

MACALESTER

WINTER 2021

TODAY



Wise Words for Turbulent Times

Alumni share perspectives
on how to move forward.



10



12



24

FEATURES

Breaking New Ground with Biostatistics 10

Suzanne Dufault '15 applies a biostatistics lens to pressing public health problems, including dengue fever.

"You've Got a Chance to Make This Country Whole" 12

Mahmoud El-Kati shaped generations of students. He's no longer teaching, but his work continues.

Wise Words for Turbulent Times 18

Alumni share perspectives on how to move forward.

Democracy in Action 24

In last fall's election season, a new class immersed students in the democratic process.

Demoya Gordon Makes the Case for Justice 30

The 2006 alum fought against Prada's racist iconography—and won.

An American in Paris 32

Josh Timberlake '96 found a career that applied both of his majors and took him on an international adventure.

Lecture Notes: Rumors in History 34

Professor Karin Vélez examines how fiction can overshadow reality, even when we have all the facts.

ON THE COVER:

We asked Macalester alumni who have lived through personal and societal upheaval to share the lessons that have helped them weather turbulent storms.

ILLUSTRATION: KOTRYNA ZUKAUSKAITE



30



34

DEPARTMENTS

Correspondence 2

Sounding Board 3

1600 Grand 4

Creative theater, everyday ethics,
and images of resilience

Class Notes 36

Books 38

Weddings 42

In Memoriam 44

Last Look 48



42

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

Dr. Suzanne Rivera

VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADVANCEMENT

D. Andrew Brown

ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT FOR ENGAGEMENT

Katie Ladas

MACALESTER TODAY (Volume 109, Number 1)
is published by Macalester College. It is
mailed free of charge to alumni and friends
of the college four times a year.
Circulation is 32,000.

TO UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS:

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

TO SHARE COMMENTS OR IDEAS:

Email: mactoday@macalester.edu
Phone: 651-696-6123



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

With Gratitude

I am a pediatrician, neck-deep in the COVID-19 world and trying to understand how mRNA vaccines might work. I'm reading NIH articles and the only reason I can understand the content is because of Lin Aanonsen's cellular biology teaching and Jan Serie's immunology teaching.

Twenty-seven years later and I can still remember my verbal test for immunology, having to describe class switching and creating a Velcro model to use. Jan's immunology tests were the most intense testing experiences in all of my academic years.

Thank you to the amazing Macalester faculty—then and now. Your impact transforms and saves lives—both directly and indirectly.

Nicole Groves '94
Black Mountain, N.C.

In Memory

I was deeply saddened to hear of Professor Karen Warren's passing. Karen's impact on my life has been profound, and I know this is true for many others as well. Her enthusiasm and support were unparalleled. It was her name and recommendation that got me into graduate school. The last time we spoke in person, I was honored and proud to tell her the work I was doing professionally was a direct correlation to what she taught me. Every day, in every aspect of my life, I use the critical thinking skills Karen helped me develop. It is because of this, and many other reasons, I know she is truly Resting in Power.

Russell Tenofsky '89
San Francisco

I was touched to read of Professor Michael Keenan's death in *Macalester Today*. He was a colleague of my father's in the English Department, hence a family friend. He was also my freshman composition professor. He wore dashikis to class, lectured in a warm and welcoming style, and gave us what I have found to be sound writing advice over the years. Regarding our assignments: "Don't hand me a turd in a greasy bag!"

Ross Huelster '79
Bayfield, Wis.

CONNECT WITH US



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



Maya Suzuki Daniels '12 and Elijah Chiland '12 shared a photo of their child, Silas Mercy, enjoying *Macalester Today*.



CORRESPONDENCE POLICY

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

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

Practicing Gratitude

At the beginning of a new year, it is customary to look forward, casting off the disappointments and challenges of the previous year in favor of goals and resolutions for the days ahead. But 2020 was such an extraordinary year that I find myself still reflecting on the many losses we experienced collectively, and on the deliberate practice of gratitude I decided to undertake throughout this past holiday season as a way to forge ahead with purpose and hope for the future.

Of course, there are numerous cultural and religious traditions built around routines of ceremonial thankfulness in November and December. But I'm talking about something more intentional, a deliberate appreciation of human kindness that took on even greater resonance in the past year of grief and struggles.

When I was eight years old, my parents separated and, after weeks of nomadic "visits" to friends and neighbors who could host us for a few days at a time, my mother moved with her four young children into a studio apartment. It was late fall. As the holidays approached, our apartment soon filled with donated bunk beds, a worn couch, mismatched sheets and towels, hand-me-down clothes. The kindness of strangers was humbling. We dared not hope for the kind of Thanksgiving feast to which we previously had been accustomed because the frugality required to survive on food stamps would not permit such indulgences.

Fortunately, a beloved relative stepped forward to provide a turkey. And my mother stretched our meager resources to create some semblance of a holiday menu. It wouldn't be fancy, but there would be a Thanksgiving dinner.

So, it was a great surprise when, on the day before Thanksgiving, our new apartment's buzzer rang. Local firefighters had received information about our family's circumstances and stopped by to drop off a frozen turkey and a bag full of fixings: canned cranberry sauce, a sack of white potatoes, dinner rolls, and a pumpkin pie. Hooray! We would have a celebratory feast after all.



About an hour later, the buzzer unexpectedly sounded again. This time, it was neighborhood friends bearing a(nother) frozen turkey and a bag full of all the side dishes we would need for a holiday dinner. We laughed with joy. Three Thanksgiving dinners? What good fortune!

We scarcely had time to put away this third unexpected bounty when—you guessed it: the buzzer sounded again. This time, representatives from a local non-profit organization came to bring us all the food our family would need for ... a fourth Thanksgiving meal.

Now, this may sound like the plot of a sitcom but indeed it presented quite a predicament. The tiny refrigerator in our efficiency kitchen did not have a freezer that could hold a frozen turkey. So, my mother got to work. She cooked all four turkeys in two days and shaved off every scrap of meat before using the bones to make broth. Not only did we eat turkey on Thanksgiving Day, we also over the next few weeks ate turkey sandwiches, turkey tetrazzini, turkey hash, turkey chili, turkey rice casserole, and turkey soup.

That turkey soup is still legendary in our family. All these years later, what at the time felt like a burden of excess to four children, now in retrospect brings a tear to my eye. Because what I feel today is not aggravation about the monotony of endless turkey leftovers. It is the acute pang of gratitude for those kind people who saw we were in need and opened their hearts with kindness.

I've had numerous occasions over the past year to feel similar pangs of tear-inducing gratitude. To members of the Mac family who welcomed my spouse and me with affection and generosity over a summer when so many were experiencing pain and grief. To our students who studiously upheld all the COVID-19 precautions required by our college's Community Commitment and successfully reduced the risks of viral spread. To faculty and staff who transformed every aspect of our programs to deliver a Mac experience under the most challenging of circumstances. And to our alumni, the largest branch of the Mac family tree, who have sustained us with gifts of time, talent, and treasure despite the many challenges they face in their own communities.

Last year brought great difficulties, and more sorrow than some of us thought we could hold. It also brought extraordinary displays of heroism, courage, and fortitude. Did we know we were capable of withstanding such tests of our character and compassion? Perhaps not. But we rose to the challenges and can look ahead with great optimism, because the many acts of kindness and solidarity we experienced in 2020 will sustain us as we build a new and better version of normal.

As we embark on this new year that promises new beginnings, I hope we each can find ways to practice deliberate gratitude for overcoming great difficulties together.

Dr. Suzanne Rivera is president of Macalester College.

1600
GRAND

Global Contagions, Past and Present

"It's like taking a course on fire narratives while living in a burning building," international studies professor David Chioni Moore says of his newest course, "Global Contagions, Past and Present." "I never could've imagined telling my class that I'd be late to our course on pandemics because I had to get a COVID test."

Still, Moore says, when he—like everyone—became consumed with news of the rapidly spreading coronavirus pandemic last February, he knew this was a course he needed to teach.

"This isn't an area of expertise for me, the epidemiology and virology of the whole thing," Moore says. "But I am a specialist in relations between literature and cultures and identities, and I knew that there was a 2,600-year-old tradition of writing about pandemics."

On a Monday in November, the class is comparing the 2011 Hollywood disaster film *Contagion* to other historical texts they've studied—including Albert Camus's *The Plague*, the 1947 novel exploring a bubonic plague outbreak sweeping a French-Algerian city; and Daniel Defoe's *A Journal of the Plague Year*, an account of surviving the 1665 plague epidemic in London.

The students, who watched the film over the weekend, are eagerly participating and sharing opinions—the class has an easy camaraderie that has become increasingly rare in the age of Zoom. Some feel the movie was almost too realistic, while others critique the scenes of drugstore looting and violence as overly dramatic. Moore notes, however, that it would only take another "two or three degrees of disaster" to make some of those scenes a reality.

Cande Torres Jimenez '22 (Salta, Argentina) says what has surprised her most about the course is the consistency of human nature. "We think that we're evolving, that we're more prepared to face these kinds of troubles," she says. "In reality, we've reacted to this pandemic the same way we've reacted to pandemics throughout history."

Torres Jimenez recalls an article the class read from the 1918 flu pandemic, detailing the U.S. national resistance to wearing masks and closing public spaces.

"If you change the date on the article, it could easily be about COVID," she says.

When Lexi Petronis '23 (Richmond, Va.) read *The Plague*, she was particularly moved by the description of the monotony of everyday life while waiting for the pandemic to end. "It talks about the endless cycle of waking up every day and feeling like you have no purpose except for the collective," Petronis says. "I was like, yeah, Camus does not have to tell me twice."

Moore hopes the course will contextualize the experience of the coronavirus pandemic for his students, and give them the tools they need to explore and critique the many narratives emerging from the disaster.

"Pandemics are a very old human phenomenon," Moore says. "Humanity has lived and died through these events many times before. It's really important who tells the stories from these experiences, and how they are told." —Rebecca Edwards '21

PAIN, RAGE, AND HOPE



Last year, as planning got underway for the annual art exhibit in Olin-Rice's Smail Gallery, environmental studies professor Roopali Phadke suggested something new: a student-curated exhibit about resilience.

What emerged by fall—nearly 20 images now displayed on the gallery walls—grew into an archive of what students experienced in 2020. “The exhibit features images of pain, rage, and hope from a historic spring and summer—all through the eyes of Macalester students scattered across the country,” writes exhibit curator Kori Suzuki ’21 (Richmond, Calif.), who invited submissions from students and coordinated two rounds of judging with support from art professor Eric Carroll.

Gabriela Diaz ’24 (Tucson, Ariz.) wanted her submission to show a turning point in her perspective in 2020. As demonstrations surged nationwide after George Floyd was killed by police, Diaz’s family asked her to stay home because of rising COVID cases in Arizona, so she decided to make posters and share them on social media.

Diaz snapped a self-portrait with a tripod, then distributed the posters to friends around Tucson to use as yard signs. “As someone who had not been vocal about social justice or politics before, this photograph sent a clear message to my friends and family: my time of being silent was over,” says Diaz, whose image was awarded the exhibit’s grand prize. “It’s easy to get worn out and overwhelmed by the continuous effects of systemic racism, but we must remind ourselves that it is a privilege to look the other way. This photo depicts my eagerness to use my platform to ignite change.”



SINGING AT SUNSET

“And today, the Chorale had an opportunity to gather and sing together in person. We cherish moments like this. #heymac”

 [macchoirs](#)



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: NATALIE PARSONS '23, NOAH DAVIDSON '23, GABRIELA DIAZ '24, AND PALLAVI SHOROFF '22.

ANNA SCHLOERB '23

1600
GRAND



PROTOCOLS IN PRACTICE

ATHLETICS

When Athletics Department teams were cleared in mid-September to gather for practice for the first time in six months, athletics director Donnie Brooks's message was one of strict caution: "We're going to have the safest practices you can outline."

That meant implementing a return-to-training plan—crafted with guidance from the CDC, NCAA, and campus partners—that started with a step back: teams created a Phase 0.5 instead of starting at the Phase 1 safety protocols.

Coaches and student-athletes began gathering in groups of six, 10 feet apart, with face coverings. Coaches separated the on-campus athletes—primarily first-years—from returning athletes living

off-campus, scheduling duplicate practices or spreading out across a large field in separate groups. Strength and conditioning staff retrofitted the Leonard Center to space equipment appropriately.

Their work and care paid off. Skill development replaced competition this past fall, but teams were able to move through two more phases. Training groups increased from six to 10 to 16, still physically distanced and with face coverings for everyone. Club sports started to develop practice plans. "Our students and coaches followed the plan, and they didn't try to rush," Brooks says.

For many coaches, including second-year women's basketball coach Katie Kollar,

team feedback has guided their approach as much as each phase's protocols. "All fall, we've been finding everyone's comfort level," she says. The team stayed at Phase 1 for a month, with a maximum of two players per basket, six feet apart, with no contact. "With Phase 1.5, we can have 15 minutes of live play per practice, and we're playing five on five for the first time since March. That makes a big difference, but we had to make sure everyone was comfortable with that—we paced a bit slower, and that was the right move. There's a lot of joy in the gym."

By early November, Brooks's message had turned to gratitude: to the campus partners who helped build the plan; to coaches and other department staff who have reimaged and supported their teams in new ways; and to the students, faculty, and staff for following the Mac Stays Safer community commitment so closely and helping to keep the college's overall COVID-19 case numbers low. "We had an incredibly safe return to training, with zero stoppages in practice," Brooks says. "Mac students overall—not just athletes—are doing a really good job of following the community commitment."

With all campus activities occurring remotely from mid-November through January per the college's plan for the academic year, practices are paused again, but efforts will continue across the department to build community and connections for both current and prospective students. Brooks has challenged his coaches to recruit the strongest class of student-athletes in college history, and new recruiting possibilities have emerged: in November, the annual Junior Prospect Day program moved online, bringing in students who may not be able to visit campus as easily. Kollar says her days include lots of check-ins with current and prospective students. Student-athletes play a role in the recruiting work, too: many have been Zooming with prospective students, in place of overnights in residence halls.

More uncertainties loom ahead regarding spring competition, but Brooks doesn't rule out the possibility of partnering for friendly competition in the first half of 2021 with other institutions that are being equally cautious and testing rigorously. "We expected it would be a big challenge to keep students motivated with no games in sight," he says. "But our students have this will and desire to keep going, with a glimmer of hope that we may return to some kind of competition when things start to get better."



Remote Lessons

After interning remotely at Goldman Sachs last summer, Theo Nsereko '21 (Johnston, Iowa) will return to the company in July to begin full-time work as a private equity analyst. For the economics and statistics major, it's the latest development in a longtime and deepening interest in finance.

One early turning point: in his sophomore year, Nsereko took economics professor Joyce Minor's "Deals" class, which brings in alumni in finance to talk about their industry and career paths. Nsereko kept in touch with several speakers, and that led to an internship two summers ago at Lavien Group, an investment fund run by Macalester trustee Michael Huber '90. "From there, I was able to network and meet many more alumni, who helped me prepare for interviews and were otherwise really helpful," he says. "That eventually led to an interview with Goldman Sachs."

Nsereko had planned on spending last summer in New York City, but remote work had some surprising benefits. "I could get in touch with senior people who I may not have gotten the chance to interact with if the internship had been in person," he says. "I also was able to work with colleagues in London. The remote setting did require me to be more proactive in asking for help—conversations had to be a little bit more formal and structured."

And as he applied the financial and economic theory he learned in his classes, Nsereko also got new perspective on his classmates. "At Goldman, I interacted with peers from many different backgrounds and countries and felt capable of relating to them as a result of going to a college with such a focus on globalism," he says. "I'm more appreciative of the impact of having a wide range of opinions and expertise all working together. Mac has shown me that different life experiences determine the lens through which people analyze problems, which definitely holds true in the corporate world as well."

—Rebecca Edwards '21

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

Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science Department chair **Susan Fox** teaches courses on artificial intelligence, robotics, and machine learning.



Any standout books you've read recently?

I've been rereading a lot of books lately—comfort reading. I did recently read a book by Connie Willis called *Passage*. I love Connie Willis. She does science fiction-y sorts of books, but with a lot of deep ideas. *Passage* is about near-death experiences.

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

In terms of books that I keep coming back to, I like Jane Austen novels. My favorite is *Persuasion*.

What book is crucial to understanding your academic niche?

Isaac Asimov's *I, Robot* is a short story collection that's full of interesting ideas about the limitations of robotics. His books are not really about robots so much as artificially intelligent creatures. And he sets up these basic laws that humans would put in place to protect themselves from robot misbehavior. Robots can't harm humans; they have to do what humans say, and then only after that are they allowed to think about self-preservation. But really, each of the stories in *I, Robot* is pointing out the flaws and limitations of that system and the edge cases—the places where it doesn't work out right for one reason or another.

Any guilty-pleasure reads?

I read a lot of science fiction, so a fair amount of that is guilty-pleasure reading. This is an old series, but Anne McCaffrey wrote a series of books about dragons, the *Dragonriders of Pern*. And they are definitely guilty-pleasure reads—but I do go back and reread them once in a while because they're fun.

What one book would you recommend to everyone at Macalester?

You know, I don't have any deep philosophical books to recommend. But there's a really fabulous current science fiction series called *The Expanse* by James S. A. Corey. It's a really interesting near-future series with a lot of great subtext about racism and different social issues coming into play.

—Rebecca Edwards '21

Whose shelf should we visit next?

Email mactoday@macalester.edu.

CREATIVE STAGES

The opening night of *Perspectives* in November was unlike any other in the Theater and Dance Department's history. Audience members didn't sit in the theater, waiting for the curtain to rise. Instead, they sat in front of their computer screens, waiting for the livestream to begin.

When the pandemic began, co-directors Bob Rosen and Darrius Strong had no idea what the fall show would look like. "Like everybody else, we tried to guess what was going to happen," Rosen explains. "And then we can either say, 'Too bad we can't create anything because this isn't how we work'—or 'What do we have, and how do we create?'"

The department decided to combine the theater and dance shows, and as the pandemic evolved, ultimately landed on the structure of a performance composed of solo pieces, all rehearsed on Zoom and performed on livestream.

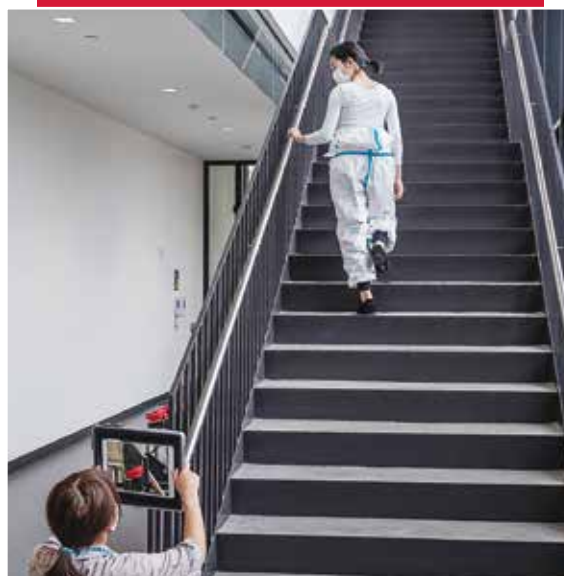
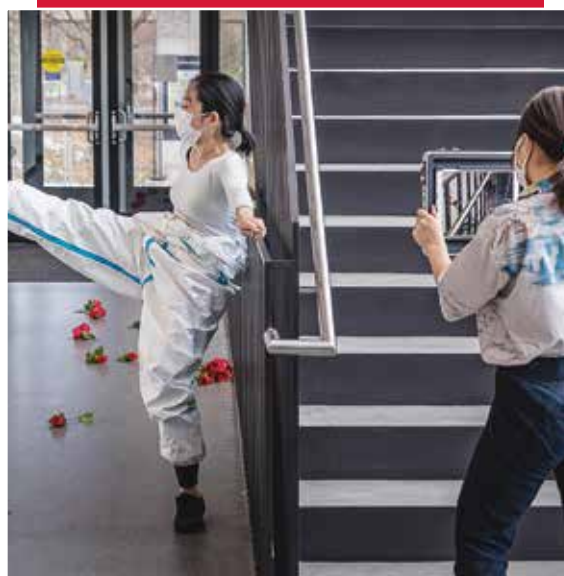
Though it arose out of necessity, the format is a perfect distillation of the new realities of the pandemic, and the title of the show. The performers' perspectives are not only the pieces they devised, but literally situated within their own universes, which for many have shrunk to the size of their homes.

Even though the performers are isolated, their experiences are anything but. Early in the process, cast members reflected on their pieces in writing. When assistant choreographer Mai Moua Thao '22 (St. Paul) read through their words, she immediately noticed the connections. Unity emerged at the very beginning, she says, and it became explicit in the show. Though most of the cast members perform in isolation, there's a moment where the camera moves from one performer in one space of the theater building to the next. "It's different spaces officially, but we literally see the connection between them," stage manager Asher de Forest '21 (Kirkland, Wash.) explains.

Indeed, the development of *Perspectives* has ultimately been a story of connection, despite the pandemic-related constraints. Holiday O'Bryan '24 (Reno, Nev.) reflects that the production created a chance to connect with her classmates outside of class. "It's been such a special experience to be making something with other people every day," she says. Thao echoes this sentiment: "The sense of community has kept me grounded."

"It's difficult to do theater this way, and of course I hope for all the reasons that we can go back to doing theater in person again," de Forest says. "But given everything, it's been really cool to see people being totally creative and willing to make something together in this new way."

—Rachel Rostad '15



Mai Moua Thao '22 (St. Paul) records a *Perspectives* performance by Kanon Nakajima '23 (Chiba Chiba, Japan).



Though the early snowfall melted quickly, the Great Lawn was briefly home to an October snowman.

Now in its third year, the college's *Big Questions* series digs into the discussions happening in the Mac community. In November, President Suzanne Rivera talked with philosophy professor Sam Asarnow about how we balance our commitment to the greater good with our desire to exercise personal autonomy in a pandemic.

PRESIDENT RIVERA: What questions have you been asking yourself as a philosopher who thinks about ethical decision-making?

PROFESSOR ASARNOW: One of the first things I tell my "Introduction to Ethics" students is that, every time you make a decision, you have an opportunity to do some ethics—if you're willing to think about that decision in light of your values and the possible effects of your behavior on other people. That's true whether it's a big



life-shaping decision, or an everyday decision.

Often, not very much depends on whether you're going to go to a restaurant or the grocery store.

But, in a pandemic, if I go out into the world, there's a possibility that I might get sick or get a family member, someone else, or many people sick. When those are the risks of ordinary, everyday activities, suddenly these decisions become ethically weighty.

To be honest, those decisions are what I've been thinking about the most lately.

Should I go to the grocery store if all I need is a bag of coffee beans? Should I go to a restaurant? Should I go to the barber to get my hair professionally cut? These decisions weigh on me heavily. I'm not sure if I've made all of them correctly.

In addition to the costs of morbidity and mortality imposed on us by the pandemic, we're also facing what philosopher Jennifer Morton has called ethical costs—the costs of being in a situation where you have to make tough decisions all the time. Some are psychological: the psychological stress and anxiety of not knowing the right thing to do. Some of these costs are more strictly ethical: the costs of perhaps making some difficult choices in ways that, on reflection, we regret. Nobody's perfect. We all make mistakes.

I've been trying to bring myself into a place where I can feel more compassion for myself when I realize I've not



always done the right thing, and where I can feel more compassion for others when I realize they've made decisions that maybe I wouldn't have made.



Listen to the rest of their conversation and dozens of others by visiting macalester.edu/bigquestions—and subscribe to the *Big Questions* series wherever you get your podcasts.

Breaking New Ground with Biostatistics

Suzanne Dufault '15 applies a biostatistics lens to pressing public health problems, including dengue fever.

BY ALEXANDRA MCLAUGHLIN '16

The world is one step closer to an end to dengue fever and other deadly mosquito-borne diseases because of the biostatistics work of Suzanne Dufault '15.


Dengue occurs in tropical areas and sickens nearly 400 million people a year. It kills 25,000. While a first dengue infection looks like a severe cold, a second infection can be deadly. Victims may suffer internal bleeding and require constant hospital attention.

"Your chance of survival depends on the resources where you live," Dufault says. When dengue is left untreated, the death rate can reach a staggering 20 percent. Neither an effective vaccine nor an antiviral treatment exists.

Wolbachia may be the answer. The natural bacterium lives in around 60 percent of insect species, but not the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito that transmits dengue, Zika, and many other viruses. *Wolbachia* prevents the virus from replicating inside mosquito cells; modifying mosquitoes to carry *Wolbachia* can block virus transmission. In 2016, the nonprofit World Mosquito Program (WMP) launched a trial of this biological technology in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, releasing the *Wolbachia*-carrying mosquitoes to randomly designated parts of the city.

In the years following the release, dengue fever rates in these areas were 77 percent lower than in areas that did not receive the *Wolbachia*-treated mosquitoes. Bolstered by this evidence, in the next decade, the WMP hopes to release *Wolbachia* mosquitoes in areas containing half a billion people at risk of dengue.





“Biostatistics is involved in every medical miracle you can think of, every improvement of quality of life.”

“It’s rare to see an intervention with this high of an efficacy, especially for an infectious disease,” says Dufault, who joined the WMP research team while pursuing her PhD in biostatistics at the University of California–Berkeley School of Public Health. After graduating in 2020, she was selected for a two-year postdoctoral research position to continue assisting the WMP’s efforts to eliminate dengue. Along with examining questions from the Yogyakarta trial, Dufault investigates methodological questions that arise in other WMP sites or that remain unanswered in the realm of infectious disease epidemiology more broadly.

Her adviser, Nicholas Jewell, was the Yogyakarta study’s lead trial statistician. An expert on infectious-disease interventions, Jewell likened the *Wolbachia* intervention’s effectiveness to that of condoms preventing the spread of HIV.

The study required a new design—called cluster-randomized test-negative trial—to relate people-based outcomes to a mosquito-based intervention. Dufault and Jewell developed statistical methods for the study.

The results illustrate the groundbreaking research emerging from biostatistics. By applying statistical principles to questions and problems in medicine, biology, and public health, this field helps us interpret scientific data and understand chronic diseases, cancer, human development, and environmental health.

Dufault credits Macalester for changing her trajectory. Upon arriving at Macalester, “I had no idea how to write a proof,” she says. Proof-based classes like calculus were not available in her rural Minnesota hometown. During her first exam in Professor Vittorio Addona’s probability class, Dufault drew pictures to show her work.

“At the bottom of the exam, he had written, ‘Very good, but let’s meet and talk about proof writing,’” Dufault says. “We sat in his office, and he walked me through how to write a proof. He never doubted that I could do it.”

In 2014, Dufault’s passion for biostatistics ignited after Addona encouraged her to apply for a

University of Minnesota summer training program in the subject.

“The first speaker talked about how biostatistics is involved in every medical miracle you could think of, every improvement of quality of life,” Dufault says. “It was the perfect clicking together of the things I really wanted to do.”

At Berkeley, Dufault taught several graduate-level courses, among them a 120-student statistics course. For three summers, she instructed international doctoral students in Italy.

Along with teaching, Dufault tackled research. One project investigated genetic predictors of breast cancer outcomes in a cohort of a quarter-million women in the U.K. Another looked at the impact of the declining American auto industry on suicide and self-injury in autoworkers. The study suggested that rates of self-harm are affected by whether people feel secure about the future of their job. “This is really important as we see the impact of COVID-19 and the death of a lot of industries,” Dufault says.

A project she’ll publish soon with UC Berkeley School of Public Health professor Amani Allen creates a scale to assess the anticipation of racism and discrimination in Black women. A growing body of research has identified the harmful toll that prolonged stress exposure can have, physically and chemically, within the body. Recent work suggests that the chronic anticipation of stress can itself trigger similar biological dysregulation. “The better we can measure that anticipation, the better we can measure the health impacts,” Dufault says.

When she completes her postdoc in December, Dufault hopes to join the faculty of an institution where she can continue biostatistical research and incorporate the approach she admired in her Mac professors: patience, a willingness to experiment with teaching styles, and an open-door policy.

“Sometimes I think, if I hadn’t gone liberal arts and had just focused on math and statistics, would I be a better biostatistician?” Dufault says. “I firmly believe that answer is no. The liberal arts degree enriches your ability to be involved in any kind of project that has meaning.” **M**

Alexandra McLaughlin ’16 is a freelance writer based in Macon, Ga.

“ YOU’VE GOT A CHANCE TO MAKE THIS COUNTRY WHOLE ”

When you speak with former history professor Mahmoud El-Kati, you’ll find yourself needing a pen.

He has a book recommendation for almost any topic—and drops references with an ease that can be intimidating. I know this firsthand: When we spoke for this article, he wasted almost no time. “*Man’s Most Dangerous Myth* by Ashley Montagu did a lot for me to understand that race is in fact a myth; it has no scientific basis at all,” he says. “But a myth can create reality.”

His deftness is inspiring, but it’s also something more: For generations of Macalester students, especially Black students, it’s been a lifeline. Professor El-Kati introduced them to themselves—through ideas and activism—igniting a kind of self-discovery that’s hard to articulate.

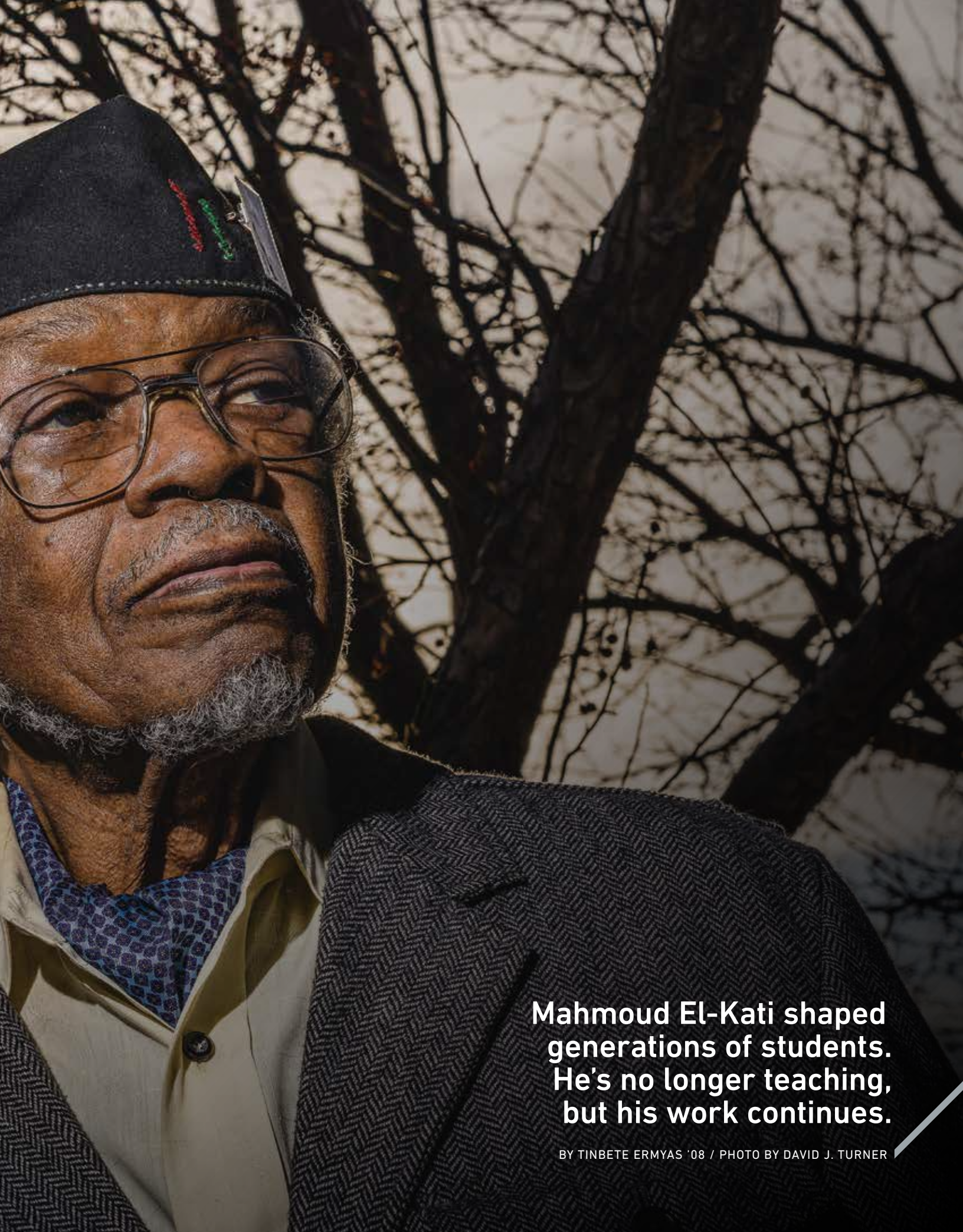
El-Kati came to Macalester in 1970, in the early days of the college’s Expanded Educational Opportunities (EEO) program. That was a multi-year effort to expand access to Macalester so the campus would be “more representative of the economic, social, cultural, and racial diversity of the entire nation,”

according to the 1968 program proposal.

It brought scores of students of color from across the country to Macalester each year. The student body quickly diversified—by some estimates, leaping from 2 percent students of color from before the program to 15 percent in 1969, when the first EEO class arrived. “In the heyday, we had a Hispanic house. We had a Black house. We had a Native American house...We didn’t have one cultural space, we had three,” says Kathleen Pinkett ’75. “And so it was really a community. Because in classes—not all, but some—professors didn’t know quite how to deal with us.”

Melvin Collins ’75 has similar memories, recalling the breadth of diversity among the student body, but also tension. “There were clearly some people who didn’t feel as comfortable with the presence of students of color on campus,” Collins says. “And for us, being on campus was like a culture shock. It was like we existed in two different worlds.”





Mahmoud El-Kati shaped generations of students. He's no longer teaching, but his work continues.

BY TINBETE ERMVAS '08 / PHOTO BY DAVID J. TURNER

Enter El-Kati, whose presence on campus also represented a shift of sorts. He began teaching at Macalester through the college's efforts to recruit faculty from diverse backgrounds, like activism: "The people who came out of the movement brought, partly, a new set of knowledge from the Black community."

That knowledge came from deep ties to the community, which he built over years of activism in the Twin Cities. The bulk of it centered on The Way, a north Minneapolis community center that became a hub of Black activism and thought. It was a physical space, but it was also something more: "We considered ourselves part of the Black Power Movement, plain and simple," El-Kati says. "The Way was a comprehensive movement to make the lives of Black people better."

El-Kati ran The Way's educational programming, which took him all over the region. He was involved in educating school-aged children, university students, and prisoners about African American history, which was itself a radical act: "We had an unabashed respect for Black people," he says. "We were telling the white supremacist doctrine—not the people, but the doctrine—to go to hell."

El-Kati says this was The Way's broader mission—addressing all the ways in which Black people experience injustice, which meant thinking about the totality of their lives. This ethos—a deep love and appreciation of the African diaspora and dismantling white supremacy—undergirds much of what El-Kati does, which he attributes to his lifelong struggle for Black liberation: "Movements define you; you don't define movements."

THE HEAD AND THE HEART

El-Kati brought to the classroom not just learnedness but passion. What he knew, he learned through struggle, so you could feel something in his courses: "He was one of those professors where you didn't want to miss a class, because whether we were discuss-

ing a book that we read, or we were just having a conversation, there was always a memorable experience that we would get," says Matthew Reid '01.

Now an educator himself, Reid is in awe of all the responsibilities El-Kati juggled. "He taught two courses with us at Macalester, but then he would spend hours also going to teach high school students in north Minneapolis," he recalls. "I think he had the nick-

name of the mayor of St. Paul at the time as well. Everybody knew him."

That connection—between academics and activism, the head and the heart—comes up a lot for alumni reflecting on his legacy. He was a mentor—an intellectual home that grew into something more.

In my conversations with alumni, we reminisced about what brought us to Macalester—that critical time in a young person's life, where you're thinking about your place in the world. But for Black students, something almost always hung over those questions: What does it mean to become an adult in a

country where you're framed as a problem? Crossing that threshold into adulthood can be especially tricky, and they often had a mountain of questions. El-Kati would help navigate the treacherous terrain.

"All individuals are coming into their own in college," says Collins, "but there was also a Black, Hispanic, Native American dynamic as well, in terms of how we operate in this environment. El-Kati began to fill in the missing pieces of history. He would always provide us with information, but he also taught us to think critically about what you read because there's a lot of misinformation out there that fits a white supremacist narrative. And so, he provided texts and perspectives that I found helpful right away."

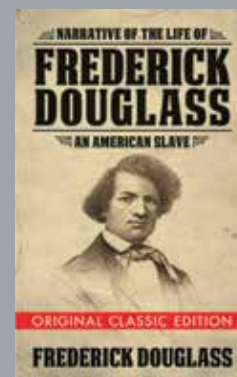
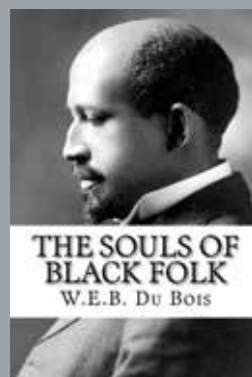
Reid found that reframing useful, too. "One day, we talked about lynchings across the South, and El-Kati made a point to say the oldest terrorist organization is the Ku Klux Klan. And some

**"MOVEMENTS
DEFINE YOU;
YOU DON'T
DEFINE
MOVEMENTS."**

READING LIST

PROFESSOR EL-KATI is known for his deep understanding of African American history and his book references. We asked alumni to share the formative books he introduced to them.

Stanley M. Berry '75



folks in class challenged that. He said, 'If you think about it, what did they do? They inflicted terror. They targeted people. They had the power.'

Reid says that was radical at the time, but shifted his understanding of how we think about white supremacy. "Even now, when folks talk about the white nationalist movement—that's terrorism," he says. "I keep saying—El-Kati, God bless him, has been saying this for 60 years."

El-Kati's classes centered the experiences of people of African descent—and in a way that became a teaching tool itself: "The American ideology of white supremacy: that's what we've always been fighting," he says. "We insisted that the history of African people from the continent to slavery to now be reflected in the curriculum—that's what the Black Studies movement was about."

For Pinkett, that logic meant El-Kati's lessons were spaces of freedom, equal parts education and self-discovery. "El-Kati's classes were my first real history classes on the truth about American history," she says. "If you remember American history from 11th grade, you heard about slavery for a hot minute, and that's it. There was no Black History Month back in the early '70s. I felt like I was finally learning about an America that had not been taught before."

In this way, unlearning was central to El-Kati's teaching. He challenged students to not only *think* about how to dismantle white supremacy, but also how to bring that vision to fruition: "He would introduce us to significant folk in the African American community—people who work for the Urban League or The Way, places where folks could volunteer. He was always about connecting academics to the community. It's not like we live in isolation," recalls Collins. "El-Kati would say you're going to go to school to have an impact on the community where you live. He was good at exposing us to that."

Growing up in north Minneapolis, Stanley M. Berry '75 knew El-Kati at the peak of the professor's work with The Way. "As kids, our knowledge of Africa and Africans was rooted in Tarzan movies, and the clownish images of our people in the media and as mascots for products and other entities," he says. "Mahmoud El-Kati was my introduction to Black consciousness along with a kind of self-awareness previously unknown to me and many others in my community."

That connection strengthened at Macalester, where El-Kati's classes helped Berry gain confidence through education that stayed with him: "Mahmoud taught us about Africa's pivotal role in mathematics, science, and governance. By dispelling the negative stereotypes that burdened our healthy development, Mahmoud guided the immeasurable elevation of our self-esteem," he says. "He taught me to bring Black awareness and consciousness into all aspects of my personal and professional life."

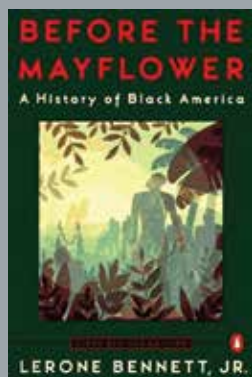
El-Kati not only instilled a sense of duty in his students, he

led by example. He says his Macalester colleagues supported his activist work in the community: "The people in the History Department were really good to me. They said that I could do whatever I want to do, so long as I'm teaching our classes and engaging the students and being of service to the school. I enjoyed my colleagues."

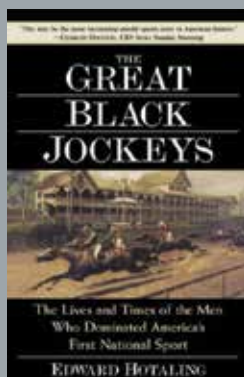
His time at Macalester wasn't without tension, however. When we spoke, I asked what it was like when the EEO program was stopped—and with it the large number of students of color who came to campus. It took years for the number of students of color to approach EEO levels again, and the lack of diversity was palpable. At the time, El-Kati says it felt like Black students were expendable, but that he always felt the need to stay—in part to support Black students, but also to change the institution: "This is work. We came to transform a community. I want a confrontation with wrong and injustice."



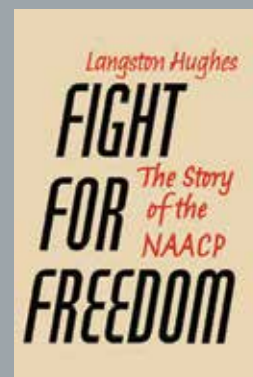
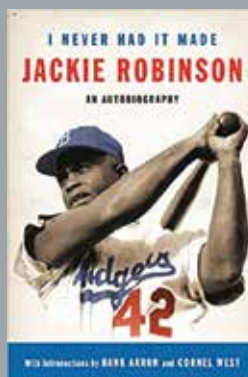
Melvin Collins '75



Matthew Reid '01



Kathy Pinkett '75



CONTINUING A LEGACY

The fervor El-Kati brought to his teaching and activism lives on in an endowed lectureship. In 2008, Berry, Bertram M. Days '74, and Ava B. Days established the Mahmoud El-Kati Distinguished Lectureship in American Studies (see p. 17). According to former department chair Professor Duchess Harris, the lectureship is a way "to celebrate that El-Kati had been the vanguard, and that he had opened the doors for us to enter."

The lectureship brings to campus public intellectuals who engage race. El-Kati says it's been exciting to see the speakers who've come to Macalester, like Jelani Cobb, a historian and staff writer at *The New Yorker*, who has become a prolific voice on race and justice in recent years. "He even lectured in the community when he came to speak at Macalester," El-Kati says. "For me, those who lecture at Macalester should also lecture in the community."

Given his decades-long involvement in the struggle for racial justice, El-Kati says the need for this type of intellectual engagement is crucial, especially given the spate of racial violence in recent years. "Pandora's box has been opened in a way that it never has been," he says. "All the best and the worst about America is out of the box. You've got a chance to make this country whole or continue along the same line to being governed by the doctrine of white supremacy."

ON FREEDOM

I have a confession: I've been covering El-Kati with journalistic distance—and it's been difficult. That's because I came to know him early on in my Macalester career. I would often run into him in the MAX Center, in the office of Sedric McClure, who was then the head of the Emerging Scholars Program. I learned early on that El-Kati had three adult children and that one of them, Stokley, was the lead singer of Mint Condition—the R&B group I spent hours listening to as a child. I had to learn more.

Over the years, I came to cherish those impromptu run-ins with El-Kati, which would inevitably turn into a lecture I didn't know I needed, complete with book recommendations and names to Google later in my dorm room.

But something happened in those encounters—a thing that came up over and over in my discussions with alumni: I gained a better sense of the world, and as a result, my place in it. My mind began grasping a language to articulate things I'd always felt but didn't know how to express. And that proved foundational as I began my ascent into adulthood.

Even though I began college after El-Kati had stopped teaching, his presence on campus lingered—and he would even regularly attend campus events. A favorite moment of mine came during my senior year, when feminist activist Angela Davis came to speak. She was talking about the American prison system and its connection to slavery, and she asked the audience to define slavery.

A voice in the crowd was slight but powerful: "It was a social death." It was El-Kati, in true form. Davis turned her head toward him, picking up the ball he just threw her: "Yes, Orlando Patterson says slavery was a social death..." I remember her saying, citing the Harvard sociologist's seminal work. *Did El-Kati just drop a book reference to Angela Davis?* I thought to myself.



I recall that moment often—less because of the stardom that propelled it and more because of the way it changed how *I* thought about slavery. It wasn't merely a discrete historical event; its legacy impacts so much of the inequities we see today. So many of the things *I* had experienced. That changed everything.

When I relayed the anecdote last fall, El-Kati chuckled, as if to suggest he'd recommend the same book if that moment happened all over again. Then, he became professorial in a way that was cathartic: "And that's what Black people suffer from—a kind of invisibility, that's a kind of social death. The way I think of it, a social death is when you were slaves and segregated and you weren't reflected in the messages and images and symbols of what America was."

I then confessed it was that logic that brought me to storytelling: I wanted to see the world and say something about it as a Black person. And not just to say something, but *do* something in the process: Shift our understanding of the world by making people of African descent central to it.

He agreed: "That's the definition of freedom."

Despite having stopped teaching at Macalester in 2003, El-Kati rejects the word "retire"—when you're engaged in dismantling white supremacy, your work is never really done. When asked how he defines this chapter in his life, there was some contemplation: "I keep doing the same thing, just a little bit slower." He paused for a second, then quickly added: "But that's about it." **M**

Tinbete Ermyas '08 is an editor at National Public Radio in Washington, D.C.



2007



1999

THE EL-KATI LECTURESHIP

The Mahmoud El-Kati Distinguished Lecture-ship endowment was launched in 2008 by Dr. Stanley M. Berry '75, Bertram M. Days '74, and Ava B. Days, and has grown into a continuing effort by alumni and friends


to honor Mahmoud El-Kati's career as a lecturer, writer, and commentator on the African American experience. The lecture-ship is grounded in the American Studies Department, which the college created in 2003 as an academic focal point for studying race and ethnicity after El-Kati stopped teaching at Macalester. That marked a key step toward a new era, professor and former department chair Duchess Harris says: one that recognized both the centrality of race in U.S. social life and the need for institutional

support of scholarship on racial categories and racialized experiences.

With funds from the lectureship's endowment, the American Studies Department brings distinguished scholars to campus—building crucial opportunities for theory to meet practice. Each scholar's extended engagement includes a public presentation, classroom appearances, and candid conversations with students, faculty, and the local community about history, race, and equity issues.

Previous years' scholars include: **JELANI COBB** "The Half-Life of Freedom: Race and Justice in America Today" • **CATHY COHEN** "Democracy Remixed: Black Youth and the Future of American Politics" • **MARGO NATALIE CRAWFORD** "Experimental Blackness: When 'Black' and 'Post-Black' Meet" • **HARRY ELAM** "Struggling with Racial Legacies: Adrienne Kennedy and the Power of African American Theatre" • **E. PATRICK JOHNSON** "Going Home Ain't Always Easy: Southern (Dis) Comfort and the Politics of Performing History" • **MARC LAMONT HILL** "From Ferguson to Gaza: Reimagining Black-Palestinian Transnational Solidarity" • **MARK ANTHONY NEAL** "Looking for Leroy: (IL) Legible Black Masculinities." For more information on the lectureship and how you can get involved, visit macalester.edu/el-kati.





WISE WORDS *for* Turbulent Times

While it's true that 2020 was uniquely challenging, the country has been through difficult times before. Macalester alumni who have lived through personal and societal upheaval share the lessons that have helped them weather even the most tumultuous storms.

The past year brought a global pandemic, an economic crisis, and a contentious election, and magnified the perpetual national issues of income inequality and systemic racism. **We bear each toll in different ways, and we carry anxiety, sorrow, and fear at levels that few might have predicted as 2020 began.** It's no surprise that many of us are struggling to get through the next five minutes, much less grapple with what lies ahead.

Yet as a nation we've experienced difficult periods before—and just as we'll learn from this era and apply it to the future, there are plenty of lessons to be had from hard times of the past. That's why we asked several graduates from the 1950s, '60s, and '70s—alumni who've lived through wars, the civil rights movement, economic booms and busts, and so much more—to offer readers lessons from their own past experiences.

The alumni we spoke with have some advice: don't be afraid, show up where you're needed, get involved in your community, persevere. They all agree—you have to take action.

"As my mother used to say," says Kris Amundson '71, "you can't wring your hands and roll up your sleeves at the same time."

Sometimes, the best approach to getting through a difficult period is to focus on the next step in front of you, while still keeping one eye on the long view.

Steve Johnson '67 describes his return from the Vietnam War as "a Rip Van Winkle experience." When he arrived at Macalester in 1963, there were separate dorms and dining halls for men and women, as well as nightly curfews for women students. By the time he graduated, there were co-ed dorms and less restrictive policies. But nothing prepared him for the country he came home to in 1970, after serving for two years in Vietnam.

"I came out to an entirely different world of long

hair, short skirts, and a powerful anti-war movement," he says. "Service in the Army removed me from an immediate sense of what was going on in the country. It was a very isolating experience."

His classmate, John Hunsinger '67, had a similar experience when he returned from Vietnam. He remembers disembarking in Seattle following a one-year duty tour and, for the first time, seeing protesters on the streets.

"I just had an extreme empty feeling," he says. "That I'm not a wanted person."

Both Johnson and Hunsinger navigated the shifting ground by putting one foot in front of the other, and making do with the hands they were dealt.

They have the same stoicism in 2020, which Johnson describes as "eerily similar" to 1968, with the assassinations of Robert Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., armed suppression of opposition at the Democratic convention followed by a combative election, an increasingly militant civil rights movement, and the war affecting many households.

"I think a lot of people felt things were coming apart for good," he says. "The two years have the same feel about them. The uncertainty and anxiety are palpable everywhere."

Johnson now wonders if it's cyclical: that every once in a while, a series of upheavals will shake up our way of life. The calm periods that follow might be masking unresolved issues.

"The quietude covers up different issues that are bubbling up," he says. "It's like a volcano. It takes a long time for the lava to break through the crust."

Hunsinger also applies a historical perspective to this moment. We have to remember, he says, that humans have survived the flu pandemic of 1918, world wars, plagues in Europe, and more—and we will come out on the other side of this, too.



"Like in combat, if you keep a clear head and don't let fear overcome you, your probability of success, of survival, is increased," he says.

In 1964, when John West '68 was a freshman at Macalester, he attended a rally for presidential candidate Barry Goldwater. West, who is Black, didn't support the candidate, but he was curious about Goldwater's views.

"In my own sort of academic, idealistic way, I thought, I need to know who this person is," he says. "This kind of crazy Republican who wants to be very anti-Black and anti-civil rights—I need to go hear it for myself.

"I went in alone and it dawned upon me that people were looking at me rather strangely, that I was the only person that looked like me in that space. And it dawned

"Talking with younger people invigorates us and makes us enthused about what's possible for tomorrow."

TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF.

While every Mac alum we spoke to said it's important to take action, they also agreed that you can't help others if you don't help yourself.

For John Hunsinger, physical activity keeps him from feeling overwhelmed. He's getting through the pandemic by riding at least 120 miles a week on his bicycle. John West, meanwhile, is an artist and focuses on sacred dance. "It provides me an opportunity to translate my experiences with the world through meditation and contemplation," West says.

Beverly Hallquist Goodman '59 encourages people to nurture their talents and stay true to their sense of self. She was one of only 10 women in her medical school class of 150, but becoming a doctor was a long-standing goal. She navigated discrimination in medical school and went on to have a successful career as a child psychiatrist and medical educator by staying focused and working hard. Being a mentor and supporting younger women in medicine has also been vitally important.

"If you're creative, exercise your creative skills. If you're talented in STEM, do science and research work," she says. "Be goal-oriented. Develop your ideas. Determine where you could make those contributions which would be exciting to you."

Kris '59 and Connie Ronnow '59 admit the isolation brought by the pandemic has been difficult, and they've experienced loss in their retirement community. In addition, Kris was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease 15 years ago, and struggles with feeling limited. However, their faith and a sense of gratitude keep them grounded, and connections to family give them hope for better days ahead.

"We're working on our optimism capacity," Kris says. "We think back to numerous leisurely conversations we've had with our granddaughter and grandson at our Green Lake home. We find that talking with younger people invigorates us and makes us enthused about what's possible for tomorrow."

upon me that this might not have been my smartest idea.”

Several decades later, in the weeks leading up to the 2020 election, West was reminded of the experience during a conversation with his niece. She had recently been driving down the highway in Colorado when she ended up in the middle of a Trump demonstration. West’s niece is Latina and wasn’t sure about her safety in the midst of the rally, and turned to her uncle to help her process the experience.

West told his niece not to be afraid, and instead to call on her ancestors who lived through hard times and survived—just as she will.

“I said to her, ‘try to swallow your fear as much as possible,’” West says. “Don’t try to egg anybody on. Maintain a sense that this is life as usual for you, and move on. We can’t allow ourselves to be governed by fear, or to stop the quality and promise of our living.”

West also says you can’t let your survival tactics come at the expense of your sense of self. For instance, West says he—and many people of color—grew up learning to code-switch, or speak in one language with people who don’t look like him, and another with people who do. While he says code-switching can be “significant for the sake of surviving,” it’s easy to lose sight of who you are. You have to find your voice and advocate for yourself—without apology. “My children have been direct beneficiaries of my self-discovery,” he says.

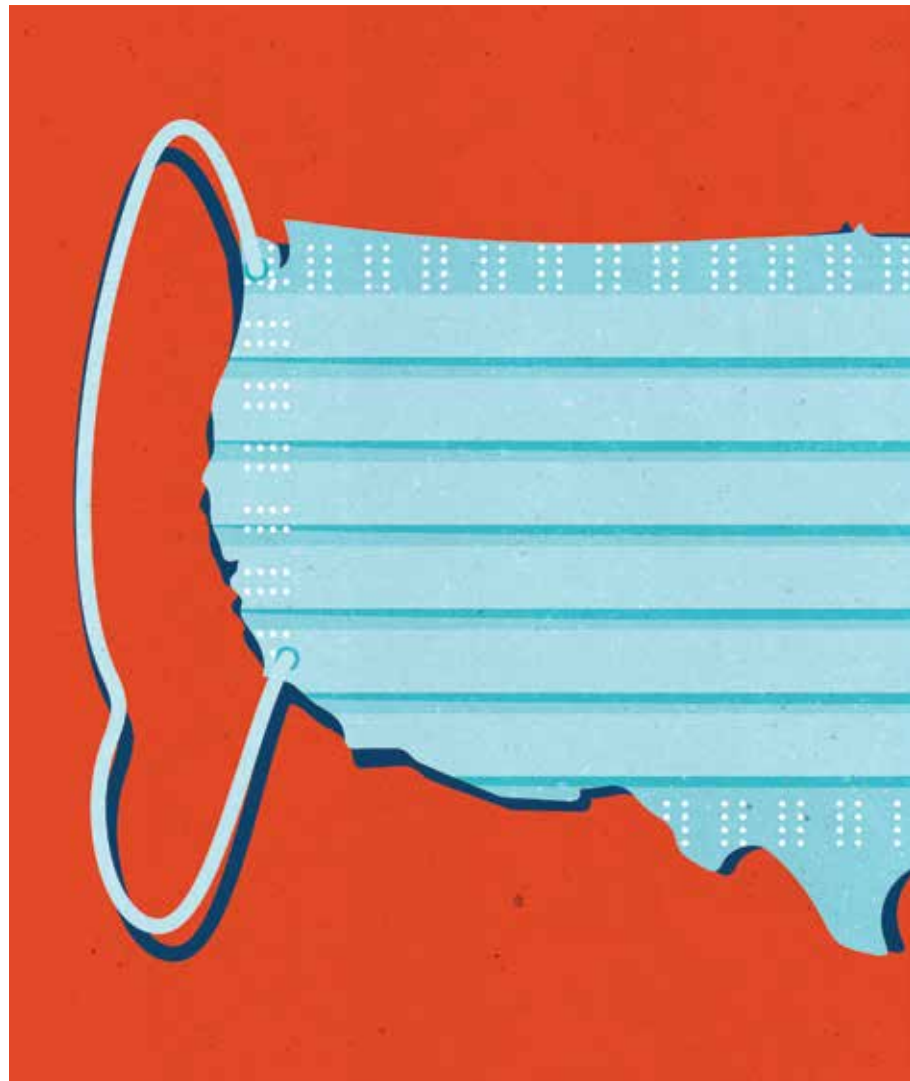
West found his own voice in a psychology class at Macalester. In a paper about individual differences, he tried to subtly convey the different life experiences of Black people. His professor wrote on the paper—which West still has—“Call it what it is, John. It’s racism.”

“He provided me with my voice to actualize and to recognize that it was a good thing to call it what it was, and to deal with it,” says West, who went on to become an educator, a school administrator, a head of school, and a conduit of knowledge for hundreds of students, especially for students of color. “I’ve never forgotten that.”

Kris Amundson ’71 says her political career started when she volunteered in her daughter’s kindergarten class. That year, Fairfax County Public Schools announced they would be renovating every school of a certain age, except for the one her daughter attended. She worked to have her daughter’s school added to the bond referendum—and got an inside look at the process of local politics.

“I uttered the always dangerous words, ‘somebody ought to do something about this,’” Amundson says. “I looked at the people who were making those decisions on the school board and thought, ‘I could do that.’”

At the time, school board members were appointed, and Amundson’s involvement earned her a seat. Then,



“You can’t
wring your
hands and
roll up your
sleeves at the
same time.”

when the laws changed, she was elected. After about a decade on the board, her daughter left for college and Amundson decided to move on. Soon after, in 1999, the Democratic Party came knocking, encouraging her to run for an open seat in the Virginia General Assembly.

That’s where she experienced one of the most harrowing days of her political career: Sept. 11, 2001.

That day drove home the very lesson she’d learned when her daughter was in kindergarten: show up. Amundson served the 44th district, which covered a part of Fairfax County located a few miles from the Pentagon. The attackers had flown a plane into part of the Pentagon, killing an unknown number of people who worked there—people who lived in her district.

“We didn’t know for days who had died,” she says. “We had to wait and see.”

One of those missing people was her daughter’s soccer coach. On Saturday, Amundson had just left the farmer’s market when she learned for certain that he had died. Immediately, she went to his house and rang the doorbell.

“I hadn’t bought flowers,” she says. “I had carrots and potatoes in my bag. I had nothing I could bring. But I went anyway. His wife came to the door and said, ‘I knew you’d come.’”



Amundson says watching everyone step up during those dark days ultimately gave her hope.

"When 9/11 happened, it felt like the whole structure of our world fractured," she says. "But people showed up and said, 'Here I am. Put me to work.' When you see that behavior, it's a sign of optimism, that we're better than it might appear at first glance."

Focusing on a cause greater than yourself is always a good strategy for coping in difficult times. But people need not wait for a tragedy to contribute. Amundson recommends people today find a way to get involved with local issues. Yes, we need to worry about protecting the Amazonian rainforest, she says, but we can also save the two acres of wetlands in our neighborhood. Yes, we need to fix our educational system, but we can also tutor one child. Small changes give you energy for the global work.

The calamities of 2020 have been particularly daunting for new Mac graduates and other young people just starting their careers and political lives. Their more seasoned counterparts offer suggestions: get involved in your local community, and stick with it.

In light of the record turnout in the 2020 elec-

tion, Amundson encouraged first-time voters to have patience and to remember, whether you voted for your representatives or not, they are accountable to you.

"Especially in your early votes, you vote with optimism. You want to see all of these great things," Amundson says. "But it probably isn't going to happen before the midterms. You have to stay involved. [Your representatives] need to hear from you. They need to know there are people in their district who care deeply about whatever issues move you politically."

Eleanor Joyce Darden Thompson '71 remembers when, in 1970, the U.S. voting age was dropped to 18, and how many young people turned out to vote. It was an early step in her lifelong interest in politics, which led her from studying political science at Mac to earning a law degree at Howard University. She went on to become the first woman Assistant U.S. Attorney in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

After retiring, she found a different path in politics. She worked for several political campaigns—even moving to Missouri to support Barack Obama's presidential campaign in a more competitive state—and ran for state legislative office. During the 2020 election, she served as an election inspector.

Today's young voters, she says, have the same enthusiasm she remembers from 1970, but they don't turn out to the polls in the same numbers—something she's hoping to change. Community groups and churches often call on her to speak to young members about the importance of voting, which Darden Thompson does by shifting the focus from national to local.

She challenges them to walk through every action they take during a day, no matter how minute. Did they hit a pothole? Did they go to the park? Did they brake for a stoplight or stop sign? Were the trashcans overflowing?

"I tell them, 'Everything was a decision somebody made, who was sitting in an elected office,'" she says. "While the president is an important thing, all of these local offices are more important because they affect your life."

And when it feels like progress is slow, look for the forward momentum. Many Macalester alumni agree: They're disappointed to see the same struggles arise again and again, but they think this generation might get it right. Just don't be afraid to ask for help along the way.

"Build your circle of people you can call at two in the morning," Amundson says. "You cannot get through hard times by yourself. We are simply not wired that way. Wherever you find that strength and support, you have to nurture it and treasure it." **M**

Kim Catley is a writer based in Richmond, Va. Talking to Mac alumni for this story was a bright spot in 2020, and gave her a new perspective on the moment.

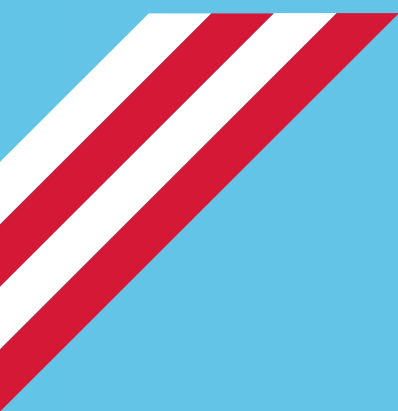
What lessons from your own past experiences guide you today? What historical moments are you thinking of as 2021 begins?

Tell us:
mactoday@macalester.edu




DEMOCRACY

IN ACTION



In last fall's election season, a new class immersed students in the democratic process.



It's the first week of class in "Democracy in Action," and Jason Beal '22 is jotting down initial ideas about one course objective: "Develop a personal theory of change and a plan to put it into action."

It's a big ask, but it's also a big reason why Beal, a physics major from Bethesda, Md., is drawn to this class. As civil rights activists took to the streets last summer in the Twin Cities and worldwide, Beal began engaging with friends and family about social justice issues, initiating conversations he hadn't had before. He wanted to find a path to keep doing that work through an academic course.

"I was looking for a class where I would be forced to engage in conversations and actions that were either uncomfortable or in a direction I'd never taken before," Beal says. "I wanted to take a class that would challenge my understanding about the world."

In a nutshell, that's "Democracy in Action," a new class that's giving students the chance to engage in political action for academic credit. Eric Carter, a geography professor, and Paul Schade-wald, senior program director for community-based learning and scholarship, designed the course—a civic engagement component paired with a weekly seminar—with additional guidance from Michael Porter, director of academic internships; Karin Trail-Johnson, director of the Civic Engagement Center; and a faculty and staff steering committee.

Their goal: to take advantage of the once-in-four-years opportunities of a presidential election. By semester's end, they hoped students would better understand what it means to engage in the practices of democracy collectively and contribute to the broader community. And they also wanted

BY REBECCA DEJARLAIS ORTIZ '06



THOUGH MOST STUDENTS were limited to remote work, Abdifatah Abdi '22 (Minneapolis) spent 180 hours this semester with the ISAIAH and Faith in Minnesota Muslim coalitions, leading canvassing teams and working to mobilize the Muslim community in tight races statewide.

students to develop that personal theory of change—in short, identifying a long-term goal and then mapping out the steps to get there.

The course is nonpartisan in its foundation and interdisciplinary by intention. “Those topics cut through partisan politics,” Schadewald says. “All of us have skills and perspectives that we bring to public life; all of us have something to contribute and something to learn.”

Through the fall, 31 students spend at least 75 hours working with campaigns and civic mobilization organizations, gathering remotely for weekly discussions, readings, and guest speaker presentations. “We’ve had valuable conversations about the limitations of elections and voting, the importance of civic engagement, and how to stay motivated when there are so many ingrained injustices in the U.S. political system,” says Lia Pak ’23 (Northfield, Minn.).

“Democracy in Action” took shape initially as the civic engagement component, which Carter and Schadewald imagined would be structured as an independent internship. They learned quickly that students wanted more. “Students told us that they wanted to connect with people, to have a space to share and reflect and put into broader perspective,” Schadewald says. “And being in a pandemic makes that hunger even stronger.”

Last summer, Carter and Schadewald rebuilt their syllabus to teach the class during COVID-19. They

had to scrap plans for in-person group trips around the Twin Cities, but there was a silver lining: the nationwide adoption of virtual meeting technology like Zoom opened new opportunities for students to work on campaigns all over the country.

Early in the semester, Beal decides to take action with Minneapolis-based MN350, an environmental justice organization focused on creating a healthy future for all. He’s inspired by MN350’s own theory of change: to move people from being “uninvolved in the issue of climate change to anxious about the issue to acting on the issue.” Working remotely, he writes emails and commentaries, edits the website, and calls voters to ask them to support candidates focused on climate justice. He’s learning a new skill practically every week. “There’s a lot of firsts for me in this class,” he says, “but that’s what I wanted.”

Pak decides she wants to focus on voter outreach close to campus. She connects with the nonpartisan League of Women Voters’ St. Paul Youth Vote Team, where she oversees student video projects about voter registration, mail-in ballots, and last-minute voting resources that run as part of Central High School’s morning announcements via YouTube. “It’s so important to get young people engaged,” she says. “And that doesn’t mean getting them engaged only on issues that I care about. I want to see people my age and younger involved at any level.”



“An emotional rollercoaster”

In a global pandemic, students attempting “community engagement” work have to be creative when they can’t meet in community. No one in “Democracy in Action” is logging long hours at bustling campaign headquarters with fluorescent lights, walls plastered with posters, and old pizza boxes piled in a corner. Most of their work happens in their bedrooms and living rooms.

As part of U.S. Senator Tina Smith (D-MN)’s reelection campaign team, Emma Eichenbaum ’24 (Washington, D.C.) has been working on communications and other tasks, almost entirely from her Dupre single. “For me, this work has helped cement that there are so many ways to take action,” Eichenbaum says. “You can go to protests, but you can also stay home and be politically active, and they both make a huge impact.”

She’s grateful that Smith’s team has tried to build community for the interns by setting up Zoom meetings with different campaign directors, to expand each fellow’s network beyond their direct supervisor. “We’ve gotten to hear about their jobs and how they got to where they are now,” Eichenbaum says. “It’s been incredibly meaningful and helpful to hear that even though you’re on a certain path now, it might not be where you end up in the future. It’s validating to hear you don’t have to plan out your entire life right now.”

At home for the semester, Alex Hamann ’22 (Lincoln, Neb.) has joined the congressional campaign of Kate Bolz, a Nebraska state senator who represents his home district. With the exception of a few socially distanced outdoor events, staffers have decided the team can’t door-knock safely, so they’re striving to replicate those connections virtually and over the phone.

The conversations have surprised Hamann, who is calling voters for the first time. “Obviously there are people who hear I’m from a campaign and say something mean and hang up,” he says. “But there are also people who give me—a stranger on the phone—a very in-depth look at what they believe in and why. I think people are lonely right now, and, in part because of the pandemic and in part because people are so



LIA PAK ’23

“The voter turnout this year is so encouraging, and I hope that momentum continues. Voting is just the start.”



JASON BEAL ’22

“I wanted to take a class that would challenge my understanding about the world.”

polarized, we don’t have the usual avenues to talk about politics.”

In early October, he’s focused on his work but also wondering about Election Day. “It’s going to be an emotional rollercoaster,” he says. “These next few weeks will be ones that I think my grandchildren will ask me about for their school projects: ‘What was 2020 like?’”



One week to go

In class the Thursday before Election Day, Jason Beal, who’s focused on environmental advocacy, shares the news that his letter to the editor about the Green New Deal has been published in the Grand Rapids, Minn., *Herald Review*. He’s gathered with four other students and Schadewald on Zoom to share the frenetic energy of the final push. Sam Hickman ’21 (St. Paul) is phonebanking five nights a week for Minnesota State Sen. Susan Kent and plans to call voters all day Monday and Tuesday. Abdifatah Abdi ’22 (Minneapolis) will spend long days canvassing to get out the vote in Rochester and St. Cloud with Faith in Minnesota.

Early voting isn’t even over yet, though with students immersed in the democratic process, the students are already feeling a shift in their view. More than one mentions a class reading by Tufts University scholar Eitan Hersh on “political hobbyists” who are obsessed with national politics and may be highly engaged with like-minded people on social media but do little political work like volunteering for campaigns or with community organizations. “They don’t attend rallies, don’t contribute to campaigns, don’t do anything to be involved in the democratic process,” Hamann says. “It’s a real critique of who I think I was in high school. Every time there’s an election, there’s somebody like me who’s just doing it for the first time. Without that involvement, we lose touch with the big ideals of democracy.”



Across the divide

For many students, their work gives them a deeper sense of the country’s deep political divides. That partisanship frustrates Hamann in Nebraska. In conversations with early voters, he asks if they voted for his candidate and is surprised by how frequently they aren’t able to remember. They report they’d simply voted for the Democrat or the Republican—same as they’d done for years. “That just blew me away,” he says. “We need to figure out how to get people to look past the little letter at the end of the candidate’s name and pick based on their merit. We need people to be able to say, ‘Democrat for president, Republican for Senate, Democrat for House’ because of what they’re saying or how they’re qualified.”

Hamann has also refined his theory of change through his work with his candidate, Kate Bolz, who is a Democrat who opposes abortion rights. Hamann, on the other hand, is pro-choice. “That’s pretty unconventional nationally, and there’s some sort of Democratic litmus test that she’d fail because of where she stands on abortion rights,” he says. “It’s been a really interesting look into what happens when you work for a campaign for someone that you don’t necessarily agree with on every issue. I



★ ★ ★ Mobilize Mac ★ ★ ★

“Democracy in Action” is one piece of the broader Mobilize Mac umbrella, coordinated by the Civic Engagement Center. The broad goal: to create more opportunities for community engagement on election-related issues, regardless of voting eligibility, party affiliation, or voting status.

In 2020, more than 20 Mobilize Mac events happened before, during, and after the election. Most of them—including watch parties, reflection sessions, and an election debrief panel—took place via Zoom, but the group also took care to plan programs that could happen in person with physical distancing measures. “Having

that space to gather is really important,” Jason Beal ’22 says. “Seeing someone in person, even six to 10 feet away, is a million times better than seeing them on the computer.”

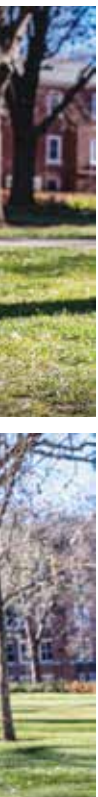
On Wednesday of Election Week, students, faculty, and staff gathered on the Great Lawn for music, warm cider, and a campfire. Community members also contributed “Pieces of Mac,” a public art project featuring pieces of cloth labeled with one word to express how each person was feeling that night—a visual representation, organizers wrote, of “how being a piece of Macalester connects us into something bigger.”



think there’s been a move in recent years to seeing incrementalism as a failed form of politics—that we need radical change now. To me, it’s more important that I have somebody who I agree with more, than somebody I don’t agree with at all. It’s been pretty insightful to work on this campaign, with people coming from all sorts of different backgrounds, to rally around this candidate as one who has a chance in Nebraska.”

Back in Minnesota, professor Eric Carter says students—especially those whose only Minnesota community is Macalester—have begun to better understand the amount of ideological diversity statewide. “They learned a lot about just how divided politically we are, but also how the campaigns approach that division really reasonably,” Carter says. “It’s not in a campaign’s interest to demonize voters for their political beliefs. I haven’t heard too many examples of our students persuading someone who had planned to vote the other way, but they still had to have conversations, frequently, with people who didn’t

FROM LEFT: PHOTO PROVIDED; JULIA BINTZ ’24 (2)



think just like them. That was really valuable. I think they learned to humanize their political opposites a little bit more.”



Beyond campaigns

Schadewald and Carter emphasize that social change work expands far beyond electoral politics, and several students have chosen to focus their efforts toward different forms of advocacy and activism. Unlike most of his classmates, Daryll Seneque '23 (Brownsburg, Ind.) isn't focused on getting out the vote. Instead, he's working with immigrants who can't vote yet. He's part of that group: Born in Haiti, he became a U.S. permanent resident in 2016 and spent most of high school in Indiana. "I don't have the right to vote," he says. "But I do have opinions."

Because of his background, Seneque was drawn to COPAL, a Twin Cities grassroots community organization that strives, among other objectives, to transform the U.S. political system into one where all immigrants can succeed.

From home in Indiana, Seneque is interviewing immigrants via Zoom so that COPAL can compile stories in each person's own words. "It's important for me to let them tell their story the way they want it to be told," Seneque says. That's a harder project than he expected initially, with plenty of people declining to be interviewed for fear of putting their immigration status at risk.

Seneque says he underestimated at first what it takes to engage in successful community organizing. "It's not as easy as I thought it would be," he says. "But after my first couple of meetings, I wanted to keep going with this kind of advocacy. It's hard, but it's worth it."



Bittersweet debrief

For the campaign-focused students, Election Day represents their work's culmination. Abdifatah Abdi spends the day 75 miles away from campus in St. Cloud, offering transportation and helping Muslim voters figure out their polling sites. Maddie Smith '24 (Ely, Iowa) chalks get-out-the-vote messages around campus. In Nebraska, Alex Hamann takes on a new role as a nonpartisan poll worker from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Once Minnesota polls close at 8 p.m., Emma Eichenbaum spends the night watching coverage—first until Tina Smith emerged as the winner in Minnesota's U.S. Senate race, then focusing on the presidential race. "Like a lot of people, I don't really think I slept for more than a couple of hours for a few days," she says.

A week later, the class gathers in small groups via Zoom for a bittersweet conversation. Everyone is processing the presidential election and trends from races around the country. Some, like Sam Hickman, are celebrating victories: his candidate, State Senator Susan Kent, won her race. Lia Pak, who worked with young people through the League of Women Voters, is tracking turnout numbers that have her feeling hopeful that the momentum will continue and lead to higher engagement at all levels in the future. Abdifatah Abdi's big goal to flip the Minnesota senate



DARYLL SENEQUE '23

"Coming to Mac, I knew that I was going to create some change while I was here. I didn't know it was going to be on this scale, and I didn't know it was going to be so soon."



EMMA EICHENBAUM '24

"This work has helped cement that there are so many ways to take action."

to Democratic control didn't happen, but his work helped two Democratic challengers win races. "There's a lot of work to be proud of," Abdi says.

Others are grappling with being part of campaigns that lost. Maddie Smith '24 is reflecting on her work with incumbent Minnesota State Representative Anne Claflin, who lost her reelection campaign. "It's difficult to deal with," Smith tells her classmates. "I'm wondering, 'Could I have done more?'"

In Nebraska, congressional candidate Kate Bolz lost her race by a wide margin, and Alex Hamman is questioning the validity and future of polling. "I made thousands of phone calls and my sense was that my candidate had a shot, and she ended up losing by 20 points," he says. "That's pretty decisive, especially in a race that we were considering to be competitive."

After Election Day, the big questions in class discussions change, but they don't stop. Students begin investigating several themes for their final projects, including what role higher education institutions should play in political engagement, what impact the pandemic had on the 2020 election, and whether Americans can find a way to heal their divides.

Already, their work has spurred ideas and changed their perspectives. Alex Hamann is quick to say he'll always respond to future calls or texts from campaign volunteers. Daryll Seneque is applying what he has learned from his COPAL interviews to his role as Macalester College Student Government (MCSG) chief of staff, scheduling conversations with MCSG members to improve the organization's efficiency and better support their needs.

And as they delve into their final projects, the "Democracy in Action" students will continue to apply lessons from their internships to their work in class—and they'll continue to learn from each other. "Years from now, I'll remember that I was working with a lot of talented individuals working for real change," Seneque says. "Coming to Mac, I knew that I was going to create some change while I was here. I didn't know it was going to be on this scale, and I didn't know it was going to be so soon." **M**



“

Growing up,
I was keenly
attuned to social
inequities.”

DEMOYA GORDON MAKES THE CASE FOR JUSTICE

She fought against Prada's racist iconography—and won.

BY TEQUIA BURT

In late 2018, a display of “Pradamalia” in a Manhattan shop window made Chinyere Ezie, a Black New York City resident, do a double-take. The Prada collection consisted of accessories adorned with animal-like imaginary creatures including a black monkey figurine with oversized red lips reminiscent of Sambo, a generations-old caricature that has been used to mock and dehumanize Black people.

Disturbed, Ezie posted pictures of the display on social media, where the post went viral and led to a national outcry. Prada apologized and stopped selling the keychain. But Demoya Gordon '06 and her colleagues at the New York City Commission on Human Rights wanted to see more substantial change.

Gordon, a supervising attorney, worked with deputy commissioner Sapna Raj to lead an investigation of the fashion powerhouse. The commission charged that the display of such racist iconography manifests discrimination on the basis of race, suggesting that Black people are unwelcome at Prada. In February 2020, the company and the commission reached a groundbreaking settlement.

The terms included significant financial investment by Prada to combat racism and promote diversity and inclusion within the fashion industry by creating a scholarship program; hiring a permanent diversity and inclusion officer; undergoing racial equity training; and increasing staff diversity.

“At the commission, we hope this settlement with Prada will serve as an example to other government entities across the country of how government can be a force for good in people's lives,” she says.

Gordon has dedicated her career to fighting through the law

and through policy for people of color and members of the LGBTQI community. As a teenager in Jamaica, she decided to brave the Minnesota cold and attend Macalester because it embodied her values.

“Growing up, I was keenly attuned to social inequities such as homophobia, colorism, racism, and transphobia,” she says. “I was really drawn to Macalester's culture and ethos around social justice and internationalism.”

At Mac, where she majored in sociology and minored in legal studies, Spanish, and psychology, her interest in civil rights and social justice continued to flourish. “My courses and the conversations I had with peers, professors, and other community members at the college really ignited my desire for a career path where I could make a difference,” she recalls.

Gordon attended law school at the University of California–Berkeley. After working for a traditional law firm for several years, in 2015 she became an attorney for Lambda Legal, a New York-based national nonprofit that works through litigation and public policy on behalf of the LGBTQI community and people living with HIV. At Lambda Legal, Gordon felt she had found her path. She focused on litigating on behalf of transgender people who were incarcerated, a particularly marginalized and misunderstood population. “Trans people in prison are often forgotten—even in social justice and progressive spaces,” Gordon says.

After three years at Lambda Legal, Gordon joined the New York City Commission on Human Rights, the agency tasked with enforcing the New York City Human Rights Law, one of the broadest anti-discrimination laws in the country. Her work with the commission focuses on race-based and LGBTQI-based discrimination in public spaces such as stores, restaurants, hotels, taxis, or anywhere else goods or services are offered. She also works on cases involving discrimination by law enforcement and by corrections agencies or officers.

In addition to the Prada case, Gordon and her colleagues recently won discrimination cases on behalf of a non-binary customer at Zara and a transgender man who was discriminated against when he sought safety in homeless shelters. In both cases, the settlements secured monetary damages for the complainant but also included measures to help the transgender community in general. The commission also became the first government entity in the country to issue legal guidance banning discrimination based on hair texture or hairstyles closely associated with Black people.

Carmelyn P. Malalis, chair and commissioner of the NYC Commission on Human Rights, says Gordon's dedication to justice is evident in her work to combat racism and discrimination. “Her work has had broad impact, ensuring in many circumstances that businesses invest in communities that have historically faced discrimination, become more culturally competent, and embrace restorative justice practices,” Malalis says.

Working for the government has been a fascinating pivot from Gordon's previous experience at Lambda Legal, where she often sued government entities for violating people's rights. “As a Black queer immigrant woman, it's been really gratifying to now work for a government entity that understands the importance of standing up for people's rights,” she says. “It's an example of what government should be—and can be—in the ongoing fight for justice.” **M**

Tequia Burt is a Chicago-based freelance writer.

AN AMERICAN IN PARIS



Josh Timberlake '96 found a career that applied both of his majors and took him on an international adventure.

BY DANIEL P. SMITH

Josh Timberlake's Macalester education prepared him for a career helping companies find new space all over the world. Last year, he, his wife, and his two preteen children found their own new space in Paris, where Timberlake works for Google's global infrastructure team.

HE GREW UP in Urbana, Illinois, and came to Macalester to play soccer and major in economics. After taking "Human Geography" with Jerry Pitzl, Timberlake—a self-described "map geek"—added a geography major. He also got his first passport, to study abroad in Australia. "I hadn't traveled much and had little exposure to much outside of Illinois," he says. "Macalester changed all that for me. Going to school with people from all over the world made me want to explore as much as possible." For two years after graduation, Timberlake worked in employee benefits consulting.

HE FOUND his professional calling in 1998 when he began a 17-year run with Deloitte's corporate site selection practice. Drawing on his studies in economics and geography, Timberlake helped companies evaluate spots for new manufacturing facilities, R&D centers, and corporate headquarters. Sometimes clients gave him specific parameters, asking for a site in the southeastern U.S., China, or Mexico, for instance; other times, clients only expressed a general need for more capacity. "Every new project was different—industries, clients, and geographies—and I was constantly challenged to create thoughtful recommendations," he says.

BASED IN CHICAGO, he traveled often for work, while also embarking on global adventures with his wife, Dawn. In Bolivia, the couple encountered two Austrian families with four school-aged children among them traveling together through South America. The group divided their time between traditional school activities and experiential learning. "That stuck with us and planted the seed that we could expose our kids to different perspectives, cultures, landscapes, foods, music, and experiences from an early age."

THE COUPLE had a daughter, Lily, in 2008 and a son, Gabe, in 2011. The consulting life's grinding schedule and Timberlake's desire to be more present with his family ignited thoughts of a career shift. "Coming home on a Thursday evening and telling my wife I was heading to China on Monday for the next 10 days was tough," he says. "I never got tired of the work, but the consulting lifestyle can be all-consuming."

IN 2015 HE JOINED Google's global infrastructure team, a job in which he evaluated sites for data centers, expansive industrial complexes that power the tech giant's vast services: "Whenever you're using Search, Maps, or YouTube, those queries are being routed through one of our 21 data centers throughout the world."

HE WORKED on data center projects in Virginia and Ohio, finding an improved work-life balance alongside energizing professional activities. "It's cool to think about a vacant piece of land becoming a technology campus that creates jobs for the local community and runs on renewable energy," he says. "The tangible aspect of these projects is incredibly rewarding."

STILL, SOMETHING GNAWED at him, namely the desire to introduce his children to global cultures and experiences. When Timberlake discovered an opening with Google's data center team in Paris, the family considered relocation. That position would allow him to carry his U.S. activities—investigating potential data center sites, supporting site selection and negotiations, and aligning data center growth with business needs—abroad. It also meant a move to France.


THE FAMILY traveled to Paris last June to assess the viability of relocating—and "we decided we were in by the time we got back on the plane." They sold their home and cars, donated goods, and stored key belongings.

THEY MOVED to Paris two months later. They enrolled the children—now 12 and nine—in a bilingual school, found a gymnastics training gym for Lily, and began absorbing Parisian life through trips to markets, the pervasive scent of fresh bread, and train rides around town. Passing the famed Notre-Dame cathedral while walking his children to school one morning, Timberlake felt the enormity of the act. "This wasn't a vacation, but our new reality."

IN TIME, the family settled into a fourth-floor walk-up apartment, while the children's French language fluency exploded and Timberlake embraced his new Google role with a multicultural team of colleagues. The family even endured a mini-crisis when an enthusiastic Gabe hopped on a train before his father and sister could join him. "But one stop later, he was there waiting for us with a smile," Timberlake says.

THE FAMILY EXPLORED Paris and other parts of France while also trekking to Sweden, Portugal, Seychelles, and Qatar. COVID-19, however, halted travel as government mandates limited the family's outings to within one kilometer of their residence. "Fortunately, just about everything we needed was nearby," he says.

MOVING TO PARIS has opened the family's collective eyes to different cultures, spurred new skills, and heightened appreciation for what they have—and had. "Paris is a beautiful city, but it's dense and I understand the value of green space now more than ever," he says. "Plus, I could really use a good deep-dish pizza and a Chicago-style hot dog every now and then."

THE FAMILY WILL return stateside—eventually. "There's no firm end date, but we'll have a couple years to soak this in," Timberlake says. "I'm incredibly grateful for this opportunity and what it's giving our family." 

Daniel P. Smith is a Chicago-based journalist.



BY HILLARY MOSES MOHAUPT '08 / ILLUSTRATION BY GO SUGA

History professor Karin Vélez is a historian of pre-1800 global history. Her recent course “Rumors in History” explores how fake news went viral even before the Internet fueled its spread and how fiction continues to overshadow reality, even when we have the facts.

Was there a particular rumor that piqued your interest in exploring rumors throughout history?

Historians Arlette Farge and Jacques Revel describe an incident in 1750 Paris when people rioted for two days because they thought the police were kidnapping random children from the streets. Rumors ran rampant about the police, yet Farge and Revel have shown that Parisian suspicions had some basis in reality. That episode inspired my approach to exploring other rumors. They sometimes seem outlandish, but often there is a kernel of truth. That's what gives them staying power.

One rumor this class explores is the 1938 “War of the Worlds” radio broadcast. Can you tell me more about that broadcast’s aftermath?

What most people know about the “War of the Worlds” incident is, in fact, rumor. Orson Welles and his theater company presented a radio broadcast of a novel by H. G. Wells, chronicling a Martian attack on the United States. They made the show sound like a real news report, so it freaked out some listeners. But most people listening knew right away that the broadcast was not true. They

were excited by the idea that it might be suckering others, so they exaggerated its effect. It makes a better story. Later the incident became crucial evidence in American debates about the harmful influence of radio, and even scholars who should know better continue to perpetuate this rumor that Orson Welles fooled everyone. This all illustrates how we might fall in love with a rumor and privilege it over a more boring truth, which in this case is that no one in 1938 New Jersey thought aliens were coming to get them.

This course examines how “factfulness” can correct false narratives. Can you unpack this term?

We start this course by reading Hans Rosling’s book *Factfulness*, which offers a 10-step methodology for debunking misinformation in the media. Rosling wants us to go out and counteract our brains’ preconditioned dramatic tendencies that are triggered by reading the news. For instance, Rosling talks about the blame instinct: when something goes wrong, our fallback tends to be to look for an individual to blame. Even if it’s an entire system at fault. It takes practice and daily effort to apply Rosling’s brilliant counteractives. It’s really hard. So in class we discuss: Is factfulness a reasonable expectation for humanity?

How do rumors ignore facts, even when there’s recorded evidence to contradict them?

Historians bring a skepticism to evidence that makes us ideally

RUMORS IN HISTORY



suited to tackle rumor, because we assume distortion, both of the evidence and of its reception and interpretation. Historians don't say, "This was written down so it must be true." To the contrary, the existence of words begs as many questions as it answers about truth. So, why doesn't evidence kill rumor? My training as a historian prompts me to flip that question and to ask instead, "Why do we assume that if we show someone concrete proof that they're wrong, they're going to be persuaded that a story that they care about should be cast aside?"

So, what gives rumors staying power even after they are disproven? And how have the answers to that question changed over time?

I think changes in media and technology have ratcheted everything up in our current times. For this course, we read excellent recent studies about how social media and the Internet have made it easier to tamper with information. Measurably, fake news is reaching far more people, partly because it spreads even when people pass it along to discredit it.

You taught this class in early 2019, then again after the COVID-19 pandemic began. How did you frame this course differently, within the present-day context of a public health crisis?

Zhantao Luo '19 took the first course and returned to campus as

an alumnus last May at the start of the pandemic. He sat down in my office and pulled out his cell phone and said, "You have got to see all of these rumors emerging around coronavirus in China. It reminds me of what we studied in class." He inspired me to revamp the central case studies of the course for fall 2020. This time around, students chose whether they wanted to focus on epidemic disease or social unrest, and studied rumors that circulate around those flashpoints, and their consequences.

What do you hope students take away from this course?

This question makes me think of that student returning to my office a year after taking "Rumors." What we talked about abstractly in Old Main was really evident in his life outside Macalester. These are frightening times, and rumor can appear to be a terrifying force beyond our control. But Zhantao was confronting rumor, not with fear or despair, but with the knowledge of some brave companions—intellectuals, professors, former classmates—who were also trying to understand this phenomenon. Instead of running away from rumor, he ran headlong into it in search of answers. That's my hope for all my students. **M**

Hillary Moses Mohaupt '08 majored in history, then earned a master's degree in public history. She is a freelance writer in the greater Philadelphia area.

CLASS NOTES

1970

Bruce Zimmerman retired in 2018 at the age of 70 after 35 years with PCL Construction. In March, Bruce and his wife moved from Florida to their "vacation/work-from-home place" in the Smoky Mountains. "It's a fabulous, peaceful environment to social distance in," he wrote.

1971

The Class of 1971 will celebrate its 50th Reunion in June 2021.

Kristen Amundson received the National Association of State Boards of Education's 2020 David A. Kysilko Award in recognition of her service on behalf of state education boards. She was president and chief executive officer of NASBE from 2013 to 2019 and successfully lobbied for increased state authority under the federal Every Student Succeeds Act. Kristen has also written numerous op-eds in support of the work of state boards of education and is publishing the book *81 Questions for Parents: Helping Your Kids Succeed in School*. She is co-chairing the Class of 1971's 50th Reunion this year.

1972

After 28 years on the faculty of the University of Arizona, Raymond Runyan has retired as professor of cellular and molecular medicine. He now plans to work as an investigator with a biotechnology startup in Tucson, Ariz.

1976

The Class of 1976 will celebrate its 45th Reunion in June 2021.

1977

Beth Daniels is the education manager for the PBS television show *Hero Elementary*. The program focuses on science learning and language development for children in kindergarten through second grade, and uses a framework intended to support racial equity by supporting the development of content that engages children from marginalized communities.

1980

Elizabeth Throop has stepped down as provost at Frostburg State University and returned to teaching full time, now online. She lives in the St. Louis, Mo., area.

1981

The Class of 1981 will celebrate its 40th Reunion in June 2021.

1982

The State Department has transferred Benjamin Dille from the Bureau of African Affairs, where he served as executive director, to the U.S. embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan, where he is minister counselor for management affairs. His family will remain in northern Virginia.

1983

Allen Smart was named interim executive director of the Foundation for a Healthy High Point in North Carolina. A national advocate for rural America and rural philanthropic practice, Allen gave presentations on rural equity at meetings of the Root Cause Coalition and Philanthropy Southwest. In addition to co-authoring a blog with KABOOM! on the value of play in rural communities, he has

designed and helped implement the North Carolina Healthcare Association's COVID relief fund.

1986

The Class of 1986 will celebrate its 35th Reunion in June 2021.

1987

Kevin Anderson has been diagnosed with Demetrius-Bagley foot syndrome. "It is likely the next time you see... me there will be visible symptoms," he wrote. "Please don't look away, and don't be afraid to ask how I am doing."

1991

The Class of 1991 will celebrate its 30th Reunion in June 2021.

1992

Joe Kutchera has received a grant from Virginia Humanities in support of "24 Portraits of Immigrant Voices." Joe will write

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.

1993

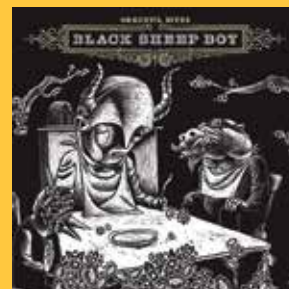
After dividing her time between Japan and Denmark, Alyne Delaney has settled full time in Japan, where she has a tenured position. Although she had to leave behind a European Union project she was coordinating on coastal and maritime cultural heritage, Alyne continues to advise the European Commission and other groups on fisheries and coastal communities. She looked forward to traveling to Greenland to conduct research. Her oldest sons continue to live in Denmark.

1996

The Class of 1996 will celebrate its 25th Reunion in June 2021.

// ALBUM NOTES

This fall, two Mac alumni landed on *Newsweek's* "100 Best Rock Albums of All Time" list: **Will Sheff '98** with Okkervil River's 2005 album *Black Sheep Boy*, and **Workbook**, released in 1989 by **Bob Mould '82**.



// RECORD-SETTING ROW

Day 12, July 14: The ocean has blown my mind time and time again. I had been scared of rowing at night—I'm not really sure why. It just seemed intimidating, and I was getting used to things bit by bit, so I put it off for a while. But oh my goodness, what a show it was when I finally did.

First, I didn't know this was even possible, but there was enough light to see perfectly, even without a moon. Just from the stars! I could see all around: the water, the waves, my boat, the oars—all from the starlight. The Milky Way stretched from end to end and shooting stars streaked overhead.

And then I noticed these little pockets on the water that seemed to be reflecting the sky in a different way. Fist-sized spots that glowed even brighter than the stars above. As I was trying to figure out what it might be I noticed sparks flying off the waves, and sparks flying off my oars in the water. Bioluminescence! I had wanted to see biolum and stars together ever since envisioning rowing across an ocean in 2016, and finally that vision came to be. It was pure magic. Perhaps the coolest part was these glowing, floating orbs. These weren't single specs of bioluminescent algae; these were massive parties of tiny beings! It's like Horton-Hears-a-Who threw a

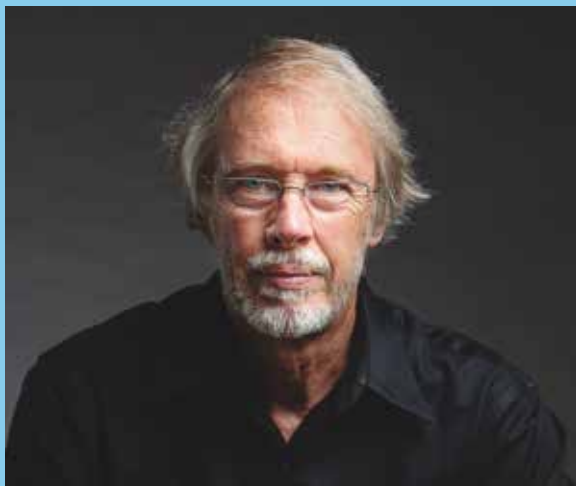


rave and everyone in town was invited. These special spots glowed and glowed and never dimmed no matter how far away they floated.

Seeing the ocean alight like this came out in an amazing time because I had just witnessed the ocean evolve before my eyes in the days before. As the big waves and wind lightened, the ocean softened and felt more welcoming to me, and I more curious about it. While rowing, I was dazzled by how the waves moved and I began looking for signs of life beneath the surface. Little did I know the water itself was alive.

After 71 days at sea, crossing 2,700 miles, Terence Steinberg '11 became the eighth person (and first novice) to row solo from California to Hawaii. He raised \$76,000 for United World Colleges scholarships, collected new data on the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, and shared regular updates, photos, and videos about the highs and lows of his journey on his website, unitedworldchallenge.org.





Charles Baxter '69, *The Sun Collective* (Pantheon, 2020)



"Tense, wry and ultimately touching . . . There is plenty of artful subtext in *The Sun Collective*, and a burning house or two . . . But Baxter's true gift is in describing the tender complexities of a relationship. Here, it's the wistful, at times contentious, "post-love" of Harold and Alma, whose real problem might not be the times, but time, and their own senescence and mortality." – *The New York Times*

Rachel Gold '93, visiting assistant professor of English, *Synclair* (Bella Books, 2020)



"*Synclair* targets young adults in its depiction of one extraordinary summer in the lives of a group of 17-year-olds, in a story filled

with diverse and humanely-drawn LGBTQ characters. As the editor of the book, during the review process I wondered what my life would have been like had I found this novel when I was 17. I kept telling myself: Just imagine," Katherine V. Forrest wrote in a *Lambda Literary* column in October. "*Synclair* is a novel of expectations and possibility and self-actualization extending to every one of its young characters."



Megan Alpert '02, *The Animal at Your Side* (Airlie Press, 2020)



Kevin Anderson '87, *Organization Design Made Easy: Structure, Process and People* (independently published, 2020)



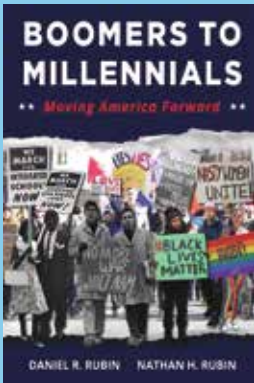
Cassandra Hartblay '06, *I Was Never Alone or Oporniki: An Ethnographic Play on Disability in Russia* (University of Toronto Press, 2020)



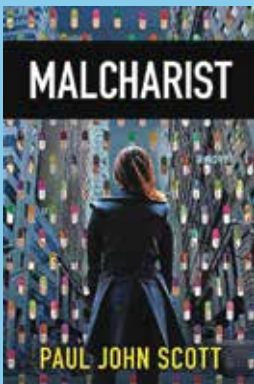
"*I Was Never Alone* is a stage play based on ethnographic research with adults with disabilities living in northwestern Russia, centering personal narratives of quotidian daily life. I adapted each scene from transcripts of interviews that I conducted, in Russian, so the work is a documentary representation of life history stories, edited into a cohesive theatrical narrative. It also offers six main roles for disabled actors. Along with the script, the book includes a reflection on performance ethnography and disability studies, and the experience of staging the play in North America, and echoes my broader work to develop a global approach to disability studies research.

This work's foundation comes from my time at Mac, where I majored in anthropology and Russian studies, and studied abroad in Russia. Mac professors Dianna Shandy, Arjun Guneratne, Joan Ostrove, and Jim Von Geldern advised my honors thesis, which led to a dissertation on a related topic, and ultimately, the research for this play.

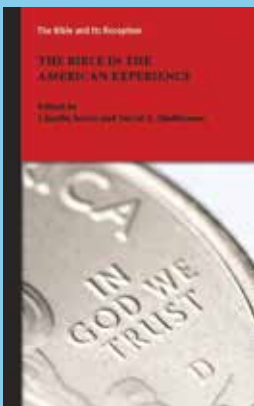
The play's second title, *oporniki*, is a play on the Russian word that means central support. Sometimes this word is used to refer to people with spinal injuries, but it also refers to other kinds of flexible but strong points of reaction, like a central column in an engineered machine. Extending this confluence of meaning, I follow disability justice advocates and feminist theories of interdependency in suggesting that disability situates people with disabilities not as peripheral, but as nodes or points of flexion in social relations."



Nathan Rubin '12 with Daniel R. Rubin, *Boomers to Millennials: Moving America Forward* (Bardolf & Company, 2018)



Paul Scott '86, *Malcharist* (Samizdat House, 2020)



Claudia Setzer '74 and David Shefferman, *The Bible in the American Experience: The Bible and Its Reception* (SBL Press, 2020)

Anthony Weston '76 and Stephen Bloch-Schulman, *Thinking Through Questions: A Concise Invitation to Critical, Expansive, and Philosophical Inquiry* (Hackett Publishing Company, Inc., 2020)



"The world spectacularly exceeds our knowledge. It's not only young children who have so very much to learn—it's all of us. Indeed, there is far more to know than we ever can know. (Probably—but can we know this either, for sure?) There are many, many things that we don't even know that we don't know. The world exceeds not only our knowledge but also our ignorance. Questions are sometimes no more than flashlights in a vast dark—but at least we have them."

David Hoppe '73, *Midcentury Boy: My Suburban Childhood: From Ike to the Beatles* (Victory Dog Books, 2020)



"Although so many of us lived through it, the postwar middle-class suburban experience in towns like Mt. Prospect has been short-

changed, relative to stories and cultural analysis originating in cities or the countryside. It's possible the suburban story has been passed over for the same reason I avoided my hometown over the years—there have always seemed like more interesting places to go.

Meanwhile, virtually everyone agrees that America's middle-class is now in crisis, an endangered social species. Where, in John Kennedy's era, politicians talked about raising people out of poverty, today they campaign on trying to salvage what's left of the middle-class. Many older voters, who grew up during the postwar suburban boom years, are frustrated they can't pass on to their kids the notion of progress their parents inculcated in them—that prosperity grows



with each passing generation.

What's fascinating is that, as soon as they were able, these same folks began dismantling almost everything about the experiment that made the world they grew up in possible. It was like they couldn't help themselves.

There is a story in this."



Frederick Hale '69, translator and editor, *California, Nevada, and Mexico: The Travels of a Technical Student* (Masthof Press, 2020)



Janet Kay and Chalupa Jensen '68, *Rainy Lake Rendezvous* (Kindle Direct Publishing, 2020)



Melissa Kandido '96
teaches at Qatar Academy
Sidra in Doha, Qatar.

// CLASSROOM RECONNECTION

Although Melissa Kandido's classroom in Doha, Qatar, is more than 7,000 miles away from St. Paul, the Class of 1996 alumna recently got the chance to introduce her Qatar Academy Sidra students to one of her Mac mentors. In October, American studies and political science professor Duchess Harris visited Kandido's Language and Literature class remotely as part of its Voice, Agency, and Protest unit.

Course texts included poetry, op-eds, and podcasts from the U.S., Syria, Brazil, and Qatar—as well as three of Dr. Harris's works: two books from ABDO Press (*Black Lives Matter* and *Charlottesville Protests*) and her recent *Macalester Today* interview, "The Time to Act is Now."

Kandido's students are from all over the world, including Egypt, South Africa, Pakistan, and the United States. Their discussion with Harris, she says, was "more than meaningful—it was personal and instrumental. My students know what it means for their family and friends not to have voice and agency. They live safely here in Qatar but in their home countries, in their lineage, the BLM Revolution parallels their own complex conversation with their sense of patriotism and critique."

Kandido is in her third year in Qatar after four years of teaching in Namibia. International teaching creates space for her wanderlust, she says, and allows her to raise her children as third-culture kids. "I teach as a source of pride and activism and love for my content and curriculum," she says, and she was grateful to reconnect with her professor:

"Duchess continues to impact me, my thoughts, my teaching, and my life."

1999

Josh Fox's band, Don't Break My House, released a self-titled album in August. Josh co-wrote the music, wrote lyrics, sang, and played several instruments on the record.

2001

The Class of 2001 will celebrate its 20th Reunion in June 2021.

2002

Andrea Heilman was a speaker with the 2020 Tbilisi Biennale of Stage Design, an international conference held in October and based in the country of Georgia. She gave a talk on trauma-informed pedagogy in the time of COVID-19.

2004

Julia Manor and Marijo Botten '15 collaborated on a paper on canine empathetic behavioral responses published in the *Canadian Journal of Experimental Psychology*.

2006

The Class of 2006 will celebrate its 15th Reunion in June 2021.

Cassandra Hartblay has published *I Was Never Alone or Oporniki*, an original stage play based on ethnographic fieldwork done in Russia with adults with disabilities. The play's roots extend back to Cassandra's honors thesis at Macalester on parents of children with disabilities in rural Siberia.

2009

Molly Brookfield completed a PhD in history and women's studies at the University of Michigan this past June and joined the faculty of The University of the South in August as assistant professor of history and women's and gender studies.

2011

The Class of 2011 will celebrate its 10th Reunion in June 2021.

2012

Elle Schalow became Denver's city clerk this past September.

Maya Weisinger earned a master's degree from the Willy Brandt School of Public Policy in Erfurt, Germany. She also received the institution's Excellence in Service and Leadership Award for her engagement with fellow students and her sense of service to society in general. Maya's thesis was *Arts-Based Approaches to Transitional Justice*.

2013

Abass Noor and Hannah McIntire welcomed their first child, Elias Abas Mohamud, on March 21, 2020. "Elias loves that he was able to quarantine with his parents for the first few months of life!" wrote Hannah. "We all look forward to seeing Mac friends after the pandemic."

2016

The Class of 2016 will celebrate its 5th Reunion in June 2021.

TELL US:

What's one podcast you're loving right now? Whether it's an all-time favorite or a recent discovery, we want to hear your recommendations.

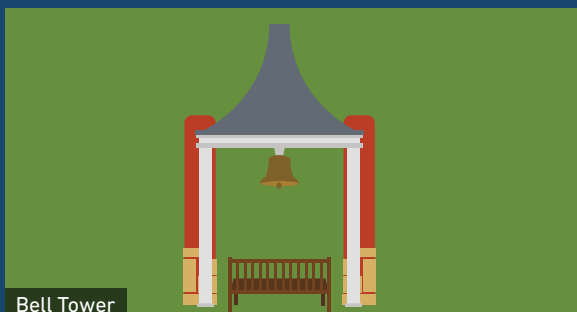
Send your shout-out via Twitter ([#hey_mac](https://twitter.com/hey_mac)), email (mactoday@macalester.edu), or mail (*Macalester Today*, Macalester College, 1600 Grand Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105).



Old Main



Bagpipes



Bell Tower

Save the date to connect and engage with your Mac community:
macalester.edu/reunion

REUNION JUNE 2021



Jenni Bermes-Goller '15 and Miranda Bermes-Goller (front row from left) were married in a small ceremony in the Twin Cities in October, joined by (back row from left): **Elizabeth Lieske '15**, **Nick Contino '15**, and **Kaarin Evens '15**.



Amy Maxon '13 and Andrew Stahl were married on September 14, 2019, in Madison, Wis. Amy's bridal party included **Annie McBurney '13** (far right) and **Madisen Stoler '13** (second from right).



“WE’RE HERE.”



Last fall, the new first-year student-athletes in Macalester’s Class of 2024 formed their first connections with Mac alumni—just 24 hours after arriving on campus—thanks to a welcome event via Zoom, hosted by the Alumni Board’s Athletics Working Group (AWG), part of the board’s After the Game series of events designed to connect alumni with Macalester athletics. In the conversations, alumni athletes shared memories and tips with the students about their own college experience.

The organizers’ goal was simple, says AWG chair Abby Dos Santos ’01: “We just wanted to show the students that we’re here: alumni are here for them. You’d think it’d be too early to share that message, but it helped. They’re starting college in a pandemic, and that comes with anxiety and uncertainty. We wanted to reach out to the new families and make sure they know there’s this network of graduates here to support them.”

Two months later, the annual Student-Athlete Career Social moved online to the Remo platform and drew more than 100 students and 30 alumni volunteers for a networking program. Alumni athletes shared career advice with current student-athletes, which was hosted by the college’s Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC), Alumni Engagement and the AWG, Career Exploration, and Athletics. Later in the fall, the AWG collaborated with the college’s M Club to show their support by creating Scots Care packages for student-athletes.

For Dos Santos, who played volleyball as a student and now works as a law librarian in Washington, D.C., the remote events

this fall have opened up possibilities for the AWG and the Alumni Board more broadly. “We have an opportunity to connect with a lot more alumni because we can do it virtually,” she says. This winter, for example, the AWG is partnering with Athletics to host alumni team events via online gatherings.

And whether the opportunities happen online or in person, the Alumni Board’s focus remains consistent: fostering more meaningful connections for alumni—with other alumni, with the college, and with current students. “It doesn’t feel like that long ago that I was a student, but it was, so being able to connect through the Alumni Board is just a great experience,” Dos Santos says. “In the current state of the world, I’ve been looking for ways to reach out, and connecting to Mac has really helped get me through these past couple of years. I want to help promote alumni engagement, so other people can share that experience.”

GET INVOLVED

It’s an isolating time for many of us, and the Alumni Board’s Athletics Working Group wants to help you expand your network. Whether you’re interested in reconnecting with other alumni-athletes or creating new connections with student-athletes, reach out to the Athletics Working Group: alumnioffice@macalester.edu.

1943

Isabelle Jean Shannon Wood, 97, of Mandan, N.D., died Aug. 29, 2020. She taught high school English, speech, and drama in South Dakota and Wyoming. Wood also served on the board of Mandan Hospital and taught at State Industrial School for 15 years. She is survived by daughter **Vicki Wood Berglind '70**, son **Gary Wood '73**, four grandchildren (including **Tyler Wood '04** and **Kate Amoo-Gottfried '00**), six great-grandchildren, and a brother.

1944

Warren F. Bateman, 98, of Maggie Valley, N.C., died Nov. 7, 2020. He was a veteran of World War II in the Pacific Theater. After practicing law for a brief period, Bateman sold law books for West Publishing Company, retiring in 1996. He also served on Macalester's Board of Trustees. Bateman is survived by his wife, Marilyn, four daughters, two sons, five grandchildren (including **Hill Bateman '06**), and four great-grandchildren.

1946

Ethel M. Ikeda, 96, of St. Paul died Sept. 25, 2020. She was head of records at St. Luke's Hospital for many years.

Ardelle Barrott Rourk, 93, died May 28, 2018.

1947

Nancy Hall Miles, 94, of Greensboro, N.C., died Aug. 11, 2020. She was a social worker with Hennepin County. Miles is survived by three sons as well as grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Donald F. Strange, 96, of White Bear Lake, Minn., died Jan. 10, 2020. He served on White Bear Lake's city council. Strange is survived by two daughters, a son, seven grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and a sister.

1948

Margaret Valentine Miller, 93,

of Mahtomedi, Minn., died Sept. 16, 2020.

Mary Burgess Redmann, of Park Ridge, Ill., died recently. She managed a resale store at her Episcopal church. Redmann is survived by her husband, Delbert, two daughters, two grandchildren, and a brother.

1950

Walter O. Simpson, 95, of Chisago City, Minn., died Nov. 17, 2020. He served as a pilot in the U.S. Navy during World War II. After beginning a career in journalism with the *Prescott Journal* and working as editor of the *Brainerd Daily Dispatch*, Simpson established his own business, Cold Type Setters, in Minneapolis. When he retired in 1987, the company had grown to almost 100 employees. Simpson is survived by his wife, Sally, three daughters, four sons, 23 grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren, and a brother.

1951

Virginia Hook Baker, 90, died Aug. 23, 2020, in Ft. Wayne, Ind. She taught at Christ Presbyterian Church's Geneva Preschool for many years. Baker is survived by two daughters, a son, 10 grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchildren.

Marilyn Larson Heiple, 91, of Roseville, Minn., died June 2, 2020. She is survived by two daughters, two sons, eight grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, and a sister.

Dean M. Reed, 92, died Aug. 14, 2019. He served in the U.S. Army in France after World War II. During a 33-year career with the U.S. Forest Service, Reed worked in national forests in Montana and Idaho and served for 16 years as Butte District Ranger. He is survived by four children, five grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Glen M. Wiese, 90, of River Falls, Wis., died Sept. 20, 2020. He served in the Army and worked for more than 40 years

// OTHER LOSSES

Macalester Professor **Galo González** died Nov. 19, 2020.

He joined Macalester's Spanish and Portuguese Department in 1986. He served as chair of the department and was also affiliated with the Latin American Studies Department. His scholarship focused on the literature of social protest movements in Latin America and race relations in Latin American narrative. Macalester presented González with its Thomas Jefferson Award in 2018 in recognition of his efforts to promote justice and equality at the college and in society at large.



James A. Jeffers, a longtime staff member at Macalester, died Sept. 1, 2020, at the age of 80. He worked in advancement services for Macalester from 2003 to 2012, and was later a substitute switchboard operator at the college from 2015 to 2016. Jeffers was a fixture at Macalester events and a regular at the Leonard Center. He is survived by his wife, Barb, and a sister.



in various financial roles at 3M, retiring in 1992 as sector controller. Wiese is survived by two daughters, a son, four grandchildren, and a great-grandchild.

1952

James J. Ellis, 91, of Prior Lake, Minn., died Aug. 10, 2020. He was an Army paratrooper and retired after 35 years with Hartford Insurance. Ellis had three children.

Harold R. Johnson, 92, died Sept. 28, 2020. He was an educator and coach. Johnson is survived by a son and a grandson.

Sara Sells Roberson, 89, died July 2, 2020. During a 26-year teaching career in the Minneapolis Public Schools, she amassed more than 750 children's books by authors of color and Indigenous writers. The collection is now housed in the Givens Collection of African-American Literature and the Kerlan Collection of Books for Children. Roberson is survived by a daughter, a son, and a sister.

Lowell E. "Ozzie" Salyards, 90, of Rochester, N.Y., died Sept. 30, 2020. He worked at Eastman Kodak for 31 years. Salyards is survived by a daughter, two

sons, five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

1953

Helen Finger Maltby, 88, of Cocoa Beach, Fla., died Aug. 24, 2020.

Robert G. McQueen, 89, of Birchwood, Wis., and St. Louis Park, Minn., died Oct. 15, 2020. He worked in sales for Armstrong Cork Co., managed and owned R.D. Cone Co. Hardware, and worked in commercial and residential real estate development. McQueen is survived by his wife, BJ, a daughter, a son, and a brother.

1954

Jean Olin Heidenreich, 88, of Minneapolis died Oct. 30, 2020. After several years as a social worker with Hennepin County Social Services, Heidenreich embarked on a career in calligraphy. She had two greeting card lines and taught calligraphy at North Hennepin Community College. Heidenreich is survived by two daughters, a

son, five granddaughters, five great-grandchildren, and sister **Joyce Olin Wiebusch '58**.

Norma A. Johnson, 87, died Nov. 6, 2020. She taught elementary school in the St. Paul Public Schools.

John D. King, 88, of Inver Grove Heights, Minn., died Oct. 28, 2020. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps and Reserve and worked as a teacher and coach in North St. Paul, Minn., for 34 years. A member of Macalester's Athletic Hall of Fame, King ran on every street in St. Paul in 1976 and in Minneapolis in 1984. He is survived by his wife, Margaret, three children, six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Dale O. Lynch, 91, of Bloomington, Minn., died Aug. 22, 2020. He served in the Navy as a hospital corpsman at Great Lakes Naval Base. Lynch later worked as a news writer for KSTP in the late 1950s, and then as a writer and public relations manager at 3M. He retired in 1991. Lynch is survived by longtime companion **Mary MacLaugh-**

lin '53, three daughters, four grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Richard Pemberton, 87, of Fergus Falls, Minn., died Dec. 1, 2019. He served in the Army and taught international law at the University of Virginia. In 1960, Pemberton joined the law firm that now bears his name, retiring at the age of 83. He is survived by his wife, Betty, a daughter, three sons (including **Richard Pemberton '81** and **Jonathan Pemberton '83**), and six grandchildren.

Richard W. Thompson, 88, of Cincinnati died Sept. 10, 2020. During a 35-year career in psychiatric social work, he was a counselor, supervisor, and administrator. After retiring in 1997 as director of a mental health agency in Stark County, Thompson began a second career playing upright bass. He is survived by two daughters, a son, and four grandchildren.

1955

Barbara Canton Andersen, 89, died Oct. 3, 2020, in Albert Lea,

Minn. She taught school in Oregon and Minnesota. Andersen is survived by a daughter, a son, and four grandchildren.

Kurt J. Kremlick, 86, of Kalamazoo, Mich., died Dec. 14, 2019. He is survived by his wife, Frances.

1956

Robert J. Hollinger, 91, died Sept. 9, 2020. He served with the Naval Reserves in the Korean War and was a sales representative for banking and HVAC companies. Hollinger was also an active ham radio operator and served as president of the Steele County Historical Society. He is survived by his wife, **Joanne Belina Hollinger '56**, four daughters, seven grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

1957

Dorothea H. Kandler, 85, of Oakdale, Minn., died Oct. 9, 2020. After retiring from a career in education with the Minneapolis school system, she taught at New Life Academy in Woodbury, Minn.

JOIN US FOR SEASON III OF BIG QUESTIONS

Dig into current issues with fellow alumni, friends, and parents in our live virtual events—and welcome President Suzanne Rivera, who will bring her bioethicist lens to conversations with Macalester faculty, staff, and alumni. To watch previous event recordings and register for upcoming programs, visit macalester.edu/bq-events.

FEBRUARY 18

Will the pandemic make K-12 education more equitable?

Professor Lesley Lavery, political science, and Professor Brian Lozenski, educational studies

MARCH 21

What happened to human rights?

Professor James Dawes, DeWitt Wallace Professor of English and human rights and humanitarianism concentration faculty member

APRIL 22

Can art inspire action?

Professor John Kim, media and cultural studies

1958

Myron J. "Jack" Brose, 84, of Lake Namekagon Township, Wis., died Oct. 27, 2020. He was a certified public accountant at Larson, Allen, Weishair & Co. for 33 years. He became a partner in the firm and served as both a member and chair of its board of directors before retiring in 1994. Brose is survived by his wife, Bobby, two daughters, a son, and six grandchildren.

Lloyd M. Johnson, 85, died Nov. 9, 2020, in Houston. He joined the Minnesota National Guard in 1954 and returned to active duty in the U.S. Army in 1967. After two tours in Vietnam and other postings in the U.S. and Germany, Johnson retired from the Army in 1990. He then worked for Diamond Shamrock Refining Company and DynMcDermott Petroleum Operations Company and was involved in projects related to the Department of Energy's Strategic Petroleum Reserve. With his wife, Marlene, Johnson had a daughter, two sons, six grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Samuel M. Joy, 85, died Sept. 23, 2020. He and his wife, **June Dell Joy '58**, had a daughter, two sons, and five grandchildren.

Elizabeth Bruce Peterson, 84, died Oct. 8, 2020, in Duluth, Minn. She taught elementary school and preschool in Minneapolis, Duluth, and Virginia, Minn. Peterson is survived by her husband, Barry, two sons, five grandchildren, and three brothers.

1959

David C. "Cobie" Kamman, 83, died Nov. 8, 2020, in Libertyville, Ill. He worked for Kimberly-Clark and pursued a sales career in the paper industry. Kamman is survived by two sons, five grandchildren, and a great-grandson.

1960

Diane Johnson Wells, 82, of Tulsa, Okla., died Oct. 12, 2020. She volunteered as a docent at

the Gilcrease Museum and Philbrook Museum. Wells is survived by three children, several grandchildren, and a sister.

1961

Larry D. Bultena, 81, died Oct. 1, 2020, in Denver. During a career as a psychotherapist, he worked for family service agencies in Minneapolis and a mental health center in Virginia, Minn. After moving to Denver in 1983, Bultena served an internship as a chaplain at Bethesda Psychiatric Hospital and opened a private practice as a pastoral counselor. He is survived by his wife, Gail, three daughters, four grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and a sister.

Demetrios T. "Jim" Demetriou, 81, died Oct. 29, 2020. He worked at Control Data. Demetriou is survived by his wife, Martha, a daughter, two sons, three grandchildren, and a sister.

Priscilla "Penny" Wallace Ender, 81, died Nov. 6, 2020, in Winston-Salem, N.C. She was a probation officer with the Forsyth County Department of Social Services, was employed as a social worker at Forsyth Memorial Hospital for 24 years, and worked at Hospice & Palliative CareCenter for 12 years. Ender is survived by a daughter, three granddaughters, and a brother.

LaVonne Hagerman Hage, 80, of Scottsdale, Ariz., died Dec. 9, 2019. She is survived by a daughter.

1962

Connie Jernander Benson, 80, of Henderson, Nev., died recently. She worked at home as a seamstress and carved and painted decorative wooden decoys for the Hadley Companies. Benson is survived by her husband, **John Benson '62**, a daughter, a son, three grandsons, and a sister.

Beverly True Dailey, 79, died Oct. 10, 2020. She began her career in the St. Paul Public

// OTHER LOSSES

Timothy J. McGough,

whose family business, McGough Companies, has been the general contractor for Macalester's major building projects since 2006, died Oct. 26, 2020. He began working for McGough Companies at the age of 14, holding positions from carpenter to executive vice president. He also served as chairman of the board of trustees of the North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters for 30 years. McGough Companies oversaw construction for the Leonard Center, Markim Hall, all three phases of the Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center renovation and expansion, and the Briggs House renovation. McGough is survived by his wife, Jane, five daughters, a grandson, two sisters, and a brother.



Ted R. Rueff of St. Paul,

former director of counseling at Macalester's Laurie Hamre Center for Health and Wellness, died Nov. 21, 2020, at the age of 64. After a career in private practice and at the University of St. Thomas, Hamline University, Hazelden, and Aspen Medical Group, Rueff joined Macalester's staff in 1998 as a counselor in the Career Development Center. He began working at the Hamre Center in 1999 and took over leadership of the counseling team in 2000. Rueff was recognized by Macalester's Department of Multicultural Life for his work in support of diversity and social justice, and received the Minnesota Campus Compact's Presidents' Civic Engagement Steward Award in 2019. Rueff is survived by his wife, Ann Isaacson, his parents, a sister, and a brother.



Schools in 1962, teaching junior high English, high school remedial reading, and English as a second language before her retirement in 1997. Dailey also served in leadership and board positions with the St. Paul Needleworkers Chapter of the Embroiderers' Guild of America. She is survived by a daughter, a son, three grandchildren, two sisters, and a brother.

1963

Stephen N. Haas, 79, died Oct. 30, 2020. After completing medical school, Haas served with the Air Force at Ellsworth Air Force Base. He then practiced for several decades as the only endocrinologist in western South Dakota while also operating a small ranch near Hermosa, S.D. He is survived by his wife, **Judy Wikoff Haas '65**, a daughter, a son, and five grandchildren, as well as his sisters and brother.

Jeffrey R. Hazen, 79, died Oct. 10, 2020, in Bloomington, Minn. He served as a minister at Presbyterian churches in Minneapolis and Belle Plaine, Minn., and worked for many years at Satellite Industries in Plymouth, Minn. Hazen is survived by a daughter, a son, four grandchildren, a brother, and former wife **Judith Kurth Hazen '64**.

Lindsey M. Hobbs, 78, of Statesville, N.C., died Nov. 23, 2019.

1966

Thomas B. Kjellberg, 76, of Bloomington, Minn., died Sept. 22, 2020. He served in the Minnesota Army National Guard and Reserve and was a conservation officer with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Kjellberg is survived by his wife, Teri, two daughters, a son, six grandchildren, and a brother.

1967

Marilyn Hooper Rohlfing, 76, died Nov. 5, 2020. She retired in 2009 after nearly 40 years as a social worker with the St.

Paul Public Schools. Rohlfing is survived by two sons, two grandchildren, and a sister.

1968

Lowell C. Drager, 74, of Swanville, Minn., died Sept. 30, 2020. He taught English, speech, and theater at Swanville High School for 31 years, retiring in 1999. Drager is survived by a brother.

Thomas R. Oeffinger, 73, of Robeson Township, Pa., died Sept. 4, 2020. He worked for Westinghouse, Rockwell International, Western Electric, AT&T, and Lucent, and retired from Agere in 2002. Oeffinger is survived by his wife, Linda, a daughter, a son, two grandchildren, a sister, and two brothers.

1970

John T. Morken, 72, died Nov. 4, 2020. He pursued a long career in international banking and ran his own business. After his retirement, Morken launched the Arts Grand Strand nonprofit website, which promotes artists, musicians, and theater professionals. Morken is survived by his wife, Patricia, a daughter, a son, and a grandson.

1971

Melani Moore died Aug. 7, 2020. She specialized in working with children with developmental disabilities and taught special education in Charlotte, N.C.

Jeffrey E. Pennig, 69, died Nov. 22, 2018, in Nashville, Tenn. He is survived by his wife, Cynthia, and a sister.

1973

James K. Lane, 71, died Sept. 12, 2020, in Fort Collins, Colo. While working for a brain research laboratory at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, he studied the mammalian cerebral cortex. He later worked for HRB Systems and co-founded SRI International's signal technology program. Lane retired in 2011.

He is survived by two sisters and a brother.

Michaela M. Mahady, 68, died Oct. 22, 2020. Mahady and her husband, John Pietras, established Pegasus Studio, where they designed and produced large-scale art glass projects. Mahady—who majored in studio art at Macalester—went on to earn a master's degree in architecture from the University of Minnesota and became an award-winning partner in the architecture firm of Mulfinger, Susanka, and Mahady (later SALA Architects). Her Art Nouveau-influenced architectural projects have been featured in print publications and on PBS and HGTV. In 2009, Microsoft created a font called SketchFlow Print based on her printing. The following year brought the publication of her book *Welcoming Home: Creating a House that Says Hello*. Mahady was also a painter, sculptor, and fiber artist whose works are on exhibit this winter at the Phipps Center for the Arts. Former Macalester professor Dale Warland described her as “totally unpretentious, while gifted in so many ways.” She is survived by her husband, a daughter, and two brothers (including **James Mahady '77**).

1975

Kathryn Kvammen-McKinley, 67, died Aug. 27, 2020. She taught for 32 years in the Minneapolis public school system and worked for Northwest/Delta Airlines for 23 years. She is survived by her husband, Brian, and a sister.

Patricia A. Thiel, 67, died Sept. 7, 2020. After working on the technical staff at Sandia National Laboratories, Thiel joined the faculty of Iowa State University in 1983 and remained there for 37 years. She was a distinguished professor of chemistry, materials science, and engineering at Iowa State and a faculty scientist at Ames Laboratory, focusing her research on nanostructures and quasicrystals. She was the

author or editor of more than 350 scientific publications and served as associate editor of the *Journal of Chemical Physics*. Thiel is survived by her husband, Jim Evans, and two daughters.

1978

William P. Sullivan, 64, of Oak Park, Ill., died Sept. 10, 2020. He worked in telecommunications and information technology management. Sullivan is survived by his wife, Penny, a daughter, and three sons.

1991

Lawrence R. Whittle, 52, died Nov. 4, 2020. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1989 to 1993 and was a veteran of Desert Storm. He then earned a master's in social work from Walla Walla University. Whittle is survived by daughter **Hannah Whittle '19**, his mother, two sisters, a brother, and his former wife, Katie Ross.

1992

Carole M. Bashaw, 51, of St. Paul died Nov. 5, 2020. After working in information technology in the health care industry, Bashaw launched her own information technology consulting business, CBass Consulting, Inc. She is survived by her mother, four sisters, and two brothers.

2001

Andrew J. Jardine, 41, died June 28, 2020. He was a systems specialist at Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative. Jardine is survived by two sons and his parents.

2018

Gabriel Cornier-Bridgeforth, 24, died Oct. 12, 2020. He was a recess and after-school teacher at Grace Lee Boggs School in Detroit. Cornier-Bridgeforth is survived by his mother, his grandmothers, and two brothers.

THREE CHEERS

We know this Mac scene is from Homecoming 1977, photographed by Tom Nelson '70. Do you know who the cheerleaders are? Tell us: archives@macalester.edu.

Instagram: [@macalesterarchives](https://www.instagram.com/macalesterarchives)



“Macalester brings together students of many different backgrounds and teaches them to work together and solve problems. It’s the best place to put our money because it’s the best chance for making a positive impact on the world.”

—Steve Euller '71 and Nancy Roehr



As a Class of 1971 Reunion planning committee member, Steve Euller has been making calls to former classmates, inviting them to take part in their 50th Reunion in June, and asking them to consider contributing to the Class Gift. He and his wife, Nancy Roehr, are doing both.

“When you meet Macalester people at Reunion or anywhere, they always have an interesting story,” says Steve. “They are curious, they are still learning, and they are value-driven people who have done admirable things no matter what direction they went in. Suddenly you’ve got an old friend because you’ve got so much in common.”

The couple made a very generous planned gift as well as several outright gifts to The Macalester Moment campaign, all of which will be included in the 1971 Class Gift. “Macalester brings together students of many different backgrounds and teaches them to work together and solve problems,” says Steve. “It’s the best place to put our money because it’s the best chance for making a positive impact on the world.”

Nancy, who calls herself “a Macalester in-law,” says that Macalester is consistent with the values they care about. “We’re investing in the future,” she says, “so Macalester students can go out and make change happen in ways we can’t even envision yet.”

For more information on making a planned gift, contact Theresa Gienapp at 651-696-6087 or visit macalester.edu/plannedgiving.

MACALESTER COLLEGE

1600 Grand Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55105-1899



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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



The season's first big snowfall amazed Francesca Bernardino '24 (Las Vegas) and Amie Frey '24 (Takoma Park, Md.), who were in a pod together in the fall to stay safer during the pandemic. "We were walking to class and decided to have a mini snowball fight," Bernardino says.