired to St. Paul after teaching for 22 years at the University of North Dakota. He spent six years as chair of the institution's Teaching and Learning Department. He now serves as secretary and treasurer of the Hallie Q. Brown Retired Men's Club. Glenn and his wife, Barbara, help take care of their five grandsons and participate in sporting events and theater in the Twin Cities.

1970

*The Class of 1970 will recognize and celebrate its 50th Reunion this June.*

Carol Carlson has lived in Spain for nearly 50 years. Having retired from teaching English as a second language, she enjoys traveling and seeing her five grandchildren.



En route by ferry to Fort Jefferson and Dry Tortugas National Park, Henry Nieberg '19 and his father, Ben Nieberg, happened to sit down across from biology professor Mark Davis and his wife, Jean. "It took about a minute for us to discover our Macalester connection, and Mac stories filled much of the remaining two and a half hour boat ride," wrote Davis. The remote Dry Tortugas National Park is located in the Gulf of Mexico, 70 miles west of Key West, Florida. From left: Mark Davis, Henry Nieberg, Ben Nieberg, and Jean Davis.

1971

Carey Carlson has published the second edition of *The Mind-Body Problem and Its Solution*, which first appeared in 2004. "I included more material on the reduction of physics to time," Carey wrote.

1972

Peggy Davis continues her work as a calligrapher/artist and has been creating upcycled sewing projects from used clothes. She plays flute in the Wholesale Klezmer Band and also plays and sings in the Pioneer Valley Arabic Music Ensemble in Massachusetts.

Martha Lutman Brogan retired last November as city librarian of the New Haven Free Public Library, concluding a 45-year career in international education and librarianship. Last year, NHFPL received the National Medal for Museum and Library Service. Martha looks forward to Spanish classes, contra dancing, book club, career mentoring, volunteering, and spending time with her granddaughters.

1973

Cynthia Buckingham received the Utah Cultural Alliance's 2019 Lifetime Cultural Achievement Award. She joined the staff of Utah Humanities in 1983 and was the organization's executive director from 1997 until her retirement in 2017. Cynthia has also served as chair of the Utah Nonprofits Association, vice chair of the Federation of State Humanities Councils, and founding board member and past president of the Utah Cultural Alliance.

1975

*The Class of 1975 will recognize and celebrate its 45th Reunion this June.*

Email book publication news to [mactoday@macalester.edu](mailto:mactoday@macalester.edu).

BURNING PROVINCE

MICHAEL PRIOR

"Pastoral"

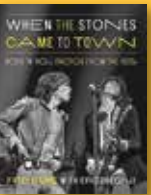
Wildroses, horsetails, wind's cobwebs over water:  
summers here since I first learned to swim.  
The poplars across the bay shimmer and sway,  
reflections creasing under the weather  
like molten glass. To think that mirror once meant  
both to wonder and look back—the way  
I've stared into a fun-house pane and seen my mixed face  
split then doubled.

North, the rocks are choked with millwort.  
South, starlings rustle through the cedars:  
brought by a man who spent his life importing  
every bird in Shakespeare. New worlds  
forever measured by the Old. For every measure,  
an equal and opposite erasure. How, over the fire,  
the family friend said Jap, not Japanese.

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Michael Prior

English professor,  
*Burning Province*  
(McClelland & Stewart/  
Penguin Random  
House, 2020)



Eric Dregni '90 and Fred Case, *When the Stones Came to Town: Rock 'n' Roll Photos from the 1970s* (Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2019)



Shana L. Redmond '02, *Everything Man: The Form and Function of Paul Robeson* (Duke University Press, 2020)



Chinelo L. Njaka '01 and Jennifer Patrice Sims, *Mixed-Race in the US and UK: Comparing the Past, Present, and Future* (Emerald Publishing Limited, 2019)



Timothy L.V. Vargo '95, Christopher A. Lepczyk, and Owen D. Boyle, *Handbook of Citizen Science in Ecology and Conservation* (University of California Press, 2020)

MAC TOGETHER

During this time of physical distancing and unknowns, we encourage you to find support and comfort in your Mac community. Visit our new website for virtual gatherings, ideas on ways to connect, and other initiatives.

Reach out, stay connected, and take care.  
[macalester.edu/mactogether](http://macalester.edu/mactogether)





Tim Paulson has been elected secretary treasurer of the San Francisco Building and Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO. He was previously executive director of the San Francisco Labor Council, AFL-CIO, for 15 years. Tim also serves as the labor chair of the California Democratic Party, an advisory board member for the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, and a commissioner on the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission.

continues to volunteer for the organization. He lives three blocks from Macalester and enjoys bicycling, listening to music (including the weekly jazz series at Khyber Pass), reading, writing poetry, and visiting his grandchildren in Minnesota and Washington.

**1980**  
*The Class of 1980 will recognize and celebrate its 40th Reunion this June.*

Jay Wilkinson has retired from Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid, but

*Continued on page 47 >*



**Biology professor Liz Jansen, her daughter Maria LeMire, Sarah Craven '85, and Jim Cummings '86 met up at the ICPD25 Nairobi Summit in Nairobi, Kenya, last November. "Eleven thousand people from 173 countries came together to work toward the Three Zeros: zero preventable maternal deaths, zero unmet need for contraception, and zero gender-based violence, including FGM and child marriage," wrote Liz.**



**Jeanette Leete '76, Sean Hunt '90, Laurel Reeves '70, Jura (Jamie) Leete Finn '79, and Mike Fienen '93 gathered at the Minnesota Ground Water Association's fall 2019 conference in St. Paul.**



**From left: Sara Kiener '06, Dusty Childers, Brianne Farley '06, and Shane O'Neill '05**

**Sara Kiener '06** is in a whirlwind, thanks to a three-month-old baby, an upcoming temporary move from New York to New Orleans for her wife's job, and a short film (with Mac connections aplenty) that just premiered at Sundance Film Festival. "Everything about the last few months is completely surreal," she says. "I've been in the film industry my whole adult life but only in business, never on the creative side. And I'm really in the thick of becoming a mother. I genuinely haven't slept in three days. I can't believe this is my new reality."

Back in 2017, Kiener—by day, Cinereach film company's head of distribution strategies—teamed up with classmate and concept illustrator Brianne Farley '06, who wanted to animate Shane O'Neill '05 and his boyfriend Dusty Childers, a pair with an abundance of colorful stories. *This American Life* producer Seth Lind '01 facilitated recording studio time, and one weekend, Farley and Kiener listened to Childers and O'Neill tell stories for three hours. They developed storyboards, and a story emerged about Childers and O'Neill's love and "a shared moment of magic at a Stevie Nicks concert," Kiener says.

Over the next three years, the collaboration produced the short film "The Shawl," along with an invitation to screen at Sundance in January. "There will be no more joyful seven minutes at all of Sundance than 'The Shawl,'" wrote *Moveable Fest* writer Stephen Saito before the festival.

Now Kiener, O'Neill, and Childers are exploring longer-form storytelling possibilities. And if that plan takes another three years to unfold? Kiener knows that patience pays off—and thanks to this project, she learned another key lesson. "It really helped that I loved everyone we were collaborating with," she says. "It was the perfect storm of humans and talent that came together for this to exist, and it felt more like play than work."



**Grant Reid '10 and Leisa Robotham-Reid were married on Dec. 29, 2019, in Ocho Rios, Jamaica.**



**Michael Garvey '04 and Leslie White were married on Oct. 12, 2019, in Woodinville, Wash.**



**Adam Kent '08 and Lindsey May were married on Nov. 2, 2019, in Madison, Wis.**



# HOW DATA CAN SUPPORT THE ALUMNI COMMUNITY

With an overarching focus on creating real-time connections between alumni and the college, the Alumni Board's 27 members support those efforts through working groups focused on three topics: athletics, career connections, and diversity. This year, the diversity working group is delving into what we know—and what we don't—about how diverse groups of alumni engage with Macalester. Here are the questions guiding our work:

## What do we think we know?

Our committee's role is to engage a diverse set of underrepresented communities. What assumptions do we have about engagement among those groups, and how do we know if those stories bear out? In addressing the biases we all have around decision-making, we decided to take a step back and look at our data to make sure that we are directing efforts toward ways that best support everyone in our community. With the recent Alumni of Color Reunion, one thought was to look at engagement among our alumni of color to see how engagement may look different or similar to our broader alumni population.

## What does our data tell us?

Macalester's Institutional Research shared some details about alumni engagement rates with us, and we learned that alumni of color have similar rates of event attendance and volunteerism as the general alumni population. Our group had questions: Is this data reflective of the last five years, especially through recent affinity reunions for alumni of color and LGBTQIA+ alumni, or indicative of a broader trend? And what's happening among communities other than alumni of color, such as LGBTQIA+ or first-generation college students?

## What else don't we know?

We want to have a better understanding of the barriers to alumni engagement. We need to have information that's more accurate, not grounded in assumptions. At the Alumni Board's in-

person spring meeting, we had a great conversation with Institutional Research staff on what kind of data Macalester has collected from alumni in the past and how we can use what we know to continue developing and supporting engagement opportunities that connect and support our community.

## Who are you now?

Part of this work means thinking about how we relate to alumni in a way that stays open to ongoing transformation beyond graduation. In many cases, alumni walk through the world with different social identities than they had on campus as students. People have a whole set of experiences that develop after they leave that shapes their identity. We've heard from alumni who are out now but weren't in college, and giving them a meaningful experience means creating space for those stories. How do we maintain an active, dynamic relationship with alumni and not just limit those relationships to how they knew how to identify when they were students?

## Where do we go from here?

We can support alumni better and sharpen our work with underrepresented communities if we have more data. We're finding out more this spring, and we want to hear from you. Tell us who you are—and how you identify now: [macalester.edu/alumni-identity](mailto:macalester.edu/alumni-identity). —Erik Christensen '95



## CONNECT WITH US

Update your contact information in Mac Direct ([macdirect.macalester.edu](http://macdirect.macalester.edu)) and [macalester.edu/alumni-identity](http://macalester.edu/alumni-identity) to join affinity groups including first-gen, alumni of color, and Scots Pride.

Send a message of support (or share one with the #heymac hashtag) for this year's Class of 2020 queer graduates at Lavender Graduation: [alumnioffice@macalester.edu](mailto:alumnioffice@macalester.edu)

Check out the college's affinity identity groups on Facebook: Scots Pride and Macalester Alumni of Color Collective.

> Continued from page 44

## 1985

The Class of 1985 will recognize and celebrate its 35th Reunion this June.

## 1986

Beau Whitney has spent the past five years conducting economic research on the cannabis sector. He focuses on the adult-use, medical, and industrial applications of the substance and has given presentations in Panama, Germany, and Zimbabwe on the economic potential and regulatory structures associated with cannabis. Beau gave a presentation to the Navajo Nation earlier this year and was invited to return to their larger annual summit in April.

## 1989

Andrea Herman contributed three chapters to the book *53 Ready-to-Use Kawaii Craft Projects*.

## 1990

The Class of 1990 will recognize and celebrate its 30th Reunion this June.

## 1995

The Class of 1995 will recognize and celebrate its 25th Reunion this June.

## 2000

The Class of 2000 will recognize and celebrate its 20th Reunion this June.

Sandra Wegmann has launched Wegmann & Associates, a consultancy focused on facilitating vision and strategy for social impact.

## 2002

Jane Bowman Holzer has been appointed to a judgeship on the Minnesota Tax Court.



Anne Ovre Kaphingst '67, Rick Ferris '69, and Janet Lunder Hanafin '66 met in Hadeland, Norway, on a tour of their ancestral homeland in June 2019.



Five Mac grads are studying to be rabbis at Hebrew College in Boston. From left: Frankie Sandmel '13, Rebecca Hornstein '13, Emily Pripas '12, Heather Renetzky '15, and Max Edwards '13.



## This year, Macalester Reunion is coming to YOU.

Join us from your home and from your heart for an inclusive online Reunion experience.

Rekindle your Mac spirit with friends, enjoy new traditions, and celebrate all that you remember about Mac from wherever you are in the world.

Everyone is welcome. More information forthcoming at [macalester.edu/reunion](http://macalester.edu/reunion).

REUNION June 2020





"I just returned from a safari in the Serengeti with my family and experienced my most unexpected Mac encounter to date," wrote Alex Zweber '06. In Tanzania, midway through a weeklong safari, Alex discovered that their guide Emmanuel Hagai Kissila is married to Clementina Sanchez '14. Together Emmanuel and Clementina own and operate Windfall Safaris in Arusha. Pictured: the Zweber family with Emmanuel at the edge of the Ngorongoro Crater.



Members of the Class of 1965 gathered for the annual holiday tea last December.

2003

Amanda Friou completed her MFA in theater directing at the University of Washington in the spring of 2019. She is now associate professor of contemporary and musical theater at Boston Conservatory at Berklee.

2004

Tallerita Tunney Rogers has been named to the newly created position of director of community development at Native Americans for Community Action. Tallerita will engage with the Indigenous community in Flagstaff, Ariz., in such areas as mental health, economic development, and other social needs.

2005

*The Class of 2005 will recognize and celebrate its 15th Reunion this June.*

2007

Vanessa Waltz published the personal essay "And Yet" with *Image* in 2019. The essay covers cities, faith, and literary and media influences.

2009

Emily Paulson began working for the City of Boulder, Colo., in January as a trails coordinator in the Open Space and Mountain Parks Department. "After 10 years of seasonal work, I am thrilled to settle down for a while in the mountains," she wrote.

Emily Joan Smith earned a master of library and information science degree from St. Catherine University last December.

2010

*The Class of 2010 will recognize and celebrate its 10th Reunion this June.*

2012

Colin Zestcott has been named assistant professor of psychology at the College of St. Scholastica.

2015

*The Class of 2015 will recognize and celebrate its 5th Reunion this June.*

Sydney Nolan will begin the full-time MBA program at Trinity College Dublin this fall.

2019

Minnesota Governor Tim Walz has appointed Marco Hernandez '19 to serve as the Congressional District 4 Board Member on the Minnesota Council on Latino Affairs. Hernandez is an environmental justice organizer for COPAL MN, a Minneapolis organization focused on uniting Minnesota's Latinx community through grassroots democracy.

1941

**Donald A. Nagle**, 100, died Sept. 4, 2018, in Mesa, Ariz. He is survived by a daughter, a son, four grandchildren, and many great-grandchildren.

1942

**Jeanne Beulke Wagner**, 101, died Nov. 30, 2019, in Racine, Wis. She worked as a secretary at several companies after graduating from Macalester.

1943

**Constance Cronon Thurber**, 98, of Newtown, Pa., died Jan. 5, 2020. One of the first women to graduate from Yale Divinity School, Thurber assisted in the rebuilding of the Japanese ecumenical church in Japan following World War II. She also served as director of Christian education for Central Presbyterian Church and administrative associate for the joint Southern Asia office of the Interchurch Center in New York. Thurber is survived by three sons, five grandchildren, a great-grandson, and a sister.

1945

**George R. Pettersen**, 95, of Crosby, Minn., died Dec. 3, 2019. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II, practiced medicine in Mabel and Aitkin, Minn., and worked with Project Hope in Jamaica and Brazil. Pettersen later served as the State of Minnesota's commissioner of health and as director of public health and health officer of San Bernardino County, Calif. He is survived by his wife, Eleanor, a son, two granddaughters, and two great-granddaughters.

1948

**Richard J. Kast**, 94, of Bloomington, Minn., and Winter Haven, Fla., died Dec. 26, 2019. He pursued careers in both business and music. He formed his first band, the Scotsmen, at Macalester, and later led the Dick Kast Orchestra and performed with such artists

as Les Paul, Johnny Cash, Del Shannon, and Wayne Newton. Kast is survived by two sons, seven grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

**Gloria Anderson Pellom**, 93, died Sept. 16, 2019, in the San Diego area. She is survived by a daughter, a son, and a granddaughter.

**Virginia Goven Phillips**, 91, of St. Cloud, Minn., died Dec. 10, 2017. She taught English and Spanish in Brookings, S.D., and worked as an office manager for Phillips Heating. Phillips is survived by a daughter, a son, six grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

1949

**Mary Robertson Danforth** died Jan. 19, 2020. She was a home economics teacher and raised animals on her hobby farm. Danforth is survived by two daughters, three sons, 11 grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

**Carolyn Cory Peterson**, 93, of West Milford, N.J., died Dec. 23, 2019. The emergency overnight homeless shelter she opened in 1982 has evolved into Simpson Housing Services, a nonprofit that offers shelter and support services to the homeless. Peterson received Macalester's Distinguished Citizen Award in 1984. She is survived by four children and seven grandchildren.

**Donald I. Taverna**, 94, of Roseville, Minn., died Nov. 27, 2019. He served as a navigator in the Army Air Force during World War II, attaining the rank of 2nd lieutenant, and was a longtime employee of Honeywell. Taverna is survived by two daughters, a son, seven grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

1950

**Patricia G. Crommett**, 92, of Lewistown, Ill., died Feb. 7, 2020. She taught high school English in Illinois and was an elementary schoolteacher in Missouri. Crommett is survived by a brother.

**Arlene Johnson Denzer**, 89, of Oakdale, Minn., died Oct. 22, 2016. She is survived by her husband, Kenneth Denzer '50, two daughters, two sons, nine grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

**Roland A. Francis**, 94, died Dec. 21, 2019, in Grass Valley, Calif. He served with the U.S. Marine Corps in the Pacific during World War II and pursued a career in accounting, finance, and sales. In 1978 he launched the discount securities brokerage firm Roland Francis & Co. Inc. in La Mesa, Calif. He is survived by a daughter, a son, six grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren.

**Clarence A.E. "Cricket" Johnson**, 89, of Willow Street, Pa., died Dec. 12, 2019. After serving in the U.S. Navy with an anti-submarine warfare squadron, he taught in the engineering department at the U.S. Naval Academy. Johnson returned to active duty in 1968 and served as deputy director of the Naval Reserve from 1979 to 1981. He also served as commander of naval bases in Philadelphia, New York, and Boston, and retired in 1983 as a rear admiral. Johnson is survived by three daughters and five grandchildren.

**Neal C. Nickerson**, 91, died Dec. 31, 2019. He began teaching in the Department of Educational Administration at the University of Minnesota in 1964 and retired in 2016. Nickerson received the university's President's Award for Outstanding Service in 2013. He is survived by three children, five grandchildren, and a brother.

**Carol Showalter Slack**, 91, of Issaquah, Wash., died Nov. 29, 2019. She is survived by her husband, Howard Slack, three children, five grandchildren, a great-grandchild, and sister Florence Showalter Orr '54.

**George C. Weinberg**, 92, of Bay-side, Wis., died Dec. 20, 2019. He was a retired Presbyterian minister and worked in the ticket

office at Milwaukee County Stadium and Miller Park. Weinberg is survived by a daughter, two sons, 21 grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

1951

**William K. Obst**, 93, of Cloquet, Minn., died Jan. 2, 2020. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and taught high school English in the Cloquet Public Schools. Obst is survived by his wife, Cher, a daughter, three sons, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**Helen Hilgeman Prosser**, 86, died Aug. 13, 2017. She taught in Harlingen, Texas, and Duluth, Minn. Prosser is survived by a daughter, son David Bogen '82, four grandchildren, a great-grandchild, and three brothers.

1952

**Mary Rions Arendt**, 85, of St. Paul died May 15, 2015. She worked for Minnesota Fabrics. Arendt is survived by two sons and three grandchildren.

**Trudy Hovland Genrich**, 88, of Minneapolis died Sept. 18, 2018. She taught second grade in Minneapolis during the 1950s and retired in 1993 as a secretary at an elementary school in Minneapolis. Genrich is survived by two daughters, a son, three grandchildren, and a brother.

**Cecelia Arvanitis Johnson** died Feb. 9, 2020. She is survived by her husband, Harold Johnson '52, a son, a grandson, and two sisters.

1954

**Loukas M. Angelus**, 90, died Dec. 7, 2019. He served in the U.S. Navy for more than 25 years. Angelus is survived by a daughter, a son, and two grandchildren.



**Marvin H. Kreitz**, 95, of Walnut Creek, Calif., died Jan. 22, 2020. He served with the U.S. Navy in the European Theater during World War II. Kreitz later worked for Montgomery Ward's mail order division in St. Paul and Oakland, Calif., retiring in 1986 as regional catalog sales manager. He is survived by a daughter, a son, five grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and a brother.

**Kathleen Spohn McNutt**, 95, of Austin, Texas, died Nov. 17, 2019. While living in New York, she competed on several radio quiz shows. McNutt later ran a small public relations agency and produced public service television commercials. She is survived by a daughter, two sons, eight grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and a brother.

**C. Ronald Schwisow**, 87, died Jan. 4, 2020. With his father, Schwisow founded Terrace Advertising Company, which made promotional products as well as identification and hotel key cards. He attained the rank of captain with the Minnesota Air National Guard. Schwisow is survived by a son, six grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

**William R. Swaim**, 87, died Dec. 12, 2019. He was chief of hematology and coagulation medicine at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Minneapolis and taught at the University of Minnesota School of Medicine for more than 50 years. Swaim was also a research scientist with more than 100 papers to his name, a co-founder of Kormed, Inc., and the inventor of a bone marrow biopsy device. He is survived by a daughter, three sons (including William Swaim '79), seven grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

## 1956

**Jean Lindesmith Johnson**, 86, died Jan. 23, 2020. She taught kindergarten in Denver and worked for 25 years as a paraprofessional in the Faribault,

Minn., public school system. Johnson is survived by a daughter, three granddaughters, a sister, and a brother.

**William C. McCubrey**, 84, died Dec. 6, 2019. He pursued a lifelong career in the plastics industry and founded Creighton Company in Eden Prairie, Minn., in 1968. He is survived by two daughters, five grandchildren, and his former wife, Ruth McCubrey.

**Thomas E. Nyquist**, 88, died Dec. 2, 2019. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. Nyquist was a professor of African studies at the State University of New York in New Paltz and co-founded the New York African Studies Association. He was elected to four consecutive terms as mayor of the Village of New Paltz, and, with his wife, Corinne Johnson Nyquist '57, he launched a foundation that funds scholarships and awards small grants to local charitable groups. Nyquist is survived by his wife, a daughter, son Jonathan Nyquist '80, and four granddaughters.

**Cherrol Bloom Soiseth** died Dec. 21, 2019. After earning a certificate in merchandising at the age of 60, she opened the boutique store Mimi's Two Harbors in Two Harbors, Minn. She is survived by a daughter, three sons, seven grandchildren, and sister Patricia Bloom Penshorn '53.

## 1958

**Kay Shin Keller**, 88, of Edina, Minn., died Sept. 2, 2019. She worked as a Korean-Japanese-English translator and courtroom interpreter. She was preceded in death by her husband, Roger P. Keller '57, on March 4, 2016, and is survived by two sons, five grandchildren, and four brothers (including Roy Woo Shin '58).

**Waldo R. Landquist**, 83, died Dec. 3, 2019, in Marietta, Ga. He served as pastor of several Congregational churches in Vermont, retiring after 29 years at Union Congregational Church. He is survived by his wife, Lara-

ine, two daughters, two sons, six grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

**Leonard G. Nelson**, 86, died Nov. 9, 2019. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. After working in corporate management positions, Nelson launched Len Nelson and Associates, a specialized job placement firm. He is survived by a daughter.

**Jane Manninen Ogston**, 83, of Duluth, Minn., died Jan. 27, 2020. She played the role of Miss Jane on "Tree Top House," a children's television program that aired on KDAL for 10 years, and produced "Hey There Somebody" for the same station. Ogston was named Woman of the Year by the American Business Women's Association in 1977. She is survived by two daughters and four grandchildren.

## 1961

**Phyllis J. Borchert**, 80, of Faribault, Minn., died Jan. 8, 2020. She is survived by a sister.

## 1964

**Russel J. Greenhagen**, 77, of Jefferson City, Mo., died Nov. 24, 2019. At Macalester, he was president of his senior class. He taught in and chaired the history department at St. Paul Academy and later taught at the Barstow School in Kansas City, Mo. Greenhagen earned a JD in 1986 and worked as a mediator for the Missouri Department of Labor. After his retirement, he taught political history classes at community colleges and correctional institutions. Greenhagen is survived by his wife, Karen Larvick, a daughter, and seven grandchildren.

## 1965

**Robert A. Pankonin**, 77, of Roseville, Minn., died April 17, 2019. He is survived by his wife, Caela King Pankonin '66, a daughter, two sons, and six grandchildren.

## 1968

**Lana Amundson Ahern**, 73, died Nov. 30, 2019. She taught high school in South Dakota and later worked as a computer programmer. She is survived by her partner, Rick Ahern '66, two daughters (including Jennifer Ahern '98), a son, two grandchildren, and a brother.

**James A. Jorgensen** died Jan. 3, 2020. After working for the Minnesota attorney general's office, he opened a law firm with Gordon Glendenning. Jorgensen is survived by a sister and a brother.

## 1969

**Robert C. DeBoer**, 73, died Feb. 14, 2020. With his wife, Kathy, DeBoer founded A Chance to Grow, a Minneapolis-based nonprofit that promotes the development of children and adults through brain-centered programs and services. He also created S.M.A.R.T., a neurodevelopmental approach used by 7,000 educators across the country. DeBoer received the Minnesota Charter School Pioneer Award in 2017. He is survived by his wife, a daughter, and two sisters.

**Victoria Arnold Williams**, 72, died Oct. 1, 2019. She retired after 17 years as an associate professor at St. Cloud State University. Williams was also past president of the Minnesota Association of Developmental Education. She is survived by her husband, Wayne, a daughter, two sons (including Mark Williams '92), four grandchildren, two sisters, and a brother.

## 1971

**Peter R. Knapp**, 70, of San Francisco died Dec. 4, 2019. He was a building manager for the Hennepin Center for the Arts and retired as an office manager with HP Autonomy. Knapp is survived by his mother and a brother.

## 1973

**Barbara A. Luikens**, 68, of Long Lake, Minn., died Dec. 2, 2019. She worked in diagnostic radiology at Park Nicollet Methodist Hospital and the Jane Brattain Breast Center, retiring after a 24-year career. Luikens also served on the board of directors of the Freshwater Society. She is survived by her husband, Rick Benson, three children, two grandchildren, and two sisters.

**M. Brigid McDonough**, 68, of St. Paul died Jan. 21, 2020. As a longtime attorney with the firm of Briggs & Morgan, she focused on low-income housing development and provided pro bono citizenship services to immigrants and refugees. In addition to serving on the Macalester Alumni Board and the board of the Hmong American Partnership, McDonough chaired the St. Paul Democratic Farmer-Labor Party and served as treasurer of the Klobuchar for Senate campaign. McDonough is survived by her husband, Reid McLean '72, two sisters, and a brother.

## 1974

**Francisco G. Arevalo**, 71, of Robstown, Texas, died Dec. 23, 2019. He worked for Minnesota Migrants in Action and the Nueces County Sheriff Department. Arevalo is survived by three daughters, eight grandchildren, two great-grandsons, and 11 siblings (including Viviana Arevalo Trevino '74).

## 1976

**Norman L. "Butch" Suttin**, 68, of the Lower Sioux Community in Minnesota died Nov. 26, 2019. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Vietnam War and worked as a carpenter for the federal government. Suttin was also a pit boss, a blackjack dealer, and an activist with the American Indian Movement at Wounded Knee. He is survived by four children, four grandchildren, and four siblings.

## 1978

**Gary A. Funmaker**, 73, of Black River Falls, Wis., died Jan. 27, 2020. A veteran of the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War, he was awarded a Quilt of Valor. Funmaker retired after 23 years with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and became chief executive officer of First Nation Supply in 2017. He is survived by six children, 10 grandchildren, and 10 siblings.

**Frederick D. Huebner**, 63, of Santa Fe, N.M., died Nov. 23, 2019. He was a securities attorney and partner with Helsell, Fetterman, Martin, Todd, and Hokanson in Seattle for many years. He later joined Cable, Langenbach, Kinerk, and Bauer, LLP, as special counsel, and established an arbitration and mediation practice in 2008. Huebner was also the author of six novels, including the Edgar Award nominee *Judgment by Fire*. He is survived by a daughter and two sisters (including Joanne Huebner McCree '71).

## 1979

**Steven C. Bennett**, 62, died Dec. 20, 2019, in New York City. After seven years as an assistant U.S. attorney with the Southern District of New York, Bennett began a career in commercial litigation, e-discovery, arbitration, and international law. He was a partner with the firms of Jones Day, Park Jensen Bennett, and Scarola Zubatov Schaffzin. Bennett was also an adjunct professor and lecturer at numerous law schools in the New York area. He is survived by his wife, Suzanne Telsey, two daughters, and a sister.

**Vicki Horton Watkins**, 62, died Nov. 5, 2019. She retired after 24 years as a juvenile probation officer with Milwaukee County. Watkins was also an occasional columnist for the *Milwaukee Community Journal*. She is survived by a daughter, two sons, a granddaughter, her mother, and two brothers.

# // OTHER LOSSES

**Marguerite "Peggy" Lemmon**, former director of Macalester's Alumni House, died Jan. 5, 2020, at the age of 88. She lived in Bayport, Minn. Lemmon also worked for the Minnesota



State Legislature and ran a catering business for 11 years. She is survived by a daughter, a son, four grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and a sister. "Through her role at Macalester, Peggy touched the lives of many guests to our campus and also forged some beautiful connections with students like me who were fortunate to work with her," wrote Elissa Larkin Conlon '03. "For some of us, she became a true friend with whom we kept in regular touch for years after graduation. She truly engaged with our community in meaningful ways that stretched far beyond the expectations of her job."

## 1980

**Charlotte C. Sibley**, 62, of Accord, N.Y., died Dec. 12, 2019. She represented migrant farmworkers through Florida Rural Legal Services and as managing attorney of the Farmworker Law Project of the Legal Aid Society of Mid-New York. She is survived by her husband, Douglas Adams, a sister, and a brother.

## 1985

**John R. Van Hecke**, 56, of St. Paul died Jan. 17, 2020. He was district director for Rep. Bruce F. Vento. Van Hecke also served on the St. Paul Charter Commission and Macalester's Alumni Board, and was executive director of Minnesota 2020, a public policy think tank. He is survived by his wife, Betsy, a daughter, a son, his father, and two siblings.



## "NOT ALONE"

In this issue's "Points of Struggle, Points of Pride," we chart Macalester's queer history over more than a half-century. For many alumni in the '80s, that history includes the "Not Alone" journals, in which students found community by documenting and sharing their stories. Macalester College Archives is seeking more details about this collection: if you'd like to share a "Not Alone" memory, email [archives@macalester.edu](mailto:archives@macalester.edu).



DAVID J. TURNER



You inspire us. Many of you have asked what you can do to help students during the COVID-19 crisis. While we don't know the full scope of what students will need during this time, your gift to the Macalester Student Relief Fund will help students with unexpected expenses right now and in the weeks ahead.

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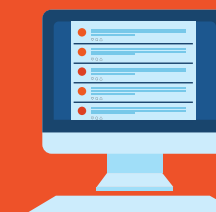
### Transportation

Gets students from campus to home destinations around the world



### Housing

Pays for housing for students unable to go home



### Distance learning

Provides computers and internet access for students in need



### Open Pantry

Aids the student-run organization to support food insecurity at Mac

Please make a gift by May 31 at [macalester.edu/student-relief-fund](https://macalester.edu/student-relief-fund)  
Thank you.

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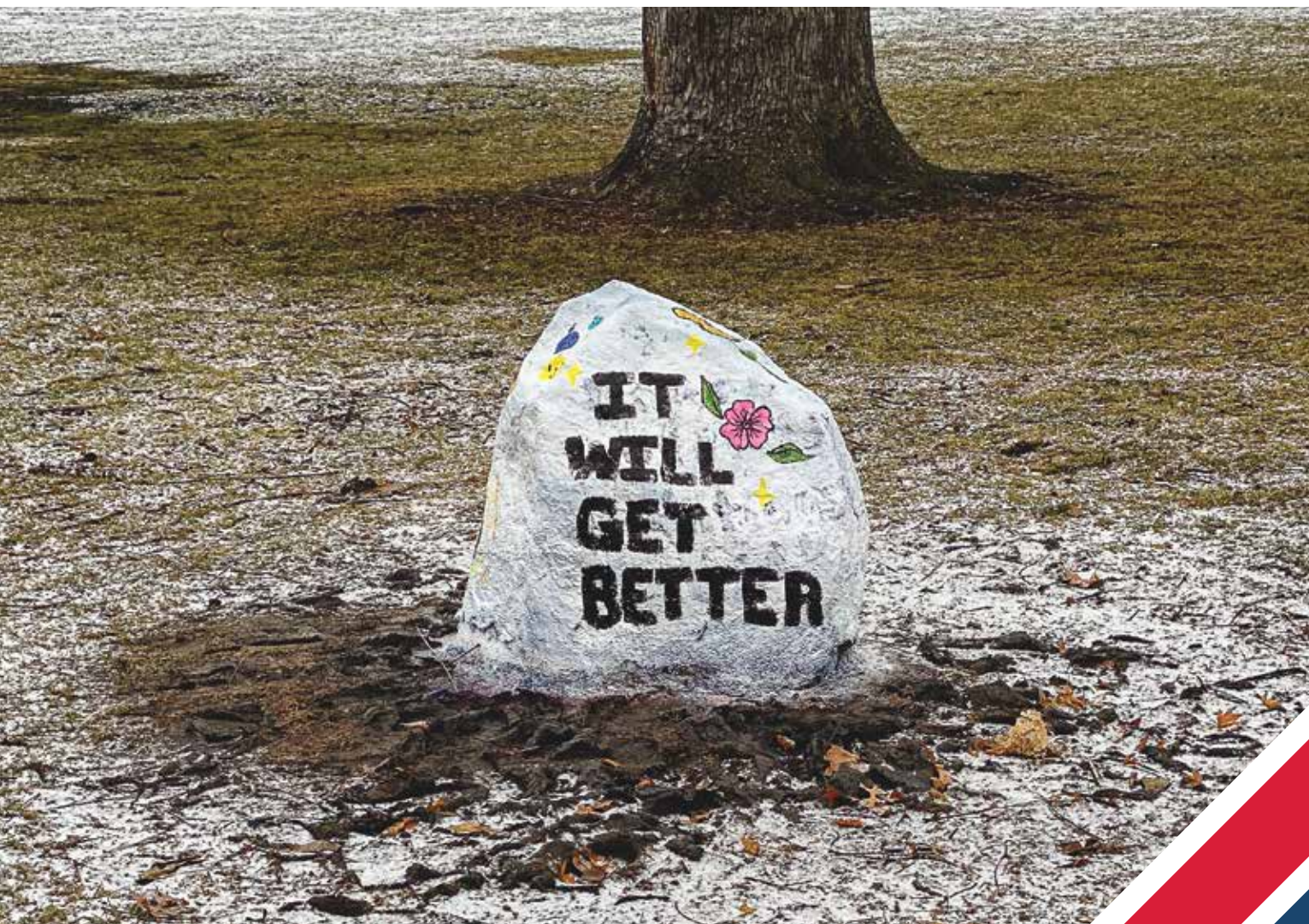
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In a season marked by uncertainty and anxiety, the Great Lawn's rock offered a reassuring message.