

TODAY

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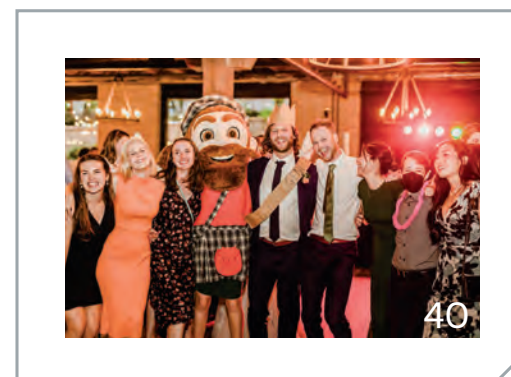
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Read the full abstracts of all of the Class of 2023's honors projects at macalester.edu/honors/honors-abstracts.

PHOTO: ISTOCK/RELAXFOTO.DE

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MACALESTER TODAY (Volume 111, Number 3)
is published by Macalester College. It is
mailed free of charge to alumni and friends
of the college four times a year.

Circulation is 32,000.

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Serendipity

Lots of interesting connecting points between two articles in your spring edition: “Mactivism” and “James A. Williams Has Never Let Go.”

Whether you intended it or not, “Mactivism’s” lead story on Jim Bennett ’69 directly correlated to your cover story on James A. Williams ’77.

In the story you tell of Bennett’s efforts—which were extensive, as I was there in those days—to establish the Expanded Educational Opportunities (EEO) program. Earlier in the publication you have a lovely tribute to Williams and his stage career, as well as Mac’s Theater and Dance Department. Mac was having an outsized impact on the Twin Cities’ theater and musical communities in those highly innovative and artistic days. In the article by Collier Meyerson ’07, the EEO program is credited as being part of what drew Williams to Macalester a few years after Bennett’s work.

All of the alums featured in the “Mactivism” section had impressive stories to tell. But I couldn’t help smiling at the direct links within this *Macalester Today*. I’m sure there are others, but these jumped out at me as I remember those days at Macalester with great appreciation.

Thanks so much for your attentiveness as a publication to the values that make Macalester the educational institution it is and has been through the years.

—Anne H. Lewis ’72

Reimagining Macalester

On page 7 of the Spring 2023 *Macalester Today*, alums were invited to send in “questions, suggestions, and comments” regarding *Imagine*, Macalester, the college’s new strategic plan.

My first step was to visit the strategic plan website and read the plan. I was particularly looking for any reference for dealing with the issue of viewpoint diversity in respect to “Creating a student-ready campus.”

What I discovered is that *Imagine*, Macalester is itself a good example of the lack of viewpoint diversity at the college.

Example: One of the four Foundational Imperatives listed in the plan is Social Responsibility, which is defined as “Advance equity and social justice, anti-racism, environmental justice and climate action.”

If there had been some significant viewpoint diversity among the group that approved the above, they might have considered goals such as preserve civil and religious liberty, self-government, and the rule of law instead of the standard progressive laundry list.

And about that laundry list—equity—which is being used to define equality of result under the current DEI usage, does not even belong on a list of anyone’s goals. No society which has single-mindedly pursued equality of result has ever ended in anything other than totalitarianism, which is usually followed by mass murder (Mao, Pol Pot et al.). The focus needs to be on improving oneself and to help others to improve themselves, not making sure everyone gets the same size piece of the pie (which never happens anyway, because, as Orwell states in *Animal Farm*, “some are more equal than others”).

Instead of blindly moving forward to “foster implementation of the strategic plan’s goals”—maybe we need to take another look at the validity and applicability of *Imagine*, Macalester.

—James Noran ’74

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Visit Mac’s social media hub at macalester.edu/macsocial and join in by using the [#heimac](https://twitter.com/heimac) hashtag when you post on Twitter or Instagram.

CORRESPONDENCE POLICY

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

MACALESTER BELONGS TO YOU

In my three years at Macalester, we’ve talked a lot about the concept of belonging. Usually when we use this word, we’re talking about the importance of fitting in—of being a part of things, of feeling included. As we advance our strategic plan to build on past progress and imagine Macalester’s future, fostering a sense of belonging for all members of our community is a core part of our work.

At the same time, as I explained in my remarks at our most recent Commencement, I’ve been reflecting lately on another dimension of the word “belonging.” And that is the way in which Macalester *belongs* to every member of the alumni community—whenever you graduated, wherever you are in the world, and however often you’re able to visit campus. The degree you earned here makes Macalester yours, for life. You shaped this place by your presence, through your participation, and because you shared your unique gifts and talents during your time here.

The recently graduated members of the Class of 2023, for example, experienced just one “regular” semester before the COVID-19 pandemic upended the world as we knew it. Yet, throughout their remaining three years of college, I saw their tenacity, perseverance, and compassion. I also saw how they used their voices to make meaningful change. They asked questions, listened closely, learned from one another, and took action. They spoke out about inequity and injustice. They imagined creative solutions to thorny problems. When we asked them to share their input for the strategic plan that will guide the college after they leave, they gave it, and the plan that emerged is full of their ideas. So, while Macalester undoubtedly has helped shape them, our newest alumni also have changed and transformed all of us.

For generations of students at Macalester, that’s precisely the point: each graduating class leaves Macalester different—and better—than they found it. This is not a side effect or an unintended consequence of our educational model; it is the very essence of what we do, and exactly our intention when we bring people from all over the world with a wide range of lived experiences to learn and work together. From those interactions with new people and ideas, our students stretch, grow, and change. And they leave indelible marks on this place that is theirs. Today’s Macalester is stronger for it.

As Macalester graduates, I hope you feel pride in that ownership—and a deep sense of responsibility. Since the college belongs to its alumni, you are instrumental to its care and nurturing. Not only in the sense that your degree is meaningful and valuable to you, but also because making a Macalester education available to future students is a shared goal to which we all can aspire. For some of you, that sense of responsibility takes the shape of volunteerism or mentoring of current students. For others, it’s philanthropy in support of key programs and initiatives. And—whether



President Rivera greets alumni during Reunion 2023.

you realize it or not—you all serve as unofficial ambassadors and spokespeople. Even the simple act of wearing Macalester gear when you travel opens the door to conversations with prospective students and families, eager to learn more about the college and its values.

Just as you belong within the Macalester community, Macalester belongs to you and is made more special by your sustained involvement in the life of the college. Keeping alumni deeply engaged in our global community—in person or across the miles—is critical to ensuring that we thrive far into the future. Whether you were among the more than 1,400 alumni who celebrated Reunion on campus last month or haven’t been to St. Paul in years, we look forward to welcoming you back to your Macalester.

Dr. Suzanne M. Rivera is president of Macalester College.

1600 GRAND



Jane Dawson '25, MacShare co-leader

MacShare Brings Food Justice to Campus

Most Friday afternoons during the academic year, MacShare—a nonprofit student organization—sets up its weekly pop-up sale at the Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center. From peppers and kale to granola and popcorn, they offer fresh produce and bulk goods sourced from local farmers. MacShare members are an ambitious bunch, working to provide affordable groceries for students and the larger Mac community while also addressing food insecurity on campus and pursuing food justice in the Twin Cities. Founded in 2018, the org's popularity has exploded in the past couple of years, and it's just getting started.

While most students

know MacShare through their sales, the org also is involved with food justice fundraising and food recovery efforts. By fostering relationships with local organizations like Co-op Partners Warehouse, The Good Acre, Loaves & Fishes, and Feeding Frogtown, MacShare takes its mission beyond campus and engages with the broader Twin Cities community. With increased membership and involvement this year, MacShare plans to expand its reach even further.

"We started a round-up campaign (rounding up prices to fund other initiatives) similar to that of our co-op counterparts as an opportunity for students to learn what other food

justice nonprofits do," says Jane Dawson '25 (Pownal, Maine), a MacShare co-leader. "We also do food recovery work in Café Mac, we have free vouchers in the food pantry, and this summer students who are living off campus will be able to purchase a box of food from us weekly."

MacShare is able to do this work in part through support from Mac's Sustainability Office. Any money MacShare makes through their weekly food sales flows back into their operations, allowing for offerings like the voucher program and donations to food justice initiatives.

"They put in so much work to be able to offer MacShare. It's a lot of relationship building and coordinating with different cooperatives around the Twin Cities in order to buy food at [affordable] cost and recover food from Café Mac that would otherwise not have been used," says sustainability director

Megan Butler. "It's such a great project and their work is really important for the campus."

As they expand, MacShare hopes to demonstrate the many possibilities that their closed-economy (i.e., self-sufficient) structure provides, and educate the community on ways to increase access to local, affordable, and culturally appropriate food.

"Our goal today remains providing students with an equitable, affordable, local way to get produce. COVID-19 really cut MacShare back, but I think this year really represents the next generation and our ability to build on the foundational concept of a closed feedback loop," says Dawson. "We can take food justice and bring it to so many different places. MacShare is something students can count on—it's a moment of community."

—Talia Bank '23

KURT STEPHENITZ

SHELF CONSCIOUS

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

Arjun Guneratne is a professor of anthropology specializing in South Asia.



Any standout books you've read recently?

I am currently reading *Brotherless Night* by V. V. Ganeshanathan. There is really good literature emerging about the Sri Lankan Civil War and this novel is one of the best. It is an intimate portrait of a family being sucked into war, told through the eyes of a young woman. *Brotherless Night* examines the complex motives its different members have to the struggle, and gives the reader a real sense of what it must have been like to be living through that period.

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

In an *Antique Land* by Amitav Ghosh. Before he became a famous novelist, Ghosh was an anthropologist studying in Egypt, and he tells the story of his fieldwork in two villages. A narrative running concurrently, almost like a double helix, concerns a twelfth-century Yemeni merchant in Western India, a story Ghosh uncovers in the archives of an old synagogue in Cairo. It calls boundaries of all kinds into question, and dissolves the line between the study of anthropology and history.

What is something you love to read that we might not expect?

My weakness is navies in the age of Napoleon so I am a big fan of the *Master and Commander* series by Patrick O'Brian. O'Brian is very ethnographic in his approach and makes no concessions to the reader with the vocabulary of the period. The eponymous master and commander passed time on the ship by playing the violin, and a fan of the book made a CD of the music they played. I own that, too.

What book would you recommend to everyone at Macalester?

A really important book to read right now is *Dirty Knowledge* by Julia Schleck. If you're interested in what academic freedom means, this book explains it. It discusses how academic freedom is undermined by gig labor in academia and the rolling back of tenure at universities. The author argues that the university is a seedbed for the ideas that will help us deal with the challenges facing us, and academic freedom is what makes that seedbed possible. But there is an assault in this country on the freedom to think, and that doesn't bode well for the future. —Catherine Kane '26

Whose shelf should we visit next?
Email mactoday@macalester.edu.

CSANAD HEGYI



MACALESTER

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

Six working groups composed of over ninety members of the Macalester community, including staff, faculty, alumni, and students, are working on specific pieces of the *Imagine, Macalester* plan. They will share their work products with the senior leadership team in August.

- **Educational Policy and Governance (EPAG) ad hoc Curricular Committee** is collecting ideas and developing an approach to revise the curriculum to better align with the strategic plan.
- **Student Learning Committee** is examining the current Statement of Student Learning to provide guidance on revisions.
- **Task Force on Budget** is rolling out a zero-based budgeting process.
- **Creating a Student-ready Campus** is focused on creating a student-centered first-year experience, strengthening the student experience across the four years, student well-being, student sense of belonging, and ensuring students have access to experiences that prepare them for life after Macalester.
- **Fostering Employee Well-being** is focused on reviewing current well-being resources, and prioritizing recommendations of policies, procedures, or systems to further support belonging, connection, and well-being.
- **Immersing Alumni in the Intellectual Life of the College** is focused on identifying ways in which connections among Macalester alumni and between alumni and students can create opportunities for intergenerational learning to be enriched.

For current information about the planning process and how you can be involved, visit macalester.edu/strategic-plan.

1600
GRAND



Reunion 2023

More than 1,400 alumni and friends came back to Mac in June for Reunion to celebrate, reconnect, and dance under the stars outside on the Great Lawn and inside JWall at the Scots Pride Queer Prom. Reunion featured an alumni panel discussion in honor of the fiftieth anniversary of the first graduates of the Expanded Educational Opportunities program, as well as a reception and keynote address by Dr. Shana L. Redmond '02 marking the twentieth anniversary of the American studies program. At the Grand Celebration breakfast, ten alumni were honored with Alumni Awards (read their stories on page 28), and the college celebrated breaking its fundraising goal of \$21 million, including \$8.8 million from the Class of 1973, and \$5.187 million from the Macalester Fund.

Save the date for Reunion 2024, June 6-9. Learn more at macalester.edu/alumni.

DAVID J. TURNER



ART SHOULD BE FEARLESS

RAPPER AND RECORD PRODUCER KWAME AMETEEPEE TSIKATA '05—AKA M.ANIFEST—TOOK THE STAGE AT SPRINGFEST.

BY CATHERINE KANE '26

It was in Turck Hall in 2003 that Kwame Ameteppee Tsikata '05 recorded a song for the first time, with none other than present-day Bon Iver band manager Nate Vernon '07.

This April, Tsikata—now a preeminent Ghanaian rapper and record producer professionally known as M.anifest—came back to campus to perform at the Program Board's annual Springfest. A day before the performance, he sat down with a dozen students in an intimate Q&A moderated by Ariel McGuire '26 to discuss his college experience, creative process, and global rise.

After graduating with an economics degree, Tsikata stuck around the Twin Cities making records and connections.

"I thought I left college, but I entered another one," he says of his time learning the ropes of the music industry.

He first got the attention of record labels when a song he recorded was used in a Pepsi commercial, and the royalties gave him the financial freedom to pursue music full time. After a few years in the Twin Cities, he moved back to Ghana, and began to build his network again.

"My entire career has been a series of intentional accidents," he says.

Tsikata became obsessed with the music-making process: watching YouTube tutorials, collaborating with more established artists, and even visiting the factories that were making his records. An independent artist, Tsikata doesn't have a large marketing budget, but that isn't an issue: "What you lack in marketing budget, you can make up for in creativity."

A UNICEF ambassador, Tsikata advocates for adolescent girls on issues like child marriage and gender-based violence. He also supports the arts through various projects and funds in Minneapolis and Ghana.

"An education and music are not separate," he says.

He encouraged students to pursue music if it's their passion, even inviting a student during the Q&A to freestyle a few lines for him.

"Art should be fearless."

Professor Emeritus Stan Wagon's Square-Wheeled Bike Inspires London Bridge

it "a unique and novel design capturing the spirit of engineering," and an "innovative derivation of the rolling path of the bridge using historical square-wheel mathematics."

"I almost fell out of my chair," said Wagon, who now lives in Colorado.

Nearly twenty-five years after Wagon's invention of a working square-wheeled bicycle made international headlines, earned a place in the National Museum of Mathematics, and was even cited by *Ripley's Believe It or Not!*, a team in London had built a rotating bridge that was a first-of-its-kind in the world, all based on his original bicycle design.

"Contrary to popular belief,

advanced math ideas can be really exciting, surprising, and just plain fun," says mathematics professor William Mitchell. Wagon's original bicycle had been in storage at Macalester since 2017, and Mitchell led the effort to resurrect it.

"We realized that Stan's bike is portable enough to bring outside once or twice a year to celebrate the creativity and unexpected whimsy of mathematics," says mathematics professor Andrew Beveridge. To celebrate both the bike's recent inspiration and the seniors in the Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science Department, students, faculty, and staff were invited to ride the bike at an April event.

In mid-March, Stan Wagon, professor emeritus of experimental mathematics, woke up to an email from someone he didn't know. In the message, an engineer from the United Kingdom described a new bridge he and his team recently built and then he thanked Dr. Wagon for the inspiration.

The Cody Dock Rolling Bridge in London took seven years to complete and had just won The Bridges Design Award in the UK, with judges calling



ETHAN BROWN

RUNCHEN LIU



ATHLETICS

COMPETING TO WIN EVERYWHERE ALL AT ONCE

Under Director of Athletics Donnie Brooks's thoughtful leadership, student-athletes are competing to win in all areas of their lives.

When the men's basketball team lost their March quarterfinal MIAC tournament game to St. Olaf, it was not the outcome that Director of Athletics Donnie Brooks was hoping for.

The rowdy fervor inside the packed Leonard Center gym, however, was exactly right.

"I've never seen our institution more united than at that moment," says Brooks. "What sports have the ability to do is pull a collective group of people together and get them behind one mission, and the mission that day was to beat St. Olaf. I've seen us engage in spirited debate, but I've never seen us collectively cheer on Macalester against a common enemy. That day, in a loss, something special happened. Our core values are community, that is, unite as one; develop, that is, find the lesson; and compete. And that day our community exhibited all three values."

Since Brooks began leading the department in 2019, his dream has been one of comprehensive success. Success, that is, in all sports and in all spaces—on the playing field, in the classroom, and in the community. By implementing new initiatives and building a culture of collaboration among his coaches, Brooks's efforts are now paying off. "Teams are gaining traction, and our students are succeeding in all areas of their Macalester lives," he says.

Brooks started with a process to help his department consider and identify its core values. He says the values they ultimately chose have helped provide clarity for coaches and for student-athletes.

Next came recruiting. Brooks and his coaches have focused on recruiting scholars who want to compete at a high level and are unafraid to push peers who are older. He says "Baby Sharks" has become a popular term for first-year students who expect to play in one of the toughest Division III conferences in the country. These students aren't familiar with or intimidated by big names such as Gustavus or St. John's.

Coupled with recruiting has been a focus on student development. His department has made strategic investments in sports psychology, full-time strength and conditioning coaches, and nutrition. And it's not limited to student-athletes. A new fueling station in the weight room is open to anyone who works out there, so they can grab a snack and refuel during a workout.

A turning point for Macalester was the stoppage of play during fall 2020, says Brooks. One of the unintentional benefits of the COVID-19 pandemic was that all teams did was practice and focus on development. The following spring, when competitions resumed, the Scots went on to win the majority of their contests coming out of the pandemic. And out of that came a belief that they can—and should—win.

Club sports also have adopted a competitive spirit. Both participation and the number of teams have increased since 2020. Department and donor support have allowed clubs to travel farther, purchase better equipment, and start new teams which include women's wrestling and Quad Ball (formerly Quidditch).

Embedded in student development is leadership. "A promise

Tune in for livestreams of Macalester's fall 2023 sports competitions by visiting athletics.macalester.edu.

I make to our recruits is that your development here is going to be intentional," says Brooks. Scots LEAD is a personal, professional, and leadership development program for Macalester's student-athletes. Student-athletes take part in leadership labs throughout their careers, and the program leverages partnerships in the broader Twin Cities community, including with alumni; connections across campus with Career Exploration and the Lealtad-Suzuki Center for Social Justice; department-developed initiatives; and team-specific programming.

"I believe Scots LEAD is our strategic advantage," says Brooks. The leadership skills and confidence student-athletes cultivate to compete to win can be applied to their lives and careers post-Macalester.

This spring alone, several student-athletes excelled. Triple-jumper Journey Amundson '23 finished fourteenth in the NCAA Division III Outdoor Track and Field Championships. Student-athletes from the men's golf team, women's golf team, women's tennis team, men's tennis team, and women's water polo team were named to Academic All-District Teams. Baseball player Joe Margolis '23 was named All-MIAC, as was women's golfer Bailey Lengfelder '26 (Renton, Wash.). Macalester finished sixth (men) and seventh (women) in the conference all-sports trophy standings. Before the stoppage of play in 2020, both men's and women's sports placed last or next-to-last in the prior three years. But over the last two seasons, there has been a steady point increase.

When fall sports kick off next month, the Macalester women's volleyball team will look to post a winning record for the third year in a row. The men's football team, which ended its 2022 season by snapping an eleven-game losing streak to St. Olaf, will work to improve over last year's record of 5-5.

Brooks undertook a winter sabbatical project to learn how other prominent Division III academic institutions are working through challenges and winning at a high level. After visiting Trinity University, Pomona-Pitzer, and Carnegie Mellon University, Brooks shared three takeaways that will help inform his work going forward.

First, presidential and board leadership matters. Like Macalester, "these schools see athletics as excellence in education," says Brooks. "Why would we want to win at academics and not win at athletics?" Second, facilities matter. Brooks says he's grateful for a facility like the Leonard Center, not just for student-athletes, but for the wellness of the entire campus community. The third lesson? Success doesn't happen overnight. "We have to keep working," he says. "Some of the things we're doing in investing in our students, investing in our programs, investing in our facilities and other spaces, it's just going to take a little time. Keep doing great stuff, and in time we're going to close the gap."

Community Champion

BY LAURA BILLINGS COLEMAN

North Minneapolis and Macalester College are about ten miles apart, but when Bobby Joe Champion '87 was a student, the distance felt much greater.

The fifth of six kids, and the first in his family to go to college, Champion spent his first year at Macalester rising at dawn to board three different buses on his way to campus, setting himself up at the old student union's piano as classmates streamed out of the cafeteria after breakfast. "I did not have enough money to live on campus and I didn't want other students to know," Champion remembers. "Coming to this elite kind of school, with white folks who'd traveled all over the world, there were times when I wondered, 'What am I doing here?' But the silver lining was that that ride gave me time to read the books I heard people talking about in class, and to get mentally prepared to make that transition between North Minneapolis and Macalester. I knew I had to figure out a way to get from where I was to where I wanted to be."

Champion has been reflecting on that journey since becoming president of the Minnesota Senate, one of the most visible leadership positions at the state Capitol. When he first won elected office in 2008, he was one of only two Black lawmakers in the House of Representatives. Today, as a senator serving the 59th district, which includes North Minneapolis, Champion has become one of the body's elder statesmen, presiding over the most diverse cohort of lawmakers Minnesota voters have ever elected. "I'm very excited about the diversity in both the House and the Senate," Champion says. Gaveling the most important debates in the state, and leading fellow lawmakers in the Pledge of Allegiance "is really surreal. Not only because there's never been a person of color who has presided over a legislative body in this state, but also because I'm someone who never, ever thought I would run for office."

In fact, when he enrolled at Mac at the urging

The first Black president of the Minnesota Senate, **Bobby Joe Champion '87**, wants people of color to see themselves in politics.



of Mahmoud El-Kati, a legendary Macalester history professor and activist, Champion was leaning toward working in the music industry. The leader of an award-winning gospel choir he co-founded at the age of thirteen, and a serious Perry Mason fan, Champion grew up "hearing those horrendous stories about Black artists who were in the music industry but poor because they didn't understand the business, so I thought I would combine those two things that I loved—law and music." After graduating from Mitchell Hamline School of Law, Champion served as a staff lawyer at Flyte Tyme, the recording studio run by Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis. A talented musician with a church-trained tenor voice, he even earned a Grammy nomination in 2003 as the director of the Excelsior Ensemble Choir.

But after starting a family with his wife, Angela, a pharmacist; serving in the attorney general's office; and helping his friend Keith Ellison get elected to Congress in 2006, Champion decided it was time to be part of solving Minnesota's growing racial disparities. In 2008, the first-time candidate lined up the delegates he needed to unseat an incumbent by hosting "Breakfast with Bobby" events where he served up eggs, bacon, and grits and developed one of his signature talking points: "If you're not at the table, then you're on the menu."

"Minnesota is really a progressive place, but it's like a tale of two states based on your socioeconomic background as well as your race," Champion says. He thinks the problem stems from having too few people of color in public service, which leads to policies that are well-intentioned but often wrong-headed. "You can't tell me you care about me, and you want to make decisions for me, but you don't include me in the decision-making," he says.

With the state's Democrats holding power in the House, Senate, and the Governor's office, Champion began the session as the chief author on a bill to make Juneteenth a state holiday. He took the lead on allowing undocumented residents to apply for driver's licenses, restoring voting rights for the roughly 50,000 Minnesotans on parole or probation, and passing the CROWN Act, which prohibits discrimination based on hairstyle and texture. He also earned high marks from both sides of the aisle for managing a respectful fourteen-hour floor debate on abortion access. "I'm motivated by the Scripture that says, 'I don't do things in order to get the rewards of men—I must do what is pleasing to God,'" he says. "I see that as my ability to see other people's humanity, so when I'm presiding, I'm always looking for ways to create space for you to speak on behalf of your constituents with a sound and respectful argument."

Still an early riser, Champion gets up every day at 3:30 a.m. to fit in a workout, manage his own part-time law practice as a contract public defender for Ramsey County, and take on new assignments, like his post on the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Advisory Board. The board helps guide the economic growth of northeastern Minnesota, and Champion is its first Black member. "I know about our workforce, and I look at it as an opportunity to listen and to learn and grow," he says, before adding that he expects to bring his own ideas to the table. "When you've been dealing with the same issues for a long time, it helps to have a set of fresh eyes." ■

“

I KNEW I HAD TO FIGURE OUT A WAY TO GET FROM WHERE I WAS TO WHERE I WANTED TO BE.”

DAVID J. THURBER

St. Paul writer Laura Billings Coleman is a frequent contributor to *Macalester Today*.

TWELVE THINGS WE LEARNED

FROM THIS YEAR'S HONORS PROJECTS

With research and creative endeavors spanning the arts, humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, and mathematics, ninety members of the Class of 2023 completed honors projects.

What did we learn from this year's honors projects? Here are edited abstracts from twelve projects.

Read the full abstracts of all of the Class of 2023's honors projects at macalester.edu/honors/honors-abstracts.

BY JULIE HESSLER '85



American judges are constructing narratives of what it means to be transgender and codifying it as law.

As increasing numbers of transgender and intersex legal cases reach American courts, a growing body of scholarship has begun to examine how judges and institutions struggle to reconcile gender variance in a system with deeply entrenched gender normativity. Analyzing seventy judicial opinions from 1966 to 2022, political science major **Julian Applebaum '23** examined how judges rhetorically describe gender variance and gender variant people to anchor them within gender normativity. Applebaum argues that the legal frameworks that most likely lead to a trans litigant's victory are ones which reify the gender binary and pathologize transgender people.

Celebrities can impact prejudice in their communities.

Economics major **Mason Samuel Bosley '23** examined the effect Giannis Antetokounmpo, a Greek-Nigerian NBA player for the Milwaukee Bucks, has had on bias towards immigrants and Black people in Milwaukee and in Wisconsin as a whole. The results indicate substantial reductions in hate crimes and anti-immigrant Google searches in Wisconsin since Antetokounmpo was drafted in 2013, though data quality issues make it difficult to draw firm conclusions. Bosley's study demonstrates the power of positive parasocial contact (i.e., imagined relationships with celebrities or public figures) in changing attitudes and reducing biases.



Gentrification is not associated with reduced crime.

Gentrification is a process of urban redevelopment involving an in-migration of wealthier people to neighborhoods previously experiencing disinvestment. While gentrification is regarded for its potential to displace longtime businesses and residents, its impact on crime is controversial. There is no consensus on the relationship between gentrification and crime across criminological theory, and past studies have shown contradictory results. Statistics major **Erin Franke '23** measured gentrification from tract level census data, and estimated its relationship with both violent crime and theft in the Twin Cities. Using a spatial Poisson model, she found no indication that gentrification is associated with reduced rates of either crime.



Right-to-work laws reduce unionization and harm workplace safety.

Right-to-work (RTW) laws allow employees who are covered by a union-negotiated collective-bargaining agreement but are not union members to choose not to pay their fair share of union dues. These laws weaken unions and decrease unionization rates. Economics major **Ryan Davis Dodds '23** studied the impact of RTW laws on workplace safety using a two-way fixed effects and a difference-in-differences approach, focusing on the five right-to-work laws passed by states in the 2010s. He found that RTW laws increase occupational fatality rates by about 0.22 per 100,000 employees through decreasing unionization. This number is about 5 percent of the mean occupational fatality rate in his sample and suggests that RTW laws cost hundreds of lives each year.



Highways contribute to racial disparities in air quality.

Although there is extensive literature on the disparate exposures to pollutants, research into the impact of highways on air pollution and their disproportionate impact on minority communities residing near interstates is limited. It is crucial to understand the extent to which highways worsen pollution disparities in order to develop policies that decrease emissions from vehicles, potentially decreasing environmental justice inequities. Environmental studies and economics major **Valeska Fresquet Kohan '23** found that living close to a major road increases exposure to NO₂ (nitrogen dioxide) by 8.3 percent and PM_{2.5} (particulate matter) by 1.5 percent on average. In addition, relative to white areas close to interstates, minority areas experience up to 2.3 to 4 percent higher NO₂ pollution.



Children and youth experiencing houselessness require complex mental health care.

Children and youth experiencing houselessness have a unique set of mental health needs due to the traumatic experience of houselessness during childhood and the other adverse childhood experiences that often coincide with houselessness. Psychology major **Sarah Hamilton '23** investigated the mental health needs of children and youth experiencing houselessness and the extensive barriers they face in accessing mental health care through a review of the literature and subsequent qualitative research with mental health providers. She found that fulfilling basic needs and considering the broader social context, specifically systemic racism, were the most significant factors in mental health concerns.



The limitation of poetic forms can lead to inventiveness.

Quiet Conversations, a chapbook by English major **Lanise Yavonne Prater '23**, focuses on a Black family of four navigating the recent loss of the matriarch of the family. After the loss, the cracks in their already shaky foundation become more apparent, but all they have left is each other to depend on. The poems in this collection are meant to act as a narrative, and all poems are structured based on the characters who speak, including contrapuntal poems, sonnets, free-form visual poems, and redacted poems. It explores familial themes, grief, and trauma. Prater asks how loss affects mental and physical space, and how the limitation of poetic forms can lead to inventiveness and critical thought regarding the purpose those forms serve.



Cloud formation models may help improve air quality monitoring.

The growing concern over particulate air pollution and risks it poses to human health have dramatically increased scientific interest in low-cost particulate matter sensors (LCPMS). LCPMS have the potential to provide a solution to the spatial, temporal, and financial issues facing air quality monitoring today. However, the operating principle behind these sensors is prone to inaccuracies under different environmental conditions, especially relative humidity (RH). Using existing models that describe cloud condensation nuclei activity, physics and astronomy major **David Ruwan Geeganage '23** derived a correction factor for the LCPMS readings to account for the influence of RH. This model was tested against an existing correction method, using data collected at the University of Minnesota Particle Technology Lab in an environmental testing chamber, using a Sensirion SPS30 as the LCPMS. While the models did not improve the overall accuracy of the data against a reference DustTrak DRX, the model did succeed in improving the linearity of the data with respect to increasing RH.



Pachucos were more than rebels without a cause.

Pachuquismo was a counterculture born in the barrios of East L.A. in the 1940s. Mexican American youth created their own social group defined by specific clothing (zoot suits), music fusions (mambo and swing), and linguistic dialects (caló). However, on both sides of the US and Mexico border, pachucos had a poor reputation. In the US, mainstream media portrayed pachucos as juvenile delinquents and domestic threats. In Mexico, pachucos were mimicked and heavily criticized for their Americanization. Spanish and international studies major **Isabel Luz Elena Saavedra-Weis '23** identified how US and Mexican mainstream media reacted to pachucos, and what those portrayals tell us about the imagined national identities in both countries. She argues that contrary to the messages in mainstream media, pachucos were not purely rebels without a cause. Pachucos had agency: they asserted their belonging and cleared space for future generations of Mexican Americans.



Disrupting well-being leads to food insecurity and chronic disease.

In this community-based research dibaajimowin (storytelling), anthropology major **Zaryn Prussia '23** examined the extent to which food insecurity and chronic diseases have become serious problems in his community, Gaa-waabaabiganikaag, the White Earth Reservation in northwestern Minnesota. Based on his experiences in White Earth and literature review, he argues that food insecurity and chronic disease stem from a disruption of mino-bimaadiziwin, "well-being" or "good-living," which as a way of life relies on balanced and reciprocal relationships with all of creation. His community advocates for a resurgence of traditional foodways in a cooperative and unified way, based on reciprocal, respectful, and loving relationships, with the land and all of creation.



Ginkgo trees may help us understand ancient climate trends.

Among paleoclimate proxies are methods to target ancient concentrations of atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO₂), a gas crucial to understanding climate trends but difficult to trace in the geological record. Geology major **Shaherazade N. Khan '23** tested a method of reconstructing atmospheric paleo-CO₂ concentration from anatomical and chemical attributes of *Ginkgo biloba* trees. *G. biloba* plants were grown under ambient and elevated CO₂ concentrations for multiple years in outdoor, open-top chambers at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (Edgewater, Md.). Measurements of the stomatal morphology and other attributes of leaf gas exchange were run through the method to produce estimates of paleo-CO₂, and Khan suggested alternatives for improving the method.



Social media may not be existentially beneficial.

Social media is now a prevailing tool for people and we often interact with other people on social media. Human interaction takes place both in face-to-face settings and on social media, and becoming so-called influencers is a dream among teenagers. However, using social media necessarily entails exposure to other people and social media companies. Then, is using social media existentially beneficial? Philosophy major **Yuki Yokoi '23** explored this question by employing arguments from Erving Goffman, Jean-Paul Sartre, and Guy Debord. Yokoi argues that social media would be a valuable tool for us to achieve our own goals, but in using it we are inevitably objectified and easily feel existential anxiety in our everyday life. **M**

Julie Hessler '85 is the managing editor of *Macalester Today*.



HUMANITIES

BEHIND THE HEADLINES

Faculty show how the enduring principles of the humanities can help us unpack some of today's most urgent questions.


BY ERIN PETERSON
Illustrations by James O'Brien

As debates rage about everything from artificial intelligence to trans rights to climate change, it can seem like we are in a moment with no precedent.

You've heard the hot takes from the pundits. But what if today's headlines were instead filtered through some of the essential ideas from philosophy, history, literature, and religious studies?

Instead of offering a comforting clarity, the humanities add a layer of complexity—and that's the point. "The humanities can make the familiar unfamiliar," says assistant professor of Islamic studies Ahoon Najafian. "Education should undo your certainties."

In these pages, six Macalester faculty members share ways that a deep understanding of the humanities makes some of today's most important conversations a richer and more textured experience.



ARE WE REALLY ALL THAT DIFFERENT FROM MACHINES?



GEOFFREY GORHAM

is a professor of philosophy.

AS ARTIFICIAL intelligence platforms including ChatGPT, Bard, and Claude began their red-hot ascent into the cultural conversation this past fall, many began predicting dystopian futures in which machines took over and humans were sidelined.

Professor Geoffrey Gorham says that questions about AI that once felt almost like science fiction now seem particularly urgent. "One of the questions we ask in philosophy is, 'What is consciousness?'" he says. "Is it a matter of being a really good responder to problems, or a good learner? Is it something that only certain kinds of biological entities can have?"

He says that one useful way to see our potential future is to look at the ideas explored in *Her*, a prescient 2013 movie about artificial intelligence starring Joaquin Phoenix.

In the movie, Phoenix's character, Theodore, falls in love with an AI virtual assistant, a twist that nudges viewers to contemplate some of the thorniest questions about the role of AI in our lives. "It's increasingly difficult to know now—when you're not looking at a body in front of you—whether or not you're talking to a bot," Gorham says. "When do we start attributing genuine thoughts to AI? Does it 'make sense' to fall in love with an operating system?" he asks.

Gorham also says AI's dramatic leaps should also prompt us to consider if we are really all that different from the machines we fret about. "In some ways, we are 'trained up' in the same way that a computer is," he says. "We're observing things, our neural network is molded, and we learn to respond appropriately based on our conditioning and our training. Some might say it's a myth to suggest we're anything different than that. That can be humbling."



DO MASCOT CHANGES MATTER?



KATRINA PHILLIPS

is an associate professor of history with a focus on Native history and the history of the American West.

OVER THE past few years, major sports teams have retired some of their most offensive mascots—the Washington Redskins were renamed the Commanders and the Cleveland Indians became the Guardians. Professor and Native historian Katrina Phillips, a citizen of the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe, has watched with interest as both an academic and a parent. "My kids are sports obsessed," she says. "In the past, I would hear my nine-year-old talk about how the [Redskins] were playing, and I'd have to say, 'That's a word you can't use,' and explain why." She notes that scholars have long argued that using Native people as mascots is part of a larger manifestation of white supremacy.

At the same time, as some of these dehumanizing mascots got jettisoned, fuller, more human representations of Native people began to bubble up in pop culture. Native actress Alaqua Cox landed the lead role in the Disney+ show *Echo*. *Reservation Dogs*, a critically beloved show, features a cast, directors, writers, and production crew who are almost all Indigenous. "There has always been dissonance between the ways that Native people have been presented in pop culture and the way that Native people see themselves in real life," she says. "These kinds of breakout roles and shows are helping to change that," she says.

But can pop culture really drive larger social change? Phillips understands it might be easy to dismiss these seemingly modest name changes and pop culture appearances, but history shows that they can serve as important milestones on the path to larger change. For example, she notes a 1969 episode of *Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood* that broke a notable "color barrier" when Mr. Rogers asked a Black police officer to join him as he cooled his feet in a wading pool. Others have suggested that broadly popular television shows like *Will & Grace* helped open up more minds to same-sex marriage.

Meaningful representation can lead to meaningful change, says Phillips. "People might say, aren't there other issues to be focused on—poverty, access to food, health?" she says. "But all of these things are intertwined for Native people. The dehumanization of mascots is tied to the dehumanization of people. But if things like pop culture shows can help others see us as people, not mascots, they'll be more likely to support things like food sovereignty issues, for example. For many people, Native issues are not even on their radar, but we are starting to see hints of change."

WHAT IS THE ESSENCE OF ISLAM?

IN JANUARY, St. Paul's Hamline University found itself in the middle of a national media frenzy: after providing written and verbal disclaimers to students, an adjunct art professor had shown a reverential fourteenth-century image of the Prophet Muhammad. A Muslim student in the class lodged a formal complaint, and the University responded by describing the act as Islamophobic. After a significant outcry, Hamline officials retracted that specific characterization.

A few months later, the debate moved to Macalester when the college temporarily paused the gallery exhibit "Taravat" over the weekend

in order to create space for discussion and learning after some students expressed concerns about sexualized imagery in the artwork.

While pundits and newspaper editorials debated the balance between religious discrimination and academic freedom, Professor Ahoon Najafian, a scholar of Islamic studies, saw other ways to view the controversies. To her, these moments also highlighted the shifting norms within the second-largest religion in the world, including the ways that Islam has regarded depictions of the Prophet Muhammad. "Right now, one mainstream understanding is that Muslims shouldn't be making or looking at these images," she says. "But over hundreds of years, Muslims have been creating images of Muhammad. For some, it has been a sign of respect. For others, you shouldn't even be looking at the images."

The value of studying religion, whether it's Islam, Christianity, Hinduism, or anything else, says Najafian, is



AHOON NAJAFIAN

is an assistant professor of Islamic studies.

that it can illuminate the many ways that people practice a religion across time and place. "Islam is practiced by 1.9 billion people, and it has 1,400 years of history. It is absolutely natural for religions to be contradictory," she says. "If someone says they can tell you the essence of Islam is one thing, my job is to tell you that there is no one essence."

But this is, in some ways, its strength. Najafian wants students to embrace the kaleidoscopic beauty of Islam—including its messy realities. She hopes they take that same open-heartedness to the rest of their lives. "I want them to fall in love with ambiguity and uncertainty," she says.

ARE DEBATES ABOUT TRANS RIGHTS ABOUT MORE THAN TRANS RIGHTS?



MYRL BEAM is an associate professor of women's, gender, and sexuality studies.

IN TENNESSEE, a so-called "anti-drag" law, which restricts adult cabaret performances in public, passed in March. In April, Florida expanded on what is often called the "don't say gay" bill—public schools are banned from teaching about sexual orientation and gender identity through high school. And in Kansas, a bill passed in April that will prevent transgender women and girls from competing on sports teams consistent with their gender.

Larger ideology ties all of these efforts together, says Professor Myrl Beam. "These and other bills like them represent attempts to regulate gender nonconformity," he says. "And they're worth looking at in a unified, connected way."

Certainly, the bills and laws—even those that are not enacted—have a significant impact on many individuals: "We know, for instance, as anti-trans bills are being debated that there has been an up-

tick in depression and suicide, particularly among young trans individuals," he says. "It's not just trans people, but those who want to embody gender in ways that their families, faith communities, or other communities might not want them to," he says.

There also are larger, societal effects that can be powerful and lasting. "One way to think about the legislative process is that it is the terrain over which norms are being grappled, and in which power hierarchies are being challenged or entrenched," he says.

An expansive sense of history can show parallels between today's debates about trans issues and similar

broad cultural conversations in the past about gay marriage, women's rights, and civil rights. Norms are shaped—and sometimes upended—by these debates.

Frequently, debates that happen on a political and cultural level lead to a new understanding of what is possible and acceptable. "The robust reaction in support of trans people—the Trans Refuge Bill in Minnesota, for example—reflects the success of feminist, queer, and trans social movements in creating space for more ways of living," says Beam.

WHAT MAKES A BETTER ACTIVIST?



JOHN KIM is an associate professor of media and cultural studies. He is one of the project leaders for "Mississippi River Watershed: An Immersive Humanities Curriculum," which received a \$1.5 million grant from the Mellon Foundation.

PROFESSOR JOHN Kim believes Macalester students are natural activists: they're thoughtful, action-oriented, and hungry to get out in the world to make it a better place. In recent years, Macalester students have been involved in a number of protests, including the Stop Line 3 demonstrations against the expansion of an oil pipeline across the treaty territory of the Anishinaabe peoples and near the Mississippi headwaters in northern Minnesota.

As students roll up their sleeves in service of issues that are important to them, Kim hopes that the coursework and projects he and others have developed through the Mellon grant will allow students to pair their enthusiasm with meaningful historical and cultural context.

For example, in Kim's Media Activism course and other projects, students study topics including regional Indigenous histories, resource extraction, and environmental activism connected to the Mississippi River watershed. They pair these lessons with on-the-

ground work with community partners linked to Stop Line 3 protests, including MN350 and Honor the Earth.

History, culture, the role of media, and environmental knowledge help students see their activism through a new and expansive lens. "An oil pipeline is connected to many issues, but it may not be obvious until you learn and engage with them," he says. "This includes ongoing social and racial inequalities among those who are impacted by pipelines; the history of US treaties and their role in environmental issues; and local and state politics and support for resource extraction," he says. "An awareness of the interconnections between these issues can lead to a more informed activism that hopefully can be more thoughtful and effective."

CAN HARD NEWS INSPIRE EMPATHY?

WHEN HE'S not teaching creative writing at Macalester, Professor Matt Burgess writes novels with topics and characters that have often been inspired by the news.

For example, Burgess read a *New York Times* article that featured a man who had just been released from a long prison term, and who was perplexed by a Heinz-Trivial Pursuit cross-promotion on a ketchup bottle. "I thought: what would it be like to look at the world through that guy's eyes?" he says. That question led to the development of a character in a book he is currently working on called *Run the Bag*.

It's this sense of empathy and possibility that he nudges all of his students to bring to their work. "If you're firmly entrenched in your opinions about what you want a story to say before you've even started—whether it's about a specific political ideology that you think is bad, or a specific way you feel about guns—it puts you and the story at a disadvantage."

He uses a handful of class exercises to encourage this type of human-centered thinking. In one, he has them describe a particularly exaggerated villain who is also an alcoholic. Burgess asks them to imagine the villain's living situation, and students gamely shout out stereotypes about dingy studio apartments, overflowing ashtrays, and empty bottles scattered on the floor.

Next, he asks them to add an element to the scene that doesn't point to alcoholism: a green yoga mat, perhaps. The detail is tiny, yet it re-orient's students' views of this person. "Now, this character starts to seem like a human being, not a stereotype," he says.

The work of storytelling is to set aside easy generalizations in favor of complicated humanity. "It's harder to keep your heart closed to somebody after you've heard their story. Writing and reading literature can make people less rigid in their thinking."

Burgess always hopes his students see the headlines as starting points for deeper stories, rather than cudgels for a specific point of view. "I want students to be big-hearted people in the world," he says. "Literature should be something that helps you love people more." ■

Erin Peterson is a Minneapolis-based writer.



MATT BURGESS is an associate professor of English.

FASHIONABLE EQUATIONS

BY BRITTANY KING

Designer and entrepreneur Diarra Bousso '11 combines degrees in mathematics with her love of fashion, and her culture.



Diarra Bousso '11

PHOTOS COURTESY OF DIARRA BOUSSO

Growing up in Dakar, Senegal, Diarra Bousso '11 was surrounded by art and beautiful clothing. "There is so much creativity all around Dakar," she says. "My father would bring home beautiful art from local artists and my mother was always a style inspiration."

Bousso often retreated to her room to create pieces of her own. Writing, painting, styling, editing, she did it all, drawing on her natural creativity and problem-solving ability.

Those moments of creativity led to the launch of her clothing and accessories company, DIARRABLU. Bousso, who holds the intriguing title of chief creative mathematician, describes DIARRABLU as a sustainable lifestyle brand that highlights the beauty of African countries through rich colors, patterns, and design that relies on mathematical concepts and algorithms. The name of the company is a fusion of Bousso's first name and the word "Blue" without an "e." She says Blu evokes the feeling of infinity when you gaze upon the ocean. DIARRABLU, which has been featured in the *New York Times* and *Vogue* magazine, is a merging of Bousso's love of numbers, passion for art, and inspiration from her home country of Senegal.

The company's design philosophy is deeply tied to Senegalese culture because every design is versatile and allows for multiple uses. For example, wrap skirts and boubou dresses that are popular in Senegal also are popular with DIARRABLU customers. Design that's not focused on buttons and zippers ensures clothing can be worn in a variety of ways, and across sizes. It also promotes sustainability, as the pieces can be adapted—rather than discarded—as trends change.

Before she launched an international brand, Bousso was an economics and mathematics major at Macalester who dreamed of following in her father's banking footsteps. During her sophomore year, she took an Investment Banking class with Professor Joyce Minor '88 that she says was the catalyst for her first career on Wall Street. "Joyce helped me gain a strong understanding of finance and became an amazing mentor. To this day, I still reach out to her when making important life decisions," she says.

As Bousso learned about securities analysis and the impact that finance has on the world, she gained confidence in her skills. She landed a prestigious internship at Credit Suisse, an investment banking company, at just twenty years old.

The internship led to an opportunity to work on the trading floor where she was one of very few young women of color. She received a full-time offer from Credit Suisse to become a trading analyst upon graduation.

While her two years on Wall Street were a significant phase of growth for Bousso, she quickly realized her heart belonged elsewhere. The work didn't excite her. She pursued her passion for art and fashion by starting a street-style photography blog on the side.

By 2013 Bousso was experiencing depression and questioning her next steps. Encouraged by her family

to take a break and move home to figure things out, she quit her job, packed her bags, emptied her 401K, and decided to bet on herself. A month after moving home, she launched DIARRABLU.

In the company's early stages, she worked with an artisan in Senegal to create dresses in her home, using her sisters as models. She'd post everything on Instagram to solicit feedback, and eventually sell the clothes. As her online community grew, so did the demand for her dresses.

Simultaneously, Bousso pursued a passion for education and for more entrepreneurship. Over the next decade, she became a teaching assistant in Senegal, founded several additional companies, and moved to California to earn a graduate degree in mathematics at Stanford University. She says it was while working full time as a teacher following grad school that she learned to merge creativity with mathematics and transform DIARRABLU into a fashion tech company.

Bousso began incorporating math equations and concepts into the company's textile patterns. This decision resulted in designs that are both economical and consciously made by local artisans in Senegal. Her math-based design process allows her to create one-hundred times faster and at a fraction of the cost. And because all of DIARRABLU's pieces are made to order, the brand avoids wasting money on product that never sells.

Bousso uses a combination of manual equation writing, AI, machine learning, and hand-painted designs to create her patterns. When she creates a new design, she often writes equations instead of drawing shapes, which is typically how fabric patterns and clothing are made. By using math-graphing software and writing equations with parameters, rather than specific numbers, she's able to create a variety of silhouettes in different sizes with endless color possibilities. She then takes these equation-created designs, renders them on digital models, and shares them with her online community for feedback.

"That's what makes us stand out," she says. By getting customer buy-in before going into production, DIARRABLU can reduce waste in an industry known to be the second most polluting in the world.

Now Bousso hopes to extend DIARRABLU's product line to home goods and accessories, still using the same mathematical design philosophy and providing more ethical and sustainable options. Today she is based in San Francisco, leading her global company of fifty people from all corners of the world.

Bousso credits her time at Macalester for shaping her in ways she didn't know she'd need for her entrepreneurial journey.

"Mac made me feel welcomed and celebrated in my rich and unique multicultural identity, something I continue to seek in new spaces," she says. "I've been able to create that environment at my own company." ■

Brittany King is a Chicago-based writer and independent journalist.

Doing Right by Birds

BY JULIE HESSLER '85

Even though biologist Benjamin Freeman '06 has studied birds for years, they still enchant him. "Just yesterday, I was watching these murmurations of dunlin—20,000 living creatures moving across the sky as one in this shimmering, kaleidoscopic way," he says. A murmuration is a strikingly poetic word for a large group of birds moving in unison—in this case, the shorebirds that winter near his home in Vancouver, British Columbia.

One bird, he says, had a fishing line with a float attached to its leg that trailed behind as it moved. "You realize these are individuals that are navigating an earth that is dominated by a single species—which is us."

Freeman studies how birds—specifically those in the tropical mountains of South America—are responding to climate change. His work is powered by larger questions about how biological systems adapt to the pressures humans put on the earth. Last summer, his research made the cover of *Science* magazine. Birds, he argues, have a whole lot to tell humans about climate change and the planet. "A world in which we've done right by birds is a world in which humans can flourish," he says.

Freeman was a nature-oriented child who often asked his mom to read him a field guide to lizards for a bedtime story. But birds around his Seattle home captured his attention the most. "I think it's because birds use the same senses that humans do to make sense of our world," he says. "We understand the way they experience the world a little bit better than the way, say, insects experience the world. And birds are dynamic. There is always something new to see."

When Freeman enrolled at Macalester, classes with and mentorship from biology professors Mark Davis and Jerald Dosch bolstered his interest. Freeman was inspired by Dosch's ornithology course, and he took every class offered by Davis. During a summer research project in Alaska with lab instructor Mike Anderson, Freeman studied bacteria in the roots of alder trees, learning about fieldwork in the long, light-filled days.

When Freeman was a junior, he took a semester off to

work on a project in Bolivia led by a University of Florida researcher. He researched birds that migrate within South America, an experience he calls transformational. "South America is the bird continent," he says. "It's home to more species than any other place. Within a couple hundred meters of where I was, there were more species of birds than live in the entirety of Minnesota. I learned how to do field biology, and that was very exciting to me."

After graduating from Macalester with a biology degree, Freeman worked as a birding guide in Colombia. He later earned a PhD in ecology and evolutionary biology at Cornell University, and he just completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of British Columbia. The tropical Andes, which include Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela, remain his central research focus.

Freeman wants to know how birds are changing where they live as human-caused climate change transforms the landscape. As we're making things warmer, he asks, how do species respond? Freeman found that in the tropics, as it gets warmer, species that live on mountains are moving higher and higher up the mountain slope. "It's like they are riding an escalator up the slope over time, over generations," he says. "The species that live at the top of the mountain have nowhere higher to move to. For them, it's an escalator to extinction."

Freeman's study of mountain-top birds in Peru showed that birds common in 1985, when Freeman was one year old, had disappeared in his lifetime. In other words, his research shows that climate change is not a problem for future generations—it is already affecting tropical species.

A second important area of Freeman's research appeared on the cover of the July 22, 2022, issue of *Science* magazine. For centuries, Freeman says, people have known

that birds on tropical mountains tend to live in narrow slices of the mountainside. The question is, why?

Freeman and his co-authors offer an answer. They found that competition and not climate change explains why tropical montane birds live in those narrow slices. Freeman thinks it means that climate change indirectly matters to the birds—for example, by altering food sources or transmitting avian diseases—not because warmer temperatures directly cause physiological stress.

Freeman says his future research will investigate how warming temperatures change species interactions and change where species live.


To do so, Freeman will rely in part on the community. He is wildly enthusiastic about eBird, an online database of bird observations. His team used more than 4.4 million eBird citizen science records from global observers for the research published in *Science*. Anyone who is interested can participate in eBird and add their own data, or simply use it for identifying birds in their neighborhoods. Freeman says eBird has provided valuable insights into bird habitat, migration, and responses to urbanization and land-use changes.

This summer, Freeman will move to Atlanta to take a faculty position at Georgia Tech. And while he may no longer have opportunities to watch murmurations of dunlin, he will be observing and listening closely to the birds in his new region. He urges everyone to do the same.

"We should pay attention to the natural world," he says. "I think that starts with having some connection to it. I'll advocate that birds are an excellent vehicle for that connection because they are so unarguably cool, but if birds don't float your boat, find something else." **M**

Julie Hessler '85 is the managing editor of *Macalester Today*.

ERICH SAIDE



Dr. Benjamin Freeman '06 studies how birds are adapting to climate change—and how species have disappeared within his own lifetime.

Do you have questions about birds?
Tweet Ben @BenGFreeman1



CELEBRATING

Alumni

Achievement

BY ASHLI LANDA AND REBECCA DEJARLAIS ORTIZ '06

Each year, the Alumni Board recognizes alumni who exemplify Macalester values through their leadership, achievement, and active involvement with their local community. Award recipients are nominated from across the global Mac community, and then selected by the Alumni Board. Recipients were honored during the Grand Celebration breakfast at Reunion.

Meet this year's winners.



Batnairamdal Otgonshar

Class of 2008

CHARLES J. TURCK GLOBAL CITIZEN AWARD

The first Macalester student from Mongolia, Batnairamdal "Nagi" Otgonshar '08 has dedicated his career to improving the lives of his fellow citizens. "I will go back to my Mongolia and be part of guiding the country towards a productive, sustainable, and prosperous path,"

he wrote in 2015 while earning his MBA from Harvard Business School.

As vice minister of Mining and Heavy Industry in Mongolia and one of the youngest persons in the cabinet, Otgonshar has led efforts to pass much-needed industry reforms. He was recently elected as both vice president of the country's Social Democratic Youth League and a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum. Otgonshar advocates for education for young adults through his popular *Unlock Podcast*, a book-discussion series that aims to reach Mongolians without easy access to books, and the *Unlock Mentorship and Scholarship* program.

His nominator writes, "Nagi represents a new generation of young leaders who want to challenge the establishment and disrupt the status quo."

"Nagi represents a new generation of young leaders who want to challenge the establishment and disrupt the status quo."

Legacy Russell

Class of 2008

CATHARINE LEALTAD '15 SERVICE TO SOCIETY AWARD

Writer and curator Legacy Russell '08 describes herself as a "deep researcher, immensely driven by curiosity" and centers her work on issues of gender, race, performance, and cyberculture.

Russell is the author of the critically acclaimed book *Glitch Feminism: A Manifesto*, a concept she defines as "embodying error as a disruption to gender binary, as a resistance to the normative." Her writing has appeared in publications around the world.

Formerly the associate curator of exhibitions at the Studio Museum in Harlem, she is the executive director and chief curator of experimental art institution *The Kitchen* in New York City. Her curatorial and academic career has championed arts institutions and BIPOC artists.

Described by her nominator as an "emerging leader and public figure," Russell has been widely recognized with honors, including the Thoma Foundation 2019 Arts Writing Award in Digital Art, a Rauschenberg Residency fellowship, the 2021 Creative Capital Award, a 2022 Pompeii Commitment Digital fellowship, and a 2023 Center for Curatorial Leadership fellowship.

Described by her nominator as an "emerging leader and public figure," Russell has been widely recognized with honors.



Benjamin Dille

Class of 1982

DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN AWARD

Benjamin Dille '82 is a distinguished senior foreign service officer who has represented the United States for over thirty years in thirteen countries, including as chargé d'affaires in five.

"Dr. Dille is a lifelong civil servant," writes his nominator. "He works to advance world peace, and has committed himself to a more fair and just world. He has had many assignments and approached them all with care and vigilance."

This past year, the US Secretary of State awarded Dille the department's Award for Heroism for his service overseeing the evacuation of over 124,000 Americans and Afghans from Kabul, Afghanistan, as US forces withdrew from the country in August 2021. He also received a 2022 American Foreign Service Association Award for Constructive Dissent for his efforts in advocating for embassy COVID-19 strategies.

Dille currently teaches at the Marine Corps War College as professor and state department chair of strategic studies in diplomacy and statecraft.

"Dr. Dille is a lifelong civil servant. He works to advance world peace, and has committed himself to a more fair and just world. He has had many assignments and approached them all with care and vigilance."



Alissa Light

Class of 2003

DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN AWARD

Alissa Light '03 has centered her career around compassionate, equitable, and inclusive health care and education for historically marginalized communities.

Beginning as a Family Tree Clinic patient in college, Light was involved in the organization's growth since joining as front-desk staff in 2005 and eventually as executive director and CEO in 2010. During her twelve-year tenure, Light spearheaded the creation of a healing-focused health center in Minneapolis and expanded the organization into a regional leader in LGBTQ+-inclusive health care. In fall 2022, she joined the Bakken Museum as president and CEO.

Light recently served as board president for the Reproductive Health Alliance and currently serves on the board of PFund Foundation—the Upper Midwest's only LGBTQ+ community foundation—and the Women's Economic Roundtable.

"She has touched so many lives, and taught by example how to listen and lead," writes her nominator. "She's a visionary leader who has made a profound difference in the state, region, and country."

"She has touched so many lives, and taught by example how to listen and lead. She's a visionary leader who has made a profound difference in the state, region, and country."



Roberta Schomburg

Class of 1968

DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN AWARD

Though officially retired from her Carlow University faculty position, professor emerita of education Roberta Schomburg '68 says her life's work is still teaching.

Alongside her thirty-five years at Carlow, Schomburg has worked closely with Fred Rogers Productions for over forty years as a child development advisor, and currently advises children's PBS programs including *Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood*, *Alma's Way*, and *Donkey Hodie*.

From 2018 to 2021, she was interim director at the Fred Rogers Institute for Early Learning and Children's Media at Saint Vincent College, where she oversaw research, outreach, and organizational collaborations. A former vice president of the National Association for the Education of Young Children Governing Board, she is a renowned consultant on early childhood development and educational practice.

Schomburg shares, "My passion is sharing knowledge with others, working together to generate new ideas, and applying those theories to practice, whether in the classroom or over the airwaves through the stories we create for children."

"My passion is sharing knowledge with others, working together to generate new ideas, and applying those theories to practice, whether in the classroom or over the airwaves through the stories we create for children."



Jennifer Lundblad

Class of 1988

DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN AWARD

Jennifer Lundblad '88 recalls exactly where she was when she decided to pursue a nonprofit career path: Macalester's library.

A career in nonprofits and higher education—including earning advanced degrees in nonprofit management and organization development—led her to Stratis Health, where she has been president and CEO for over fifteen years. At the intersection of research, policy, and practice, she works to improve health and health care for

underrepresented and under-resourced communities, particularly in rural areas.

"I never would have imagined that growing up in a small rural community would end up as a backdrop to my career," she says. "What brings me joy in this work is living my values in my professional life, and making lives better in Minnesota and across the country."

A lifelong learner, she is also the co-launcher of eLumen Collaborative, an integrated curriculum and assessment software management technology tool for higher education institutions, was a member of the Alumni Board, and currently serves on the M Club Board of Directors.

"I never would have imagined that growing up in a small rural community would end up as a backdrop to my career. What brings me joy in this work is living my values in my professional life, and making lives better in Minnesota and across the country."



Jennifer Anderson
Class of 1998
DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN AWARD

In 2004, Jennifer Anderson '98 assembled a benefit choral concert to fundraise for international aid in response to that year's Indian Ocean tsunami in Southeast Asia. The next six years of the Global Harmony Chorus were so successful, she turned that concert series into VocalPoint Chorus, a nonprofit, eighty-member choir based in St. Paul.

Anderson's talent for partnering with beneficiary organizations and engaging audiences with their impactful stories through concert programming has raised over \$400,000 for various nonprofits. Her ten nominators note her commitment to equity and diversity, "reaching beyond the canonical boundaries" to center women and BIPOC composers.

Anderson is active in the American Choral Directors Association, Chorus America, and the National Presbyterian Church. She also has been involved in the national Justice Choir movement.

"She is a true visionary and servant-leader," writes one nominator. "Performers and audiences alike are engaged, challenged, and changed by working with and attending performances by Jennifer."

"She is a true visionary and servant-leader. Performers and audiences alike are engaged, challenged, and changed by working with and attending performances by Jennifer."

Michael Skoien
Class of 1973
ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD

For years, Michael Skoien '73 stayed connected with Macalester by attending Reunion and keeping in touch with friends. A decade ago, he deepened his engagement with the college—and his commitment has been extraordinary.

In Philadelphia, Skoien fostered community by hosting Mac in Your City events and serving as a regional chapter leader and an M Club regional director. He served as Alumni Board vice-president and chair of its Athletics Working Group, and has led planning for three Reunions by chairing or co-chairing his 40th, 45th, and this year's 50th. And the loyal M Club member is a champion of Mac athletics: today he chairs the Athletics Advisory Board of Directors and mentors two student-athletes.

In each role, Skoien's engagement is marked by an enduring curiosity and dedication to Macalester's mission. "I learned more about life in my first year at Mac than in my previous eighteen years—I was exposed to so many interesting people and ideas," says Skoien, who retired in 2013 after a career in health care. "And it's always been that way for me. Even though I earned other degrees, Macalester just means more."

"I learned more about life in my first year at Mac than in my previous eighteen years—I was exposed to so many interesting people and ideas. And it's always been that way for me. Even though I earned other degrees, Macalester just means more."



Gabrielle Lawrence
Class of 1973
ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD

At each career step and life stage, Gabrielle Lawrence '73 has been motivated by her deep belief in building community with a shared vision.

As a student, she helped launch the Family Tree Clinic, which piqued her interest in health care. After graduation, she earned a master's degree in health care administration and held positions in Denver and the Twin Cities, including vice president for community partnerships at Regions Hospital.

From 2000 to 2016, Lawrence led Macalester's alumni engagement program, expanding vibrant pathways for alumni to reconnect with the college and with one another. She has guided strategic planning at her church, and worked tirelessly to help the Park Bugle neighborhood newspaper survive, then thrive. She served on her 25th and 45th Reunion committees, and this year, she co-chaired the Class of 1973's program committee for her 50th Reunion.

For fifty years, Lawrence has demonstrated an exemplary commitment to community engagement at Macalester and beyond. Writes her nominator: "She has an exceptional ability to bring people together and organize them toward a common goal."

"She has an exceptional ability to bring people together and organize them toward a common goal."

Brittni Chicuata
Class of 2008
YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD

Brittni Chicuata '08 is director of economic rights at the San Francisco Human Rights Commission. She has held several positions there since 2016, including as policy director and chief of staff.

Chicuata's work focuses on policies and programs to eliminate wealth apartheid, build economic equity, and uplift economic opportunities that improve quality of life for the most marginalized in San Francisco. Her policies have provided guaranteed income payments for Black mothers in San Francisco, improved housing protections, developed standards for racial equity, supported the national reparations movement, and successfully led first-in-the-nation campaigns.

Her leadership is recognized as especially crucial during a political period where marginalized communities' rights—including women, Black people and other people of color, and the LGBTQIA+ community—are being rescinded on a national level.

Her nominator notes that Chicuata's "innovative policy work not only highlights and addresses disparities in outcomes, but proactively addresses multiple dimensions of individuals' lives and enhances their access to rights and justice." **M**

"Chicuata's innovative policy work not only highlights and addresses disparities in outcomes, but proactively addresses multiple dimensions of individuals' lives and enhances their access to rights and justice."



BUSINESS NEGOTIATIONS

BY JOE LINSTROTH

Negotiations are some of the more uncomfortable human interactions we can face in life. There is often a lot at stake. Confrontation may be required to get what you want. Your information may be incomplete, and the person with whom you're negotiating could be unprincipled or have the upper-hand or both. Negotiations also are not limited to the financial or business spheres. Consider the haggling that happens in a marriage, or in parenting a child, or even in trying to plan a vacation with friends or family.

To help prepare students for business and life, Karl Egge Professor of Economics Joyce Minor '88 employs self-evaluations and simulations in her course Business Negotiations to push students out of their comfort zones and into the real world, where both "saints" and "snakes" live.

How does one set themselves up for success in a negotiation?

I have students do a self-evaluation to help them understand what their negotiating style is. You can simplistically categorize people into two kinds of negotiators: Are you a saint, or are you a snake? Someone who's very Minnesota Nice, who's very accommodating, perhaps uncomfortable with conflict—that's a saint. Compare that to someone who has a very hard-nosed, tough negotiating style, where they're more demanding than accommodating and perhaps even comfortable with deception—that's a snake. If you understand your own negotiating style, as well as that of your counterpart, it may change how you think about the negotiation and how you prepare for it.

What are some of the most challenging scenarios in negotiation?

A really difficult situation in negotiating is when you have the sense that your counterpart has better information than you do. If you're in that position, you definitely don't want to throw out the first offer. You want the other side to throw out the first offer because yours is probably based on incomplete information. I would also advise that you try to ping for information, meaning to test assumptions that you have and see if you can get the other side talking so that you can learn some of what they know.

What mistakes can scuttle a negotiation?

We talk a lot in the course about the "ten dirty tricks" of negotiating (as described in the classic text *Getting to Yes: Negotiating Agreement Without Giving In*) and how to diffuse them. Being aware of and listening for those dirty tricks and being ready to handle them is very useful.

Do you have a favorite "dirty trick" that you'll admit to using sometimes?

Yes, but it's not a particularly evil one! Let's say you're the person whose position already exists and someone's trying to negotiate

you out of that position. Stonewalling—which is basically refusing to engage because you're in the position you want to be in—can be an effective tactic short-term. But usually your counterpart will recognize what you're doing eventually, and if the relationship matters to you, you'll have to come to the table and work something out.


How do you teach students to respond to a "dirty trick"?

We talk about how you don't want to respond in kind. Instead, call it out and let the person know that you see what they're doing and then question them as to whether that's really how they want to go about the negotiation. Calling something out like a personal attack and putting a name to it can help diffuse a dirty trick. If that doesn't work, then we talk about "going to the balcony," which means pausing the negotiation until cooler heads can prevail. As a last resort, you can go to your BATNA (Best Alternative to No Agreement), or your back-up plan, and walk away from the negotiation.

You do negotiation simulations every week in class. Why is that?

Negotiating is one of those subjects that you have to actually do to learn, somewhat like parenting. You can read all the parenting books in the world, but if you have never actually parented a child, you don't know how to do it. You learn by doing. So in the Business Negotiations course, every week, half the students get one side of a case or a scenario, and the other half get the other side and they negotiate against each other in pairs or in groups. Then we come back and debrief, and you'll see the whole range of solutions. Someone may have sold the property for \$30 million, for example, and someone else for \$50 million. And we try to understand what dynamics occurred that allowed for such different outcomes.

You had a long career on Wall Street before coming back to Mac. How do you incorporate that experience into your course?

I tell a lot of stories about all the mistakes I've made so they can learn from them! For example, when I got my job offer from Lehman Brothers and they told me what the salary range was, I said, "Great, I'd be comfortable at the lower end of that range." And so they gave me the lower end of the range, which felt like a lot to me. But what I tell students is, "Don't do that! Listen in your negotiations, ping for information, try to find out what something is worth to the other side. Don't just be happy with the first number that's thrown out." 

Joe Linstroth is director of media relations and public affairs.



CLASS NOTES

1952

Bill Buhler needs pencil drawings to illustrate a book containing a number of his sayings. When published, proceeds will benefit the Geronimo Springs Museum, a nonprofit museum that Bill started fifty years ago. The artist will be recognized in the book. Call Bill at 575-894-3362.

1954

The Class of 1954 will celebrate its 70th Reunion June 6–9, 2024.

1959

The Class of 1959 will celebrate its 65th Reunion June 6–9, 2024.

1964

The Class of 1964 will celebrate its 60th Reunion June 6–9, 2024.

Anne Harbour received a commendation from the mayor of Hereford, England, for her leadership of a five-year community volunteer effort to revive Blackfriars Rose Garden. The gardens were planted in 1964 around the ruins of Blackfriars friary and preaching cross.

1966

Cheryl (Cher) Smith Terry reunited at an American Red Cross convention last summer with other Red Cross workers who provided services to the Armed Forces during the Vietnam War. Her first assignment after graduation was in Korea, just south of the demilitarized



Dan Brown '82, Jeff Nelson, John Forde '83, Peter Berg '84, and Steve Queen '84 gathered recently in Santa Fe, N.M. Steve is a recent transplant to Santa Fe, and Peter was there to direct a Netflix series.



David Zirin '96 attended a party in Amsterdam with several other Mac alums. From left: Dave Ashton '96, Lorenzo Nencioli '95, Pink Floyd founding member Roger Waters, David, and Jesse Hagopian '01. "The Kaepernick jersey worn by Waters was a gift from us to him," David wrote.

zone. She traveled by Army truck on land-mined roads to provide recreational activities (and donuts!) to soldiers as a diversion from their Army routines. She served in the Red Cross nine more years at Army, Navy and Air Force hospitals, followed by a thirty-year career in the Defense Department.

1969

The Class of 1969 will celebrate its 55th Reunion June 6–9, 2024.

1974

The Class of 1974 will celebrate its 50th Reunion June 6–9, 2024.

1975

Stephanie Farrior received the Proven Pioneers Award from Human Rights First and delivered the keynote address at the organization's Women's History Month event in March in New York City. She was recognized for her work on human rights both in general and for women in particular.

1979

The Class of 1979 will celebrate its 45th Reunion June 6–9, 2024.

1983

Since graduating, Steven G. H. Anderson has studied materials science at the University of Minnesota, completed post-doctoral work in New York and Texas, and worked in a research and development division at Motorola. For the past 10 years he has worked at AMD, focusing on chips and processors for



May Lin Kessenich '05 and Wilson Merrell '16 met at a pickleball facility in Ann Arbor, Mich. "He was wearing his Mac soccer sweatshirt, and I had a Mac volleyball shirt on," May Lin wrote.

CLASS NOTES PHOTO POLICY:

We publish one photo per wedding.

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

Photos must be high-resolution, approximately

2MB or greater in file size.

Email alumnioffice@macalester.edu to request a Mac banner for an upcoming wedding or other gathering.

If you have a question about your class note, call editor Julie Hessler at 651-696-6443.

energy-efficient supercomputers. Steven and his wife, Diane, live in Austin, Texas, and have two children in graduate school.

The Class of 1984 will celebrate its 40th Reunion June 6–9, 2024.

1984

During her time as a Fulbright Specialist, Paula Lackie worked with Universiti Teknologi MARA in Malaysia to promote an "open science habit of mind" among librarians and research faculty throughout the country's national and private university system. Paula then traveled to Sabah, Borneo, and earned PADI certification in open-water diving.

1987

While playing a monthly gig in Santa Monica, Calif., Lance Keller's NOLA funk band, Alligator Beach, caught the attention of an audience member who hired them to play a "fancy 50th birthday party" in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, in May. "It feels like there is some momentum behind the band," Lance wrote.

1989

The Class of 1989 will celebrate its 35th Reunion June 6–9, 2024.

Andrea Herman supervised intern Tenzin Nyima '23 at the Innovation Lab makerspace at George Latimer Central Library in St. Paul.

1990

Matt Winslow has been named a Foundation Professor, the highest faculty rank at Eastern Kentucky University. He has been a psychology professor at the institution for 25 years.

1992

Kristin Beckmann concluded her tenure as Minnesota Governor Tim Walz's deputy chief of staff in January. During her four years in that position, she worked with numerous Macalester alums, including current Governor's office employees Migdalia Loyola Melendez '96, Pia Puentespina '22, and Kendal Takeshita '22. Kristin looks forward to spend-

PHOTO PROVIDED

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

When she's not working as a certified bilingual school counselor, licensed mental health counselor, and writer, Pamela Mazza '92 volunteers as the New York Regional Chapter Chair organizing and hosting the Mac in Your City event and other gatherings in New York. *Macalester Today* caught up with her to learn more.

What led you to start hosting Mac in Your City events?

When I was living in Los Angeles as a young alum, I went to an event for President Rosenberg's inaugural tour, hosted at a Mac grad's home. It was a beautiful event, and I remember thinking what a kind service they were providing to the school. It got my attention about people volunteering their time and space to bring alumni together.

I also attended class reunions, and sought to initiate the first Alcoholics Anonymous meetings at those events. That was the first time it had occurred to me to reach out and say, "I would like to organize something." I had stopped drinking in my twenties, and was looking for a Reunion experience that did not involve drinking, and to create a safe space for others doing the same. At the first Friends of Bill meeting at Reunion, I was pleasantly surprised by bumping into former classmates who were seeking an alcohol-free environment as well. People from all different ages went to that meeting, so it was a great opportunity to have conversations with people from different classes, who I might not have interacted with otherwise. It was a deeply gratifying experience to make this available to alums going forward, and one of my favorite parts of Reunion. I appreciated that Mac put it on the calendar for me, and allowed me to make it happen.

Eventually, I volunteered to organize alumni events in Miami when I lived in Florida, and later in New York City, where I live now.

What kinds of events do you host?

We have had a couple of rooftop bar events



Pamela Mazza '92

that attract the younger alums. For more intellectually-centered activities, I found quality, free events at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in Harlem, and arranged outings where people would sit together and discuss it afterwards. We organized service-oriented events too, like joining cleanups in wildlife areas in Queens, and student peer reading events in the Bronx. It has been a great experience.

What motivates you to continue volunteering and engaging with the alumni community?

I have a lot of gratitude for Macalester. Minnesota in the '80s and '90s was a difficult place for me to be in some ways, as a person who did not present as white, but it was also such a unique experience, singular education, and extraordinary peer community with a sense of civic responsibility. Even now, when I meet a new Macalester person out in the world, I get pretty excited about it; Mac grads typically greet each other like old friends. At Macalester we have a certain sensibility and experience that you are just not quite going to get anywhere else.

—Talia Bank '23

ing time with her husband, Robert Richman, and their children, Ethan and Becca.

Area, a youth development nonprofit in Oakland, Calif.

1994

The Class of 1994 will celebrate its 30th Reunion June 6–9, 2024.

1999

The Class of 1999 will celebrate its 25th Reunion June 6–9, 2024.

2004

The Class of 2004 will celebrate its 20th Reunion June 6–9, 2024.

Krista Goff, associate professor of history at the University of Miami, received the Dan David Prize in recognition of her work on Russia and Eurasia. She is also co-director of the Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies Think Tank based at Howard University and author of *Nested Nationalism: Making and Unmaking Nations in the Soviet Caucasus*.

2006

Kenyon DeVault has been appointed executive director of Summer Search Bay

2009

The Class of 2009 will celebrate its 15th Reunion June 6–9, 2024.

In April, Julia Quanrud was named CEO of ServeMinnesota, an organization dedicated to bringing about positive social change by working with AmeriCorps to “translate research into on-the-ground implementation.” She was previously chief of staff at Ampact and currently serves on the board of FamilyWise.

2010

David Seitz looked forward to his promotion to associate professor of cultural geography at Harvey Mudd College in July.

2014

The Class of 2014 will celebrate its 10th Reunion June 6–9, 2024.

2019

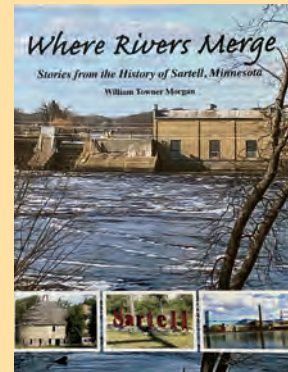
The Class of 2019 will celebrate its 5th Reunion June 6–9, 2024.



Macalester Professor of Environmental Studies Dan Hornbach and Jens Hegg '00 met in April at the Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society symposium in Portland, Ore. Jens worked on Prof. Hornbach's freshwater mussel field crew in 1999 and has since earned a PhD focused on fish migration ecology. He is currently assistant professor of biology at Gonzaga University.

BOOKS

Dr. Bill Morgan '55 taught American studies at St. Cloud State University from 1978 to 2009 where he designed courses in American architecture, local history, and preservation. He wrote monthly articles on those subjects for the *St. Cloud Times*, and many of those pieces appear in his book, *Where Rivers Merge*, in edited form.



William Towner Morgan '55. *Where Rivers Merge: Stories from the History of Sartell, Minnesota* (2022)

“As a writer who likes ‘being there,’ I have experienced some thrilling moments in and around local historic sites, including climbing to the top of Peace Rock; visiting several places where oxcart remnants can still be seen; and exploring the last-standing yellow-brick building on the abandoned paper mill site. Sartell’s late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century character is well represented by these historic structures.

My searches have also taken me to several historic sites near Sartell as well, including the Arnold/Heim Mill and House; the Graves’ Farm; the site of the vanished town of Watab; and the Rice, Minnesota, cemetery where lie members of the wedding party who died in the 1886 cyclone.”



Ben Voigt '10. *Postpastoral* (Poetry.onl, 2023)

An academic information associate at Macalester, Ben Voigt '10 was awarded the inaugural Poetry.onl Chapbook Fellowship, which includes publication of a chapbook. “It’s been a joy and an honor to find a home for my work that really understands and affirms what I’m up to,” he said.

The poems in his chapbook, *Postpastoral*, wrestle with how technology (from Facebook to farm equipment) not only shapes our everyday experiences in the twenty-first century, but connects us intimately to the violence of global capitalism. “We have to ask: What’s the cost of these digital escapes?” Voigt said. “The long poem from my chapbook is an elegy for Xu Lizhi, a poet who wrote about life in a Foxconn factory in China, and eventually committed suicide. Is all my scrolling on the other side of the world partly responsible for his death? To me, that’s an open question.”

PHOTO PROVIDED

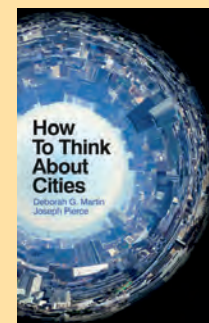


Sarah Rossmann Deschamps '88. *Journey to Japan: A Life-Saving Memoir* (Amazon Publishing Lab, 2023)

Calling her memoir a “true Macalester story,” Sarah Rossmann Deschamps '88 recounts how, after moving from Minnesota to Tokyo with her family and dreaming of exploration and adventure, she gave birth to a baby with multiple medical issues. She details their lengthy “cross-cultural medical nightmare,” and her family’s relentless determination to give their child the best chance in the world.

Fred and I met in 1985 at Macalester. Fred was from Belgium, and I was from across the street. On our first date, we went to a Japanese restaurant near campus. Fred proclaimed, “I took you to a Japanese place because I want to live in Japan someday.”

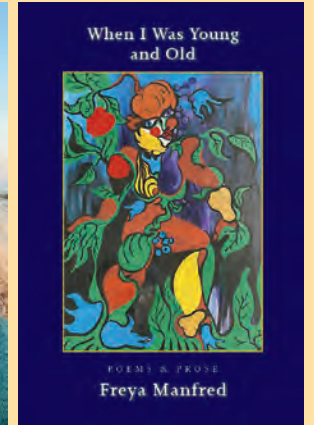
I loved to travel. When I was a child, my parents took us to Europe and Australia. At Mac, I took every opportunity to travel. I spent January terms in Spain, in New York at the United Nations, and my senior year in China. I studied in Bogotá, Colombia, for a semester during my junior year. Japan intrigued me. The moment Fred mentioned it, I was all in. We married in 1992, traveled the world, and fell in love with the idea of living abroad.



Deborah G. Martin '91 and Joseph Pierce. *How To Think About Cities* (Polity Books, 2023)



Michael Mario Albrecht '98. *Trumping the Media: Politics and Democracy in the Post-Truth Era* (Bloomsbury 2022)



Freya Manfred '66. *When I Was Young and Old: Poems and Prose* (Nodin Press, 2023)

WHEN I WAS YOUNG AND OLD

Out of nowhere we find ourselves stretched out under the sun on the summer lawn, and I saw how lively, how supple, he was in each new pose, as I breathed in, yes, and out yes,

and when we sat down to eat I heard every word he spoke, yes, as if he knew I would always understand, and I asked for soup that was green and wild, and he wanted to taste it, and I said yes again,

and on the mountains we slid so smoothly through snow drifts, down icy-steep ravines, on our two simple, matter-of-fact feet, yes — and when I wandered off alone, the wolf who followed us did not attack, but went his solitary way, so I felt safe, yes.

And when we lay down together, at last, I was amazed how much care he gave to my humble, forgotten ears and cosmic toes, and when he kissed me, I slipped like lightning into another world, yes and yes and yes.

This all happened when he was young and I was old, and I was young and he was old, and it still happens whenever a dream arrives at night to assure me it was all meant to be.

But now I wonder, is my dream more alive than the poem I write about the dream? And is my life as alive, as real, as the poem or the dream?

Yes, and yes, and yes.



1. **Xander Gershberg '17** and Kari Heistad were married July 10, 2022, in Minneapolis. Pictured, from left: **Karlyn Russell '17**, **Natalie Kronebusch '17**, **Ellie Fuqua '17**, the groom, **Jonathan Gershberg '13**, **Karintha Lowe '16**, **Quinton Singer '17**, and **Katie Tsuji '17**.

2. **Lacy Shannon '09** and Chris Omer were married in September 2022 in Point Arena, Calif. Pictured, from left: **Greg Moscow '09**, **Kim van der Weerd '09**, the groom and bride, and **Suma Setty '09**.

3. **Tristan Taru '11** and Valentina Diaz Delgado were married in Barichara, Colombia. Top, from left: **David Lopez '10**, **Matthew Dickey '11**, **Will Goldstein '11**, the groom, and **Eric Livdahl '11**. Front: **Munadir Aziz Ahmed '10** and **Guillermo Medina Benitez '11**.

4. **Hannah Graf Evans '14** and David Reynolds were married Dec. 31, 2022, in Crossville, Tenn. From left: **Rebecca Gans '14**, **Madeline Graf '24**, **Jessica Klion '14**, the newlyweds, **Mallory Howitt '14** (who traveled from Taiwan), and **Mela Still '14**.



5. **Molly Battles '10** and Noah Breslau were married Oct. 9, 2022, at the Bridgeport Art Center in Chicago. Back, from left: **Diana Petty '09**, **Hopi Costello Ruplin '10**, **Griffin Schwed '10**, sibling of the groom **Jordan Breslau '17**, **Alex Davies '10**, officiant **Titus Levy '10**, **Joe Van Eckhout '10**, **Rose Friedman '10**, and **Andrew Anastasi '10**. Front: The bride and **Claire Hipkens '09**. Rose and Andrew, who originally introduced the newlyweds, read a poem during the ceremony.

6. **Amalia Centurion '14** and Nathan Kemp were married September 3, 2022, in Minneapolis. Former Mac chaplain Rev. KP Hong officiated a small ceremony with close friends and family. Macalester alumni in attendance included **Lizzie Hutchins '16**, **Lauren MacNeill '14**, **Marissa Kurtz '15**, **Leah Hood '05**, **Alison Norman '05**, and **Brian Schenk '03**.

7. **Alese Halvorson '15** and Michael Williams were married Sept. 17, 2022, in Nashville, Tenn. They were joined by Macalester friends **Sonia Pollock '15**, **Kendra Komoto '15**, **Kara Komoto '17**, **Mara Halvorson '17**, **Rachel Swanson Hardebeck '15**, **Ben Kromash '16**, **Maggie Joyce '15**, and **Kendall Van Sistine '16**.



Chelsey Smith '06

As senior product manager at Salesforce, Chelsey Smith '06 works at the intersection of customer, technology, and business. "Product is at the table to represent the voice of the customer," she says. "We focus on the heart of what a customer is trying to do." The product team she is a part of generates ideas on what features to build (and why), prioritizes what to build first, and then collaborates with designers, engineers, and others to execute. Smith's perspective is informed by her degree in studio arts from Mac, a graduate degree in architecture, and past roles as an architect and small-business owner. Here she reflects on some of the pivots she's made so far, and the lessons she's learned along the way.

Doing is not the same as creating value

I used to be a zero-inbox person. That was my sign that I'm doing my job, and I'm great at it. The last few years I've had to become more intentional about how I use my time and what I'm doing. My natural place is to jump in and just start. Now I recognize that doing is not the same as creating value. I've let go of things—I'm not a zero-inbox person anymore. That's something that was freeing, and I think I do more valuable work in exchange.

Be 5 percent more human

At Salesforce we embrace bringing your whole, authentic self to work. I struggled with that for a while. I was friendly enough but transactional. I felt like, "We're at work. Let's get work done." Now I think that even if it's just a 5 percent increase in that area, just showing folks a little of your vulnerable and human side can put some people at ease.

Normalize not knowing

I have a phrase on my whiteboard that reads, "normalize not knowing." It's OK to say, "I don't know." I'm an internal

processor, and I'm not good on the spot. I have tried to embrace that and say, "I've never thought about it that way. Let me get back to you." I would much rather take a beat to think when I need to offer a solution.

Ask yourself, 'Is this irreversible?'

A few years ago, I decided to leave my salaried day job and start a small business. That ran its course for a couple years, but I eventually came back to the same company—Salesforce—in a different role and as a more seasoned person. Things are different, but it wasn't an irreversible decision. Giving yourself a little bit of grace to say, "If I make the less-than-great decision or get some new information in the future, do I have the room to change my mind or change the direction?" is something I wish I had embraced earlier on.

See your skills in a new light

I pivoted from architecture into all things digital by leaning on skills I had in the organization space. My then boyfriend (now husband) and I were living in Seattle and he encouraged me to explore roles in digital. I honed in on project management and did a bunch of cold outreach. I started project managing website redesigns and website development, and apps came a little bit later. I love the scale, and speed, and opportunities to reach a big audience and interact with them.

Know your worth

I hope everyone finds themselves with good managers and people-leaders, but you need to advocate for yourself and ask for those stretch goals, ask for the pay you need, the space you need, the time you need—whatever it may be. People have great intentions and they want to help you be successful, but they don't always know how to do that or know what you need.

PHOTO PROVIDED

AMPLIFYING ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

Macalester's Alumni Board creates, amplifies, and celebrates alumni engagement. Alumni Board members help develop engagement opportunities, energize community building and connections, and advance the mission of the college. Meet the five newest members of the Alumni Board.

PAULA LACKIE '84
Northfield, Minn.



Who was your favorite professor and why?

Emily Rosenberg because she most fully encapsulated all that I had hoped to get from Macalester! As a first-gen student, I was desperate for a role model. She met each of us where we were and gave me a view of Latin America and US foreign affairs that I needed. It was unvarnished. It was difficult. And she delivered the material with unflinching strength that helped me see how I could be; a "just-deal-with-the-reality-of-life" attitude that has served me well.

DR. GEOFF MARUYAMA '72
St. Paul, Minn.



Did you study away and, if so, what have you carried with you from that experience?

I spent a summer in Europe, first working for two months at a mental hospital in Scotland and then traveling around the Continent. The first-hand experiences opened my eyes to the world and helped shape my research career.

DR. KATE ZATZ '82
Teaneck, New Jersey



What was your major?

I majored in Chuck Green. "What do you know and how do you know it?"

JULIE SCHULTZ BAILIT '93
Needham, Mass.



What advice do you have for incoming students?

Try everything. Be open to possibility. Step outside your comfort zone as often as you can. Engage in deep conversations with people different from you and really listen as they share their passions and beliefs with you. Give yourself permission to make mistakes and learn from each and every one. Recognize the privilege of being part of the Macalester community. Be vulnerable. Have fun!

SUVEER DASWANI '18
Washington, D.C.



How have you used the alumni network as an alum?

From finding an apartment to rent, to grabbing drinks in D.C., to seeking career advice and support, to building new connections, the Macalester alumni network has never let me down. It works! It's been awesome.

Learn more about the Alumni Board at macalester.edu/alumni/alumniboard.

1942

Elizabeth Flad Tiffany, 103, died March 25, 2023. She was director of volunteer services at St. Paul Ramsey Hospital. Tiffany is survived by seven children, fifteen grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

1946

Gordon L. Deegan, 97, died Feb. 25, 2023, in Redwood City, Calif. He served in the US Navy and worked for the US Foreign Service in Germany and Cuba. Deegan then began a career in education, teaching secondary school in Minnesota, North Dakota, and California. He retired in 1985, after teaching Spanish and German at Carlmont High School for twenty-seven years. Deegan also served on several San Carlos, Calif., government commissions and was active in Democratic Party politics. He is survived by a daughter, son Sean Deegan '84, four grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Richard A. Hummel, 98, died April 7, 2023. He served in the US Navy's construction battalion in the Pacific Theater during World War II. During his thirty-nine year career in Dow's analytical laboratories, he did research, worked in plant support and environmental analysis, and published more than twenty papers. Hummel is survived by two sons, four grandchildren, and a brother.

1947

Priscilla Jefferson Wiessner, 97, of Mendota Heights, Minn., died Feb. 24, 2023. She is survived by three children, twelve grandchildren, and many great-grandchildren.

1948

Jocquilyn Beach Peyer, 96, died Feb. 1, 2023. She worked in early childhood education for many years and, after her retirement, formed the performance group The Revelers. Peyer is survived by her husband, Don, three chil-

dren, eight grandchildren, and many great-grandchildren.

Maxine Houghton Wallin, 96, of Edina, Minn., died April 2, 2023. She worked as a research librarian at the University of Minnesota's Walter Library and was a medical research librarian at a Mormon-affiliated hospital. In 1992, Wallin and her husband, Winston, founded Wallin Education Partners, a nonprofit that offers scholarships to promising students from low-income families in Minnesota. A volunteer with and board member of many Twin Cities organizations, Wallin received the Katherine Phelps Lifetime Achievement Award from the Junior League of Minneapolis. She is survived by four children and thirteen grandchildren (including Travis Dickinson '13).

1949

Lois Challeen Moses, 95, died Feb. 26, 2023, in North Branch, Minn. She taught in the Man Power Program in Pine City, Minn., at Pine Technical College, and at Rush City High School. Moses is survived by three children, two grandsons, and two siblings.

1950

Gay Garrison Garlid, 94, of Boca Raton, Fla., died March 28, 2023. She was president of the St. Paul branch of the American Association of University Women and taught languages in the St. Paul Public Schools' adult education program. She is survived by her husband, Wayne Garlid '50, a daughter, a son, and two granddaughters.

Rodney K. Hunt, 97, of Osage, Minn., died April 17, 2023. He served in the US Navy in the Pacific Theater during World War II and with the Red Cross during the Korean War. Hunt later taught in Alaska and Minnesota; helped launch an iron ore recovery company; established a business raising, training, and selling Akhal-Teke horses; and started a gold mining company

in the Yukon Territory. He is survived by his wife, Nicola.

1951

June Trumble Anderson, 92, of Roseville, Minn., died Feb. 4, 2023. She is survived by three children, five grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Barbara J. Johnston, 94, died March 13, 2023. She was an educator with NATO at the University of Maryland in Paris and taught at Macalester, St. Olaf College, and North Hennepin Community College. Johnston was a pioneer in research on child abuse and neglect and taught the first course on family violence in the United States. She received numerous awards, including the Minnesota Professor of the Year in 1991. Johnston is survived by a brother.

1952

Marilyn Amesbury Allen, 92, died April 24, 2023, in Highlands Ranch, Colo. She worked as an elementary school librarian. Allen is survived by a daughter, a son, and five grandchildren.

Nancy Tuthill Newkirk, 93, died Jan. 3, 2023. She was an elementary school teacher in Portland, Ore. She also taught for a year in France and was a substitute teacher in Clark County, Wash., for many years. Newkirk is survived by three children and five grandchildren.

Marilyn Carlson Olmstead, 92, died April 11, 2023. She began working in the labor and delivery area of Unity Hospital in 1969, became head nurse in 1977, and transferred to a supervisory position in nursing administration in 1978. Olmstead is survived by a daughter, three sons, eight grandchildren, and sixteen great-grandchildren.

Albert L. Pooler, 93, of St. Louis Park, Minn., died April 9, 2023. After working for Shell Oil, Pooler joined Minnegasco, eventually becoming vice president of operations. He is survived by two daughters, a son, and six grandchildren.

Joan Ollig Rasmusson, 93, of Sioux Falls, S.D., died Feb. 16, 2023. She taught first grade in Long Beach, Calif., and was a member of the board of directors of her family's business, Ollig Utilities. Rasmusson is survived by three children, eight grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and a sister.

Richard H. Thomas, 92, died April 24, 2023, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. He served as a chaplain with the US Air Force and at Princeton University. In 1967, Thomas joined Cornell College as chaplain and professor of history. In addition to devising courses on federal policy regarding Native Americans, the internment of Japanese Americans, and Midwest architecture, Thomas led a research effort that resulted in the inclusion of the Cornell campus in the National Register of Historical Places. He also led the college's annual candlelight vigil in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. He retired in 2005. Thomas is survived by his wife, Nancy, two daughters, a son, and five grandchildren.

1953

Joan McCluskey Larson, 91, of Inver Grove Heights, Minn., died April 4, 2023. She was a Girl Scout leader and Cub Scout den mother. Larson is survived by six children, fourteen grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

1954

Evald Kruut, 95, died March 26, 2023. After being separated from his parents in Estonia during World War II, Kruut immigrated to the United States in 1950. He established a technical library in Dow Corning Corporation's semiconductor division before becoming executive director of Veterans Memorial Library in Mount Pleasant, Mich., in 1973. He also translated poetry into English and wrote his own poems in English and Estonian. Kruut is survived by his wife, Lilja, a son, and four grandchildren.

1955

Joyce Dierdorff Mlinar, 89, died Feb. 9, 2023. She taught third grade in Minnesota, worked in the University of Pennsylvania's library reserve department, and taught the kindergarten class she helped establish at the Episcopal Church School in McAllen, Texas. Mlinar is survived by three children and seven grandchildren.

1956

Grael B. Gannon, 88, died Feb. 8, 2023. He served as pastor at several rural congregations. Gannon also co-founded Shiloh Christian School, served as its first superintendent, and taught there for twenty-nine years.

C. William "Bill" Goins, 93, died March 14, 2023, in Wyoming, Minn. He served in the US Army as a military police officer during the Korean War and worked in New York as a professional

photographer and financial advisor.

1957

Samuel Baez, 90, of Waterford, Conn., died Feb. 25, 2023. He served in the Navy Chaplain Corps in the United States, Asia, and Spain, and conducted services for the first Marine casualties in the Vietnam War. Baez retired in 1981 after twenty-eight years in the military and served Congregational churches in Connecticut. He is survived by his wife, Marianne, three sons, and three grandsons.

Thomas N. Bayer, 88, of Houston, Minn., died March 12, 2023. He was a geology instructor at Macalester before becoming professor of earth science at Winona State College in 1964. Bayer established the Minnesota State University system's first department of geology and earth science in 1968, serving as its chair until 1977 and retiring in

1996. He is survived by his wife, Marilyn, three daughters, a sister, and two half brothers.

Henry H. Gyllenblad, 87, of Eden Prairie, Minn., died April 3, 2023. He served in the National Guard for nine years and retired from Northwest Airlines after thirty-eight years as a pilot. Gyllenblad is survived by his wife, Vivian, a daughter, a son, four grandchildren, and a sister.

John D. Welch, 93, of Ellendale, Minn., died March 20, 2023. He served in the US Navy from 1948 to 1952. After teaching in Hancock and Mound, Minnesota, Welch taught at Blooming Prairie High School for twenty-four years. He is survived by two daughters, a son, nine grandchildren, and ten great-grandchildren.

1958

Sharon Fudge Haugen, 87, died March 25, 2023, in Watkins,

Minn. She served as a pastor's spouse with her first husband, Robert Field, at congregations in Minnesota and South Dakota. Haugen co-owned and operated the Corner Coffee Shop in Dawson, Minn., and worked in the dietary department at Johnson Memorial Home. She is survived by four children, twelve grandchildren, eleven great-grandchildren, and a sister.

1959

Sandra Jensen Rasmussen, 86, died on Dec. 21, 2022, in Des Moines, Iowa. She was preceded in death by her husband James Rasmussen '59. The family owned River Ridge Ranch horse farm, and Sandra devoted significant research to mares and the necessary nutrition during gestation, leading her to be awarded "Breeder of the Year" thirteen times. She is survived by three sons, seven grandchildren, and a great grandchild.

SEPTEMBER 21-23, 2023

MAC IN YOUR CITY


Let's reconnect, share memories, and start new conversations!

At Mac in Your City, alumni all over the world reignite that energy by gathering to engage in their communities, connect with one another, and celebrate their Macalester pride. *Interested in hosting a gathering for your city?* Let us know. It's easy to do, and as a host, you'll play a vital role in this annual tradition for our global Mac community. Wherever you are in the world, join us in creating a special moment for alumni where you live.

A little bit of Mac, wherever you are.
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MAC FEST

OCTOBER 6-8, 2023



We're celebrating the best of fall at Macalester with a new event featuring events for the entire college community—students, alumni, parents and families, faculty and staff, and prospective students.

Mark your calendar to join us!
macalester.edu/mac-fest

1963

Alan J. Griffiths, 81, of Fort Myers, Fla., died March 4, 2023. He is survived by a daughter, a son, two grandsons, and three brothers.

James E. Koerselman, 81, of Sheldon, Iowa, died April 10, 2023. He worked for Demco for nearly sixty years. Koerselman is survived by his wife, Marilyn, three children, ten grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, and three siblings.

Jean Budde Newcomb, 80, of Hopedale, Mass., died March 23, 2023. She retired in 2017 as a high school math teacher. Newcomb is survived by a son, a sister, and a brother.

1964

Loretta Karbo Shenk, 80, died Nov. 25, 2022. She is survived by her husband, David, and four siblings.

1966

Karen Conradi-Jones, 78, died April 2, 2023, in St. Paul. She was a medical social worker for more than thirty years and led a breast cancer support group. She is survived by her husband, David, two children, several grandchildren, and a brother.

William D. "Dave" Farson, 80, died Feb. 16, 2023. He trained with the Peace Corps in the South Pacific and taught high school in Shawnee Mission, Kan. He was co-author of the book *Cults and Cons: The Exploitation of The Emotional Growth Consumers* and wrote a history of Shawnee Mission North High School. Farson and his wife, June Cramer Farson '68, had a son and a granddaughter.

1967

Barbara A. Trumbull, 76, died Aug. 13, 2022. She worked as an occupational therapist and hand therapist. Trumbull is survived

by two children, five grandchildren, and a sister.

1969

Richard J. Lowe, 75, of Worthington, Minn., died Jan. 24, 2023. While serving in the US Air Force from 1969 to 1974, Lowe flew missions into Vietnam and Southeast Asia and attained the rank of captain. He then returned to his family farm and served on the boards of a local bank and Community Wind South. Lowe is survived by his wife, Jan, two daughters, four granddaughters, and a brother.

1971

Barbara A. Russ, 74, of Duluth, Minn., died March 6, 2023. She worked for the Minnesota Crime Control Planning Board while attending William Mitchell College of Law, and worked for St. Louis County's Attorney's Office in Duluth from 1979 to 2013. Russ then served Duluth for seven years as an at-large city

councilor. She is survived by her husband, Neil Glazman, daughters Bliss Baldwin Peterson '92 and Sara Jane Baldwin '01, six grandsons, and three siblings.

1973

Nancy S. Sparks, 72, of Falls Church, Va., died Feb. 24, 2023. After serving as a judicial law clerk for a federal judge in Pennsylvania, Sparks joined the Philadelphia law firm of Pepper Hamilton LLP as an associate. She then began a thirty-four-year career with Federal Express, working for the company in various capacities in Memphis, Tenn., Brussels, Belgium, and Washington, D.C., where she was managing director of regulatory affairs. Sparks also served as chair of the Industry Affairs Committee of the International Air Transport Association. She is survived by two children and a sister.

1977

Jerome A. Munson, 67, of Rapid City, S.D., died April 6, 2023. In 1984, he launched Munco, Incorporated, which included a retail boat store, an outdoor advertising business, and an outboard motor distributor. Munson also served as mayor of Rapid City and as a reserve deputy and board member with the Pennington County Sheriff's Office. He is survived by the "love of his life," Jean Smith, sister Margaret Munson Johnson '71, and three brothers.

1978

Patricia J. Liebers, 68, of Waverly, Iowa, died Feb. 27, 2023. She worked for Anundsen Publishing, co-owned and operated Cafe Deluxe, and managed a gift shop. Liebers is survived by her husband, Chad, and a brother.

1980

Richard R. Brown, 66, of Omaha, Neb., died Nov. 28, 2022. He served in the US Navy and most recently worked as a security guard with Omaha Public Schools. Brown is survived by two daughters, five grandchildren, and a sister.

1983

Scott A. Johnson, 62, of Minneapolis died April 11, 2023. A co-founder of an import/export business during his time at Macalester, Johnson later helped develop the World Trade Center building in St. Paul and was a partner in an imported beer distribution company. In 2017, along with his wife and children, Johnson launched BlackStack Brewing in an old canning factory building in St. Paul. He is survived by his wife, Shawne Murphy-Johnson, three children, his father, and a brother.

1986

Andrew L. Hoover, 59, died Jan. 31, 2023, in Seattle. He worked in banking in the Twin Cities and Taiwan before joining Micro-

soft in 1993. Hoover became senior director of the company's Industry Strategy Enterprise and Partnerships Group. He is survived by his wife, Kristen Soohyun Kim Hoover, a son, and a sister.

1988

Joan Stookey Harring, 57, of Ellicott City, Md., died Feb. 25, 2023. She worked as an elementary school paraeducator in Minnesota and Maryland and volunteered for fifteen years as a court-appointed special advocate for abused and neglected children. She is survived by her husband, Jeffrey Harring '86, a daughter, a son, her parents, and three sisters.

1991

Sara L. Sulzbach, 54, died April 10, 2023, in Washington, D.C. She worked for the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services and the Carolina Population Center. After joining Abt Associates in 2002, she was a contractor with the US Agency for International Development and began working directly for the agency in 2015. She was a senior research implementation advisor with the Bureau of Global Health at the time of her death. Sulzbach is survived by her husband, David, two daughters, her mother, a sister, and a brother.

2016

Biftu Takele died Feb. 6, 2023. She was a 2022 alumna of the Twin Cities chapter of the New Leaders Council and served on its board of directors as co-chair of community engagement.

// OTHER LOSSES



Paula M. Cooley, retired Margaret Weyerhaeuser Harmon Professor of Religion at Macalester, died Feb. 9, 2023, in St. Paul. She was 77. Cooley worked at Trinity University before joining Macalester's faculty in 1999. She taught courses on the history of Christian traditions and the theory of religion, and conducted research on religious life and practice in the context of conflict, disruption, and assimilation. Cooley was also a poet and the author of several books, including *Willing the Good: Jesus, Dissent, and Desire*. She is survived by her husband, Phil, a son, two grandchildren, a sister, and a brother.



Patricia M. Utecht of St. Paul, a clinic nurse at Macalester from 1968 to 1995, died March 22, 2023, at the age of 92. She also worked at St. Joseph's Hospital. Utecht is survived by three daughters, two sons, twelve grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.



Brittini Chicuata '08
Young Alumni Award 2023

A LUMNI AWARD NOMINATIONS

Think about your Mac network.

Who exemplifies Mac's values of internationalism, multiculturalism, and service to society?

Help us celebrate our alumni. Each year, Macalester honors graduates with Alumni Awards—and nominations are now open for 2024.

To learn more about how to nominate a friend or classmate (especially in honor of an upcoming milestone Reunion), visit macalester.edu/alumni/alumniawards or email alumnioffice@macalester.edu.

The nomination deadline is Sept. 25, 2023.



Ambassadors for Friendship

Established in 1960 by Harry Morgan, special assistant to the president for international student activities, Ambassadors for Friendship were small groups of international and American students who explored the United States by car. Trips were six weeks long and two rounds of trips happened each summer. Students planned and led all trips, determining which destinations to visit. Sleeping bags in tow, students stayed in local homes, churches, and national parks, among other places. A 1960s-era promotional brochure describes the program as “A 12,000-mile journey toward understanding—toward the building of bridges and the opening of doors between nations and individuals.”

▼ Pictured here are students from one of the 1966 tours, which included Steven Wheeler '66 and G. Forrest Hoppe '66. If you can identify other students in the photo, please email the archives.



What are your memories of Ambassadors for Friendship?

Share them with us at [archives@macalester.edu!](mailto:archives@macalester.edu)

COURTESY OF MACALESTER COLLEGE ARCHIVES



WITH LOVE AND GRATITUDE FROM MAC

Your generous gifts of time, expertise, and financial commitments strengthen everything we love about the college. Together, we elevate the things that make Mac great and foster an environment for all to thrive.

Thank you, Macalester family, for all the ways you support and inspire us: this year and every year.

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



DAVID J. TURNER

While inclement weather forced May's Commencement ceremony inside, that didn't stop the Class of 2023 from celebrating their many accomplishments and shouting to the Leonard Center rooftop at the event's conclusion.