

TODAY



How to Think Like a Filmmaker

Documentary filmmakers share the mindsets that have led to their success.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF RACHEL LAUREN MUELLER



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OUR CAMPUS HOME

A PLACE OF BELONGING, A WINDOW TO THE WORLD

When I walk around the Macalester campus on warm fall afternoons, it seems like our entire campus community is outside, embracing the season together in one sprawling gathering. I see people tucked into hammocks between trees near Marvin Plaza, reading books. Others play spikeball on Shaw Field. Classes form circles on the Great Lawn. Neighbors walk their dogs and ride their bikes on campus sidewalks. Someone strums a guitar in a courtyard. During a quick stroll, it's easy to see the full spectrum of life at Macalester: studying, socializing, working, exercising, resting, making connections.

Our campus is home to the living-learning community model that's been a defining characteristic of Macalester for generations. It's also a portal for exploration and discovery. Not merely a collection of classrooms, the physical spaces on campus signal our values: flags representing students' home countries on display in the Campus Center and in the Leonard Center, portraits and plaques that honor important figures from the college's history, public art honoring a myriad of cultures and traditions, a political slogan painted on the rock.

At their best, our campus spaces bring us together, fostering a sense of belonging and community. I see that exemplified beautifully in multipurpose gathering spots like Lowe Dayton Arts Commons, or the Idea Lab in the library, or in the Alumni Gym where students sit at athletic competitions next to classmates whose paths they might not normally cross.

However, sometimes, our campus spaces create barriers that impede collaboration, leave people out, or block us from realizing our aspirations. Not every part of campus is inviting and comfortable for all. Some spaces can feel exclusive. We must do more to improve accessibility. And we have work to do with regard to

environmental sustainability. With care, we can make changes to ensure, together, that our entire campus is just as welcoming and vibrant as the Great Lawn in October.

To that end, we're busy making choices about how to use our space in ways that optimize the powerful combination of qualities that make Macalester distinctive: a signature liberal arts curriculum, grounded in a residential campus experience, focused on our unique Twin Cities location, with an emphasis on citizenship within the wider world.

We're guided in this work by a comprehensive campus plan—created with input from students, faculty, staff, and alumni, and endorsed unanimously by the Board of Trustees in May—that identifies current and future facilities needs, and explores possibilities for the use of our available space. The comprehensive campus plan is anchored by the same foundational imperatives as our broader *Imagine, Macalester* strategic plan: academic distinction, finan-

cial sustainability, social responsibility, and community well-being. Accordingly, it will manifest, in bricks and mortar, the big goals we spent a year developing together.

Those goals include emphasizing our identity as a residential campus, which requires that we invest in campus housing. Currently, the college can guarantee housing only to first- and second-year students. So, most students move off campus for their junior and senior years. To maximize the benefits of being a living-learning community, and to give juniors and seniors more flexible options, one of our first steps will be to build a new residence hall that will significantly expand our campus housing capacity.

Other examples of space priorities that activate goals from our strategic plan include:

- » Emphasizing accessibility and universal design, to ensure our spaces work for all members of our community.





DAVID J. TURNER

- » Reconsidering and reallocating existing space to improve the student experience. We asked students for their input, and they told us they feel dispersed and fragmented. We will address that.
- » Creating an inviting space that intentionally welcomes alumni back to campus.
- » Prioritizing climate-positive decisions—for example, exploring new geothermal technology and solar array deployments that would be appropriate for our unique urban environment.
- » Taking steps to break down the metaphorical walls between our campus and the neighborhood in which it sits. We recognize that our influence in the Twin Cities extends beyond our physical footprint, and we will seek new opportunities to invite local residents into our campus spaces.

I'm excited about the work we will do together to ensure that future generations of Mac students will experience this campus as both a nurturing home-base and a window to the world. You can read the entire comprehensive campus plan at macalester.edu/strategic-plan. We welcome your feedback, and we'll keep providing regular community updates about the impact of our work.

With continued guidance, encouragement, and financial support from alumni and friends, we will preserve and amplify what's special about this campus, and we'll reimagine how its indoor and outdoor spaces can best support all members of our Macalester family.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

The Nobles Pursuit of Principles

One might think there are principles on which all Americans agree; freedom of speech comes to mind. But it doesn't take much reading to find speech that those on the right would ban. Neither does it take much reading to find speech that those on the left would ban. We seem to live in a world in which people are not guided by principles, but by personalities and ad hoc situations. Clearly, the country is in need of something on which we can all agree. Let's help find it.

Macalester's legendary debate coach, Dr. Scott Nobles, said in his "Argumentation and Debate" class that without fundamental agreement, there can be no debate. One might think that there needs to be disagreement for there to be a debate. And while there must, indeed, be disagreement, that disagreement cannot be on the fundamentals. Two theologians, for example, can debate whether god is a loving and forgiving god or a vengeful and jealous god, but neither of them can have that debate with an atheist because they disagree on the fundamentals.

I propose a task for Macalester. Find the fundamentals on which Americans can agree. It could be called the Nobles Pursuit of Principles.

Perhaps the Macalester community (students, faculty, staff, and alums) has sufficient diversity of thought to accomplish the task alone. Perhaps noted thinkers from outside need to be invited. Whoever it is should expect a protracted discussion.

Thank you for your consideration.

—Rolf Bolstad '76

Life-changing Events

The urban semester in Chicago was the most life-changing event of my Macalester education. I'm still here.

Giles Gamble's Shakespeare class was a close second, though.

Mac seems to be on the right path.

—Norman Watkins '79

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Visit macalester.edu/macsocial and use **#heymac** when you post.

Send letters to mactoday@macalester.edu.

1600 GRAND





A Historic Weekend for the Pipe Band

The Macalester Pipe Band won both events in Grade 3 at the Caledonian Society of San Francisco Highland Games in Pleasanton, Calif., over Labor Day weekend.

In a historic weekend for the band, they placed first in both the Medley and March, Strathspey, and Reel events.

The drum corps also won aggregate first place over the two-day event.

Macalester College from the intersection of Summit and Snelling Avenues, approximately 1890.



CELEBRATING 150 YEARS OF MACALESTER

In 2024, Macalester will mark the 150th anniversary of our founding. We invite all alumni to join us in celebrating our sesquicentennial. We have a full year of celebrations planned as well as some special surprises. Here's a preview of some events and opportunities for engagement:

Sesquicentennial conversations

Macalester will host five US-based events for alumni and friends featuring panel discussions about transformational topics with Macalester faculty, staff, and alumni. Make plans to join us at one or more of these regional events:

- February 8, 2024: **San Francisco**
- April 4, 2024: **Washington, D.C.**
- May 15, 2024: **New York City**
- October 2024: **Twin Cities** (part of Mac Fest 2024)
- November 10, 2024: **Chicago**

For members of our community who are unable to travel, we also will be hosting several sesquicentennial conversations on Zoom in 2024.



Heritage trip to Scotland

Next August, Macalester will host an alumni trip to Scotland that will coincide with the World Pipe Band Championships. More details about event dates, travel, and programming will be available soon.

Macalester events including Tartan Trivia, Week of Service, Commencement, Reunion, Mac In Your City, and Mac Fest also will feature special sesquicentennial programming to be announced later.

Learn more about our historic celebration year in upcoming issues of *Macalester Today* and in the *Mac Wire* e-newsletter.



Matté Lopez, right, at Casa Sankara

TRANSFORMING IDEAS INTO ACTION

Matté Lopez '25 (Crystal, Minn.) was awarded a 2023 Live It Fund grant from the Entrepreneurship and Innovation program. She used her funding to spend nine weeks in San Severo, Italy, working with the nonprofit Casa Sankara to support the 400 African migrants who live and receive resources at this organization. In August, Lopez, an international studies major, wrapped up her project and shared this update.

This summer, I served as a consultant for Casa Sankara through my project titled "Ensemble," a human-centered design consulting project for nonprofits. Ensemble's mission is to help nonprofits develop more inclusive systems that are informed by the lived experiences of their clients.

In this role, which was heavily influenced by ethnographic fieldwork, I conducted interviews with staff and migrants, observed daily life, and lived on-site to fully immerse myself in this

community and comprehensively understand the specific context in which Casa Sankara operates.

My research identified a lack of integration and communication between the staff and migrants at Casa Sankara to be a foundational problem. To address this, my project culminated in an immersive activity where I guided staff in stepping outside of the office and visiting spaces frequented by migrants to introduce themselves and share announcements, a practice seldomly done.

Over the past ten weeks, I improved my French and Italian language skills, gained real-life experience adapting to new cultural contexts, and expanded my knowledge of both Italian and global migration politics.

For more information about my project, visit <https://lnkd.in/eBMHZUMv>.

Investigating St. Paul's New 'Shade Gap'

If you know St. Paul and Minneapolis, you know that both cities' streets were once shaded by large canopies of ash trees.

A small beetle changed all of that. The emerald ash borer targets ash, one of the most common street tree species in the Twin Cities. The beetle was accidentally introduced to the Midwest a few decades ago. Once heavily infested by the emerald ash borer, ash trees rapidly decline in health and are often dead within a few years.

By 2024, St. Paul will have removed nearly 30,000 ash trees from its streets to stop the infestation, greatly reducing the city's urban canopy. This wide-scale removal of ash trees, many of them over half a century old, is changing the lived environment of the affected neighborhoods. Biology professor Mary Heskel and a team of student researchers spent the summer looking at the impact of ash tree removal on shade and temperature, and her students gained new research skills along the way.

"While I wasn't super familiar with this topic at first, I quickly learned just how important this research is," says Romeo Gomes '24 (Adairsville, Ga.), an environmental studies major. "The removal of such a large scale of trees can have massive impacts on the city and communities in it. With far fewer mature boulevard trees, our streets will get much

hotter, making enjoying the city on foot and bike far less pleasant for everyone.”

Together, Heskkel and her students developed the experimental design and site selection. The students—composed of geography, environmental studies, and biology majors—brought expertise in different areas to inform the project, from GIS mapping to tree identification to local knowledge of the Twin Cities as well as data organization and visualization in R, a programming language. Heskkel says their different academic and personal perspectives on research, really benefited the study.

Before getting out in the city, the team read scientific articles about urban trees, the emerald

“shade gap” and deficit in the cooling effects of the canopies is even more critical as climate change makes summers more severe in the Twin Cities.

Gomes says that “it was surprising to better understand just how impactful street trees, and their removal, are in controlling ambient temperatures along our streets. While this makes sense, as trees provide shade, the temperature differences between streets with removal and those without removal were so drastic it took us all by surprise.”

During the final week of the project, the team conducted data analysis and visualization, and made posters to present at the Academic Sum-



ash borer life cycle, and street tree measurement techniques, and discussed them as a group. They developed hypotheses and identified experimental treatments within the urban context that would allow them to test those hypotheses. After developing an experimental approach that could be replicated at each site, they identified appropriate sampling sites for districts within St. Paul to get coverage across a range of neighborhoods and map them using GIS.

Field days, says Heskkel, were “hot and active,” and water bottles and hats were essential. Students regularly biked to sites around St. Paul, donning orange visibility vests while taking measurements on the streets. “The Canadian wildfire smoke and heat made the air quality so poor we had to cancel field sampling for many days,” she says. “Experiencing this while researching the mediating effects of trees on urban climate felt heavy.”

While St. Paul is replacing the old, large ash trees with new saplings of different species, it may take decades for the new plantings to provide the same benefits as those removed. This

mer Showcase during October’s Mac Fest. “It was great to observe students gain so many skills in such a short period of time, all while working on data they generated from field collection,” says Heskkel. Each student took on different analyses and questions, ranging from the impact of home values on shading effects of street trees, to sapling mortality likelihood based on species for the newly planted trees.

Summer 2023 was just the beginning for this project. This fall and moving forward, Heskkel and her lab will collaborate with geography professor Xavier Haro-Carrión and students in his Advanced Remote Sensing class to scale the street-level data to satellite imagery. This research approach allows for the team to broaden the spatial extent of canopy loss across St. Paul. And of course, more data is always needed—Heskkel and more students will continue to gather street-level data in summer 2024 as well.

Gomes says the best thing about the project was getting to be active in the community and observe real-life changes that are unfolding right before our eyes.

“It was great to observe students gain so many skills in such a short period of time, all while working on data they generated from field collection,”

Facing page: Lukas Lock-Scamp '25 and Professor Heskkel.

Above left: Connery Ritter '25. Above right: Romeo Gomes '24 and Chloe Andree '23.



Celebrating Professor Marlon James

English professor and acclaimed novelist Marlon James was celebrated by the Macalester community at a September event as he moved to emeritus status after fifteen years at the college.

During remarks, James reflected on his time at Mac, asking: "Why do I teach undergraduates? Because I'm always waiting for the next situation when students blow my mind and teach me something," he said. "My connection to Mac will never be severed."

James is focusing his attention on several new projects, including an original series *Get Millie Black* for HBO, an adaptation of his novel *A Brief History of Seven Killings* for Netflix, and a new novel to be published by Penguin Riverhead. He will remain a professor emeritus at Macalester.

JOHN SCHOOLMEESTERS

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

Michelle Tong is a professor of neurobiology. She studies how long-term memories are formed and how they persist.

Any standout books you've read recently?

I've been reading *Inciting Joy* by Ross Gay. He makes a case for living with joy, which he explicitly distinguishes from positivity. He invites us to consider the underappreciated wisdom in the feeling of joy. And, in contrast to how in recent years we've been stewing in sorrow and helplessness as a society, there's profound power in joy.

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

The Witch of Blackbird Pond, by Elizabeth George Speare. It is a silly, young adult, historical fiction about a person who grows up in the Caribbean and because her family has passed she has to move to Massachusetts to live with her Puritan aunt. What spoke to me was the way it captured the feelings of otherness and outcast-ness I felt as a kid.

What book is crucial to understanding your academic niche?

In her book *How Emotions are Made*, Lisa Feldman Barrett challenges the idea of a static and innate emotion system. She advances a theory that emotions are actually constructed in the moment from these core memory systems that are integrated across the whole brain—that our experiences and emotions are really constructed through what we learn. It's a really great book because it highlights just how dynamic and vibrant our nervous systems are!

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

I like to read lyrics. I like music where the artist is very attentive to how the music and their lyrics are playing together, not just in terms of the timing but also how artists cite



one another. For example, in Kendrick Lamar's *The Heart Part 5*, he makes an allusion to a Jay-Z song by rapping those lyrics in the style of the Jay-Z song. I really like noticing those things.

What one book would you recommend to everyone at Macalester?

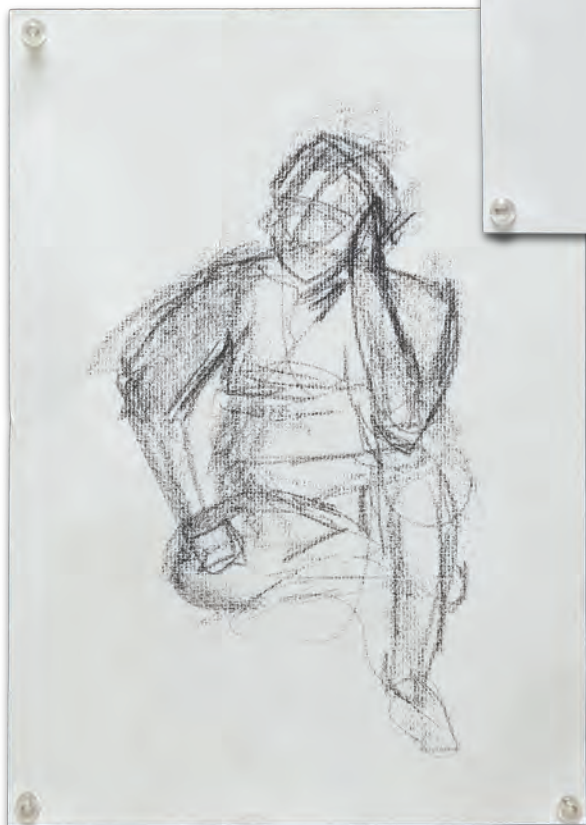
James Baldwin's *No Name in the Street*. We get to see a Baldwin that has had it with America and pulling no punches with his critiques. Not that he was known for being gentle before. What I find beautiful in this book is this tiny passage where he alludes to how his political views were changed by having finally fallen in love.

—Talia Bank '23

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

PHOTO PROVIDED

Drawing at right by Caroline Behling-Hess '20;
drawing below by Fa Moe '25.



CREATING A RESOURCE FOR REAL-WORLD FIGURE DRAWING

In the Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center, art professor Megan Vossler, Ramier Villarama '25 (Bayonne, N.J.), Fa Moe '25 (Madison, Wis.), and Caroline Behling-Hess '20 spent their summer putting graphite to paper. The group's project? Creating an educational resource that paints figure drawing—a crucial skill in an artist's repertoire—in a more inclusive, diverse light.

While traditional figure drawing pedagogy often lacks diversity and can stray into idealizing a subject, the group aims to create a curriculum that “focuses on real-world context of figure drawing” and teach artists to “observe and render what they see without assumptions, projections, or stereotypes.”



Honoring the Power of Narratives

When Rola Cao '25 (Nanjing, China) submitted her Racial Justice Project Fund proposal last December, she didn't know the exact format that would take shape. But she knew it would happen in collaboration with community partners, and she knew the overarching theme for any program she would build: narrative matters. "Lots of public narratives about Asian Americans are written or used by other people—the agency of shaping narratives isn't always held by Asian American communities," says Cao. "There's a saying, 'If you don't use your voice, someone else will.' It's very important to reclaim our own voices."

Created in 2020, the Racial Justice Project Fund consists of gifts designated by Macalester Fund donors. Last summer, the first funded project was an experiential learning program focused on the Civil Rights Movement, hosted by the Lealtad-Suzuki Center for Social Justice. Three more projects have received funding for implementation this fall. The goal: to expand the college's racial justice work, and empower community members by providing a pathway to take action on their ideas.

Once Cao secured funding, she found that the grant support helped open doors for conversations with community partners, who recognized a shared mission and commitment to working toward racial justice. Ultimately, Cao coordinated three programs for Macalester's AAPI Month: hosting the Asian American Organizing Project for a workshop about police and

community safety in the United States; centering southeast Asian communities through exploration of memory mapping, facilitated by the Southeast Asian Diaspora Project; and a "human library" (a nonprofit learning platform), to foster one-on-one conversations to honor the power of storytelling and reclaiming narratives of Asian American faculty, staff, alumni, and students.

The Human Library®, in Cao's words, aims to challenge monolithic stereotypes by "inviting community guest speakers—called 'books'—to share their stories through conversations with participants—called 'readers,'" she says. "It's a powerful format to talk about racial justice. You sit with someone whose path you might never normally cross and hear their story, and their insights come with so much vulnerability because they're sharing their journeys with a bunch of strangers. Vulnerability isn't a solution to the problem, but each storyteller is imagining what triumph looks like in racial justice. That's a call to action, and it requires a lot of trust."

All three programs, Cao says, encouraged attendees to engage in conversations that were at times difficult and very personal—and to reflect about their own experiences. "It's not only hearing other peoples' voices," she says. "It's also about reclaiming your own voice, and thinking about your own story and how it connects to the bigger story. What solutions and future do we prioritize?"



Sun Tun '22 and Khant Wai Yan '25 —who each connect a piece of their home and history to Myanmar (Burma)—met for the first time at the Human Library and reflected on that country's ongoing dictatorship and humanitarian crisis.

“There's a saying, 'If you don't use your voice, someone else will.' It's very important to reclaim our own voices.”

Imagine, MACALESTER



STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

Six working groups that met throughout the summer shared their work products with the senior leadership team in August.

The groups were composed of over ninety members of the Macalester community, including staff, faculty, alumni, and students.

For the 2023-24 academic year, the Senior Leadership Team has endorsed the following commitments to action:

- 1 Initiate "sequence A" of the Comprehensive Campus Plan, which includes: a new residence hall and welcome center, as well as changes to create more student-centric gathering spaces. To view the full plan, visit macalester.edu/strategic-plan and click on Discussion Papers and Reports in sidebar.
- 2 Develop a holistic first-year experience that integrates academic and psycho-social learning.
- 3 Expand opportunities for students to engage in high-impact practices (such as study away, research mentorship, internships, writing-intensive courses, community-based learning).
- 4 Make innovative changes to the Macalester curriculum.
- 5 Create a signature advising and mentorship program for students that engages the Macalester community broadly in relationship-rich practices.
- 6 Determine change(s) to the college calendar with a focus on the weekly organization of time and augmenting semesters in January, May, or during spring break.

In addition to these commitments, we are moving ahead with a number of operational priorities including work that supports employee well-being and thriving, digital transformation, and further engaging alumni.

Visit macalester.edu/strategic-plan to learn more.

1600
GRAND



OPENING CONVOCATION

Ms. Leona Tate, a civil rights pioneer and founder of the Leona Tate Foundation for Change in New Orleans, was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters at Opening Convocation. She is pictured at center with students at the September event.

Dr. Brian Lozenski, associate professor of culture, teaching, and urban education and chair of the Educational Studies Department, delivered the keynote address, saying: “Education is a confrontation with the world, and this is the true expression of the liberal arts. This is why we sacrifice to be here—to study, to puzzle, to struggle, to transform the world around us.”

To view a recording of the event visit vimeo.com/863189443

DAVID J. TURNER

ATHLETICS

FLYING HIGH

Track-and-field athlete Journey Amundson '23 has been nominated for the NCAA Woman of the Year Award.

Rooted in Title IX, the NCAA Woman of the Year Award was established in 1991 to recognize graduating female student-athletes who have distinguished themselves in academics, athletics, service and leadership throughout their collegiate careers.

Amundson graduated summa cum laude in May after majoring in chemistry. As a senior she received the American Institutes of Chemists Award and the Health Professions Advisory Committee Award. While at Mac, Amundson also was awarded the Undergraduate Award in Analytical Chemistry as a junior, and the John Howe Scott Sophomore Chemistry Prize. A three-time Academic All-MIAC honoree, she made the 2023 Academic All-District team and received the USTFCCCA All-Academic Award five times.

As a horizontal jumper and sprinter for the Scots, Amundson holds school records in the triple jump indoors and the long and triple jump outdoors. Last spring she qualified for the NCAA Division III Championships both indoors and outdoors in the triple jump, placing ninth indoors and fourteenth outdoors. At the MIAC Outdoor Track & Field Championships in May, Amundson won both the long and triple jumps and was named the 2023 MIAC Field Athlete of the Year. A four-time All-Region performer, Amundson earned All-MIAC recognition eleven times during her time at Macalester.

The winner of the NCAA Woman of the Year Award will be announced in January 2024.



Building Community and Connectedness in the Classroom

A program led by faculty and staff members strengthens the classroom community with intentional reflection and conversation.

BY DEVAVANI CHATTERJEA, NANCY BOSTROM, AND BETHANY MILLER

Several research studies link a sense of community in educational spaces to improved learning and student success. In September 2021, as we returned to in-person learning and teaching after a year of virtual engagement, we launched the Classroom Community and Connectedness Project (CC&C) at Macalester. CC&C is a facilitated reflection and interactive brainstorm exercise designed to improve experiences of community and connectedness in courses, while itself serving as a community-building activity.

In the project's first year, twenty faculty members opted in to share their classrooms with us for one class period early in the term. Carrying white boards, bags of Post-its, pens, and markers, we arrived in Macalester classrooms and asked students (the instructor was not present) for their individual responses to four questions:

1. What is working well to support community and connectedness in this course?
2. What are barriers to community and connectedness in this course?
3. What can students do to improve community and connectedness in this course?
4. What can the instructor do to improve community and connectedness in this course?

Students wrote their anonymous responses on color-coded sticky notes and added them to poster boards dedicated to each question. We then divided the class into four teams and charged them with "analysis"—to parse the collected ideas into themes that emerged from the class as a whole, write the themes on the poster boards, and present them to the class.

Finally, students went on a "gallery walk" to review themes posted on the boards and added priority stickers to the ones most significant to them personally. We then asked students to reflect on their own roles in building community, thanked them for their time and work, and followed up with each faculty member within a week of the visit for a short debrief to share the themes and priorities that emerged from their class.

Findings

Our immediate priority was to provide course-based feedback to individual faculty in participating courses. Now we are analyzing aggregated responses from the over 400 student participants to uncover meta-themes across courses.

While the questions did not explicitly ask about learning design and activities, students often made that connection themselves. For example, we identified four overarching themes that support community and connectedness:

- » Interpersonal relationships. Practices like learning students' names, well-being check-ins, grounding moments, encouraging questions, and welcoming all kinds of ideas help to foster a sense of social and academic belonging.
- » Collaboration. Students want authentic collaboration like classroom discussions, peer learning, group projects, and small groups that facilitate subject-matter conversations and social connections.
- » Instructional design. Case studies or connecting the curriculum to personal experiences or current events increases student connections and community in the course. Additionally, students enjoy connecting and exchanging ideas via electronic tools such as Moodle or Slack channels.
- » Use of physical space. Students prefer seating arrangements and work spaces that promote interaction and collaboration.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

→ High-impact practices

aacu.org/trending-topics/high-impact

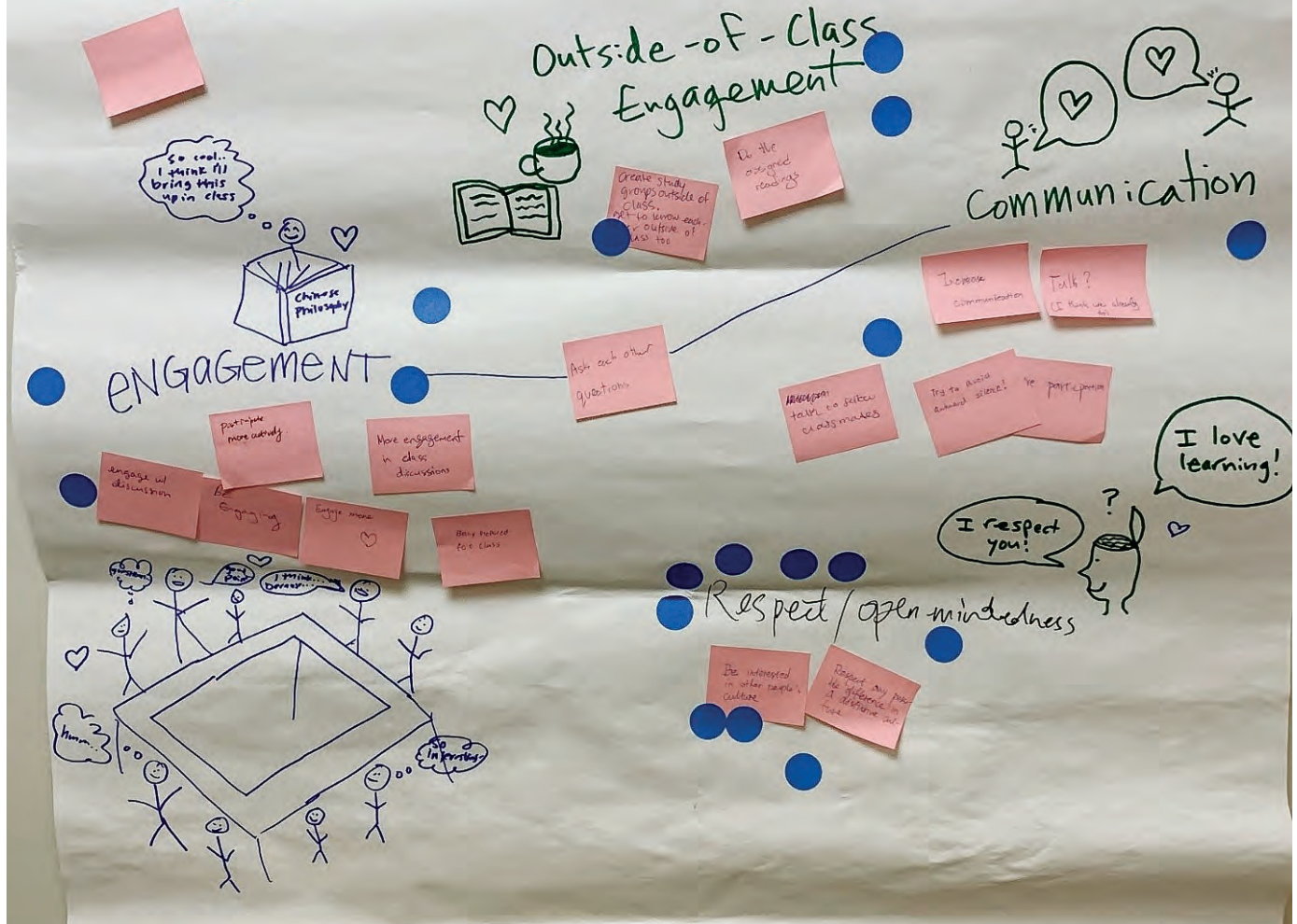
→ Team-based learning

routledge.com/Team-Based-Learning-A-Transformative-Use-of-Small-Groups-in-College-Teaching/Michaelsen-Knight-Fink/p/book/9781579220860

→ Ten arguments for inciting learning

insidehighered.com/advice/2022/07/20/why-active-learning-more-effective-traditional-modes-opinion

Q3: What can Students do to improve Community and connectedness in this course?



In fall 2021, over 90 percent of faculty participants said they found their specific CC&C feedback helpful and were able to implement positive changes for the rest of the semester; in fall 2022, that number rose to 100 percent.

In fall 2021, over 90 percent of students agreed it is important to be intentional about building community in courses at Macalester and nearly 70 percent felt that this particular activity and the ideas it generated contributed to a stronger sense of community. More than 75 percent of students—and an even higher percentage of students who identify as first-generation students—agreed that the activity would be valuable in additional courses on campus.

Next steps

In collaboration with the Jan Serie Center for Scholarship and Teaching, we continue to make CC&C available to faculty who opt in. To make the process sustainable, faculty who request a session for their class are trained to co-facilitate a colleague's class along with a partner from Institutional Research & Assessment.

Faculty-staff collaboration is key for the success of this project and remains the centerpiece of ongoing analysis and capacity building for this work on campus. Student feedback informed pedagogy in individual courses, and we are currently working on

aggregating the student feedback from across courses, to create a toolkit of best practices for building community in classrooms at Macalester.

The lessons emerging from the project reaffirm the value of evidence-based, high-impact practices of team-based and active learning methods where connections between students are centered in instructional design (see sidebar). The desire for authentic human connection and collaboration transcends the classroom and is at the heart of our thriving as social organisms. [M](#)

Dr. Devavani Chatterjea is a professor of biology; Nancy Bostrom, M.Ed., is associate director of assessment; and Dr. Bethany Miller is director of Institutional Research & Assessment. A version of this article appeared as a Data-Based Decision Tip in Inside Higher Education's Student Success newsletter in April 2023.

CAPTURING the COLOR of the FOREST and the SHAPE of the MOUNTAINS



Professor Mina Kinukawa served as scenic designer for *The Song Poet*, the first Hmong story ever adapted for the operatic stage.



CORY WEAVER

Last March, the Minnesota Opera debuted the world premiere of *The Song Poet*. Adapted by St. Paul-based writer Kao Kalia Yang from her acclaimed memoir of the same name, the production is believed to be the first Hmong story ever adapted for the operatic stage. Professor Mina Kinukawa, who is head of the design and technologies of performance minor in the Theater and Dance Department, served as the production's scenic designer. She shares what it was like to work on this groundbreaking artistic endeavor.

What is the story about?

It's about Kao Kalia Yang's father's refugee story, from the bombing of Laos and the family's escape through Thailand, where they lived in a refugee camp for eight years. Then the family moved to St. Paul, where they faced new struggles as refugees in the United States.

Her father was called the "song poet" because he used to write songs, and in the Hmong community, songs and poems are considered very important.

As the scenic designer, what were the biggest challenges you faced in bringing this production to life?

It was a challenge to create a world onstage that was true to the poetic descriptions in Kao Kalia Yang's memoir.

Also, the play is about Laos, the mountains, and the nature the Hmong community lived in, and I focused on bringing that to the stage and keeping it there even after the action transfers to St. Paul. It was a challenge to establish that world and maintain a connection to it, even while the action shifted to other locations like Thailand and St. Paul.

What did you do design-wise to keep that nature onstage?

I tried to capture the color of the forests and the shape of the mountains. The director said from the get-go that we would like to keep the mountains onstage, at least the silhouette of them. We could not keep everything green all the time, because the setting had to change into a factory in St. Paul, so I worked with the lighting designer to make it more of a watercolor feel that changed with the lighting.

I thought I had captured what the mountains of Laos looked like, but then the cultural consultant asked me if I would consider including brown areas. I asked her why, and she told me that

they used slash-and-burn methods to build villages. They cut down the forest, and built up their villages, so for the Hmong people, these would be references to what their villages looked like. I saw the images with villages built into the mountainside, but I didn't understand the larger story.

What are you most proud of about your work on this production?

We had an audience pretty early on during the previews, with local high school students and members of the Hmong community. Just seeing how the Hmong audience responded to the message, and hearing how somebody said that they really remembered what their house in Laos was like, was very rewarding.

There's been more visibility for Asian and Asian American stories in popular culture lately. As someone who was born and raised in Japan and has spent much of your professional career in the arts in the US, what do you make of what's happening right now?

Of course, I think that it's exciting, but I'm also a little cautious, just because I feel like when there's a moment like this, we often take a step back. It is great that this is happening, but then what's next? Does this actually continue, or is it just a one-time thing?

In terms of Macalester, we have a lot of international students from Asia and Asian American students coming to do theater, which is really exciting. With shows like *The Song Poet*, I can show them that there are these stories that we are telling, so they see a future for themselves in the theater. **M**

Joe Linstroth is director of media relations and public affairs at Macalester.

A woman with long blonde hair, wearing a bright blue blazer over a black dress, stands in a lush green park. In the background, there is a calm lake, a modern building with a grid of windows, and a sky with scattered clouds. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day. A green diagonal graphic element is visible in the top right corner.

Nina Porst '08 has worked on some of her home country's toughest environmental challenges.

Working for a Cleaner, Greener Denmark

BY ROBYN ROSS

Nina Porst was spending Easter weekend in 2021 at her family's vacation home when she got a work-related phone call. A press officer in the Ministry of Environment—where she headed the unit that works on environmental permitting, industry regulation, and soil contamination—was on the line. In a worried voice, he explained that a small Danish town had found elevated levels of the “forever chemical” perfluorooctane sulfonate, or PFOS, in its wastewater. The town had traced the chemical to a field where, more than a decade ago, emergency responders had used a fire-extinguishing foam that contained PFOS.

In recent years, a group of local residents who wanted pastured meat had been grazing cattle on the field. Unbeknownst to anyone, the cows were eating grass and drinking water with elevated amounts of PFOS. Now, her colleague told her, residents were being tested to see if they were harboring PFOS in their bodies.

“It started this kind of ripple effect,” she says. “I don't think anybody really had a clue as to how extensive this contamination would be.”

Porst was tasked with coordinating the Danish strategy on PFAS (short for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances), a category of chemicals that includes PFOS. The chemicals are widely used in products including stain-resistant fabric, food packaging, paint, and nonstick cookware, but they break down very slowly and can accumulate in the body, potentially causing disease. Authorities began testing for PFAS and PFOS and discovered they were present practically everywhere: in rainwater, wastewater, fertilizer, and wild game. In response, Denmark and several other European Union countries have together proposed a ban on the substances.

Porst's work on PFAS is emblematic of the challenges she encountered during her four years at the Ministry of Environment. “There's public support behind the green agenda, climate initiatives, and making the tough decisions,” she says. The tricky part is taking action: Preventing harm from PFAS when so little is known about how the chemicals spread and how to remove them. Shifting to greener technologies when they cost more up front. Encouraging Danes to part with their beloved wood-burning stoves.

Porst grew up in a small Danish town and spent tenth grade as an exchange student in Lexington Park, Md., a military town near the Chesapeake Bay. There, she encountered a far more ethnically diverse, competitive, and dedicated group of students than she'd known in Denmark. She applied to spend the rest of high school in Norway at United World College Red Cross Nordic, where she learned from a recruiter about Macalester's emphasis on internationalism, volunteering, and generally making the world a better place.

At Mac, she majored in political science and Hispanic studies (now called Latin American studies). As she had been in tenth grade, Porst was impressed with and invigorated by her fellow

students' ambition. “The dedication and hard work inspired me to be better,” she says. Her Mac experience also amplified an internal voice that pushed her to choose a meaningful career, not just one that satisfied her own desires.

After Mac she earned a master's in European affairs from Lund University in Sweden. She worked for the Danish parliament and the Ministry of Taxation before joining the Ministry of Environment in 2019 as the team lead for air and noise pollution. She was promoted to head of unit the next year.

One of her first projects challenged a longstanding Danish tradition. Although Danes are generally supportive of environmental initiatives, Porst says, they also love their wood-burning stoves. The heaters are closely associated with the Danish concept of *hygge* (“hoo-guh”), a sense of coziness, relaxation, and togetherness, even though they pollute the air. Newer stoves have better emissions controls, but it can be difficult for a layperson to tell when a particular stove was manufactured. Porst's office began working with stove makers and the chimney sweepers' association to learn how to determine the stoves' manufacture dates. Her team crafted a plan to require that homebuyers replace or remove stoves manufactured before 2003, and the regulation was passed by the Danish parliament.

More recently, after the Russian invasion of Ukraine, Porst worked to decrease Denmark's reliance on Russian natural gas. The shift was made for humanitarian reasons as well as to prevent a crisis in the event that Russia cut off supplies. But it felt like a step backward: Denmark had been shifting from coal and oil to cleaner natural gas, and suddenly Porst's group was working on a plan for the environmental agency to issue permits for companies to switch back to coal, oil, and other less climate-friendly energy sources.

“It was really a weird situation at the Ministry of Environment,” she says. Still, Denmark has such a strong commitment to clean energy—which includes building massive wind farms—that she said colleagues view the situation as “a bump in the road.”

This summer, Porst became the executive director for climate, environment, and security for Danish Shipping, the trade organization for one of the country's largest industries. The group has set an ambitious goal of climate neutrality by 2050. Porst said she looks forward to working in the private sector, where she'll get out in the field and take a more hands-on approach to addressing specific challenges faced by industry.

Her new position, like the ones that preceded it, is an effort to focus her professional life on service and solving real problems. The momentum behind that effort began at Mac, she says: “this push to do something better, to make something better, to do something meaningful.” **M**

Robyn Ross is a writer in Austin, Texas.



HOW TO THINK LIKE A FILMMAKER

WITH DOZENS OF AWARD-WINNING, CONVERSATION-STARTING DOCUMENTARIES AMONG THEM, MACALESTER ALUMNI AND FACULTY HAVE MADE WAVES IN THE INDUSTRY. HERE, THEY SHARE THE MINDSETS THAT HAVE LED TO THEIR SUCCESS.

BY ERIN PETERSON

Students arrive in Morgan Adamson's year-long course series, "Documentary Cinema, Theory and Practice," with plenty of opinions.

As is true in most film studies classes, students learn to speak fluently about the history, ethics, and politics of documentary film.

But for her classes, Adamson, an associate professor of media and cultural studies, also wants students to focus on questions of craft: What kinds of relationships need to be established to create a film in the first place? How is the film structured? Why might a director have made one decision rather than another? "When students go into a class knowing that they're going to make a documentary film, they watch films with a different perspective than if they were going to write papers about them," she says.

As part of the course, Adamson brings in award-winning documentary filmmakers including Stanley

Nelson and Brett Story, who dig into the nuts and bolts of their work. By the end of the year, she wants all of her students to know more than just how to create their own documentary. Adamson wants them to be able to think like filmmakers.

We wanted to learn, too. That's why we spoke to Adamson, some of her past students who have become documentary filmmakers, and a handful of other Mac alumni who have made a living through filmmaking.

They shared the mindsets, approaches, and surprising quirks that drive their work—as well as what it takes to succeed in a rewarding but notoriously challenging field.



**TRUST
YOURSELF
AND YOUR
VISION—BUT
BE OPEN TO
SERENDIPITY**

In many ways, James Christenson '11 seemed like he was cut out for a career in documentary filmmaking. He shot videos with his friends in junior high. In high school, he took on extra shifts at Quiznos so he could buy a high-definition camera. Before he graduated from Macalester, he landed a \$5,000 Mellon Foundation grant to shoot an hour-long documentary about high-speed and light-rail transit expansion.

It wasn't a seamless transition to the field after graduation—he did a stint in US Senator Amy Klobuchar's office first—but he couldn't stay away for long. When he returned, he worked with collaborators who shared his ambitions. In 2013, he and his partners, including Eliot Popko '11 and Lewis Wilcox '12, learned that they'd landed a spot at the Camden International Film Festival's Points North Pitch. There, they pitched, and landed funding for, what would become one of the *New York Times*' "opinion documentaries," or Op Docs, called *Running on Fumes in North Dakota*.

The six-minute documentary, which illuminates the human costs of a North Dakota oil boom, got a top billing in the *New York Times* digital edition, and remains one of the most popular videos on the site nearly a decade later.

Christenson has completed a handful of documentaries since then, often committing years to the projects. He has learned both to trust the feelings that lead him to projects in

the first place, but also to embrace the twists that transform the story during the course of filming. "I have to go into a project knowing that something about it really interests me," he says. "But I try not to get tied to my assumptions. Usually, whatever you thought you were getting into is actually something else."

A case in point is one of his current projects, *To Be Reconciled*, a MacArthur Foundation-funded project about Carlos Urrutia. Urrutia, an undocumented St. Paul resident whose chaotic arrest by ICE agents in 2018 led to news headlines, has spent the intervening years navigating the immigration courts system to become a US citizen.

Christenson, who has carefully followed the story since the month before the 2018 arrest, initially imagined it to be a human journey through the legal system. As the case wound its way up to the Supreme Court and then to a lower federal court where it remains, his judgment seemed to be correct. But when Urrutia's mother invited Christenson to her home in Mexico to share her perspective, he soon understood that he wasn't telling a story about the immigration system at all: he was telling a story about a mother and son reconciling. "A whole world blossomed in front of me," he says.

Christenson says moments that upend his expectations are among the greatest joys of his work. "I never want to make documentaries where I already know the ending," he says. "They should be a process of discovery."

Photos facing page (left to right): "No Man's Land" by Anna Andersen; and "Class of '27" by James Rutenbeck.

PHOTOS PROVIDED



RECOGNIZE THAT FILMMAKING IS ABOUT ART— AND LOGISTICS

Morgan Adamson had long been fascinated by the brightly colored, brutalist-style Cedar Riverside towers on the eastern edge of downtown Minneapolis. The buildings weren't just eye-catching; they were intended to be the crown jewel of the larger utopian community. It was the perfect subject, she thought, for a documentary.

But before she went out into the field, she did an initial pass through the research. She soon realized that the heart of the story wasn't the planned utopia, but rather the reasons that the community had never been built.

Suddenly, the straightforward idea she had started with wasn't so straightforward at all. "I realized that I really had to spend a lot of time getting to know the people who had participated in that struggle over urban renewal starting in the 1970s to understand what had actually happened," she says. "The project involved

a lot of archival research, hunting down materials that were in people's personal archives, and developing relationships with some of the project's participants from the 1970s."

Her experience is typical—while documentary filmmaking is an art, it can often also feel more like a prosaic project management slog. "Documentaries do require people to bring together things like history and politics and aesthetics," says Adamson. "But 90 percent of filmmaking is about organization and logistics—that's what it requires to see a project all the way through."

The end result, though, can be transcendent for an audience. The resulting film, *Brutal Utopias*, won the Audience Choice award at the Minneapolis St. Paul International Film Festival this past spring. "So much work takes place before you ever pick up a camera," she says. "But that's what it takes to really bring a project to life."



James Christenson

Running on Fumes in North Dakota (2014)

Rachel Lauren Mueller

8 Days at Ware trailer (2022)

Prakshi Malik

Jumpolin (2017)

Anna Andersen

No Man's Land trailer (2021)

James Rutenbeck

Class of '27 (2016)

Morgan Adamson

Brutal Utopias (2023)



"Running on Fumes in North Dakota"
by James Christenson.

“When you put things out into the world, people will do with it what they will, but you always hope—I always hope—that my work will have a positive impact.”

—RACHEL LAUREN MUELLER



FIND THE POEM IN THE ROOM

PHOTO PROVIDED

When two boys in a Louisiana juvenile detention facility died by suicide within days of each other in 2019, some called it an unfortunate coincidence. But Rachel Lauren Mueller '13 and Meg Shutzer, who were both master's students at the University of California–Berkeley's School of Journalism at the time, were convinced there was more to the story.

They brought their pitch to the head of the school's investigative reporting program, who provided the resources and mentorship they needed to pursue what became *8 Days at Ware*. Their investigation revealed numerous abuses and overlooked complaints—and ended up as a front page story in the *New York Times* and a documentary that appeared on PBS.

Capturing the film required relentless, methodical work: the pair traveled to Louisiana a half-dozen times over the course of six months to meet with people and sift through court records. The full scope of the project continued for another two years.

Shoot days could easily stretch to twelve hours, and Mueller might spend much of the time with a fifteen-pound camera rig on her shoulders. All the while, she tried to remain fully present. She knew the tiniest nuances—a mother holding her daughter's hand, a nighttime toothbrushing ritual—could illuminate the heart of a story in a way that exposition couldn't. "I'm trying to

see what is unfolding in front of me, like a subtle expression or emotion that you can only notice when you're really paying attention," she says. "A mentor of mine called it 'finding the poem in the room.'"

Although Mueller was grateful to be able to work on both the newspaper story and the documentary, the differences between the two types of media reinforced her affinity for film. "Print can get into the nitty-gritty details," she says. "But the film can bring you into the emotions of the story. When you see Bridget Peterson, the mother of one of the boys, you can see her grief. You can hear it in her voice. There's a different layer of vulnerability there, and I feel an extra sense of responsibility to do the very best that I can with a story because of it."

As a result of the project, Louisiana governor John Bel Edwards called for an investigation of the center; it is ongoing.

For Mueller, this kind of result was what she hoped for when she decided to pursue investigative reporting and documentary filmmaking. It's also part of what is propelling her in her current work, *The Quiet Part*, about white supremacy in a small town.

"When you put things out into the world, people will do with it what they will, but you always hope—I always hope—that my work will have a positive impact," she says.



COMMIT THE TIME IT TAKES TO ACHIEVE EXCELLENCE

After decades as a nonfiction filmmaker—which has included two prestigious Alfred I. duPont–Columbia University awards and a Sundance Documentary Fund grant—James Rutenbeck '75 knows that one of the essential traits of a successful filmmaker is simple, grinding tenacity.

Take, for example, his current project with Samuel Habib, a twenty-four-year-old disabled filmmaker who traveled the country to meet with disability activists. Habib strapped two GoPro cameras to his wheelchair at the start of his journey, and Rutenbeck had the tall task of sifting through all of the film Habib captured on his travels. “The cameras were recording constantly at airports, down bumpy sidewalks, and at the beach. We have hundreds of hours of footage,” he says. “I spent a big chunk of last year viewing it; most of it as exciting as parking garage surveillance footage. But interspersed are some unexpectedly riveting moments,” he says.

And it's those tiny moments, captured between countless humdrum hours, that can land the most significant emotional wallop. In his first documentary, *Company Town*, which premiered in 1984, Rutenbeck spent a month filming the ordinary moments of life in Widen, West Va., a former coal town in the Appalachian mountains. Nearly forty years later, he still recalls simple scenes from the film: “Kids riding motorbikes up gob piles, an old woman singing a hymn in front of her house,” he says. “It's an atmospheric film with visual references to the past that raises questions without resorting to any political clichés.”

Telling a great story isn't just about having an idea, says Rutenbeck. It's about having the discipline—perhaps obsessiveness—to capture and illuminate just the right details to bring that idea to life. “It can be painstaking and rigorous,” Rutenbeck says. “I revisit the footage on the screen and in my mind, trying to find ways to deepen the film's intimacy and emotion.”



“A Reckoning in Boston”
by James Rutenbeck.



WORK THROUGH THE MESS

When Prakshi Malik '14 was just getting started with filmmaking at Macalester, she would shoot hours of film, often to find that she'd made critical errors in the process. In some cases, she shot video with different aspect ratios, making them all but impossible to stitch together. To save money, she'd taped over the mini DV tapes many times, leading to losses in audio. "Rookie errors," she jokes.

She also experienced something surprising during the process. "A lot of people dread sifting through all the footage that they shoot. But I really enjoyed it," she says. "It's about patience. It's about being good with details. It's about working through the mess."

Malik honed this skill at the University of Texas at Austin, where she earned an MFA in film production in 2020. While there, she directed a documentary called *Jumpolin*, a portrait of a Chicana family whose piñata and party store in East Austin was demolished without notice by a real estate developer.

On that project, she began to internalize the idea that good editing isn't just about creating seamless pacing and harnessing the emotions of a viewer: it's finding the most meaningful and honest story that's embedded in the footage. "You

can make many different films out of the same piece of raw material," she says. "In some ways, choosing what you're really going to say happens in the editing process."

It's that sense of thoughtful storytelling through editing that has led many to tap her for her expertise: she has edited numerous film projects, including *On All Fronts*, an Emmy-nominated short documentary about a biracial Black and Indonesian family in Minneapolis who navigated twin challenges in 2020: the rising anti-Asian sentiment during the pandemic and the unrest after the murder of George Floyd. She's also working diligently to co-direct and edit a documentary about the family and friends of Abuka Sanders, a father, musician, and entrepreneur who was killed by the Minneapolis Police Department in 2000.

As an emerging filmmaker, Malik has leaned on communities like Brown Girls Doc Mafia and the Asian American Documentary Network to build connections and find opportunities. She views her career, in some ways, in the same way she views all that raw footage she sees in the editing process. "You experiment, you try some things, you see what works," she says. "You try something else. And it's okay if it takes awhile for things to be perfect."

Anna Andersen '15 had pre-med plans when she arrived at Macalester, but when she landed in Morgan Adamson's documentary-making class, she knew she'd found her path. "I thought, 'This is what I actually want to do,'" she recalls. "It was the launching pad."

Still, it took her some time to find a route forward. In 2018, while working as a video assistant at the New York City-based news and activism organization Global Citizen, she pitched an idea about women's communities that were built in oppressive environments. A touchstone for the idea was a story published in the *New York Times* about Alapine, a lesbian separatist community in rural Alabama. Her boss turned it down, but the idea stayed with her.

Eventually, she asked a Global Citizen colleague, Gaby Canal, if she wanted to pursue the idea with her. Canal said yes, and the two left Global Citizen with unbridled ambition—but no roadmap. "We didn't know what we were doing," Andersen says. "We just made it up."

In some ways, they were stymied at every turn: they learned that the writer for the *New York Times* story that had inspired the project had passed away. When they were finally able to track down contact information for Alapine, they got nothing but radio silence for months.

Still, they found ways to counteract every hard 'no' with tiny, encouraging 'yeses.' After finally getting permission to visit Alapine, they relentlessly pitched their idea to funders and eventually received a few thousand dollars from a private investor. They followed it up with a crowdfunding campaign that landed them \$30,000 to help finish the film. "Maybe our optimism was stupid," Andersen reflects now. "But we kept thinking: there's no other option. We feel compelled to do this."

The finished documentary, *No Man's Land*, appeared at many film festivals, including DOC NYC, and the Florida Film Festival, where it landed the Audience Award in 2021.

Today, Andersen is at work on a documentary about a universally designed catamaran. It's run by a crew of physically disabled sailors who plan to sail the vessel in the 2024 Regata del Sol al Sol, a 555-nautical mile race from Florida's Pensacola Bay to Mexico's Isla Mujeres.

Like Andersen's other projects, it's had its challenges. Still, a track record of navigating choppy waters in the past has propelled her forward. "You've got to believe in yourself and push yourself to do it; nobody else is going to push you," she says. "It's worth it to make something tangible outside of your own mind and to share it with the world." **M**



DO THE STORY ONLY YOU CAN DO

Erin Peterson is a Minneapolis-based writer.



At left, Hana Dinku, director of the Lealtad-Suzuki Center for Social Justice, with former directors Aida Martinez-Freeman, and Karla Benson Rutten. “We can’t talk about the twentieth anniversary without identifying the throughlines from our past,” says Dinku.



VOICES

OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

Three current and recent leaders of Macalester's Lealtad-Suzuki Center for Social Justice reflect on twenty years of progress, passion, and perseverance.

Macalester continues to expand, deepen, and strengthen equity and social justice across the college. Established in 2022, Macalester's Division of Institutional Equity comprises the Lealtad-Suzuki Center for Social Justice, the Center for Religious and Spiritual Life, and the Title IX and Non-Discrimination Office, as well as positions with focused attention on college-wide programs and institutional change work. Institutional Equity was chosen as the division's name to emphasize equity practice and principles as central to the division and foundational to the college.

The Lealtad-Suzuki Center for Social Justice (LSC) represents an important slice of Macalester's equity work. When the Department of Multicultural Life (DML) was established in 2002, it had several programming avenues, and the LSC encompassed its student-facing work. The work of the LSC has been expanded to many areas across the college and into the division of Institutional Equity, extending its reach and deepening its impact. Today, the LSC provides social justice education, and fosters resources, advocacy, and programs with BIPOC; LGBTQIA2S+; first-generation; and DACA, undocumented, and mixed-status student communities. It also contributes to college-wide efforts and educational programs.

As the LSC celebrates twenty years of equity work, three current and recent directors sat down to discuss the center's evolution, the necessity of asking and answering uncomfortable and complex questions, and how social justice advocates have been encouraging change for more than two decades.

The historical heartbeat of the LSC

HANA: We can't talk about the twentieth anniversary without identifying the through-lines from our past. We've been thinking about the Ghanaian concept of *sankofa*, which is to go back and retrieve what's good as you move forward. We have to know who we are and what our work is about if we're going to move forward and not have to reinvent the wheel.

KARLA: It's often the histories of marginalized folks that don't get told from their lens, if it gets told at all. When we think about diversity, equity, and inclusion at Macalester, you can go all the way back to when women were admitted. There was a time when you had to be white, male, and Christian to come here. Catharine Lealtad, the first Black student, helped change that in 1915.

AIDA: There have always been pivotal moments in our histories, and part of the journey to this celebration is this reckoning of where we're at now. What's the future of Macalester? Especially post-affirmative action. We're seeing a society that's consistently erasing and rewriting history, shifting in narratives. Losing touch with the historical context of our last twenty years, the time and movements before it, puts us in danger of not only minimizing, but shrinking the importance of why it matters. The LSC is truly a special place—whether it's been with Karla, me, Hana, and others along the way, this has been a labor of love gifted to the next generation.

DAVID J. TURNER

The legacy of the Expanded Educational Opportunities program

HANA: It's hard to identify exactly when equity work starts on a college campus, but in the way we understand it now, it was the Expanded Educational Opportunities program—EEO.

Many diversity and equity offices at other institutions celebrated their fiftieth anniversary around 2019. This is because many of them came about around the same time—they are the result of the civil rights movement, the fight for ethnic studies, and student activism in the late '60s. For me, the history of our office and our work, in general, starts with Dr. John Lewis Warfield and Agieb Bilal '74, who came to Macalester in 1969 and were tasked with implementing the EEO program.

KARLA: The Black and Brown students that came to Macalester at that time completely shifted how this college had to operate. We talk about it now in a positive light, but at the time, those students were civil rights activists in a place that wasn't ready to fully accept them, which is why this office was first created. They fought for ethnic studies courses, for faculty who look like them, for curriculum that reflected the diverse histories of BIPOC communities. A through-line of all these different iterations is the consistency of that heartbeat, that legacy.

AIDA: It was contested, but it was what made Macalester what it now prides itself to be. That group radically pushed the envelope.

HANA: A lot of what drew me to Macalester—its history and reputation as this progressive, activist institution—comes from that time.

AIDA: There have been periods in history when we have gained this level of clarity about what the right thing to do is and have become bold in our decisions, like the development of EEO. It was seeing the call, the need, and the opportunity to be part of something very powerful. That pivotal moment shifted its history. Was the college ready for what was to come? Probably not, but that's not unique to Macalester.

And the EEO alumni became such an integral part of the fabric of who Macalester really is. It became a place that alumni can look back on and be proud of, but also be critical about what's still happening. But the fact that you're hearing from them actively...

HANA: Means they care.

AIDA: They care. There's still commitment to seeing Macalester be the best that it can be.

KARLA: When folks are critical, it means they care greatly and they want others to have a better experience—they want to call the college to task to do better. And these alumni are proud alumni.



Hana Dinku

Director (2020-)



Aida Martinez-Freeman

Director (2015-2017)

Founder and CEO of
Taina Coaching &
Training



Karla Benson Rutten

Director (2002-2015)

Title IX coordinator
and director of equity
(2015-2017)

Executive director,
Jeremiah Program
St. Paul

AIDA: They're fired up.

KARLA: They get fired up because they love Macalester. They love their classmates and they love the mission of Macalester.

Passing the baton

KARLA: In 2002, when I came as the first director of the LSC, it was a programmatic arm of the DML. When we started, the purpose of the DML and the LSC was to make sure that all spaces in the college are inclusive and equitable, so that any student can go to Mac and be treated well, and have a space of support and affirmation for historically marginalized students.

We were clear: we needed to center the experiences and the lives of historically marginalized people in all aspects of the college, which truly benefits everyone. For example, if a student of color is treated badly in a class, the solution isn't to just send them to an equity office—we need to address the root cause. The issue is not rooted in the folks who are historically marginalized—it's rooted in a biased system that needs to change.

AIDA: When I came in 2015, my job was to elevate that work and increase faculty and staff buy-in. We also are educators, so we looked at the idea of a classroom experience, the learning space outside of those walls, mobilizing our campus community to learn and grow and discern.

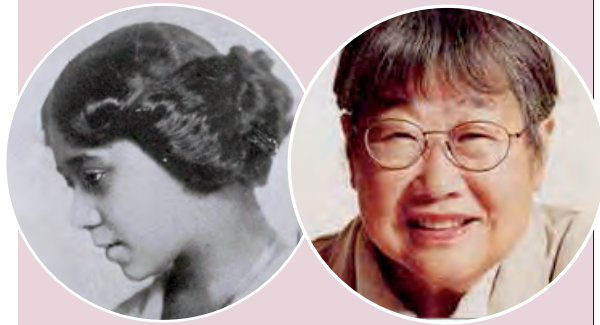
HANA: I started in fall 2020, following the George Floyd uprising and COVID lockdown. That first year was very challenging. Our department was spread thin trying to support everyone on campus; it was very difficult to watch our students struggle. Everything felt reactionary; we couldn't catch our breath. For me, that first year highlighted the cracks in our structure—it helped me see where we need to grow and adjust as a department.

KARLA: George Floyd's murder brought a reckoning. It was violent and in your face. It couldn't be ignored. To be on a college campus at that time, I can only imagine—everything's virtual, it's COVID, and students are just...

HANA: All over the place. Many of our students were out in the streets protesting; they wanted answers and immediate change. We spent a lot of time helping our students process what they were seeing and feeling. We just sat with them, cried with them, and tried to help them understand the difference between mobilizing and organizing—the effort and strategies it takes to build lasting change. We had to do all of this on Zoom or masked up and six feet apart.

Intentionality and the future

HANA: The LSC restructuring has given us the capacity to reimagine how we do this work. As always,



Dr. Catharine Deaver Lealtad and Esther Torii Suzuki

Dr. Catharine Deaver Lealtad was Macalester College's first Black graduate. She earned a double major degree in chemistry and history in 1915 with highest honors. Dr. Lealtad's historic, international career ranged from supervising children's medical services during World War II to mission hospitals in Puerto Rico. She is the only person to receive two honorary degrees from the college.

At age 16, **Esther Torii Suzuki** was the first Japanese American student at Macalester in 1942, when she was released from a Japanese detention camp because of her acceptance into the college. She graduated in 1946 with an honors degree in sociology. Ms. Suzuki was a community leader, civil rights activist, volunteer, and mentor.

The renaming of the Lealtad-Suzuki Center to the Lealtad-Suzuki Center for Social Justice affirms the college's commitment to social justice education and community building through an intersectional framework. "We have always been about social justice," says Karla Benson Rutten. "This vision has always been the same, except now the name really reflects the goal of the work."

our work will continue to uplift and center the voices of those most marginalized in our society and collaborate with all students, staff, and faculty to build a transformative community. We are a nontraditional classroom space—a brave space where we can gather and grapple with the difficult issues facing our communities locally and globally.

KARLA: Even with the staffing and programming changes, I love that there was always a progression, an elevation of the positive things that have happened. Some offices in other institutions didn't survive that, because there wasn't that longevity of mission. Our vision has never been rooted in one person.

HANA: I don't know if I would've taken this position had I not seen you two in it. There's always been some connection, some maintained relationships between people that work here. My first role at Mac was as a hall director when you, Karla, were moving into your Title IX position, and Aida, you just came in, so I got to observe you doing this work.

I felt really well-prepared when I came into this position, even with the challenges. I was able to keep going and understand that there's something incredible possible because I knew what the vision was.

KARLA: Equity work requires a lot of intentionality. That's why it's so hard, and that's why people are afraid of it—being equitable means your work has to change, and you have to do things differently.

AIDA: Oftentimes we don't pause enough to see that clear progression of movement forward. We just assume that we're not where we need to be. But the reality is that things that were dreamed up back then are happening now. We can say, why did that take twenty years? But when we think about the long history of Macalester, the strength of white supremacy and patriarchy, it really is remarkable what has happened in that time.

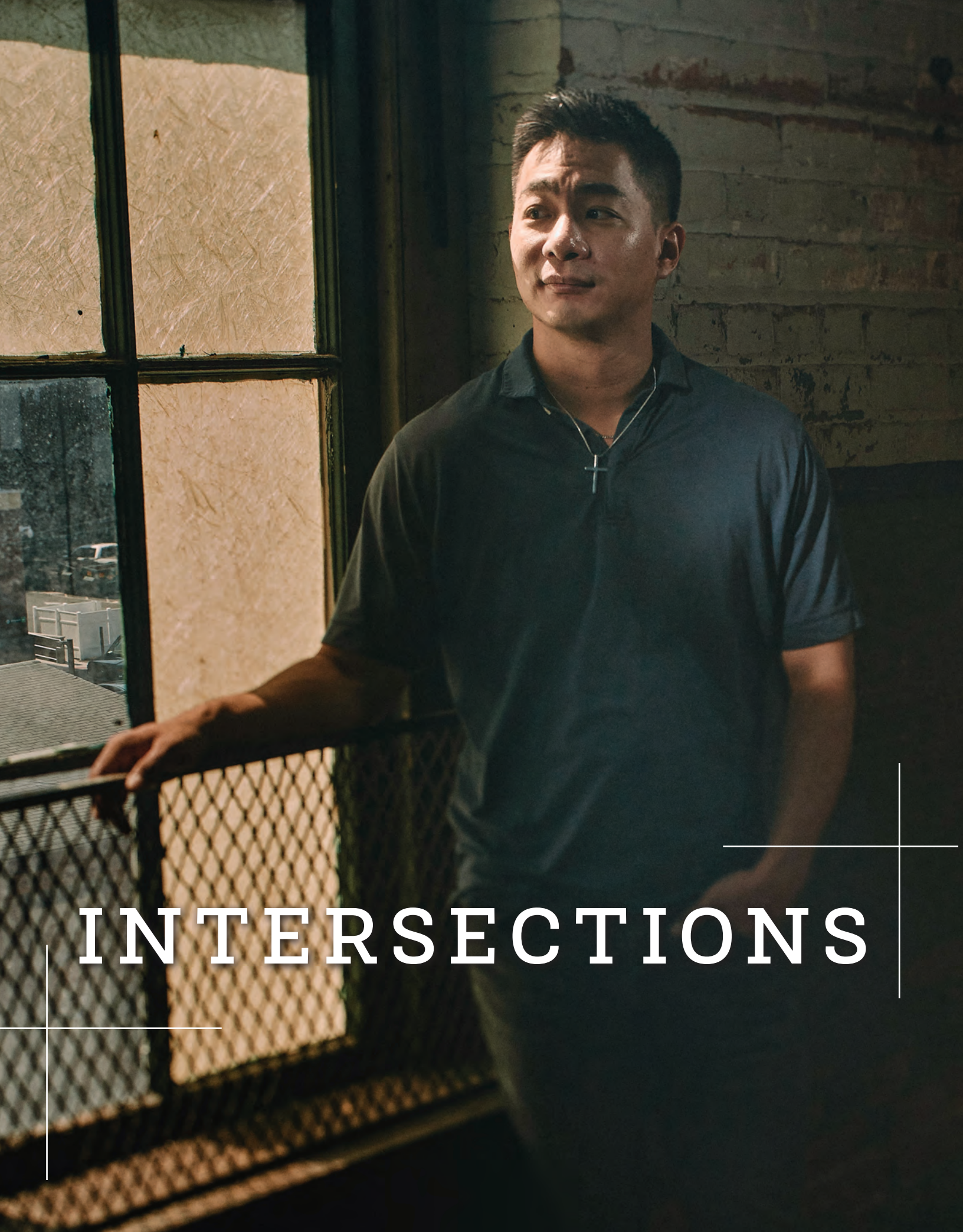
KARLA: It's actually pretty remarkable.

AIDA: I think hope from a radical space—that critical hope that comes through—lives naturally in all of us as human beings, and moves us to keep doing this work. I think I can say for all of us that we're just excited for the future, of what is to come and what is possible. And we continue to invite Macalester to reimagine; to stay grounded in its history; to reenvision the possibilities; to be bold and courageous and do the real work. Not just the easy stuff. But to live it, in the mucky messiness of it that's so beautiful and so necessary. That's where I think the hope of our humanity really rests. **M**

Ashli Cean Landa is a writer and editor at Macalester.

“Often-times we don't pause enough to see that clear progression of movement forward. We just assume that we're not where we need to be. But the reality is that things that were dreamed up back then are happening now.”

—Aida Martinez-Freeman



INTERSECTIONS

Dr. Stone Cha '10 dwells at the corner of reproductive justice and theology.

BY DAWN ARAUJO-HAWKINS

Life for Sandolsam “Stone” Cha '10 has been largely lived in liminal spaces. The son of a Christian mother and a humanist father, nine-year-old Cha's world was redefined when his father announced that he was not only converting to Christianity, but also moving the family from South Korea to Holland, Michigan, so he could study to become a missionary.

Cha grew up following his father all over the globe—the Netherlands, the archipelago of Vanuatu, New Zealand, and a few stints back in Korea. He applied to Macalester because it had a higher percentage of international students than any other college he could find. After graduating with a degree in biology, Cha made the US his permanent home. But he continues to seek out the between-ness of things.

“I feel like I'm doing it right when both ends of the spectrum of Christianity don't like me,” he says, sitting in his home, the silver cross hanging from a chain around his neck glittering occasionally in the light.

Cha's full-time job is providing medication and procedural abortions at a local clinic. A few weekends a month, the father of two works as an OB-GYN delivering babies at a community hospital. Once a week, he's in online seminary classes working toward a master's degree in theology. His dream is to one day, when his kids are older, earn a doctoral degree and do scholarly work around reproductive justice through feminist and womanist lenses.

There are already theologians doing that work, he notes. “But I hope to contribute to that conversation as an OB-GYN seeing patients day to day,” he says.

Cha's theology leans relatively conservative (he believes, for instance, that the exclusive, salvific narrative of the cross is “the truth with a capital T”) but his application of that theology to social issues trends progressive.

“I mean, based on the fact that I do the work that I do for my job, it's fairly obvious,” he says, laughing.

In Cha's understanding of the biblical message, it's impossible to follow Jesus without also standing in solidarity with oppressed people. However, it wasn't until he was a fourth-year medical student that he gave any thought to what role abortion played in his theological worldview.

“At Macalester, if someone asked me on the street what I thought about abortion, I would either say, ‘I don't know,’ or I would say, ‘I'm pro-life,’” Cha says. “And I said it without really understanding what that meant, because it was an area that I had zero knowledge or exposure or interest in—but I thought that, as an evangelical Christian, you're supposed to say you're pro-life.”

Yet, once he met real people making real decisions about abortion, he knew he needed to make a clarification about his values.

The crux of his discernment process was when his medical school hosted a visiting speaker, an OB-GYN who presented on the ethics and morality of abortion.

From then on, Cha was convinced that abortion was part of holistic and comprehensive reproductive healthcare. However, in his first job as a generalist OB-GYN, he did not perform many abortions since the system automatically referred those patients to the hospital's specialized family planning division.

But when it became clear that the US Supreme Court was poised to reverse *Roe v. Wade*, Cha made an intentional decision to make abortion his full-time work.

In his state, which he requested not be named for privacy reasons, abortions are still protected by state law, and he anticipated that there would be an influx of out-of-state patients if federal abortion protections were struck down. And, indeed, over the last year, Cha says there has been a 30 percent increase in out-of-state patients seeking abortions.

Cha sees his work as a calling. To him, the three values of reproductive justice—the ability to have children when one wants to, the ability to not have children when one doesn't want to, and the ability to raise one's children in a safe and nurturing environment—dovetail with Jesus' proclamation in the Gospel of John that he came so that people may “have life, and have it abundantly.”

“You can't separate reproductive justice from the nature of God, from the justice of God, or God's idea of righteousness that's repeated over and over again throughout both the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament,” Cha says.

Most abortions in the US are what are known as elective terminations, Cha says, not instances of rape, or incest, or a medical intervention to save a pregnant person's life. But he has an almost allergic reaction to the term “elective,” which he accompanies with air quotes.

“To the patient who's made a series of really complicated decisions to be in that office with me that day, it's not an elective situation,” Cha says. It may be that they are facing housing instability or food insecurity. They may be in an unsafe relationship. The list goes on. And, many times, he adds, they have been traumatized by a faith community that offered judgment when what was needed was compassion.

He thinks it might be because he talks with patients every day that he feels in his very skin that when a patient chooses to have an abortion, they are making a morally good decision out of love for either their current children, future children, or for themselves. “It's essential care,” he says. “And this is why I continue to do this work.” **M**

Dawn Araujo-Hawkins is a religion journalist in Kansas City, Missouri.

ANIMAL BEHAVIOR:

Fundamentals and Applications

BY JOE LINSTROTH

Ethology is the study of animal behavior. While most of us are not trained as ethologists, we analyze animal behavior every day. We read the body language of our colleagues, partners, friends, and children. We try to discern whether our pets are hungry, in distress, or actually love us. But scientists we are not. That's where biology professor Stotra Chakrabarti's course comes in. With opportunities to observe animals like wolves and mountain lions in their natural habitats, Dr. Chakrabarti offers his students a portal into the magical world of studying animal behavior.

You use the word “magic” to describe learning how to understand wild animals and their behavior. What makes it so magical?

We are talking about understanding species that are not inherently ‘us’, and we don't communicate in the same language. I believe there is quite a bit of care, attention to detail, and magic involved when you are trying to understand species that you can't directly ‘speak’ with. It's like trying to understand your own baby when they can't speak, or like trying to understand your pet. That's why I think animal behavior can be so powerful, intuitive, and connect so many realms, because we typically do that already as caregivers.

Since the evolution of humans, we have been trying to understand animals in order to live and obtain food. You observe something, and then you start to connect the dots—that animal is doing *this* because of *that*. You might be wrong, but then there is the realm of behavioral ecology that helps you understand it better, which takes a lot of patience and passion, but also a little bit of magic.

What are some of the basic fundamentals that go into studying animal behavior?

To wonder and be awed by animals and by nature. That's the crux of studying animal behavior: We look at animals and are just amazed by what they are doing. Then the scientific questions follow: what, why, how, and when, and there are different methods for finding the answers. You can do experiments; you can follow and observe them in the wild; you can culture them in a laboratory; you can look at them from cameras or satellites. Observing what they're doing and trying to connect why they're doing what they're doing, that's the fundamental stuff.

What concepts do students typically have trouble understanding at first?

I think it can be a little abstract when you're trying to understand what animals do from an evolutionary perspective. While studying animals, often there is a strong tendency to anthropomorphize their behaviors. When we start juxtaposing our ways of behaving onto why animals are doing something, there can be mismatches. While anthropomorphizing is fantastic because it provides wonderful planes for comparisons and that's where great questions arise, students can sometimes struggle to objectively explain and understand animal behavior. Accepting the diversity of behavior in the living world, and that there are subtle differences from how

we as humans behave versus another animal, can be challenging.

Macalester's campus has become somewhat famous for its squirrels. In the course, you have students partake in “squirrel watching and wondering.” What can watching squirrels teach us?

We start our animal behavior labs with watching squirrels because they're all around us, and it gives us time to go outdoors. We do small manipulations—offer them pistachios on small plates, but some plates are kept near a taxidermied hawk. We then watch how the squirrels behave. The idea is that the squirrels might be making optimal decisions, trading off the risk of getting eaten by a hawk versus getting food. This allows students to start asking questions and connecting the patterns to the processes.

It's also a great community-building experience. It sets the tone that we're going to work together, watch animals, ask questions, and have fun.

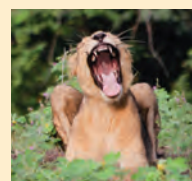
What can the simple act of pausing to observe animals in their natural habitat teach us about ourselves?

Studying animals reveals a lot about our own behavior, from tool-use to living in groups and caring for others. You are just awed by the diversity of behaviors animals exhibit, and then you pause to realize human behavior is diverse too. In my course, we have modules where we talk about the diversity of sexual behaviors, of group-living, and their expressions. Such behavioral diversity in the animal world is beautiful, from males starting off as females, or females not needing males to reproduce, or same-sex “affection” and coalitions. It's immensely rewarding to connect students to the diversity in animal behavior to help promote their appreciation for the diversity of our own behaviors and identities.

What was the magical moment that made you realize that studying animal behavior was what you wanted to do with your life?

When I was a kid, I used to look at images of cave paintings from Chauvet in France depicting lions that were more than 30,000 years old. Later, when I started studying lions, I could appreciate the paintings better. One, for example, depicted a pair of lions, and when I saw a “courting pair” of lions in the wild, I was like “Oh my god, we have been observing lions for centuries!” These paintings show that wondering about animals and their behavior is as old as prehistory. Ethologists and behavioral ecologists have often been dubbed as “animal wonderers,” and I think that's our super-power! It is immensely humbling and powerful to connect ourselves into the diversity of animal behaviors occurring all around us. [M](#)

Joe Linstroth is director of media relations and public affairs at Macalester.



At right, Prof. Chakrabarti and Macalester students examine a wolf that has been anesthetized.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF STOTIRA CHAKRABARTI

CLASS NOTES

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

CLASS NOTES PHOTO POLICY:

We publish one photo per wedding.

We 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**.

1945

After leaving Macalester to join the Navy, John Pring earned a law degree from the University of Minnesota. He lives on Bainbridge Island, Wash., with his wife, Chung.

1948

An organ sonata commissioned in honor of the late Richard Dierenfield and Yvonne Fahlgren Dierenfield '49 received its world premiere at St. Paul's House of Hope Presbyterian Church in August. The sonata was composed by the church's organist, Aaron David Miller. Richard taught in Macalester's Education Department for many years, and Yvonne served as organist for several Twin Cities congregations.

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.

1969

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



Brant Klepel '86 and Natalie Paul '02 happened to meet at Royal Kona Resort's salt water lagoon while on vacation with their respective families in Hawaii this past January.



Brady Foreman '04 (center) met colleagues **Tom Tobin '08 (right)** and **Luke Weaver** in northwest Wyoming to explore new outcrops from the Cretaceous-Paleogene event that caused the extinction of the dinosaurs. Brady is an associate professor at Western Washington University, and Tom is an associate professor at the University of Alabama.



Three Macalester alumni who are now nonprofit executives met up with President Suzanne Rivera at the F.R. Bigelow Community Foundation Celebration in June. Pictured from left: Julia Quanrud '09, chief executive officer of ServeMinnesota; Anna Waugh '08, interim executive director of Mississippi Park Connection; Kaylie Burns Gahagan '09, director of development and communications at Missions Inc. Programs; and President Rivera.



Dan Klonowski '17 (center) of Carrollton, Texas, recently hosted **Connor Valenti '17** of Minneapolis and **Cami Garcia-Flahaut '17** of Philadelphia. Dan is a personal financial advisor with Thrivent, Connor works with a medical tech startup, and Cami was in town on business with her law firm.

1972

John Robbins was named chair of the National Wildlife Federation's board of directors in May. He also is a former chair and current member of the board of the North Carolina Wildlife Federation.

1974

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

1979

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

Paul Saltzman has been named deputy managing editor, enterprise and investigations, for the *Chicago Sun-Times*. Paul has edited investigations that have won the Pulitzer Prize and other national honors.

1981

Joanne Johnson and her husband, Neil DeGroot '80, have launched a GoFundMe page (gofundme.com/ff/paul-gralen-travel-to-raise-stem-cell-therapy) to raise money for the care of Paul Gralen '82, who has been diagnosed with ALS.

1983

Roya Ansari was named one of the Top 50 Women Leaders in Software-as-a-Service for 2022 by The Software Report. She is chief revenue officer for Z2Data, a professional technology and consulting firm based in Santa Clara, Calif. Roya also co-founded Trendage, a fashion and technology startup, and SiliconExpert Technology, a supply chain software company.

1984

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

1988

Kurt Schwabe received a 2023–24 Fulbright Distinguished Chair Fellowship in Science, Technology, and Innovation. During the fellowship, Kurt will develop

collaborations among scientists and policymakers in Australia and the US in an effort to mitigate the impact of drought and climate change through the more efficient and sustainable use of groundwater resources.

1989

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

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.

2009

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

After five years on the staff of Pathways High School in Milwaukee, Franz Meyer has been named its executive director for the 2023–24 academic year.

2011

Matthew and Candace Groth Kolodoski announced the birth of Alexander David Kolodoski in July.

2014

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

2017

Maya Benedict received an MPH degree in public health administration and policy from the University of Minnesota School of Public Health in May 2023.

2019

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



Heidi Brown '88 stopped by Macalester's table at the Taste of Rondo Block Party in St. Paul in July. Pictured from left: Joslenne Peña, assistant professor of math, science, and computer science; Heidi; Sedric McClure, associate dean, Kofi Annan Institute for Global Citizenship, and co-director of civic engagement; and Alina Wong, vice president for Institutional Equity.



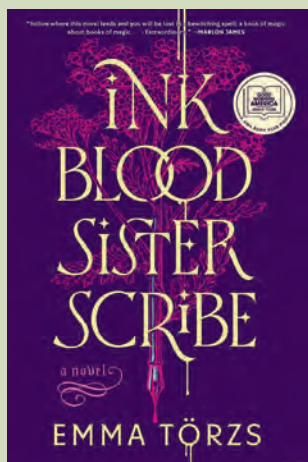
The "Old Mac Guys Society" met up for a spring dinner at Carbone's Pizza on Randolph Avenue in St. Paul. From left: John Lampland '70, Steve Moravec '68, Landrum Wise '71, and Jon Burseth '67.



Linn Posey-Maddox '00 (left) met current Macalester student Dallas Watson '26 (right) at the American Education Research Association in April. Linn is professor of educational policy studies at the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

Ink Blood Sister Scribe

by Emma Törzs '09



Ink Blood Sister Scribe, the debut novel by Macalester assistant professor of English Emma Törzs '09, was named *Good Morning America*'s June Book Club pick and called "bewitching" by the *Kirkus Reviews*. *Macalester Today* spoke with Törzs to learn more about her work.

How do you describe your book?

In terms of genre, I'd describe *Ink Blood Sister Scribe* as an adult contemporary fantasy—it takes place in our world, but with the addition of magic. The novel tells the story of two estranged half-sisters, one in Vermont, one in Antarctica, who were raised to protect their family's secret library of magical books. A third point of view features a young man outside London, living in luxury surrounded by magic, power, and danger. In one way or another, all three of these characters are fighting for their lives—and in order to survive, they'll have to work together to uncover a world of magic far bigger and more dangerous than any of them ever imagined.

What inspired your book?

My sister Jesse was a major influence on this book. In many ways the emotional heart of the novel is the relationship between the two sisters, and I drew a lot on my own very loving, very complicated relationship with Jesse in order to create the fictional sisterly relationship. Also, Jesse had been asking me for years to write a "magic sisters" book, and so in many ways I wrote the novel simply hoping to delight her.

Another somewhat unlikely influence was the National Science Foundation's Antarctic Artists and Writers program, which sends artists and writers to research stations in Antarctica. I wanted badly to apply, but didn't have an Antarctic-related project at the time, so I whipped up a chapter of a book set on an Antarctic station, meaning to use it as a work sample. Unfortunately, COVID derailed the program and it was canceled before I could apply, but that application



chapter became the first chapter of my book!

I was also deeply inspired by the musical artist Joanna Newsom, whom I've loved since I was in college and whom I saw in concert in October of 2019. Because I've been listening to her for so long, her music always fills me with a kind of epic, soaring nostalgia—a longing for something undefinable—which to me feels quite a lot like the creative impulse. I began writing the book the day after I saw her live.

Where do you write?

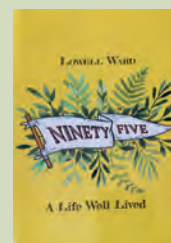
I ended up writing much of this particular book in a small 1963 fiberglass trailer parked in my alley. The trailer was my quarantine renovation project and was supposed to be for travel, but turned into kind of an outdoor office. It has electricity, so through the winter I'd plug in a space heater and wrap myself in blankets and get to work. Eventually, however, I took over an extra room in the house to function as my office, so nowadays I often write in there. Or in here, I should say—I'm at the desk right now.

What's next for you?

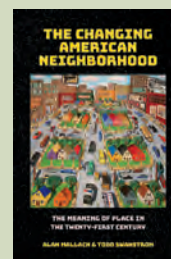
Teaching, writing, spending time with friends and family, traveling, hanging out with my cat, reading, walking, puttering around the house, etc. Another novel, eventually, hopefully. Then another, and another, and another...wish me luck!



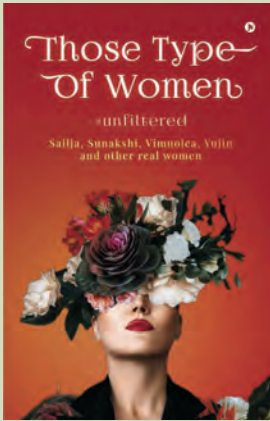
Jenny Brav '96.
The Unbroken Horizon (Atmosphere Press, 2023)



Lowell Ward '52.
Ninety-Five: A Life Well Lived (Seahill Press, Inc., 2022)



Alan Mallach and Todd Swanstrom '70.
The Changing American Neighborhood: The Meaning of Place in the Twenty-First Century (Cornell University Press, 2023)



THOSE TYPE OF WOMEN

by Sunakshi Wadhwa '17, Vimuoela Hang '17, and Yujin Jang '18 and other real women (Notion Press, 2023)

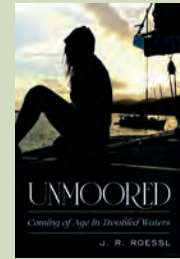
Co-author Sunakshi Wadhwa '17 writes, "This book is a collection of original memoirs of extraordinary yet ordinary twenty-something women, from diverse backgrounds, who share real stories of navigating love, sexuality, career, relationships, and beauty standards. The book originated from a frustration in the lack of authentic and diverse feminist stories shared in public media, and the desire to increase empathy via the medium of honest, authentic, and vulnerable storytelling."



David K. Seitz '10. *A Different Trek: Radical Geographies of Deep Space Nine* (University of Nebraska Press, 2023)



Kyra Ostendorf '95 and Malcolm Munene (Kyra's sixteen-year-old son). *Rules! Rules! Rules!* (Free Spirit Publishing, 2024)



J.R. Roessl '77. *Unmoored: Coming of Age in Troubled Waters* (Lyons Press, 2023)

"A Sin for Freedom"

Eboni Dunbar-Scott '09 received Lambda Literary's 2023 Randall Kenan Prize for Black LGBTQ Fiction. Her speculative fiction has appeared in numerous publications, and her novella *Stone and Steel* was published by Neon Hemlock Press.

Read an excerpt from her story "A Sin for Freedom" (*Beneath Ceaseless Skies*, Vol. 374, January 26, 2023):

Rin grabbed my face, pulled me toward her until we could have kissed. I wanted to, but the fire in her eyes said I would know pain if I did. Fury mottled her skin, turned her mouth into a scowl, and narrowed her eyes.

We were huddled in the shadows of the temple tent, more exposed than we should have allowed.

"Hear me," Rin snapped. "I am going. I want you to go with me."

I reared back, and she let me.

Sin.

My fingers wanted nothing more than to spread against her scalp, to kiss her mouth. To have my pleasure, to give Rin hers, but her words were more blasphemous than even our hands on each other.



"You can't," I hissed. "You swore a vow to the Empire, to the Great Mother."

Rin threw her hands up. "Which I broke the minute I kissed you. No, the minute I saw you for the first time. What did you think was happening, Slati? Didn't you realize I love you?"



1



2



3

1. **Joe Shearer '11** and **Iveth Garcia** were married April 15, 2023, in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico. Macalester friends joining them to celebrate included **Peter Goldberg '11**, **Taylor Tinkham '12**, **Steve Fitzgerald '12**, **Collin Murphy '11**, **Dan Hill '11**, **Trevor Miede '11**, and **Kevin Finnegan '11**.

2. **Claire Henkel '13** and **Colin Hanrahan** were married May 19, 2023, in Saxapahaw, North Carolina, and celebrated the next day at a Durham Bulls Game. Pictured (from left): **Claire**, **Maggie Molter '14**, **Kayla Nussbaum '13**, **Peter Tynan '13**, **Clare MacMillen '13**, **Ian Henderson-Charnow '13**, **Kat Lenhart Usedom '13**, and **Reid Usedom '12** in background.

3. **Zoe Leonard-Monrad '15** and **Charlie Stanton '15** were married May 20, 2023, in Petaluma, Calif. They were joined by (from left): **Mark McCrae-Hokenson '15**, **Sara Yukimoto-Saltman '15**, **Anandi Somasundaram '15**, **Jordan Lim '15**, **Alex Greenler '15**, the groom and bride, **Ben Schwed '15**, **Phineas Rueckert '15**, and **Molly Sir '15**. Also in attendance but not pictured: **Garrett Salzman '19**, **Colin Brantner '18**, **Kramer Gillin '07**, and **Lisa Miller '81**.



4

4. **Lia Hansen '16** and **Yoni Saltzman** were married May 28, 2023, in Amherst, Mass. Pictured (from left): **Omar Mansour '16**, **Joe Klein '16**, **Sana Naz '16**, **Carly Avezzano '16**, **Nandita Elijah '16**, **Lena Pransky '16**, the newlyweds, **Andrea Grimaldi '16**, **Kayla Sivak-Reid '16**, **Ellie Bekmanis Nokes '16**, **Rachel Ozer-Bearson '16**, and **Jillian Neuberger '16**.



5

5. **Tom Woodward '10** and **Alicia Burris** were married June 2, 2023, in Minneapolis. Pictured (from back left): **Kaia Arthur '10**, **Mark Verdin '10**, **Hannah Lamb '10**, **Brian Martucci '09**. Middle: **Nelli Thomas '10**, **Will Butler '10**, **Patrick Malloy '10**, **Seth Garfinkel '10**, **Zac Farber '10**, **Chelsea Thibodeau '10**. Front: **Laura Chamberlain '10**, **Liz Scholz '10**, **Anu Mishra '11**, best man **Jeremy Roth '10**, the newlyweds, groomsman **Adam Oien '10**, **Sofia Shaw '09**, groomsman **Matt Thrasher '10**, and **Andy Johnson '10**.



6

6. **Laura Macke '10** married **Aaron Mitz** in Estes Park, Colo., on Sept. 17, 2022. From left: **Steve Cox '76**, **Michele Cohn '78**, **Morrey Nellis '73**, **John Macke '73**, **Katie Macke '73**, **Margaret Scott '10**, **Claire Vincent '10**, the newlyweds, **Carson Gorecki '09**, **Dillon Teske '09**, and **Jenna Harris '08**.



Eva Reid '96

When the final report was released, there was no mention of my name. Two things could have happened. Former Eva would've said, "Okay, whatever," and been mad about it, but just let it go. More recent Eva decided that I had to say something. I took the report to my boss, and I said, "This is not okay." Speak up for yourself, number one. Number two: do a better job of not necessarily bragging—but bragging.

Eva Reid '96, senior IT data manager and agency data officer for DC Health, the District of Columbia's health department, describes her role as both strategic and practical. With millions of labs coming in each day on reportable diseases, Reid's team ensures that the data can be properly submitted and maintained, analyzed, and then shared with epidemiologists and others for public outreach.

But there is much more to Reid. After Macalester, she earned a master's of public administration from Arizona State University, and she has thirty years of experience in geospatial technology and data management. Prior to her current role, the entrepreneurial geography major was a senior GIS analyst with the Office of the Chief Technology Officer in DC for fourteen years. (Geographic information systems are computer-based tools used to store, visualize, analyze, and interpret geographic data.) She's also owner and CEO of Eva Reid Consulting, LLC—which provides professional development workshops and career coaching for women in tech and other fields where women are underrepresented—as well as a keynote speaker, a writer, a certified yoga instructor, and an avid kayaker. Here Reid draws on lessons learned from all spheres of her life.

Start something(s).

Earlier in my career I knew there were other women doing technology work, but I wasn't seeing them because they weren't in my office, or they were on another floor, or in another agency. I started hosting happy hours for women in tech to meet. I already had a side business doing wellness support for women, and a lot of my clients were women in fields where women are underrepresented. That ended up morphing into what my consulting business is now.

Learn to brag better.

I just finished reading, for the second time, a book called *Brag Better: Master the Art of Fearless Self-Promotion* by Meredith Fineman. I've had to train myself to put myself forward and tell people why they should care what I have to say. In my previous job I managed a big citywide project.

Build community that matters.

I have this tagline and hashtag that I use on LinkedIn a lot called Building Community That Matters. It's the name of a workshop that I did, but it's also a philosophy. I'm not just connecting so that I can get the next greatest thing or the next greatest job. I'm building a network because that is my community. I'm extremely passionate about creating that network and using it for good. I don't see how as human beings we can do our business without it. It's all the same, whether you're looking for an electrician or looking for data.

Seek humility.

I wasn't good at kayaking right away. I really enjoy it, but there are some things I'm not great at. I wasn't the best in my class, and I wasn't the success that I can see in other parts of my life. It was very humbling. In kayaking and in yoga, you learn from that space of not being great at something, and you just have to sit with it. I think learning humility is good for all of us at times.

Make waves.

Saying "I'm good at this" is not making waves. When someone says, "You're making waves," or "You're intimidating"—because I've gotten that before, too—that's not about me. That's them feeling uncomfortable with women speaking up for themselves. Doing that self-advocacy helps us do better in our careers because no one else is going to do it for us.

Explore the Mac ecosystem.

Mac has been a very good model in a lot of ways for my own personal beliefs about community and how we build our networks. I think we have a lot in common despite our extremely different backgrounds and interests. There's this Macalester ecosystem that I cannot explain. It's been really interesting interacting with other people from my class through Facebook. I've connected with so many people that I knew at Mac, but didn't really know at Mac.

Meet Abby Dos Santos '01

ALUMNI BOARD PRESIDENT

What is your day job?

I am currently the manager of library services at Caplin & Drysdale, a DC law firm. I previously worked as the reference librarian at the same firm and as the Foreign and International Law collection and services coordinator at the Georgetown University Law Library.

I received my master's in library and information science with a specialization in law librarianship from the Catholic University of America and a JD from the University of St. Thomas, after graduating from Macalester in 2001 (with majors in international studies and Spanish literature and a minor in philosophy).

Why is serving on the Alumni Board important to you?

I want to give back to Macalester in a meaningful way, and not just monetarily. Prior to the Alumni Board, I enjoyed connecting with Macalester through alumni events and volunteering as a Class Agent and on the Reunion Committee. Having the opportunity to serve on the Alumni Board has been a fulfilling way to help Mac connect with alumni and help support initiatives that foster alumni engagement with each other and with current students.

My time on the board has strengthened my connection to the college and allowed me the opportunity to create strong intergenerational friendships with alumni outside my four years at Mac.

What are the Alumni Board's priorities this year?

The Alumni Board, in its mission to create, amplify, and celebrate alumni engagement, has a pivotal role to play in Macalester's new *Imagine*, Macalester strategic plan. Last year, the Alumni Board agreed to revise its internal organization and structure, and this year it will create task forces that will help the board react, adapt, and align with college priorities as we lean in to supporting the plan. The board has already helped shape the *Imagine*, Macalester development process by having a board member as one of the Strategic Planning Champions and by taking part in webinars and listening sessions. Board members also are currently participating in Strategic Plan Implementation working groups.

The Alumni Board will also focus on increasing regional and international alumni engagement, and work to make sure that the Alumni Board is accessible by communicating more effectively with the entire Macalester community.

What part of this work are you most excited about?

Helping alumni connect with Macalester and with other alumni and showing how Macalester values continue to shape us long after we have graduated.

My favorite quote from President Rivera is, "You are students for four years; you are alumni for the rest of your lives."



Pictured left to right: President Rivera, Alumni Award winner Alissa Light '03, and Abby Dos Santos '01 at the Grand Celebration breakfast at Reunion 2023.

What is your favorite Macalester alumni event, and why?

Reunion. I love connecting with my own classmates, but also getting the opportunity to meet other alumni from different class years. This year, I had the opportunity to attend Reunion in my role as the Alumni Board president, even though it was not my class year. I participated in the induction of the 50th Reunion class into the Golden Scots, and I helped President Rivera honor the 2023 Alumni Award recipients at the Grand Celebration. Hearing stories from alumni about their time at Macalester and seeing how walking around campus reminded them of their college self, even fifty years later, really had an impact on me and reminded me why I volunteer.

How can alumni stay connected to Mac?

- Join us at events like Reunion, Mac In Your City, and Mac Fest.
- Connect with regional chapters.
- Explore lifelong learning opportunities.
- Update your MacDirect profile.
- Consider joining the Alumni Board. Applications open at the beginning of December. Watch for emails about the application process.

Learn more about these and other ways to connect at macalester.edu/alumni.

1943

Jeanne Holland Erickson, 101, died June 1, 2023, in Warroad, Minn. She helped develop and manage the pharmacy at Rembrandt Nursing Home sites in Edina, Minn., and owned and operated Heritage Pharmacy and Heritage Jewelry with her late husband, Martin. Erickson is survived by three children, six grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

1944

Jeanette Hicks Heller, 98, of St. Paul died Feb. 2, 2021. She is survived by three children and three siblings.

1948

Donna Gold Stevenson, 98, of South St. Paul, Minn., died March 26, 2023. She is survived by six children, fourteen grandchildren, and twenty-seven great-grandchildren.

1950

Betty Turner Raney, 92, of Fargo, N.D., died July 18, 2023. She taught kindergarten in North and South Dakota. Raney is survived by three daughters, a son, nine grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

Sally Beardsley Van Slyke, 94, died Dec. 31, 2022. She taught at the Desert School and was active in the Tucson, Ariz., community, helping launch Arizona Theater Company and serving on Tucson's Downtown Arts District Task Force. Van Slyke is survived by three children, five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Leonard L. Van Zinderen, 95, died Feb. 5, 2023. He is survived by a daughter, two sons, six grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

1951

Patricia Campbell Hanson, 94, of Eau Claire, Wis., died July 18, 2023. She taught school in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Hanson is survived by three sons, six

grandchildren, and eleven great-grandchildren.

Dolores Kress Pensky, 94, of Buffalo, Minn., died May 23, 2023. She taught at several schools and owned and operated Buffalo Floral and DER Gaertner Greenhouses with her husband, Rainer. Pensky is survived by a son, a grandson, and a sister.

Pat Thomas Steffer, 93, died Dec. 15, 2022. She worked as a paraprofessional educator and special education teacher. Steffer is survived by four children and eight grandchildren.

Blair D. Woolsey, 92, died May 19, 2023. After twenty-seven years in the US Marine Corps, Woolsey retired as a colonel in 1979. He practiced dentistry in the White Bear Lake area, retiring in 2009. Woolsey also participated in the Plaisted Polar Expedition in 1967. He is survived by his wife, Joanne, three daughters, seven grandchildren, and twelve great-grandchildren.

1952

Geraldyn Morgan Erickson, 92, of Sartell, Minn., died May 8, 2023. She taught school in Gilbert and Duluth, Minn. Erickson is survived by five children, thirteen grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

Gloria Thompson Petersen, 94, of Mound, Minn., died June 16, 2023. She taught kindergarten and first grade. Petersen is survived by her husband, Byron, four children, eleven grandchildren, and thirteen great-grandchildren.

1953

Joyce Johnson Lundquist, 92, died June 26, 2023. She was a military wife and an employee of the Department of the Navy, Andrews Air Force Base Hospital, and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. Lundquist is survived by three children, six grandchildren, and eleven great-grandchildren.

Mary Shaffer MacLaughlin, 92, of Minneapolis died July 18, 2023. She is survived by two sons, three grandchildren, and brother William Shaffer '57.

Mary MacRae Mark died June 13, 2023. She worked for Novus for twenty years and volunteered at Whittier School in Minneapolis for two decades. Mark is survived by three children, seven grandchildren, and twelve great-grandchildren, and sister Carol MacRae Lamb '50.

Jeanne Paden Reinhart, 92, died May 29, 2023, in St. Louis Park, Minn. She is survived by a daughter, three sons, ten grandchildren, eleven great-grandchildren, and a sister.

1954

Hugh A. Miller, 91, died July 15, 2021. He served in the Marines during the Korean War and served as pastor of Presbyterian congregations in Minnesota, Ohio, and Iowa. Miller is survived by his wife, Marcia, daughter Jean Miller '85, and son Ed Miller '82.

Gerald W. Schrankler, 90, died May 28, 2023. During a sixty-five-year career in ministry, Schrankler served as pastor of numerous United Church of Christ congregations, a board member of UCC-associated organizations, and president of several clergy groups. Schrankler received the B'nai B'rith Human Rights Award in 1968. He is survived by his wife, Helene, three children (including Amy Schrankler Larson Roloff '82), two grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, and a sister.

1955

Gail Holzinger Ludowise, 88, of Vancouver, Wash., died Jan. 10, 2022.

Murilla E. Page, 89, died July 17, 2023, in Ashland, Ore. She is survived by six children (including Kenneth Muir '83), eight grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and a sister.

Gordon L. Robideaux, 90, of Roseville, Minn., died May 8, 2023. He served in the US Army as a special agent in the Counter Intelligence Corps, taught at Central High School in St. Paul for twenty years, and taught elementary school for twenty years. Robideaux is survived by his wife, Beverly, two children, five grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and a brother.

Nancy Newhouse Sather, 89, died May 7, 2023, in Victoria, Texas. She taught in schools in Arizona, Massachusetts, and Texas, and operated a private tutoring and diagnostic practice. Sather is survived by three sons and four grandchildren.

1956

Norma Domian Magnuson, 89, of Madison, Wis., died May 13, 2023. She taught English and social studies to sixth- and tenth-graders in Roseville, Minn., and worked as a librarian at the University of British Columbia and Punahou School in Honolulu. Magnuson is survived by her husband, John, two daughters, and three grandsons.

Helen Agnew Sielaff, 90, of Hammond, Wis., died July 13, 2023. She is survived by a son and three grandchildren.

1957

Janice Lunneborg Pannkuk, 87, of Burnsville, Minn., died April 16, 2023. She worked at Burnsville High School and Carefree Living Care Center. Pannkuk is survived by her husband, Arlo Pannkuk '55, five children, eight grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and two sisters.

Roger W. Strand, 87, died June 6, 2023, in New London, Minn. After serving as a medical doctor with the US Army, Strand trained as a hand surgeon and practiced medicine in Willmar, Minn., for thirty years. He received Macalester's Distinguished Alumni Award and was recognized for his support of conservation and community

foundations. Strand also created Willmar's annual Prairie Pothole Day and hosted the event for forty years. He is survived by four children, three grandchildren, and sister Mary Strand Davies '53.

1958

Nancy J. Irvin, 87, died July 26, 2023, in Great Falls, Mont. After becoming a registered nurse, Irvin worked for Toole County Hospital, the National Institutes of Health Heart Institute, and the University of Washington. She is survived by a sister and a brother.

Noel M. Newgord, 89, died May 17, 2023. He served with the US Army from 1954 to 1956 and was stationed in Germany. Newgord taught business classes for thirty-one years at several junior high schools in Minnesota. He is survived by his wife, Donna, two sons, and three grandchildren.

1963

Linda Hurtig Roosevelt, 82, died July 22, 2023, in Greenville, Texas. During her forty-plus-year career in education, she taught art in public schools in several states. She also coached a junior high girls' ice hockey team that placed third in the Minnesota state tournament in 1975. Roosevelt is survived by four children, eight grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

1964

Sofiann Wilfrid Voorhes, 81, died June 21, 2023. She worked as a teacher. Voorhes is survived by a brother.

1965

Gretchen A. Bangarter, 79, of Shoreview, Minn., died May 20, 2023. She was a medical technologist at Miller Hospital in St. Paul and retired in 2001 after a twenty-four-year career in medical product development and pharmaceutical clinical re-

search at 3M. Bangarter is survived by two brothers, including Benedict Bangarter '63.

Randall R. Pommerening, 79, of Payson, Ariz., died June 16, 2023. After working as a pharmacist with Target, he joined a business partner to purchase and build independent pharmacies in Hopkins, Chanhassen, and Edina, Minn. Pommerening was also active with the Minnesota State Board of Pharmacy. He is survived by his wife, Kathleen Ellies Pommerening '66, and a daughter.

1966

Karen Reuter Fine, 78, died May 30, 2023, in Minneapolis. In 1992, Fine launched K.J.F. and Associates, Inc., which offered training and consulting services related to the ACT! software program. She is survived by her husband, Paul, a sister, and two brothers.

Charles Mayer, 77, died June 2, 2022, in El Paso, Texas. He served as a combat infantry

sergeant during the Vietnam War and worked as an operations and manufacturing executive with Sather Candy Company and Spangler Candy Company. Survivors include his wife, Candy, three children, and a brother.

Samuel M. Podany, 77, of Stillwater, Minn., died April 30, 2022.

1967

Patricia Morse Bryning, 78, of San Diego died recently. She worked as a Spanish teacher, parent educator, social worker, and domestic violence prevention educator. Bryning is survived by her husband, Mark, a daughter, two grandchildren, a sister, and a brother.

Robert J. Franey of Washington, Va., died June 13, 2023. After traveling the world as an employee of Pakistan Airlines, Franey worked as a technical recruiter, retiring in 2008. He is survived by his wife, Shirley, a daughter, three grandchildren, a sister, and two brothers.

NATIONWIDE TARTAN TRIVIA

Join your region going head-to-head with other Mac alumni to win bragging rights (and an exclusive sweatshirt)!

Tartan Trivia will consist of five rounds of general-knowledge questions and one Macalester-specific round. Compete with Mac alumni from your region as a team (either virtually in breakout rooms or in person).



Sign up to be a team captain for your area by Dec. 1. Reach out to alumnioffice@macalester.edu with questions or in-person location ideas.

IN MEMORIAM

1968

James G. Forbes, 77, of Bloomington, Minn., died April 24, 2023. He taught at Swartz Creek Schools in Michigan for more than thirty years. Forbes is survived by a daughter, a sister, and ex-wife Jane.

1969

Robert "Adam" DeBaugh, 75, died May 20, 2023, in Rockville, Md. Over the course of twenty-five years, DeBaugh served in numerous leadership positions with the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. In 1975, he helped launch the organization's field office in Washington, D.C., and served as its director. According to MCC, DeBaugh was the first full-time lobbyist to the U.S. Congress on behalf of gay and lesbian civil rights. He also founded Chi Rho Press, a small Christian publisher focused on gay and lesbian issues, and was

the author of several publications. DeBaugh is survived by a brother.

Patrick T. Strom, 75, of Sartell, Minn., died July 9, 2023. He served in the Marine Corps as a judge advocate and head of the Marine Corps Air Station New River Law Center. Strom then pursued a career as a prosecuting attorney and retired as assistant attorney of Stearns County. He is survived by his wife, Shirley Horman Strom '67, two sons, two grandchildren, and four siblings.

1970

Stephen W. Porter, 75, of Nashua, N.H., died May 31, 2023. After serving in the US Air Force, Porter worked for the Veterans Health Administration for more than forty years. He is survived by his wife, Kay, four sons, eight grandchildren, and three brothers.

1972

Tracy Eichhorn-Hicks, 73, of Edina, Minn., died May 2, 2023. He opened a law practice with his wife, Mary Eichhorn-Hicks '71, in 1989. He is survived by his wife, two children, three grandchildren, and sister Nancy Hicks '70.

Robert J. Francis, 73, died July 13, 2023. He became a physician assistant and worked at Michiana Medical Center for thirty years. Francis is survived by his wife, Kay, two children, and two sisters.

Dave Hackett, 73, of Gays Mills, Wis., died February 8, 2023. He retired in 2022 from a fifty-year career of picking apples at a local orchard—one of several seasonal jobs that he held after he left Macalester following his sophomore year. He is survived by his wife, Ellen Brooks '70 and a sister and her family, including nephew Bryn Dentinger '00.

1973

Mary E. White, 73, of St. Paul died April 29, 2023. She worked in health care and was a career counselor. White is survived by eleven siblings, including David White '65, Ann White Foxen '68, Daniel White '73, and Jane White '82.

1974

Laura Simmons Mears, 70, of Lake Oswego, Ore., died July 6, 2023. She held positions at the vice president level at Fortune 500 companies. After moving to Oregon, she pursued a nonprofit career with Junior Achievement and Oregon Wild. Mears is survived by a son, two sisters, a brother, and her former husband, Charles.



WELCOME BACK!

REUNION

JUNE 6-9, 2024
macalester.edu/reunion

1977

Lynne Dotzenroth, 67, of Spring Park, Minn., died July 5, 2023. She pursued a PhD in linguistics at Cornell University and worked as a schoolteacher. Dotzenroth is survived by two brothers.

1981

Stephen Shin, 68, of Hugo, Minn., died June 5, 2023. He retired from the US Postal Service. Shin is survived by his wife, Julie, three children, three grandchildren, a sister, and two brothers.

1983

Sheila Schoenfelder Sudo, 61, of Forest Lake, Minn., died April 28, 2023. She served in the Peace Corps in the Dominican Republic, was a social worker with Catholic Charities, and was an educator in the Minneapolis Public Schools for thirty-four years. Sudo is survived by a daughter and a son.

// OTHER LOSSES



Former World Press Institute program director **James N. Dunlop** died Jan. 24, 2022, in Richfield, Minn., at the age of 81. Before heading the WPI, Dunlop was a reporter for newspapers in Iowa and Massachusetts and worked briefly in public relations. He was a public information officer with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, the Hennepin County Park System, the Minnesota State Auditor, and the Minnesota State Treasurer. Dunlop ran as the Reform Party candidate for the office of state treasurer in 1998. He is survived by a daughter, two sons, and a sister.



Former Macalester faculty member **James R. "Russ" Kirkland**, 67, died May 31, 2023. He was a professor in the University of Georgia's Religious Studies Department from 1994 to 2012. Kirkland also taught at the University of Rochester, the University of Missouri, Stanford University, and Oberlin College. He is survived by a brother.



Former Macalester volleyball coach **Stephanie J. Schleuder** died June 26, 2023, at the age of 73. During her thirty-four-year career, Schleuder coached volleyball at Bemidji State University, the University of Minnesota, and the University of Alabama. She was named the 1998 Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Coach of the Year in her first season at Macalester and led the team to a total of 144 victories during her twelve seasons at the college. Under her leadership, Macalester's team placed third in MIAC in 1998 and 2000 and produced nine all-MIAC players, five all-region players, and three all-American players. Schleuder was inducted into the American Volleyball Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2015, and was the first non-Division I head coach to serve as the organization's president, from 2002 to 2004. Schleuder was also the first woman to be inducted into the University of Minnesota–Duluth Bulldogs Hall of Fame, and was a 2005 inductee into the Minnesota Volleyball Hall of Fame. Her other honors included several awards from USA Volleyball and an award presented during the Minnesota National Girls and Women in Sports Day. She also wrote several books on the art and science of coaching volleyball.

buffy sainte-marie

nite train

friday evening
 october 10, 1969
 8:00 p.m.
 macalester college
 field house

tickets on sale at:
 dayton's, discount records, the electric fetus,
 and the macalester ticket office, 647-6297.



Indigenous student organizations have a long history at Macalester, stretching back over fifty years. In September 1969, the Native American Coalition (NAC) was officially formed, and not a month later, "Indian Week," the very first powwow at Macalester, was held, featuring speakers, drummers and dancers, and a performance from the indomitable singer-songwriter Buffy Sainte-Marie. A second "Indian Awareness Week" was organized in 1982 and shortly thereafter, the group changed its name to Proud Indigenous People for Education (PIPE) to highlight a more diverse membership.

Since then, PIPE has continued to have an active presence on campus. From hosting a series of powwows between 1989 and 2013, to organizing protests that led to the cancellation of Ted Turner's appearance at graduation in 1998, to being a driving force in the renaming of Neill Hall in 2019, PIPE and their allies have worked tirelessly to educate the campus community while creating a safe space with resources for Indigenous students to be themselves.

The Archives would like to thank Chris Griffith '92 and Jennings Mergenthal '21 for their help with crafting this Last Look.



Do you have stories, images, or any other memories of PIPE or NAC that you'd like to share?

Contact us at
[archives@macalester.edu!](mailto:archives@macalester.edu)



HONOR YOUR MACALESTER EXPERIENCE WITH A PLANNED GIFT

It's true: you know another Macalester graduate when you meet one. Your experience at 1600 Grand was a unique time in life. You can create that feeling for someone else by including Macalester in your estate plans. By sharing your intentions, you'll become a member of the James Wallace Society.

All planned gifts, no matter the size, make a difference.

For more information, contact Theresa Gienapp, director of planned giving, at 651-696-6087 or visit macalester.edu/plannedgiving.



MACALESTER COLLEGE

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ELISSA CEDARLEAF DAHL

Class Notes Extended Play

"Last week I/we finished the 'Hate Has No Home Here' mural at Colegio Colombo Británico after a few super sunny days of huge collaboration by the K-11th grade students. I think more than 250 kids put paint on the wall during their two-hour long recesses and helping during classes in small groups. Every day the mural got more and more colorful and more complex as the creativity flowed and I finally had to call, "Basta! Ya terminamos" because I think those artists would have added hanging pulgas (spider-like lice bugs) and Among Us characters in every available space until we ran out of paint." —Elissa Cedarleaf Dahl '01

Elissa spent spring 2023 as a Fulbright Distinguished Educator Award Winner in Medellín, Colombia. Read her blog at elissacedarleafdahl.com.