

MACALESTER

TODAY

WINTER 2024





10



12



20

FEATURES

Fitness for All 10

At her Minneapolis gym, Hannah Wydeven '09 has created a supportive culture that welcomes all bodies.

How It Started, How It's Going 12

Entrepreneurship and innovation programs at Mac have helped alumni launch successful careers in art, government, venture capital—and more.

Serious Fun 20

With playful persistence, award-winning puppeteer Chris Griffith '92 is working to keep the Cherokee language alive.

Free and Fair 22

David Maeda '87, Minnesota's director of elections, can't wait to see you at the polls.

An Annotated Field Guide to the Katharine Ordway Natural History Study Area 24

At Macalester's "second campus" students observe and learn about the natural world.

The Notes We Shared 28

The class notes shared throughout the past 150 years provide a window into our lives and our world.

Language and Music 34

In Professor Morgan Sleeper's course, students learn how language and music intersect to communicate and convey social meaning.

ON THE COVER:

Celebrating Macalester College at 150.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MACALESTER COLLEGE ARCHIVES



22



24

DEPARTMENTS

Correspondence 2

Sounding Board 3

1600 Grand 4

Commemorating alumni of color, Congress to Campus, swimming and diving record-breakers, and more

Class Notes 36

Books 38

Weddings 42

In Memoriam 44

Last Look 48



42

STAFF

EDITOR

Julie Hessler '85
jhessler@macalester.edu

ART DIRECTION

The ESC Plan / theESCplan.com

CLASS NOTES EDITOR

Robert Kerr '92

CONTRIBUTORS

Kelsey Fox '17
Catherine Kane '26
Ashli Cean Landa
John Schoolmeesters
Daniel Seo '25
David J. Turner

ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT FOR MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

Julie Hurbanis



MACALESTER

CHAIR, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Carrie Norbin Killoran '94

PRESIDENT

Dr. Suzanne M. Rivera

VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADVANCEMENT

Joanna E. Curtis '97

ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT

OF ENGAGEMENT
Catie Gardner Smith

MACALESTER TODAY (Volume 112, Number 1) is published by Macalester College. It is mailed free of charge to alumni and friends of the college four times a year.

Circulation is 32,000.

TO UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS:

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

TO SHARE COMMENTS OR IDEAS:

Email: mactoday@macalester.edu
Phone: 651-696-6443





For the Love of Trees

I was SO happy to see the article “Investigating St. Paul’s New Shade Gap” about the loss of tree canopies in the Twin Cities. This is such an important message—taking down trees and planting saplings are not equivalent. It’ll be a full generation of time for the saplings to do what the older trees have done—they are the lungs of the earth.

I’m proud of the faculty and students who are doing this investigating. Thank you for shining a light on this work!

Vanessa Wassenar ’73
Board President, TREE Foundation
Venice, Fla.

I was interested when I saw the article “Investigating St. Paul’s New Shade Gap” in the fall issue of *Macalester Today*. I first came to St Paul in 1970 and was immediately struck by all the beautiful elm trees lining the streets. Not ash trees, elm trees. The elms were amazing. Their shape created an arched roof over the street, turning them into green tunnels, rich and verdant. I immediately fell in love with St Paul, mainly because of the trees. Two years later I came to live there, at Macalester. I stayed in the cities for seventeen years.

In the 1970s Dutch Elm disease came to town and we lost hundreds of thousands of trees. I was young and moved around the city a few times. Three times I moved onto a tree-lined street; three times I came home from work to find the trees had been cut down by the city because of that awful disease. It was devastating! The green tunnels were gone forever.

I visit St Paul frequently. Over the years the harsh look of the naked streets dissipated as the new trees grew and St Paul became beautiful again. Not as beautiful, in my opinion; the new trees didn’t create the fantastic tunnels, but it was lovely.

Now it is happening again! I don’t think I can state strongly enough how much mature, tree-lined streets add to the city environment. And how much the lack of trees diminishes from that environment. The fifty-year-old ash trees were planted to replace the elms. What will be planted next? I hope a greater variety of trees are planted so that next time, the next disease, we don’t lose all our trees again. And, please, can you plant some elms? Those tunneled streets were amazing.

Laura Batzer ’76
Madison, Wis.

GOODNESS!

In honor of Macalester’s sesquicentennial, we’re seeking stories of goodness. How do you make your community better?

We’ll share these stories in our fall issue. Email your story (100 words or fewer) to mactoday@macalester.edu by June 14, 2024. Thank you!

CONNECT WITH US



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

CORRESPONDENCE POLICY

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

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

Celebrating 150 Years

In January, we kicked off a yearlong series of events commemorating 150 years since Macalester's founding in 1874. I'm excited to celebrate with all of you! Throughout our sesquicentennial year, we'll look back on transformative turning points, honor who we are today, and build toward our collective vision for the college's next 150 years—thanks to the creativity and hard work of staff, faculty, students, and alumni who have been generating ideas and mapping out logistics for months.

I was delighted to learn recently that one of our community members got an exceptional head start on dreaming about our sesquicentennial. More than thirty years ago, on the heels of the college's 1992 strategic plan launch, former Macalester president Robert M. Gavin Jr. published a *Macalester Today* essay imagining the college at 150 years.

I have to credit President Gavin: some of his predictions were surprisingly prescient. He speculated that, in 2024, Macalester would be led by a "President Maria Gutierrez," who earned a doctorate at the University of California–Berkeley. How he knew a Latina with a degree from Berkeley would be the college's leader in its 150th year is a mystery to me, and I'm curious to ask if he has suggestions about stock picks or lottery numbers!

He also imagined a sesquicentennial symposium focused on multifaceted, complex global challenges—not unlike our International Roundtable tradition (which started the year after his essay was published) and our current plans for regional sesquicentennial events. With references to extensive "satellite conferencing technology," he even anticipated the prevalence of Zoom gatherings. And, through thoughtful reflections about the student experience, he imagined that our campus in 2024 would have an "active intellectual atmosphere" with a "strong sense of community."

Macalester has changed a lot in thirty years, thanks to the many people who worked tirelessly to drive forward that 1992 strategic plan and subsequent plans developed during the administrations of President Michael McPherson and President Brian Rosenberg. Since 1992, our graduation rate has increased (from 73 to 90 percent), the student-to-faculty ratio has decreased (from 12:1 to 10:1), and our student body is more diverse in many ways, including race and ethnicity, and country of origin. This past fall, 43 percent of US first-year students identified as students of color, compared to 15 percent in 1991. International students compose 14 percent of the student body and represent 103 countries, compared to 10 percent and 65 countries in 1992. All of these accomplishments were priorities in the 1992 strategic plan.



Join the Macalester community to help us celebrate 150 years!

I'm also struck by how Macalester's goals in 1992 are echoed in conversations we've had throughout our most recent strategic planning process about our vision for the future: facilitating high-impact experiences for all students, innovating our curriculum, amplifying the impact of our Twin Cities location as a way to differentiate Macalester, and preparing students to lead and make positive change in communities around the world.

That's a reminder of our incredibly clear and enduring sense of purpose, and the college's ongoing commitment over generations toward promoting Macalester's values. While some of our practices and customs may change, the core values at the heart of who we are will not change. Quite the opposite: they will be amplified and made even more distinctive for future students.

Throughout this very special sesquicentennial year, we will lift up the college's extraordinary legacy. We invite Macalester alumni around the world to celebrate with us, including through events and initiatives happening on campus, online, and around the United States. Together, we will learn from our past, honor the people who shaped today's Macalester, and work toward our strong and vibrant future. I can't wait!

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

PHOTO PROVIDED

Visit macalester.edu/150 for more details.

1600 GRAND



New Public Artwork Commemorates Alumni of Color

In recognition of the 2019 Alumni of Color Reunion and 50th Reunion of the Expanded Educational Opportunities program, Macalester commissioned a public artwork to commemorate the past, present, and future of alumni of color.

The labyrinthine, light-reflecting sculpture, by artist Suriya Khuth '20, incorporates stories and images from alumni of color. Located on Grand Avenue in front of Markim Hall, the sculpture was unveiled in the fall.



JOHN SCHOOL MEISTERS

Black Box Theater Named for James A. Williams '77

In late 2020, former Board of Trustees member Michael Huber '90 and his wife, Lauren Seikaly, who provided crucial funding for the Theater and Dance Building construction, came to the college with a proposal. The college's black box theater was dedicated in their name, but they wanted to rename it in celebration of a member of the Macalester community who exemplifies excellence in the arts and the college's commitment to its vision.

With input from the Theater and Dance Department, James A. Williams '77 was selected as the honoree. Since beginning his theater journey at Macalester, the actor has become a "force in the Twin Cities theater scene," in the words of President Rivera. At a dedication ceremony in September, Williams, his friends and family, theater faculty, and members of the Twin Cities theater community gathered in the black box theater for a ceremony honoring Williams' time at Macalester, continued influence in theater, and his commitment to Macalester's values of community service and social justice. He also was awarded an honorary degree by Rivera and Provost Lisa Anderson-Levy.

Williams, a St. Louis native, said "when I first heard the name Macalester College I was seventeen with extremely limited options and no sense of direction."

He was introduced to theater when a classmate knocked on his Dupre dorm room door and asked him to be in a play he was directing. Williams also took Professor Glen Wilson's Voice and Diction class in the Theater and Dance Department, which he said was instrumental in developing his passion for theater.

Since his time at Macalester, Williams has had an extensive career as a stage actor in shows in the Twin Cities and on Broadway. He was a McKnight Theater Fellow, nominee for a NAACP Image Award, and named Artist of the Year by the Star Tribune twice. However, it was his time spent bringing theater to underserved youth that he spoke about most at the dedication ceremony.

"I was connected to a passion that has taken me to villages in rural Tanzania, maximum security facilities in Oak Park Heights, Minnesota, orphanages in Kenya, and inner-city schools in classrooms that are less than two miles from here," Williams said of his experiences.

Though his Macalester education served as a launching pad, Williams said he will always remember his roots: "I come from the constant pinging



"When I came here, I knew most of what I needed to know about how to survive. But in the halls, the dorms, the classrooms—here I learned how to live."

—James A. Williams '77

noise of an oscillating fan lying on the floor in a house in St. Louis when it's too damn hot outside."

Williams also performed two original monologues at the ceremony, which he said were part of a new foray into writing. The monologues were deeply affecting memories of his upbringing in St. Louis and relationship with his father.

"When I came here, I knew most of what I needed to know about how to survive. But in the halls, the dorms, the classrooms—here I learned how to live." —Catherine Kane '26

UNPACKING ACADEMIC FREEDOM AT CONGRESS TO CAMPUS

Former US representatives Loretta Sanchez (D-Calif.) and Rob Woodall (R-Ga.) were at Macalester in October for the second Congress to Campus event, the flagship program of the Association of Former Members of Congress.

For more than forty years, the program has sent former elected leaders to more than 140 colleges and universities to model how to converse across differences and help foster the skills necessary for a thriving democracy.

This year's topic was academic freedom. The pair met with classes and took part in a campus conversation in Mairs Concert Hall with some 150 members of campus in attendance, where they were welcomed by President Rivera. "In our work at Macalester, helping one another develop skills of deep listening, discernment, critical thinking, and persuasive argumentation is as important as teaching students to write really great papers or present capstone research," she said.

Students from Macalester's forensics team posed questions about several headline-grabbing topics, including efforts to ban books in K-12 libraries, and whether banning discussion of student identities in the classroom violates teachers' First Amendment rights.

While the representatives often approached topics from different directions,



Pictured from left: President Rivera; Director of Forensics Beau Larsen; Forensics Debate Coach Casey C. Moerer '23; Ruta Rupeikyte '27; Vincenzo Thousand '27; Hamza Mahamud '24; Rep. Loretta Sanchez; and Rep. Rob Woodall.



they found points of commonality. Ruta Rupeikyte '27 (Vilnius, Lithuania) asked about the ethical obligations that both students and faculty have in terms of creating an environment that encourages diverse viewpoints in educational spaces.

Sanchez answered first, recalling a 1992 Thanksgiving dinner with her mother, a Democrat; her father, a Republican; her sister, then-Congresswoman Linda Sanchez (D-Calif.); and other relatives from both sides of the political aisle. The topic of the Los Angeles riots, which had taken place earlier that spring, came up and the conversation quickly grew heated.

"My sister left," said Sanchez. "She never came back. And we hadn't eaten the turkey yet...But I'm just saying, I grew up with a variety of opinions, and this allowed me to know who I am. So I would say to

you, the more ideas in the mix, the more you may change your idea or the more you may be certain that where you stand is a good place for you."

Woodall responded with a question of his own. "I think the question we have to ask ourselves is why is it when we're paying top dollar for higher education, we even think that we might be indoctrinated as opposed to exposed to everything?" he asked. "You only choose a liberal arts institution if you want to be challenged intellectually as opposed to choosing the step-by-step engineering degree that's going to take you exactly where you want to go. You want to be thinkers when you're here. You want to be challenged now when you're here."

Congress to Campus will return to Macalester for a third year next fall.

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

Cari Gillen-O'Neel is an associate professor of psychology. Her research examines the social and educational implications of children's collective identities—identities rooted in group membership, including demographic groups and institutional groups.



What have you been reading lately?

I'm not a big reader outside of work, because I think about such serious things at work that when I get home, I need a break. I love a feel-good TV show like *The Good Place* or *Parks and Recreation*. A recent one I watched was called *Gentefied*; it was really charming.

What book is crucial to understanding your academic niche?

My area of research is in racial identity development among children, particularly white children and how they understand race. People of all races, but especially white people, have a hard time understanding the history and invention of race. Two books that discuss that are *Fatal Invention: How Science, Politics, and Big Business Re-create Race in the Twenty-first Century* by Dorothy Roberts, and *Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America* by Ibram X. Kendi. Many people don't understand that race is not real; racism and discrimination are, but there is no one gene that makes someone Black or white.

Was there a particular book that made you interested in your current research area?

A book that came out when I was in graduate school, *Nurture-Shock: New Thinking About Children* by Po Bronson and Ashley Merryman, turned me on to the idea of studying how white parents do and don't talk to their children about race, which led me to my current area of research. Many white parents believe that if they adopt the strategy of color-evasiveness or color-blindness, their children will never notice race. But instead, we are just allowing a racist society to socialize our children.

—Catherine Kane '26

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

Imagine, MACALESTER

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

Please join us for an alumni
webinar on March 4, 2024.



Abby Dos Santos



Paul Overvoorde

Abby Dos Santos '01, Alumni Board chair and strategic plan working group member, and Paul Overvoorde, chair of the strategic plan implementation team and vice provost and associate dean of the faculty, will share an update on the college's strategic plan and answer your questions.

7 p.m. CST | March 4, 2024

Register: engage.macalester.edu/register/StrategicPlanUpdate2024

1600
GRAND



ATHLETICS

BREAKING RECORDS

Men's Swimming & Diving Sets Seven
School Records at December Meet.

Hosting the Roger Ahlman Invitational in December, the men's swimming and diving team broke seven school records at Riley Pool. The Scots won the team competition with 854.5 points, besting St. Olaf (677.5), Morningside (654), and Hamline (84).

Thomas Moore '26 (Philadelphia), pictured above, was a part of all seven school records, which included four relays and three individual events. Moore won the 200-yard individual medley with a time of 1:55.56, breaking the old mark of 1:57.97 set by Nathan Young '11 in 2008. He also helped Macalester's 400-yard medley relay team of Casey Meretta '26 (Potomac, Md.), Charles Batsaikhan '25 (Chapel Hill, N.C.), and TJ Palli '26 (Maple Grove, Minn.) break the school record with a winning time of 3:30.89. The old mark was set last year with a time of 3:35.43.

William Haby '27 (Denver), Palli, Batsaikhan, and Moore broke a twenty-nine-year-old school record in the 800-yard freestyle relay with a time of 7:10.47. The previous record of 7:14.37 was set in 1994.

Moore won the 100-yard butterfly with a school-record time of 51.57, eclipsing the old mark of 52.90, set in 1980 by Chris McNeil '83. He then broke the 100-yard freestyle school record with a first-place time of 46.82. The old record of 46.94 was set by Young in 2009.

Moore contributed to two more relay records. Moore, Isaac Kisker '25 (Oakwood, Calif.), Palli, and Batsaikhan won the 200-yard freestyle relay in 1:25.81, besting the old mark of 1:27.46 set in 2022. The same four swimmers broke the 400-yard freestyle relay record with a time of 3:09.83. The previous record of 3:15.38 was set in 1988.

Dylan Herlihy '26 (Reading, Mass.) placed second in both diving events.

CHRISTOPHER MITCHELL, SPORT SHOT PHOTO

MAC TAKES FIRST AT HARVARD DEBATE TOURNAMENT



In yet another victory for Macalester Forensics, the Mac debate team started off the year strong with a first-place finish for Jonah Daniels '27 (Baltimore) and Kat Northrop '27 (Pasadena, Calif.) at Harvard's 2023 Fall Tournament in the junior varsity division.

"I'm proud of the hard work these students have put into this," says Director of Forensics Beau Larsen. "We were debating a really unique issue, and they had the drive and endurance you need when doing the research and staying up-to-date with current events."

This year's topic was about United States nuclear policy.

"It says a lot about how hard Mac students work to prepare for competition," Larsen says. "It was their first college policy tournament, so to win the first tournament really just sets great footing for the rest of their debate careers at Macalester."

After two days of competition (6 a.m. to 7 p.m.), the two first-years advanced to elimination rounds, then to quarterfinals, semifinals, and finals. The team clinched their win against Samford University on October 30 after the taxing weekend.

"It was a little stressful, and pretty tiring—one night we slept on the floor for only three hours—but that win made it all worth it," says Daniels. "I had been uncertain about whether or not I wanted to continue debate in college, because all those hours take a toll—so being successful in our first tournament, at the start of our college careers? It was the best thing I could've asked for."

"It was awesome to come into college and start a new partnership with someone you work well with in debate rounds," says Northrop. "Getting to sit with coaches and other teammates, enjoying wins and discussing losses, and feeling the support of the team was really meaningful for me. It feels really nice to find a space here that isn't just about competing, but also about how the team feels like family."



Coach John Leaney, center, with '98 national championship team members, President Rivera, and Athletics Director Donnie Brooks.

Celebrating Leaney Field and Bolstorff Court

TWO LEGENDARY MACALESTER COACHES HONORED AT FALL CEREMONIES.

Some 200 alumni and friends returned to campus to celebrate Coach John Leaney in September. Leaney joined the college as head men's soccer coach in 1986. Two years later, he became coach of the women's program. Under his tenure, the women's soccer team won the 1998 NCAA Division III National Championship, the only NCAA team title in the college's history. The team finished second the following year.

Leaney guided his teams to seventeen MIAC championships and twenty-two national playoff berths, while coaching nineteen All-Americans and a MIAC Player of the Year fourteen times. He retired from coaching in 2009. Leaney was honored during a day-long event that included an alumni pick-up game, a dinner reception, and a varsity women's soccer match on Macalester's Leaney Field, now named in his honor.

The dedication of the Alumni Gymnasium's Bolstorff Court, named in honor of Coach Douglas Bolstorff, was celebrated at the Hall of Fame Banquet and induction



The late Coach Bolstorff, center, with AD Donnie Brooks, right, and associate AD Steve Murray.

ceremony during October's Mac Fest.

Bolstorff was a coach and professor from 1957 to 2000. He coached the men's basketball team for thirty years, winning a program-best 264 games and receiving Minnesota's small college Coach of the Year award three times. As the track and cross-country coach, Bolstorff led his teams to eleven MIAC championships on the track and eight conference titles in cross country, coaching multiple individual champions in both sports. He retired as the golf coach in 2000 and was inducted into the Macalester Hall of Fame in 2003. Bolstorff passed away in December 2021 at the age of 90.

FITNESS FOR ALL





At her Minneapolis gym, Hannah Wydeven '09 has created a supportive culture that welcomes all bodies.

BY REBECCA DEJARLAIS ORTIZ '06

On a rainy fall morning in Minneapolis, the energy inside Solcana Fitness contrasts sharply with the dreary weather: A strength class is finishing up in the main studio space, with music pulsing over the speakers as the instructor cues the final sets. The mood is fun, even joyful, as people cheer on one another, clapping and smiling during a tough workout.

But the upbeat atmosphere coexists with a serious purpose. Solcana, owned by Hannah Wydeven '09, is a fitness center that deliberately welcomes all: BIPOC, queer and trans people, those with bigger bodies and disabilities, and anyone who might not feel comfortable in a traditional gym environment.

Wydeven found her way into the fitness space after graduation, when she was searching for community and the values-driven work she was drawn to at Macalester. She joined a CrossFit gym to make friends, not to discover a career path. That changed when she started coaching. "All of these people were coming in with baggage about their bodies and abilities," Wydeven says. "I started to realize that I could help people shift their mindset and see themselves as more than just the way they look."

Before long, she was coaching more, and pitching programs that fostered community both in the gym and the surrounding neighborhood: a women's-only class, free classes for kids, school partnerships. With financial support from a client, she decided to branch out on her own, and she opened Solcana in 2014.

Wydeven's initial goal was to establish a feminist CrossFit environment that pushed back against a type of exclusionary "bro" culture that can make women and other people who don't fit into that mold feel unwelcome. Over time, though, her vision started to grow its own identity, becoming with each step more inclusive. Some of that happened through Wydeven's reflection about her own identity. "I've always been so drawn to developing opportunities for women and queer people, but I didn't really know why," she says. "Part of our evolution is me realizing, 'Oh. Oops, I'm queer—that's why.' We were offering this space, and the people who came were so fully themselves. That gave me the opportunity to fully be myself, too."

Solcana's culture also has developed through feedback and ideas from its members. For example, client input prompted Wydeven to shift workouts away from CrossFit's rigid assessment metrics, add a scholarship program, and create programming for

trans people. "I'll never forget the first client who said, 'I'm a trans person,'" she says. "I said, 'Awesome. Are you comfortable telling me literally everything that would help you feel better here?' And they were. They opened the door for our trans strength programs, which have become a huge part of our community."

After six years of her gym's steady growth, Wydeven faced a turning point in 2020, even before the COVID-19 pandemic. Navigating postpartum anxiety and depression after the birth of her first child, she returned to work with major business challenges suddenly looming. "I knew how much money we needed to break even, but essentially, I had been relying on vibes," she says. "I had to learn that for us to really do impactful work, we have to be very business-minded, with strong systems and decisive leadership, and we need our team to be rested. Until that point, I was just burning myself in the fire every day, and all of a sudden, it wasn't sustainable."

Then the pandemic surged, and Solcana shut down for several months. Wydeven hired a business coach and started to implement changes, and the gym's financial picture began to improve. In the aftermath of George Floyd's murder, less than a mile away from Solcana, she formed a coalition with eight other gym owners who wanted to implement stronger racial justice commitments. They met weekly with equity consultants, who identified opportunities for improvement including making hiring practices more equitable and understanding how members of color might be interacting with Solcana's space. Wydeven also asked then-CrossFit CEO Greg Glassman to take a stand against systemic racism, then joined other gym owners in disaffiliating from CrossFit following public outcry around Glassman's comments on Floyd's murder, the resulting demonstrations, and the pandemic.

Today, Wydeven continues to advocate for more inclusive and equitable gym cultures, sharing advice when other gym owners ask for it. And Solcana continues to grow: at full capacity with 330 members (and more wait-listed), the 3,800 square-foot gym is starting to feel cramped. As Wydeven works on securing a larger space, her team is figuring out how to expand without sacrificing Solcana's close-knit community. One immediate goal is promoting an inclusive coach training series that she and her general manager created. It's designed to equip coaches with the skills and care to support people with a wide range of identities, body types, and needs.

As her business evolves, Wydeven has noticed she's no longer the gym's main character. In the fitness class on that rainy morning, she's part of the group working out, not standing out among the participants. These days, not everybody knows she's the owner—and that's what she wants. "I can't be the person here at all times," she says. "I don't want people to feel like this place is just me and my little tornado of ideas. There's a whole team, and we're not interchangeable, but we do all have the same ethos, and we're driven by the same mission. That's the dream, and it's happening now."

Rebecca DeJarlais Ortiz '06 is the director of strategic communication at Macalester.

HOW IT STARTED, HOW IT'S GOING

Entrepreneurship and innovation programs at Mac have helped alumni launch successful careers in art, government, venture capital—and more.

BY ERIN PETERSON

Macalester's Idea Lab on the library's second floor is a bustling space: students map out ideas on dry-erase boards, flip through books on innovation, and talk energetically with one another around small tables. The lab opened in 2017 as home to the Department of Entrepreneurship and Innovation, and it's where students go to take advantage of Macalester's robust offerings on entrepreneurship, ranging from guest lectures by visiting alumni entrepreneurs to the ten-week MacStartups competitive business incubator program that helps students transform innovative ideas into reality.

There's no question that entrepreneurial thinking is having a moment, particularly among young people. A Junior Achievement USA national survey published in 2022 found that 60 percent of teens are more interested in starting their own business than working a traditional job.

At Macalester, students are encouraged to pair their entrepreneurial drive with a grounding in the liberal arts, says Jody Emmings, director of entrepreneurship and innovation. Some fifty-three classes from seventeen disciplines have used the Idea Lab to help students pursue innovative thinking in their coursework. "When students have 'aha' moments in the classroom, we give them opportunities to explore questions and pursue experiential learning opportunities," says Emmings. In the 2022-23 academic year alone, that included 135 classes, workshops, and events in the Idea Lab, with twenty-seven faculty partners representing twenty different departments. Nearly 1,800 students visited the Idea Lab as part of their coursework.

The point, she says, is not necessarily for students to launch the next billion-dollar company (though she does encourage students to aim high). It is instead to help them build skills that will benefit them long beyond their time on campus. "Students who are graduating in an uncertain world cannot easily predict their future, so they need to know how to create it," she says. "Through entrepreneurship and innovation programming, students are able to generate and test their ideas to create something that does not yet exist. The learning that happens in the experimenting, practicing, and reflecting helps them build the entrepreneurial mindset and courage that allows them to build the future they want."

To see how these lessons play out beyond Macalester, we asked seven young alumni who have participated in entrepreneurship and innovation programming to share what they learned—and how those lessons continue to resonate years later.



RACHEL STROMSTA '19

HOW IT'S GOING

"These experiences have instilled a drive to keep learning in my career."

HOW IT STARTED

"It challenged me to think creatively."

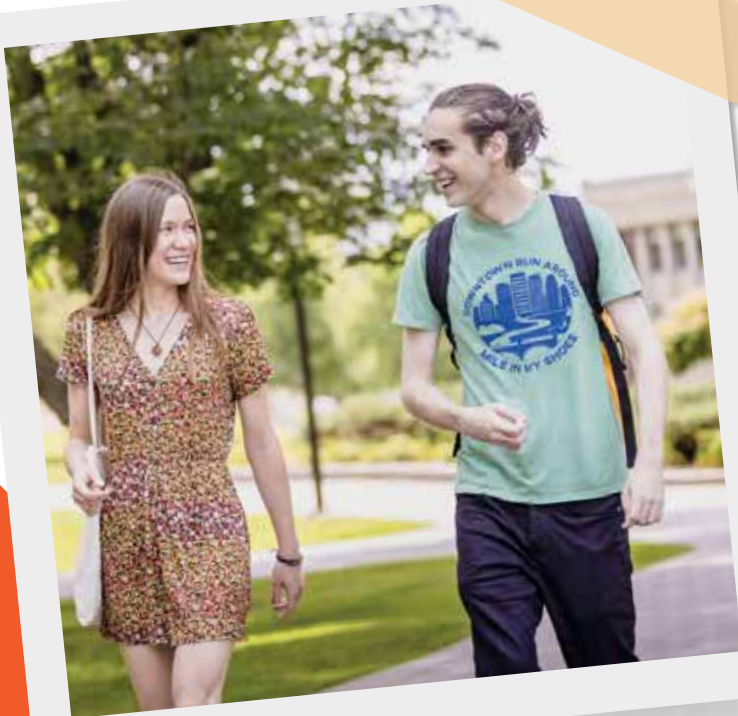
RACHEL STROMSTA HAD been interested in social justice issues even before she arrived at Macalester. So when she learned about the Introduction to Social Entrepreneurship course, she enrolled. "The focus on the process of building and facilitating growth in nonprofits stood out to me," she says.

The class led her to intern for a semester with a local advocacy organization on criminal justice reform initiatives, including around meaningful employment opportunities. Then, she joined MacStartups to support efforts to combat hiring bias and structural barriers in the Twin Cities. In her final year at Macalester, she worked with Lutfe-E-Noor Rahman '18 on a Live It Fund project that addressed the challenge of unsafe travel to school for girls in Bangladesh.

The work required her to design proposals, craft budgets, and collaborate with others who had different perspectives and ideas. "These were all components of Macalester's entrepreneurship program that challenged me to think creatively," she says.

STROMSTA, WHO EARNED her degree in political science with a concentration in human rights and humanitarianism, was most recently a program officer for the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, headquartered in Washington, D.C., that works to support and strengthen democratic institutions worldwide. She has supported the Institute's programs to promote peaceful and inclusive democratic processes, including through an international election observation mission for Nigeria's 2023 presidential polls.

The mix of academic courses and entrepreneurial programming Stromsta took at Macalester has helped her develop in her career. She appreciates what she learned in her academic coursework, and regularly uses the skills from her entrepreneurship experiences: taking initiative, collaboration, and networking to get support. "So much of my work in MacStartups and the Live It Fund have instilled a drive to keep learning in my career."



ZACH JORDAN '22

HOW IT STARTED

“My intention wasn’t to build a company.”

EYE MOVEMENT DESENSITIZATION and re-processing (EMDR) is a therapy technique that’s commonly used to treat trauma-related disorders—but that has typically relied on clunky physical technology. When Zach Jordan experienced the technique with a therapist in high school, he suspected that software tools might be a better solution.

He built a simple first version, EasyEMDR, for him and his therapist to use, then put it out on the internet in 2016 for anyone who wanted it. The demand for the tool, which is designed to lead patients to move their eyes in specific ways while processing traumatic memories, quickly grew to more than he could handle. “My intention wasn’t to build a company,” he says.

But while Jordan was at Mac, he decided to take an introductory entrepreneurship course with [former director and entrepreneur in residence] Kate Ryan Reiling ’00. “Kate was very good at pushing people to get started on an idea and follow through on it,” he says. “She made me realize that turning my work into a business and scaling it up could help me build a better tool with more infrastructure—which would ultimately be beneficial for end users.”

HOW IT’S GOING

“Our goal is about more than creating great tools.”

JORDAN’S COMPANY GREW steadily for years—until March 2020, when COVID-19’s stay-at-home orders led to explosive growth as therapy appointments moved online. Today, he leads a team of contractors to support the software, which is used by more than 10,000 therapists.

Jordan says he is particularly proud that he has embedded his own values into the company’s DNA. “We donate a minimum of 10 percent of all of our profits to charity, we give [the tool] away for free to anyone who can’t afford it, and we use our platform to talk about social issues that create trauma in the world,” he says. “Our goal is about more than creating great EMDR tools—it’s to address trauma more broadly.”



KIANTE MILES '20

HOW IT STARTED

“It was never about, ‘How do I get rich quick?’”

SLAM POETRY—A combination of poetry and performance—had always been a way for Kiante Miles to articulate his most complicated feelings about the world. He found particular solace in the art after he arrived at Macalester, which felt politically and culturally distinct from his Oklahoma home. Miles wanted to introduce other young people to the art form that helped him process his emotions.

With the help of the Live It Fund and MacStart-ups, he developed “Stay Woke Poetry,” a program that taught the basic skills of slam poetry to high school students in Minnesota and Oklahoma.” He helped students write and perform their own poems, which also were compiled and published in a physical book.

Miles says that the work taught him the importance of building something that was designed to last. “It was never about ‘How do I get rich quick?’” he says. “It was about coming up with creative solutions to complex problems, having a moral compass, and creating something sustainable.”

HOW IT'S GOING

“I want to help people now—and ten years from now.”

NOW A DATA engineer at Hagerty, a membership organization for car lovers, Miles has maintained an entrepreneurial mindset. He recently started his own company on the side, Miles of Art, which is designed to support and grow the Black presence in digital careers, whether that’s graphic art or software engineering. It’s a need he’s seen firsthand since entering the workforce.

He launched the endeavor with the same care he did with his slam poetry ventures, including an eye toward making impact now—and carefully managing his funding and energy so that he can continue to do so for years to come. “Macalester was great at instilling a sense of care about others,” he says. “My goal is to put [this venture] in a good place so I can help a lot of people not just now, but ten years from now.”

HOW IT STARTED

“It was a huge way to meet more people in the arts community.”

WHEN JULIETTE MYERS decided that she wanted to pursue a career as an artist, she knew she'd need more than just talent to succeed. “It required understanding entrepreneurship and business,” she says. “That led me to MacStartups.”

Through the ten-week program, Myers worked with Twin Cities artist Baki Porter to develop an art collective: a group of artists who ultimately came together for a one-time performance art event that included rap, dance, and poetry.

The work for MacStartups focused on the methodical process of taking an idea from concept to reality. Myers says that one of the steps that had an immediate impact was an assignment to talk to dozens of people working in a similar field to learn how to find funding and strengthen her skills as an artist. “I ended up interviewing more than fifty people connected to the arts, and they also connected me to other artists,” she says. “It was a huge way for me to network and meet more people in the arts community.”

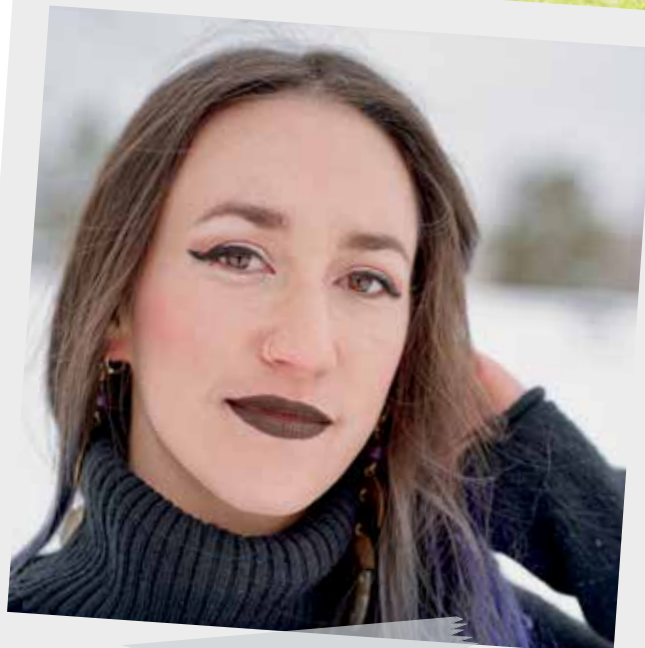
HOW IT'S GOING

“Building relationships is at the core of this work.”

TODAY, AS A public artist, muralist, and mosaic artist, Myers continues to benefit from her MacStartups experience. Many of the skills she honed as a student—including developing sharp pitches to describe her ideas, values, and approaches—continue to benefit her.

But even more than that, she's tried to model the kind of generosity that she experienced from alumni and artists when she was first learning about the field. “Today, I have people who want to talk with me about the arts community, and I'm happy to do that,” she says. “I learned how important it is to be generous with your time and information. Building relationships is at the core of this work.”

JULIETTE MYERS '17



HOW IT STARTED

“I wanted to create something that was real.”

Lilian Vo joined the board of the Live It Fund on a whim as a first-year student. Eventually, reading applications for students who wanted to pursue ambitious projects through the fund inspired her to devise her own.

Her junior year, she landed a grant to create The Sticky Rice Project, which used cooking, writing, and reflective workshops to build connections among different generations of the Vietnamese community in Seattle, where Vo grew up. The project, which included a print magazine component, connected her interest in her home city with her fascination with design. “I’m a designer through and through,” she says. “I wanted to go beyond ideas to create something that was real and tangible.”

While Vo never thought of herself explicitly as an entrepreneur, she did think of herself as creative; she went on to pursue other entrepreneurial programs including Macathon and frequently spent time in the Idea Lab. “The Idea Lab gave me space to be creative and collaborative,” she says.



LILIAN
VO '18



HOW IT'S GOING

“You have to try a lot of things to know if they’ll work.”

Sticky Rice led Vo directly to her current job at The On Being Project, an organization that produces podcasts, events, and tools to help people think about what it means to be human.

The art director at The On Being Project at the time came across Vo’s online portfolio, which included The Sticky Rice Project, and reached out. “I remember she said something along the lines of ‘Oh, so you’re an art director,’” Vo recalls. “It was cool to have a professional give words to what I was doing.”

Today, Vo herself is the organization’s senior art director, where she creates a variety of materials for the website and social media, and collaborates with illustrators and photographers. She says she still leans on the experimental mindsets that she developed in her entrepreneurial programs at Macalester. “You have to try a lot of things to know if they’re going to work. You’ve got to keep working and keep testing.”



HOW IT STARTED

"They gave me so much mentorship support."

GROWING UP IN Mexico, Cuauhtémoc Cruz Herrera was an eager participant in Math Olympiad, a team-based competition that fosters mathematical thinking. But even as he excelled, he worried about the competition's flaws: "Most of the students were private school students—there were few opportunities for public school students like me," he recalls.

While he was still in high school, he started working with public schools to help them get access to the competition. When he arrived at Macalester, he realized the Live It Fund could help him scale the work further. With the funding, he was able to work with more schools in Mexico to expand access to Math Olympiad experiences. It ended up reaching some 500 students.

Cruz Herrera says he benefited not just from the funding, but from advice he got from the Mac community during the process. "I would go to the entrepreneurship office to just chat with them about my project," he recalls. "They gave me so much mentorship support," he says.

Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programs

Macathon is an annual overnight innovation and creativity contest in which teams invent a unique and original service or product that solves a real-world problem.

MacStartups is a ten-week business incubator program for student entrepreneurs to launch their ideas globally, nationally, locally, or on campus. Students receive a \$6,000 stipend, \$500 per project seed funding, coaching, technological resources, and a peer community. In addition, students have access to accomplished mentors who have founded successful ventures, and industry-specific mentors.

The Live It Fund supports students who identify an opportunity or problem and propose an innovative solution. The Live It Fund provides funding for projects with awards up to \$1,500 in J-Term, followed by an opportunity to apply for summer funding of up to \$7,000.

HOW IT'S GOING

"It's a thousand times bigger."

TODAY, CRUZ HERRERA IS the director of exact sciences and mental skills for the Department of Education in Mexico's state of Jalisco. He oversees a portfolio of programs and activities linked to entrepreneurship, mathematics, and STEAM for teachers and students. He leads a team of more than fifty who have an impact on more than 100,000 students annually. "In many ways, much of my work is the same as what I was doing at Macalester, but a thousand times bigger," he says.



CUAUHTÉMOC
CRUZ HERRERA '19

HOW IT STARTED

“I began to believe that a for-profit business could be used to effect positive change.”

Jonah Kaplan loved the idea of being part of a team focused on making an impact in the world. When he had the chance to run the MacStartups program with Zach Willert '17, one year after its founding by Petar Petrovic '14, he jumped at the opportunity. “I began to believe that a for-profit business could be used to effect positive change,” he says. “MacStartups put me together with an interesting group of people, and on an exciting new path.” They aimed to build a program that leaned into liberal arts values and the unique challenges of launching a business. “There were people in the program from all different backgrounds and disciplines—political science, environmental science, math,” he says. “Having a deep expertise in a discipline unrelated to business can be a huge advantage.”

They also aimed to help build a community for the fledgling founders—both with fellow students, as well as alumni experts and the wider entrepreneurial community. “Being a startup founder is a lonely journey,” he says. “It’s really about the support you get from others along the way.”

HOW IT’S GOING

“What you can give founders is resources and support to keep going.”

Today, as the head of platform at early-stage venture capital firm BlueYard Capital, Kaplan sees parallels to the work he once did at Macalester. “A startup requires incredible will from a founder—as an outside supporter and investor, your job is to offer resources and support to keep them going,” he says. “At MacStartups, that was a small stipend, a supportive alumni network, and a cohort of like-minded students. Now, the scale and stakes are higher, but the exact same principles apply.”

Kaplan continues to lend a hand to the MacStartups program through a variety of volunteer efforts, including attending pitch feedback events. At some point, he hopes he’ll be more than just an advisor for today’s students. “My dream would be that at some point, BlueYard has the chance to invest in the work of Macalester alumni,” he says.

Erin Peterson is a Minneapolis-based writer.



JONAH KAPLAN '16



SERIOUS

FUN


On a Saturday afternoon at Minneapolis's Franklin Library, Chris Griffith reports for work in his standard attire: knee-high leather boots, a tight-fitting aviator helmet, a giant papier-mâché turtle shell on his back, and a ukulele strapped to his chest. Nearby, Shari Aronson, his wife and creative partner, has made her entrance in a fluffy bunny costume and Amelia Earhart goggles, shaking her tail and twinkling her eyes merrily.

During the next forty-five minutes, in front of a small crowd of kids and librarians, the pair will produce props and puppets of all sizes, sing songs, bang drums, and tell terrible jokes—all the sort of high-spirited silliness that's become their calling card as creative directors of Z Puppets Rosenschnoz, the theater company they founded twenty-five years ago. But with this performance of "Say it! Sing it! Play it! In Cherokee" they're also aiming for something more serious—leaving audiences at school assemblies and library programs around the country with a few new words in Cherokee, an endangered Indigenous language that experts believe is now spoken by fewer than 2,000 people.

One of 3,000 world languages in danger of disappearing by the end of the century, Cherokee is also one of the most difficult to learn, with a unique written syllabary (a table of syllables) of eighty-five symbols representing Cherokee's distinct

NATALIE CHAMPA JENNINGS





With playful persistence, award-winning puppeteer Chris Griffith '92 is working to keep the Cherokee language alive.

BY LAURA BILLINGS COLEMAN

sounds. For Griffith, a member of the Cherokee Nation, the idea of revitalizing Indigenous languages through performance and puppetry had always inspired him, “but I thought I had to wait until I became more proficient at the language myself. Then I heard a Cherokee elder explain that we’re losing native speakers much faster than we’re replacing them, and that it’s all hands on deck,” he says. “Whatever step we can take right now is a step in the right direction.”

Leaning in to learn more about his native roots has been a lifelong pursuit for Griffith, who grew up outside of Philadelphia, but made frequent trips to see extended family in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, the capital of two federally recognized Cherokee tribes. Within his first few weeks at Macalester, he became an active member of PIPE (Proud Indigenous Peoples for Education), working with other students to organize three annual Pow Wows that attracted thousands of Native dancers, drummers, and artists to campus. “Visiting other campuses, I could feel there was a kind of pressure to conform, but at Macalester there was very little pressure to be anything besides who you were,” he says.

That freedom allowed Griffith to pursue myriad interests, from his major in cultural anthropology, to improvisational theater, to juggling flaming torches (a skill he continues to highlight on his LinkedIn profile). “Something about the immediacy of street performance has always appealed to me. There’s so much unpredictability, but when it works, it works so well,” he says.

A Mac class that introduced him to the power of masks inspired a senior-year internship at Minneapolis’s In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre, where he continued to work after graduation. “Working with masks and puppetry requires skills in visual arts, performing arts, and music—you’re kind of drawn in some ways to become a jack-of-all-trades.” Griffith went on to become a co-founder and artistic director of Galumph, an interactive theater company that he describes as “possibly ahead of its time,” for persuading self-conscious Midwest-

erners to participate in theater through the magic of puppetry.

“People will say things to a puppet that they would never say to another person, and they’ll hear things from a puppet that they could never hear from a person,” says Griffith, who has earned recognition for his work from groups including the National Endowment for the Arts and the Jim Henson Foundation. “There’s something intangible about a puppet that speaks to an unconscious part of our minds that’s really compelling. I still don’t understand it, even after working with puppets for thirty years.”

A direct descendant of John Ross, the legendary Cherokee chief made to lead his tribe during “The Trail of Tears,” a more than 1,200-mile forced removal from Georgia to Oklahoma, Griffith says his Indigenous identity often felt similarly removed from the culture. “Presenting as someone with very light skin and blue eyes, nobody would assume I’m Cherokee unless I tell them. I’ve never felt fully immersed in either world,” he says. But as online resources and virtual learning communities began making Cherokee language learning more accessible, Griffith says, his shift in identity has been profound. “More than just a community of learning, it’s given me a sense of belonging. The language is a door that’s been unlocked for me.”

While Z Puppets Rosenschnoz continues to bring their Cherokee language programs on tour, they’ve also launched *Star Turtle*, a YouTube series with a Sesame Street-meets-science fiction fantasy vibe aimed at making Indigenous language learning even more engaging. Featuring the characters of Dagsi Turtle and Jisdu Wabbit, each episode follows the pair on a race through space and time to safeguard Grandmother Turtle, a metaphor for Indigenous language and culture. “Putting turtle and rabbit on a spaceship has been so much fun,” says Griffith. “There’s so much information out there about the Indigenous past, it’s exciting to imagine and contribute to an Indigenous future.”

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



Free AND Fair

David Maeda '87, Minnesota's director of elections, can't wait to see you at the polls.

BY LAURA BILLINGS COLEMAN

As Americans gear up for another grueling presidential election season in 2024, a new Pew Research Center poll finds that only 10 percent of us feel hopeful about our political system, while nearly two-thirds of us are exhausted just thinking about it.

If you see yourself in these statistics, David Maeda '87 has a suggestion: Sign up to be an election judge on November 5, and you may find yourself inspired anew by the commitment and coordination it takes to put on a free and fair election. "I tell this to everyone," regardless of age, race, creed, or partisan leanings, says Maeda, the State of Minnesota's director of elections since 2019. "If you're worried, if you have doubts, then get involved."

This year, Minnesota's more than 4,000 election precincts are expected to need up to 30,000 election judges, civic-minded citizens trained to support and safeguard the voting process for the state's 3.5 million registered voters. But recruiting so many people after the 2021 Capitol attack and in the ongoing climate of election denialism may take a little extra effort.

"There's never been a harder time to be an election official, with a not insignificant number of Americans who don't believe elections are fair," Maeda says. Though the name-calling and threats from voters accusing him of treason for certifying the 2020 election have died down, concerns about how artificial intelligence could imperil the 2024 election are just ramping up. "It's very challenging to operate in this environment," he says.

But being at the center of the nation's news cycle nearly every November is also energizing for Maeda, a native of Roseville, Minn., who chose Macalester in large part because of its reputation for deep civic engagement. "I was always reading the newspaper and thinking about world events, but it seemed like no one in my high school cared about those things," he says. "When I came to visit Macalester, I immediately loved the fact that everyone on campus was talking about politics."

Maeda majored in journalism and history, worked as a sports editor for the *Mac Weekly*, and hosted his own radio show—a one-hour weekly slot featuring nothing but Frank Sinatra. ("I had at least one listener—a woman who worked in the Geography Department who told me she liked it.") His passion for pop music (he's seen Bob Dylan in concert forty-nine times) led to a lengthy tenure at St. Paul's Cheapo Records, which helped him amass a collection of more than 2,000 recordings (more than 200 by Dylan).

A few years after graduation, he got his first government job as a clerk-typist in the Secretary of State's office. One of his duties was to drive Secretary Joan Growe around on election night, visiting the office's two separate locations. Both the buzz and the bureaucracy of election work appealed to Maeda, who went on to a series of election administration posts in Wash-

ington and Hennepin counties, before becoming city clerk of Minnetonka in 2007. Returning to the Secretary of State's office as director of elections in 2019 brought his career full circle.

"I'll admit I liked the story arc of starting in one of the lowliest positions in this organization, and then coming back years later in a leadership position," says Maeda, who recently finished writing a memoir including a chapter about his life in election work. As a Japanese American whose father's family was forced into an internment camp in Idaho during World War II, "It's not lost on me that my grandparents would be astounded that they would have a grandson who can serve in a position like this," he says. "Many of

us in this profession see this work not necessarily as a calling, but as something that is fundamental to our democracy. The people who get into this field feel this deeply."

Maeda is also an elections leader nationally, serving as the secretary to the board of the Electronic Registration Information Center, a nonpartisan organization of twenty-four states and the District of Columbia aimed at both increasing voter registration and removing ineligible voters from state rolls. While Minnesota already leads the nation in turnout (with 79.57 percent of eligible voters casting a ballot in 2020), a host of new laws passed in 2023 may help even more residents get to the polls, including a new pre-registration pro-

gram for sixteen- and seventeen-year-olds, restored voting rights for more than 50,000 individuals who have already served their time for felony convictions, and new protections for voters who need time off from work to cast a ballot. Maeda is especially enthusiastic about a new automatic voter registration program, similar to Colorado's, linking Driver and Vehicle Services documents to voting records. When individuals get a driver's license, they are automatically registered to vote.

While post-election reviews continue to show Minnesota's election systems are sound, Maeda says that every cycle presents new challenges. Minnesota's 2008 Senate recount "meant I had to become much more versed in litigation," he says, while 2016 cyberattacks elevated security protocols, and the pandemic in 2020 meant "we had to become public health experts, too." This year, disinformation campaigns are high on election officials' radar, one reason Maeda is encouraging voters to get their ballot information directly from the Secretary of State's website or from their county's election office.

Still, Maeda says, the greatest threat to democracy in November is not showing up. "Vote in every election," he says. "It's the most important thing you can do."

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

★★★
"I tell this to everyone—if you're worried, if you have doubts, then get involved."
—DAVID MAEDA '87



An Annotated FIELD GUIDE

to the Katharine Ordway Natural History Study Area



RIVER OTTER

Lontra canadensis

Semiaquatic mammal that lives only on the North American continent, along waterways and coasts. Tracks are super distinct—otters have webbed feet but slide on their bellies a lot, too.

At Macalester's "second campus" students observe and learn about the natural world.

BY JULIE HESSLER '85

Illustrations by Marjorie Leggitt

Sixteen miles from 1600 Grand, the college's Katharine Ordway Natural History Study Area, commonly referred to as the Ordway Field Station or just Ordway, boasts a diverse landscape. The field station with its solar-paneled roof, is located on 278 acres, part of the National Park Service's Mississippi National River and Recreation Area protected corridor that includes a mile of riverfront along the Mississippi River; a backwater lake; several freshwater ponds; an oak-dominated forest; a restored prairie; an older intact prairie; an Aspen-dominated woodland—and numerous vertebrates and invertebrates that dwell therein.

Macalester established the field station in 1967 with a gift of \$150,000 from Katharine Ordway, a St. Paul philanthropist who used her wealth to protect Great Plains prairies. The field station is named in her honor.

Although Ordway's Inver Grove Heights property is ready-made for studying biology, "it's not just a biology place," says Jerald Dosch, biology

professor and Ordway's director. "It's a Macalester place—our second campus. All of Ordway revolves around undergraduate liberal arts education." Its use proves him right. In addition to biology, the college's departments of anthropology, art and art history, educational studies, English, environmental studies, geography, geology, and media and cultural studies have all used the facility in recent years for teaching and research.

The college's new comprehensive campus plan includes a request to expand Ordway in the coming decade. But to understand what Ordway could be and could mean for future students, we wanted to know what Ordway is now. Open year-round by permission to members of the Mac community as well as to visitors, Ordway is an outdoor classroom, a research hub, and a space for discovery. Our field guide provides a look at some of Ordway's flora and fauna—and at the lessons that Macalester students learn on and off its trails.

Let's start with wonder.



BIG BLUESTEM

Andropogon gerardii

Prairie grass that can grow up to eight-feet tall. Changes color across the seasons from green to blue-green to red.



Wonder.

Bringing students to Ordway each winter is one of Dr. Mike Anderson's favorite things to do. Anderson, Ordway's associate director and resident naturalist and instructor for the Biology Department, lives onsite with his cat Nigel and knows the field station well. He uses Ordway for the Ecology and the Environment lab course that he teaches every spring. "We start in February, and there's often so much snow on the ground that we have to trek in snowshoes," he says. "Last year it was fifteen below the day we went down for our first field trip, with a windchill of twenty-five below. Many of the students had never been on snowshoes before, and they were anxious about going out in the weather. But the sun came out, and we provided chemical hand- and foot-warmers for

everyone so they wouldn't get frostbite. It was super quiet and there were [animal] tracks all around. You see the signs of life that are still happening, and it's beautiful in a really stark way. The students learn that they can do this and go out and enjoy this, even though it's so intimidatingly cold. To watch them change from that anxiety to a kind of wonder is really remarkable."

COYOTE

Canis latrans

Canine species, native to North America.

Smaller than a wolf (its close relative).

Bringing the classroom outside.

"One of my favorite courses, and I'm biased because I help teach it, is Outdoor Environmental Education," says Dosch. "I'm a deep believer in the importance of vocational exploration opportunities at Mac. In this course, students teach local elementary school children at Ordway. It gives Mac students an opportunity to try informal education outdoors, and takes it out of theory: Is this something I like or not? We've had alumni from that class go on to become professional outdoor environmental educators."

Ben Pritchard '23 (Milwaukee, Wis.) is one of those alumni. After graduating in June, he began a one-year position as the naturalist fellow at the Dodge Nature Center in West St. Paul, where he works with naturalist Mary Dybvig '14 and farm director Don Oberdorfer '91. His role includes feeding and taking care of the center's animals, and educating visiting school groups. "I'll run anything from Trees to our Farm Tour class to Wilderness Skills and Introduction to Nature, which is just giving kindergartners their first experience of, 'Wow, look at how

cool these leaves look! Can you tell me what color, what shapes? How do you describe this?'"

Pritchard describes the Outdoor Environmental Education course he took at Mac as "hands-on learning." The experiential course is interdisciplinary, drawing on education, biology, and environmental studies frameworks. Working in groups, students design and implement structured, engaging, and rigorous educational experiences for children at Ordway. Pritchard is proud of a seed game he created to help children learn how seed dispersal works. "The course is a great model for what I do right now," he says. "I remember Jerald saying, 'When the students come off the bus, you have to be ready and have all of the materials out there.'"

For the course's final project, students create a two-week lesson plan aligned with state education standards, around a topic of their choice. Pritchard chose Bdote—the Dakota homeland at the confluence of the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers near St. Paul's Historic Fort Snelling—and the history behind the land.



To learn about visiting Ordway, go to macalester.edu/ordway/visiting.

Connecting the past and the future.

According to the Macalester Archives Counterbalance project, Ordway is the site of four archaeological digs containing material culture from previous Dakota inhabitants. In 2018, Abby Thomsen '20 began a project to use these digs as a point of connection with contemporary Dakota communities. Thomsen's collaboration with Dakota descendants to produce new interpretive signs for the Ordway sites was the subject of her 2020 honors project in anthropology.

In 2015, five students conducting an archeological survey with anthropology professor Scott Legge found a 2,500-year-old piece of pottery on their first day at Ordway. This was a particularly important discovery as pottery of that type had been found in southwestern Minnesota, but not in southeastern Minnesota. Later, in a second plot, they found stone-tool remnants.

Sculpting nature.

Art professor Megan Vossler took a group of students from her Drawing 2 course out to Ordway to create site-specific sculpture. They had studied the work of artist Andy Goldsworthy, who uses only materials he finds on site.

"We wanted to experience that type of process," says Vossler. "The students were not allowed to bring any tools or materials with them." Students used what they found and rearranged the items into a visual design that would peacefully coexist with the surrounding ecosystem.



WHITE-TAILED DEER

Odocoileus virginianus

Medium-sized deer native to North America.

Being a part of the hive.

At a September Beekeeping 101 event hosted by the Sustainability Office, twenty Macalester students and staff learned about beekeeping from Erin Rupp '04, founder and executive director of Pollinate Minnesota. Rupp keeps approximately 100,000 honey bees at Ordway, using them to teach visitors about bees and how to make Minnesota better for pollinators and people. "It's hard to be a bee these days," says Rupp, as she and the students discuss threats to bees from habitat loss and pesticide exposure. Students learn about the number of different native bee species in Minnesota (approximately 500), as well as how to identify kinds of bees.

Later, the students don white beekeeping suits and protective hoods and follow Rupp down into a prairie below the field station. At the beehives, Rupp lights a bee smoker, explaining that the smoke helps keep the bees calm, and then she carefully lifts out one of the hive's vertical trays housing hundreds of active honey bees. In turn, with Rupp's instruction and warm encouragement, students delicately grasp the sides of the humming tray and hold it, watching the bees in action, and working together to identify the drones, workers, and, finally, the queen.

Back in the parking lot, the group samples fresh honey straight from the hive, dipping their fingers in the tray's sticky golden pools and savoring the sweetness before returning home to campus.



HONEY BEE

Apis mellifera

Most common of the seven to twelve species of honey bees worldwide. *Apis* is Latin for "bee"; *mellifera* is Latin for "honey-bearing."

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN

Pelecanus erythrorhynchos

One of the largest North American birds. Prehistoric-looking large heads and huge, heavy bills. Flocks of 100+ pelicans are often spotted at Ordway's River Lake in spring and fall. Ordway's Mississippi River location means about 40 percent of North America's migratory birds fly by or through Ordway twice a year.



NORTHERN RED OAK

Quercus rubra

Grows fifty-five to eighty feet tall. Leaves have deep lobes with pointed tips. Acorns are large and bitter.



Seeing the forest and the trees.

While undertaking a ten-week internship at Ordway last summer, Lindsey Gould '25 (Sharon, Mass.) and other student research interns used twenty by twenty-meter plots set up across the Ordway forest, measured every tree's diameter, and cataloged each tree's condition—tracking things like overall health and signs of pest infestation.

Macalester belongs to the Ecological Research as Education Network (EREN), a group of small, primarily undergraduate institutions that do the same research projects with the same protocols and then combine those data to do large-scale studies across larger geographic areas.

The Ordway data were added to EREN's Permanent Forest Plot Project (PFPP), which helps researchers address questions related to tree biomass, carbon accumulation, invasive species, and disturbance patterns across a range of sites and ecoregions.

"The fact that I'm able to be here [at Mac] and have access to an urban area, and then go to Ordway and have that connection with nature is so important to me," says Gould. A biology and chemistry double major, Gould describes moments from her summer living and interning at Ordway—eating breakfast each morning in front of the field station's large picture window that frames Ordway's prairie, exploring the muddy trails near the river, and watching a group of turkeys and poulters meander across the property.

Using EREN tree data from the past decade, Gould created a data dashboard with RStudio, a statistical analysis software, for her final intern-



BALD EAGLE

Haliaeetus leucocephalus

Majestic! Adults have a blackish-brown body with white head and tail. There are at least two active nests at Ordway.

ship project. "I turned that into the first iteration of what could be a teaching tool for Ecology and the Environment, the intro-level biology class," she says. "Students go out to Ordway and investigate oak decline. It's kind of hard to notice if you're not counting the trees, but over the past few decades, oaks worldwide have been dying off, and the causes aren't well understood."

Gould's dashboard could help illustrate the proportional change in oak decline for new students. "I have three questions," she says. "One: Of the living trees, how fast are they growing? Two: Where are the living trees? And three: Where are the dead trees? The last question is one of the most important things to look at. I didn't make any conclusions; I didn't do a traditional research project where I had a question and an answer. My question was, What can we do with all of this data? And here is one answer."

Exploring civic engagement.

"People who spend more time outdoors understand the outdoors more, value the outdoors more, and probably make voting and purchasing decisions based on that," says Dosch. "So Ordway is the sustainability of democracy as well."

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

BUTTERFLY WEED

Asclepias tuberosa L.

A type of milkweed; bright-orange flowers, prominent in June; essential for monarch butterflies.



The Notes WE SHARED



A recent *Macalester Today* reader survey revealed that Class Notes is one of the most widely read sections of the magazine. // A part of our collective story, these notes have appeared in college publications throughout nearly all of our 150-year history. // As we begin our yearlong celebration of the college's sesquicentennial, we share a selection of notes published in *The College Echo*, the *Macalester College Bulletin*, the *Mac Weekly*, and *Macalester Today*.

BY JULIE HESSLER '85

IMAGES COURTESY OF MACALESTER COLLEGE ARCHIVES

❧ 1888 ❧

Harry Greenlee, one of Mac's first students, called on some of the boys at the college building last Thursday.

❧ 1894 ❧

W. P. Kirkwood '90 breakfasted at the dorm on the 24th. We would be pleased to see more of our friend, but when the baseball season is fully underway, he will no doubt favor us with frequent calls and impart an occasional injunction to aspirants on the diamond field.

❧ 1904 ❧

After two years of successful teaching in Pelican Rapids Miss Millacent Mahlum '01, was called to her hometown—Brainerd—to the department of Latin in the high school. Latin language and literature find in her, we are sure, a highly creditable interpreter. We are glad to learn that besides her excellent work in the high school at Pelican Rapids she won high praise in the community as a teacher of piano.

No doubt justice is a little better administered in the state because Paul A. Ewert '94 was some time since made assistant to the attorney general. There are two articles in Ewert's political and professional faith: "Put the criminals in (the pen)," and "Put the rascals out."

❧ 1905 ❧

G. Welbon '97 of Korea, and Paul Doeltz '99 of the Philippine Islands, have been visiting with friends in the Twin Cities. Mr. Welbon spoke at Chapel and preached at the Macalester Church.

Miss Anna M. Dickson '98 entertained the members of the senior class at a Valentine party at her home.

❧ 1915 ❧

Margaret Defiel '15 is teaching in Hills, Minn., having entire charge of the English Department. She took the physical geography class on a hike the other day, fell into a muddy creek, and was chased by a pig. She didn't say who won.

❧ 1917 ❧

Fuku Hyashi '14 visited at the hall Sunday.

❧ 1918 ❧

April 28, 1918. Fremont Taylor '17 is with me here, and last night we had a great time recalling people and events back at college. Of course we remembered the pushball contest, in which we so thoroughly beat the present senior class. I would like to be back there for Commencement. I wanted to be there last year but couldn't make it. Maybe next year I can do better. I'll try and fix it up with the Kaiser. —Your Friend, Carleton E. Ralph '17, Artillery School Detachment, American Expeditionary Forces, France

❧ 1920 ❧

Paula Doerman '19, was a visitor at Mac last Friday. Paula teaches at Austin, Minn., but her school has been having a flu vacation.

❧ 1924 ❧

Margaret Doty '14, Walter Teller '21, Roy Grieg '19, and Enrique Sobrepena '23 all spent the summer doing research at Columbia University.

❧ 1928 ❧

Marjory L. Hanson '11 called at the college January 7. An injury received from a bucking Korean pony necessitated her return to America, though she declared that leaving her teaching in the Bible Institute in Andong, Korea, was very hard for her. She is thoroughly absorbed in her work, and full of enthusiasm.

❧ 1930 ❧

Barclay Acheson '10, secretary of the executive committee of Near East Relief, writes, "A young woman had been working in this office for several months. I realized that she was exceptionally good, but of course had no way of knowing the explanation. In looking up my name in some reference book she saw I was a Macalester graduate and then she herself explained that she too was a graduate of that noble institution. The moral is obvious." Mr. Acheson's very efficient secretary is Marian Eastlee '29.

❧ 1937 ❧

Beryl Brownlee '16, Sheridan, Wy., writes that she is fascinated by the book she is reading: *Live Alone and Like It*. She is teaching geometry and dramatic art, having put on *Mr. Pim Passes By* recently.



Ilma Ruohmaki '24 is in the employ of the government of Finland in the Finnish Travel Information Bureau in New York. She recently booked Arthur Hunt '11 for a trip to Finland.

❧ 1941 ❧

Our May 24 alumni meeting was held at New York University as guests of Dean George R. Collins. The speaker was Dr. Catharine Lealtad '15. Her subject: "I Doctor Sick Folks in Harlem."

Rev. Ernest R. Armstrong '28, pastor of the Brighton Park Presbyterian Church in Chicago, writes, "I hesitate, as no doubt most of the others do, to send the editors any personal data for the reason that no great or notable events have transpired. As the pastor of this church, my time is filled with such things as study, sick calls, various meetings at church, weddings, finding jobs for men out of work, funerals, talking over problems with perplexed folks—so that some days my wife and seven-year-old daughter hardly see me at all. But through it all there is a sense of satisfaction in feeling that I'm right where I belong. Best wishes to you all."

❧ 1945 ❧

Pfc. Elwin J. Reps, age 23, was killed in action in Germany on April 5. Reps was serving in the infantry. He left Macalester, where he was a cheerleader, in the spring of 1943. His home was St. Paul.

❧ 1948 ❧

Mrs. L.C. (Fei-Man Wang) Tzu '25, Lanchow, Kansu, China, writes that the Alumni Bulletins have been received there, despite poor transportation. Mrs. Tzu is still head of the department of Home Economics, National Teachers College.

❧ 1950 ❧

Dr. Joseph W. Cochran '99, Nantucket, Mass., only living member of the Class of 1899, delivered on Sept. 22 the historical

sermon in the American Church of Paris on the one-hundredth anniversary of the founding of the church. The French government on that occasion awarded him the decoration "Palme Académique."

1951

In celebration of Founders Day on March 9, forty Macalester alumni clubs across the nation held meetings simultaneously. Clubs in Mexico City, Honolulu, and Beirut also held meetings. The new bagpipe band appeared at the local meeting.

1957

The Chicago Mac Clan made a gift of \$150 to establish a Kindergarten Book Corner at the college's library. Sixty-one books were purchased. The group specified that the books be in the elementary field and the committee laid special emphasis on science books that would be of special help to teachers who want to make young Americans more science-conscious.

1961

Virginia Zontelli '60, former Homecoming Queen, paid a recent visit to the Twin Cities to recruit hostesses for Pan American World airways. Ginny went to work for Pan Am following graduation and is now making trans-Atlantic flights. Her knowledge of Italian and the fact that she is a licensed private pilot helps in her career.

1966

Classmates of Al Giddings '61 will be interested to know that he has been at Danang, South Vietnam, since July. Al is a helicopter pilot and a captain in the Marine Corps.

Dallas Rae Lindgren '63, who is continuing work on her MA in political science at the University of Minnesota, was a civil rights volunteer for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in their Summer Community Organization and Political Education (SCOPE) program. She worked with other volunteers from Minnesota in Peach County, Georgia, with the Black community in voter registration, community organization, and political education.

Felipe Garcia-Beraza '44, Mexico City, is the new bulletin editor for Centro Mexicano de Escritores, a nonprofit writers organiza-

tion. His book *City Built on a Lake*, a history of Mexico City, will be published next year.

1969

Gene M. Takei '49, Richmond, Calif., is general sales manager of Yasutomo and Company, San Francisco. He had the unique experience of introducing to the US the first fiber or nylon-tipped marker pen, "Pentel."

Douglas S. Young '49 has been named executive director of the state's most politically active citizen conservation group, the Minnesota Environmental Control Citizens Association (MECCA).

Phelps "Flip" G. Schulke '54 won first place in magazine photography in the twenty-sixth annual pictures of the year competition with his *Life Magazine* cover page picture of Mrs. Martin Luther King. The portrait showed Mrs. King while attending the funeral services for her husband.

Richard S. Nutt '07, Grover City, Calif., reminisced on the St. Thomas/Macalester baseball game in 1907 when the final score was Mac 2, and St. Thomas 1. He stated that people pushed streetcars off

their tracks, and even policemen from their horses. Some game enthusiasm! Mr. Nutt is president of the Canadian, US, Mexican Highway Association.

1972

Monte M. Mason '71 is currently residing in a garret, selling choral music at Schmitt Music in Minneapolis, and directing the choir at Salem English Lutheran Church.

George Perry '70, Atlanta, has completed one and a half years as a conscientious objector working as the director of a community cultural center in St. Louis. He is now studying at Atlanta University for graduate degrees in Afro-American Studies.

1973

Dr. Surender Singh '56, professor of politi-





1974

Manuelita Mendez '74, San Antonio, Texas, was selected as one of the Outstanding Young Women of America for 1974.

Ira A. Cummings '73, St. Paul, one of the original EEO students to graduate from Mac, is working in the criminal justice program in conjunction with the Governor's Crime Commission. He is with the Metropolitan Council of the Twin Cities area, Regional Planning Agency for a seven-county area.

1975

Richard Handeen '73 and Audrey Arner '73, Montevideo, Minn., are "students of the universe, tending to a garden, making pots, chopping wood, and sharing love with David, born last year."

Edward J. Willow '27 is consultant to the Minnesota Republican Finance Committee, with primary responsibility for the development of the "Elephant Fund," the larger gifts. He is executive director of the Minnesota Society for the Prevention of Blindness.

1976

Nancy Conklin '73, Anchorage, Alaska, is the first female installer for the floor-covering union and does freelance photography in the arctic wilds.

Marlene Johnson '68, St. Paul, is seen in Lutheran Brotherhood's Bicentennial film, *The New Patriots*. Her expression of patriotism is a commitment to working within the American political system. She's chairperson of the Women's Political Caucus in St. Paul.

1978

Charles M. Young '73 is an associate editor of *Rolling Stone* where he is the resident expert on punk rock. After receiving his master's degree from the Columbia School of Journalism in 1975, he freelanced for the *Village Voice*, *Crawdaddy* and the *New York Times*.

cal science at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, has been elected president of Hardoi Educational Society in Northern India. The Society is dedicated to establishing schools, libraries, and village uplift projects in India, where Singh is manager of two schools, established with the help

of his wife and their friends, which provide education for 500 children.

Tower chimes continue to play on Sunday mornings at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis because John A. Fulton '34 has rung them for twenty-two years.

He's written about Harlem, the Sex Pistols, prison reform, Bugs Bunny, Mel Brooks, Kiss, and the Grateful Dead, among other subjects.

Martha Whiting '71, Houston, has served as a field representative for Cooperative for American Relief Everywhere (CARE) in Kenya, acting as spokesperson for both women's rights and for an increased concern for women in economic development planning. She was involved with a project that provided clean, safe drinking water to the villages of western Kenya in the Rift Valley area. The project was assisted with a grant from the Agency for International Development. Martha supervised the initial phases of the CARE water project that linked the villages of the area to new sources of water. She earned a master's degree in public and international affairs in 1974 from the University of Pittsburgh.

1986

Matthew L. Friedman '80 is a piper with the twenty-three-year-old First Salinas Valley Highlanders bagpipe band in Salinas, Calif. He's also assistant transportation study coordinator with the Monterey County Transportation Commission.

"I wish I had an impressive list of accomplishments for you," writes Linda Jerabek Miller '65 from Champion, Wis., "but alas I am still happily rearing my six children, writing to my stepchildren and my 22.8 grandchildren, chopping wood in the summer, stacking it all fall, and burning it all winter."

The Class of '43 produced a bumper crop of playwrights! Mary Ella Goins Randall's play *The Day Judge Whipper Went to Jail* won first prize (and \$1,000) in a Baltimore television station's fourth annual competition for Black playwrights. Chosen among eighty plays submitted, Randall's creation is based on a historical account of a Black judge who settled in South Carolina after the Civil War—and who adopted the grandfather of Randall's husband. It was produced by the Arena Players and aired last February on WMAR-TV. Randall is adjunct professor of English at the University of the District of Columbia.

1993

Many Mac alums volunteered for "It's time, Minnesota," a statewide grassroots organizing lobbying effort which won pas-

sage during the 1993 legislative session of amendment to include sexual orientation in Minnesota's Human Rights Act. Among them were campaign co-chair C. Scott Cooper '90, who works for Sen. Paul Wellstone, and media committee co-chair David Enyeart '90.

1999

Cynthia J. Smith '76 is the community educator for Sexual Offense Services of Ramsey County, a rape crisis center. Cynthia occasionally speaks at Macalester, and writes "I have the good fortune of working with numerous Mac students who volunteer on our crisis phone line."

Deborah Sengupta '95 plays bass in a seven-piece, all-female hip-hop/funk band called Buttah-Fly. "After six or seven months playing, we were just voted as one of the top 10 hip-hop/soul bands in the Austin Music Awards."

Masashi Nagadoi '87 reports that his short film, *Moment Cafe*, won the Gold Award at Houston's prestigious World-Fest Film Festival. Masashi is currently in pre-production of his first feature film.

2002

Willie "Bill" Bettelyoun '72, who has lived with AIDS for thirteen years, was profiled in the Sioux Falls, S.D. *Argus Leader* last June. "I've had this so long, I guess I've beaten the odds," the Rosebud native told the newspaper. "But all my friends are gone, and I'm sure my days are running out." Willie lives at Berakhah House in Sioux Falls, which cares for people with AIDS. "On the days I'm not completely sick, I can look at myself, see the value of friendships, of spirituality, the value of compassion," he said. "I never would have gotten that at Berkeley or through any book. I had to learn it myself." [Editor's note: Willie died on March 17, 2003.]

Brady Robinson '95 recently got back from Pakistan after attempting to climb K7. The team ran out of food and spent five days waiting out a storm in a hanging tent designed for two people. "Storms kept us from the summit, but everyone returned home friends, with fingers and toes intact, so it was a success," he writes. He offered his best wishes to all his friends in the US and Pakistan as the world struggles to deal





with the Sept. 11 attacks. Brady is currently working as a program director in Chile for Outward Bound.

Jo Modahl Morrill '56 wrote, "Retire—doesn't sound like me! Rediscover, rethink, remake, perhaps!"

Joanna Kepka de Fernandez '95 received a doctorate in geography from the University of Oregon in June 2000. In January 2001, Joanna and her husband, Alfredo, welcomed their first son, Milosz Juan Pablo. They traveled to Poland, Germany, Thailand, and Malaysia last summer. In Poland, Joanna saw Agnieszka Brzeska '94, who was visiting from the Congo, and in Bangkok she caught up with Constanze Ruprecht '96 who was working on a project in northern Thailand.

2012

Art Bell '40 and Fran Tripp Bell '39 of Chanhassen, Minn. celebrated their seventieth wedding anniversary last June.

2015

Barbara Phillips '71 and her son Charles traveled in Israel and Palestine with a delegation from the Social Justice Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago.

2016

Abaki Beck '15 was among the twenty-five young Montanans who received this year's Forward Montana Foundation's 25 Under 25 Award. She was recognized for her research regarding food sovereignty and traditional ecological knowledge of the Blackfeet Reservation as well as for her previous work on health care and Native American issues for the US House of Representatives.

Last spring, Margaret Uppgren Ely, Mary Ann MacDonald Huelster, Paul Siegler, and Ruth Booman, all Class of 1947, met for breakfast in St. Paul to celebrate reaching or passing the age of ninety.

2019

Ann Millin '69 has retired from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, where she had served as a historian since 1999. She is the 2018–19 Distinguished Visiting Professor in Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Richard Stockton University.



Ariel Estrella '15 has begun the doctoral English program at Cornell University. They will focus their research on queer of color lyricism.

River, a solo installation by artist and poet Jen Bervin '94, was presented at the Des Moines Art Center from October 2018 to January 2019. Jen created the piece over twelve years, sewing the sequined 230-curvilinear-foot-long sculpture by hand. The piece is installed on the gallery ceiling and "maps" the length of the Mississippi River at a scale of one inch to one mile.

2021

Abass Noor '13 and Hannah McIntire '13 welcomed their first child, Elias Abas Mohamud, in March 2020. "Elias loves that he was able to quarantine with his parents for the first few months of life!" writes Hannah. "We all look forward to seeing Mac friends after the pandemic."

2023

Daniel Hellerman '81 wouldn't quite say he's become a farmer, but he does have 125 acres near Enosburg Falls, Vermont, with a barn and house that are about as old as Macalester, and he does get muddy and produce some food. During the winter he retires to Chapel Hill, NC.

2024

We would love to hear from you.
What three things would you most like the Macalester community to know about you? Tell us about yourself by sharing a Class Note with *Macalester Today* during our sesquicentennial year. Email mactoday@macalester.edu. Read more Class Notes on page 36.

Language and Music

Language and music are inextricably linked. Both rely on sounds or signs and culturally specific practices, and both are used to communicate and convey social meaning.

Language and music also morph in complex ways when they interact with each other. How is music interpreted in sign languages, for example? What happens to hip-hop when it's created in different languages?

These are just some of the questions Dr. Morgan Sleeper '11, a professor of linguistics, and his students explore in his class "Language and Music."

In what key ways are language and music connected?

In class, we look at this question in four different ways. One is the idea of "music in language," or the musical elements that we find in language—things like pitch, rhythm, cadence, and melody.

Another area is "music as language." What does it mean to say music and what does it mean to say language? In some ways that's obvious. If you're having a conversation in your kitchen, maybe that's language, and if you're on stage performing at a concert, maybe that's music. But we have a lot of things that are in between. What happens if you are walking down the road singing and talking to yourself?

We also look at the confluence of what we talk about as "language about music." How do people talk about music in an evaluative sense, but also how do people teach music, interact with music, and create their identities when talking about music?

The area we spend the most class time on is the idea of "language in music." What does music change about language, and vice-versa, when they interact? If we're speaking a language versus singing it, how might it change?

How do music and sign languages interact?

First, there is a misconception that all people who are deaf are not interested in music. Many people who are deaf can hear aural music in a lot of ways. But when music interacts with sign languages, it really blows up what we think of as multimodality in terms of language and music.

Music is very multimodal in general. If you're listening to music, there's more than just the audio. You're at a concert, you're moving around, you're hearing things, but you're also seeing things and feeling things. You're pulling up memories and associations you have with this music. It's an experience that is about much more than sound. When you get into the idea of music and sign languages, it's adding that additional modality of visual language on top of that.

One example is "song translations," where people create videos of themselves translating a popular song into a sign language. Sometimes these use the original audio as a backing track but performed with the sign language. This opens up the possibility of

creative mismatches between things like rhythm across these two modes, in the sense that you can have one rhythm in the aural music in the background, while the rhythm of the sign translation could be in a different meter. They might then match up at interesting points for emotional effect, for example. You're able to experience music in two different ways at once, auditorily and also visually.

How does hip-hop vary when it's in different languages?

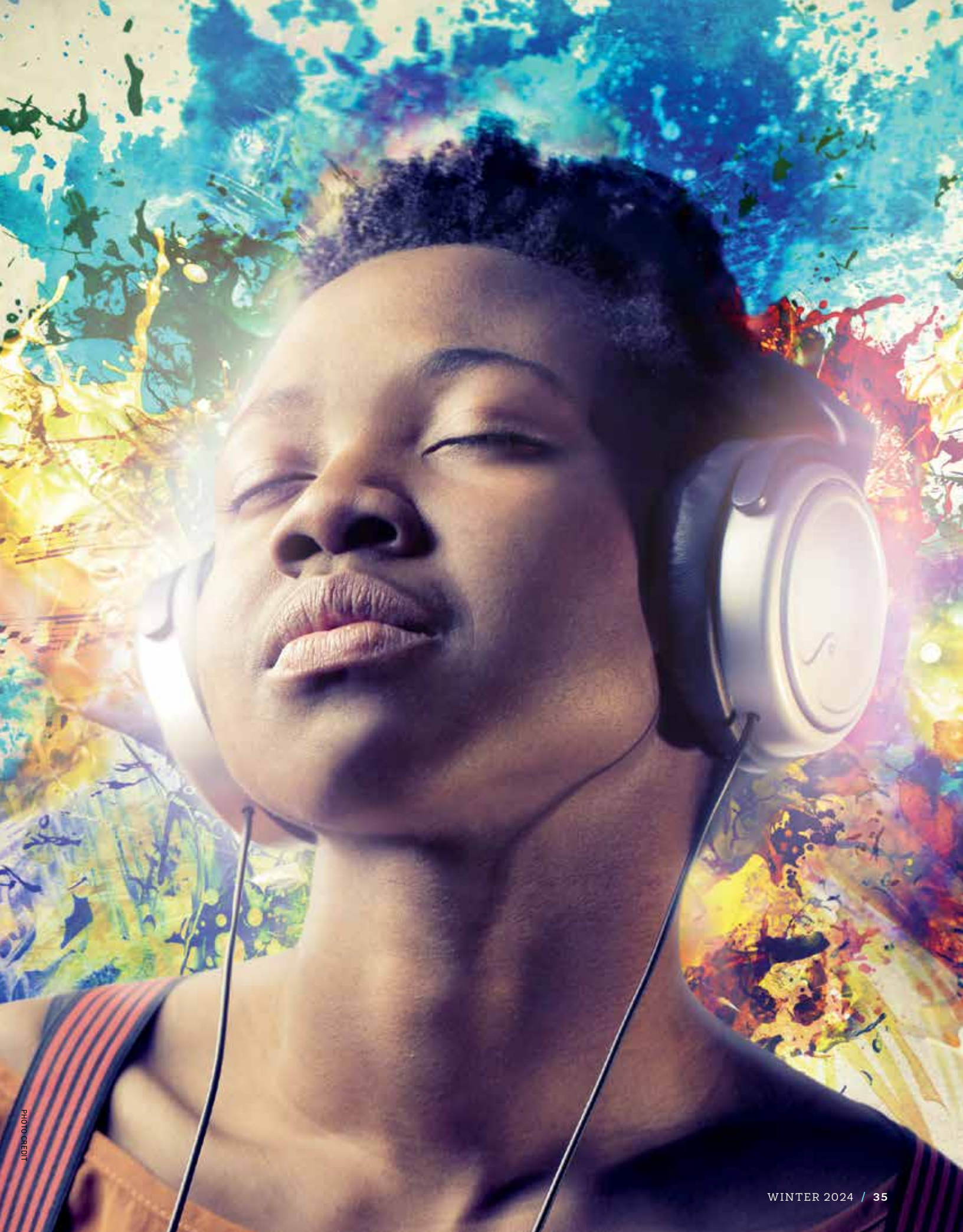
Hip-hop is a great example because there is a sense of connection across what is sometimes called the "global hip-hop nation," but a key tenet of hip-hop is to be connected to a local place. One of the ways people do that is through language. People can creatively manipulate how they use language within hip-hop to not just talk about place, but really demonstrate a connection to place through their linguistic choices. In Québec, for instance, there's a really strong mainstream ideology of monolingual Frenchness, or that French and English are the languages of Québec. But a lot of Québec hip-hop actually brings in languages from other immigrant communities that are there as well, so you'll have hip-hop that uses different varieties of French, different varieties of English, plus languages like Haitian Creole and Spanish, all code-switched together in the same song, and the idea is that by performing this linguistic reality that people see in their daily lives in Québec, they're pushing back against that mainstream ideology that Québec is for French- or English-speakers.

Hip-hop can change structurally based on the language too. One thing that we often associate with hip-hop is the idea of flow and rhyme structures being really important, but what that looks like across languages can be very different. Rhyming in Japanese hip-hop, for example, is not always organized around syllable structure. It's often based around something called moraic structure, or moras. A word like "Nippon," for example, which is "Japan" in Japanese, would be two syllables, but it's four moras: "ni" "p" "po" "n," and that plays into how people rhyme and create hip-hop in the Japanese language.

How has your experience at Mac as an undergraduate informed your approach to teaching?

It has informed everything I do. One of the biggest things is that the genuine openness to interdisciplinary work at Mac as an undergrad has really shaped everything about my trajectory through linguistics. I was always encouraged by faculty to see connections between classes and the things I was interested in. That's what led me to explore language and music together. I was taking linguistics classes, I was taking ethnomusicology classes, and I was excited about the synergies I was seeing and the opportunities to connect to them. The kind of encouragement I got from faculty here is not something that happens everywhere, at an undergrad or graduate level. Having the chance to combine my interests while at Mac is what got me here, and I try to pull that interdisciplinary thinking into everything I do in the classroom.

Joe Linstroth is director of media relations at Macalester.



CLASS NOTES

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.

1968

Jan Gerner Casey was honored by Irish Arts Minnesota for her contributions as a volunteer to the Twin Cities Irish community. She has held leadership positions with Irish Fair of Minnesota, the Center for Irish Music, and the Celtic Junction Arts Center. Jan coordinates Irish Arts Minnesota's Educational Grant Program, which she founded in 2006.

1969

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

1974

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

1973

Sharon Hewitt has moved from Florida and New York City to Santa Fe, N.M.

Send **MAC TODAY** your class note through MacConnect, formerly known as 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**.



Tom Ziebell '69 and Sally Satrom Ziebell '72 (at left) visited Gerri Ego Allen '69 and Dave Allen '69 (right) in Oregon.



Kim Brown '74 (right) and Lesly Sanocki '90 (left) connected with Tim O'Brien '68 (center) at the Portland Book Festival, which Tim visited to talk about his new novel, *America Fantastica*.



Liesl House Forve '89 and Bryce Peterson '87 met unexpectedly while tasting wine at Durant Vineyards in Oregon's Willamette Valley in July.



While visiting her baby granddaughter in Minneapolis in October, Dee Mehl Ban '77 had the opportunity to attend a Bible study class led by her favorite Macalester professor, Calvin Roetzel.



Johanna Hagelthorn '93 was reunited with fellow Portland Dorm residents Catarina Peñalosa '93 and Dena Majeski Childs '93 at her daughter's wedding last summer in Brooklyn, N.Y. Catarina and her family traveled from Scotland, and Dena and Bill Childs '93 traveled from Minnesota. From left: Catarina, Johanna, Dena, and Bill.

1978

Bill Gough of Edina, Minn., retired in June after forty-two years as an aviation meteorologist. Over his career, he worked in operations for Northwest and Delta Air Lines and was involved in training pilots, dispatchers, and operational staff for numerous airlines in the United States and Europe. Bill also worked for the National Weather Service and served as a forecaster in the Center Weather Service Unit at the FAA Air Route Traffic Control Center in Farmington, Minn.

1979

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

Dave Deno received the 2023 Silver Plate Award from the International Foodservice Manufacturers Association in recognition of his leadership in the restaurant industry. In March 2019, Dave was named chief executive officer of Bloomin' Brands, which includes such restaurants as Outback Steakhouse, Carrabba's Italian Grill, and Bonefish Grill.

1983

Allen Smart's guide and report on rural philanthropy in the United States has been published jointly by Inside Philanthropy, MDC, and United Philanthropy Forum. It is the first guide of its type, detailing current and past philanthropic efforts intended to support rural communities.

1984

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

1987

Jake Holdreith has been named a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. He has been practicing for more than thirty years and is currently a partner in the Minneapolis office of Robins Kaplan LLP. He leads the firm's Health and Life Sciences Industry Group and serves on its Executive Board.

1989

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



In October, ten friends from the Class of 1975 held a self-organized, multi-day mini-reunion in the Twin Cities. Hailing from New Mexico, Iowa, Chicago, New York state, and the Twin Cities area, they reminisced about "the draft, the Save-Our-Prosfs campaign, favorite classes and professors, and, of course, the Green Mill and the Spoon." From left: Stephanie Farrior '75, Judy Lochrie '75, Meg Evans '75, Ellen Kluz '75, Marsha Richardson Qualey '75, Judy Nau '75, and John Welsh '75. Present but not pictured: Paul Mattke '75, Peter Hoeger '76, and R.D. Zimmerman '75.

Class Notes continues on page 41.



WELCOME BACK!

REUNION

June 6–9, 2024

Registration opens March 15

macalester.edu/reunion



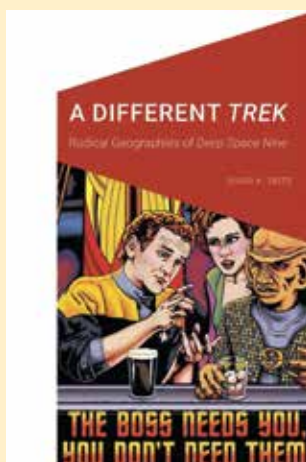
Laura Loomis '88. *The Star-Crossed Pelican* (Thinklings Books, LLC, 2023)



David Hoppe '73 and Brian Berlinger '73. *Mondo POTUS: An American Love Story* (Victory Dog Books, 2023)



Julie Dirksen '91. *Talk to the Elephant: Design Learning for Behavior Change* (New Riders, 2023)



A Different Trek: Radical Geographies of Deep Space Nine

by **David Seitz '10**
(University of Nebraska Press, 2023)

Geographer David Seitz '10, an associate professor of cultural geography at Harvey Mudd College, spoke about his new book at Macalester in October. We caught up with him to learn more.

What's the inspiration behind the book?

I have pretty much always been a *Star Trek* fan, but I think what's interesting about it is that it has survived its viewers' political evolutions. Sometimes, you end up leaving your childhood attachments behind, but there was something about *Deep Space Nine*, in particular within the *Star Trek* canon, that I felt had survived people's own political and intellectual awakenings.

What drew you to *Star Trek* in your scholarship?

When interviewing at Harvey Mudd, which is a hybrid STEM and liberal arts school, I did a teaching demonstration in which I incorporated *Star Trek*, and I got the job. Now, I teach a class every year called *Star Trek: Race, Gender, and Class*, where I use *Star Trek* to have a conversation with students about contemporary critical theory. They get to write about their own interests in the *Star Trek* canon and social issues they care about.



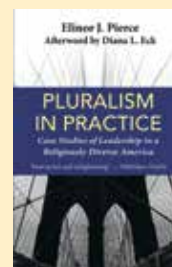
How did your time at Macalester shape this book?

I had forgotten about *Star Trek* when I was at Macalester, but I picked it up again in 2010 after I graduated with a degree in political science. I spent the summer after graduating from Macalester watching *Deep Space Nine* for the first time from start to finish. At that moment, I was rediscovering *Star Trek* while noticing how what I had learned at Macalester enabled me to interpret it critically in a new way.

What do you hope people who read your book take away from it?

The book has two audiences: One is *Star Trek* fans, and I hope they take away both an exposure to and validation of intersectional leftist political analysis. It invites fans to consider how something they already know and love is inviting them to take up other kinds of political and ethical commitments in the world. The second audience is academics—for them to take *Star Trek* more seriously. To dismiss *Star Trek* is a loss because we know that popular culture has profound political influence.

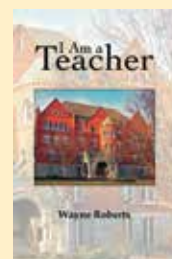
—Catherine Kane '26



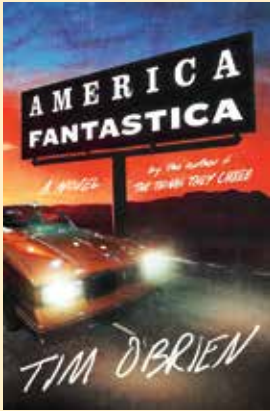
Elinor Pierce '88. *Pluralism in Practice* (Orbis, 2023)



Xavier Paulson '22. *Orbiting What Remains*, and (part 2) *The Laser From Above* (Paulson Literary LLC, 2023)



Professor Emeritus Wayne Roberts. / *Am A Teacher* (Amazon, 2023)



AMERICA FANTASTICA

by Tim O'Brien '68
(HarperCollins, 2023)

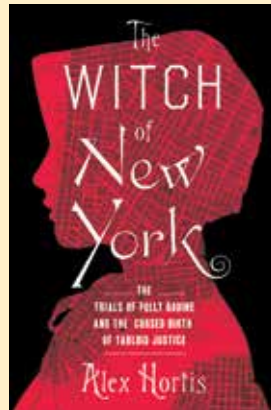


The National Book Award-winning author spent a day back on campus in November meeting with English students, reading from his new novel, and speaking about the book and its origins during a Q&A with English Department chair and professor Peter Bognanni '01 and members of the Mac community.

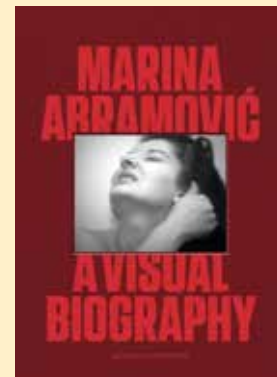
"The book is organized around a road trip across the Midwest and the western and southern states of America. Late-night radio is coming on at two in the morning or four in the morning. The talk shows and internet chat rooms are full of conspiracies. [My characters] are on the run from a bank robbery.

For me it was a journey that began at Macalester when I first read *The Odyssey*. That's a road trip in a lot of ways, isn't it? It's a Mediterranean road trip, sort of a watery one.

I had really fallen in love with *The Odyssey* here at Macalester...And it, more than, say, Kerouac, was a model for what I wanted to do. People going through an America with one contagion colliding with another—a contagion of COVID colliding with this mythomania. It's a real disease. If you look up the definition of *pseudologia fantastica*, it's another word for describing a psychological syndrome or compulsive lying. It doesn't stop. It's transmitted from person to person." —Tim O'Brien '68



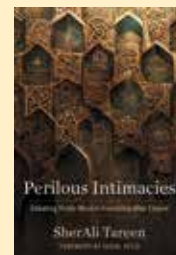
Alex Hortis '95. *The Witch of New York: The Trials of Polly Bodine and the Cursed Birth of Tabloid Justice* (Simon & Schuster, 2023)



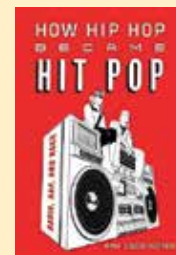
Katya Tylevich '06 and Marina Abramovic. *Marina Abramovic: A Visual Biography* (Laurence King, 2023)



Guy Schaffer '07. *Composting Utopia: Experimental Infrastructures for Organics Recycling in New York City* (University of Massachusetts Press, 2023)



SherAli Tareen '05. *Perilous Intimacies: Debating Hindu-Muslim Friendship After Empire* (Columbia University Press, 2023)



Amy Coddington '08. *How Hip Hop Became Hit Pop: Radio, Rap, and Race* (University of California Press, 2023)



Molly Ahearn '81

pictures was just too precious to me. To have an art director over my shoulder telling me how to take a picture drove me insane. But as a designer, I had no problem. You want the logo bigger? Sure, I'll make the logo bigger. Designing wasn't precious to me, and it's been a really rewarding career because of that. I'm able to understand what the client needs more than what I need, give them that space and my whole creativity, and welcome criticism.

LOWER THE BAR

Networking is a skill. My networking strategy is to assign myself some goals. For example, talk to one to two people and get a conversation going. And if I accomplish that, I call it a success. Lower the bar for yourself. The truth is that everybody's nervous, and you just kind of have to go for it.

GO WHERE YOUR CLIENTS ARE

I'm on the board of the local chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals. And you say to yourself, wait a minute, she's a graphic designer. What the heck is she doing there? But that's where my clients are, so it's a perfect place to network. You never know where a lead's going to come from.

FIND A MENTOR

I didn't understand the importance of mentors when I was younger. I wish I had. I have been involved in multiple mentor relationships and still keep in touch with most of them. If I had had that encouragement earlier on in my own life, I'm sure I would have had the guts to go out on my own a lot sooner than I did. I am sure there were people that would have been open to mentoring me, but I didn't know to ask or who that might be.

GIVE YOURSELF CREDIT

I was in my early forties before I felt that I was good at what I did. That was a big change for me, going from somebody who attended events to somebody who led events, and being comfortable in that role. You are good at what you do. Give yourself credit.

BE OPEN TO SERENDIPITY

Even though I was a Spanish and psychology double major, I ended up being a graphic designer, and I'm so happy I took that path. You never know what's going to come your way. Be open to receiving it.

If graphic designer Molly Ahearn '81 had to illustrate her career path, it wouldn't be a straight line. After studying abroad in Spain her junior year, the Spanish and psychology double major figured she might be an ambassador. Instead, after graduation, she landed a job booking talent into a 5,000-seat outdoor amphitheater in the Dominican Republic. After that job ended, Ahearn worked for a private investor in New York City. She'd bought one of the first Mac computers and learned out how to use its drawing and graphing capabilities on presentations at the office. "I realized what I really enjoyed doing was working on this computer and making beautiful things, so I started working at ad agencies," she says. "The long and the short of it is that I've been a graphic designer for thirty plus years." She opened her design firm, Full Deck Design, in Clinton Corners, New York, in 2009.

Ahearn calls herself a "thinking designer." She helps nonprofits and businesses think their way through messaging, how to appeal to their client base, and then how to visualize it all. Here Ahearn shares some of the lessons she's learned along her career journey.

HONOR WHAT'S PRECIOUS TO YOU

When I was first working as a designer in New York City, I took a photojournalism class at the International Center of Photography. I loved it. My instructor urged me to get an internship, and I ended up interning with Bruce Davidson, one of the original street photographers and an acclaimed Magnum photographer. I worked with him on his Central Park photo essay, which later turned into a book. I spent every weekend in the park with Bruce walking around and meeting people. I began to think I would rather be a photographer than a designer. But I quickly learned that taking



Fred Swaniker '99, chairman of the African Leadership Group, and actor and playwright Danai Gurira '01 met up with Macalester President Emeritus Brian Rosenberg at the African Leadership Network gala in Kigali, Rwanda, in November.

1994

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

Sarah Moeller has been appointed to a three-year term as co-chair of the Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation's BE-WG04 clinical investigations working group, which is responsible for summarizing the US position on the global standard for medical device clinical research.

1997

In October, attorney Alicia Bartsh Reuter joined the health care practice of Nilan Johnson Lewis, one of the largest women-owned law firms in the country.

1999

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

2001

Melita Kyriakou accepted a position with the oil and gas company bp as its new Sustainability Manager Americas—Trading & Shipping in July. She has worked in the renewable fuels industry for nearly twenty years.

2002

Gretchen Wolf Burgess joined the law firm of Murphy Desmond, S.C. in Madison, Wis., as an attorney this past August. She specializes in trusts and estates law, farm succession planning, estate administration, and guardianships.

2003

Jessica Wineberg has been named director of the City of Milwaukee's Vision Zero Policy. The goal of the initiative is to eliminate traffic violence by 2037.

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.

2014

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

2016

Liz Coffield celebrated the one-year anniversary of her business, LC Spanish, which offers online Spanish classes for adults at every level. Liz based the curriculum on her experiences abroad, at Macalester, and in the fields of immigration law and language justice.

2017

Dan Klonowski is a financial advisor with Thrivent in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. He reports that he is looking forward to putting his "teacher's heart and math brain" to work in his new career.

2019

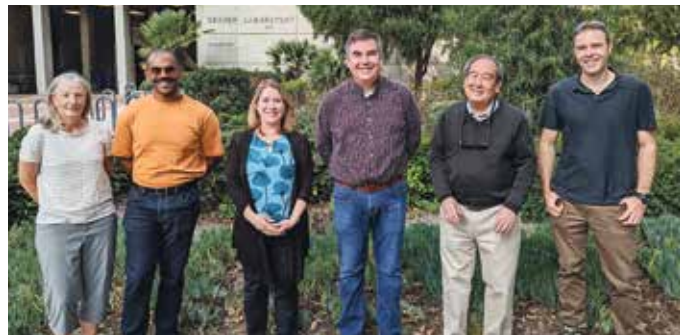
The Class of 2019 will celebrate its 5th Reunion June 6–9, 2024.



In September, a sycamore in memory of Reid McLean '72 was planted between Macalester's Campus Center and Kirk Hall. Present at the planting were eighteen Macalester staff, friends, and alumni. His friends write, "Reid was a fantastic human, global citizen, fundraiser, philanthropist, and friend, embodying Mac's values and mission."



Kyle Miklik '02 (left) and Eli Effinger-Weintraub '00 got together this August in Allegan, Mich. Kyle was in the area for a family wedding, and Eli was there to celebrate their grandmother's 99th birthday.



Chuck Taylor '91 writes, "Earlier this semester, we had an impromptu Mac alum get-together at Pomona College when Christy Haynes '98 came to give a talk in my department." From left: Jen Scanlon '95, Nicholas Ball '05, Christy, Chuck, Samuel Yamashita '68, and Colin Robins '01.



A group of Macalester classmates gathered in Seaside, Ore. Back row, left to right: Margee Smith Wheeler '65, Gail Otterness Baker '65, Pamela Ertsgaard Lien '65, Betty Gackle Davis '65, Bobbi Rudberg Anderson '67, and Carole Chinn-Morales '65. Front row: Betty Green Risser '65, Rhoda Goodrich Moeller '65, Dorothy Beatty Gerard '65, Janet Rudberg Hall '65, Barbara Schueler Colliander '65, and Evelyn Harm Headen '65.



1. Alexander Rosselli '10 and Jessica Beheydt were married May 27, 2023. Back, from left: the bride and groom, **Gautam Mani '10**, **William Howell '08**, **Zachary Lazar '10**, **Ellen Bubak '10**, **Jake Levy-Pollans '09**, and **Jeanne Stuart '14**. Front: **Celeste Prince '10**, **Emily Matthews '10**, **Maddie Mette '10**, and **Nisha Singh '10**.

2. After their "courthouse elopement" in May, **Karlyn Russell '17** and **Zach Carlson** were married Nov. 11, 2023, in Denver. From left: **Eliza Ramsey '17**, **Gretchen Greene '17**, **Mira Ensley-Field '17**, **Hallie Kircher-Henning '19**, **Elena Torrey-Schrag '17**, **Becky Honnold '17**, **Brian Eisner '18**, the groom and bride, **Ali Marks '17**, **Mike Waltman '15**, **Ellie Carter '18**, **Michelle Buse '18**, **Corey McGinnis '18**, and **Prady Bansal '17**.

3. Shawn Greene '13 and **Silka Schreiber '13** were married Sept. 2, 2023, in Minneapolis. From left: **Ben Faulkner '16**, **Joe Nagel '12**, **Mitchell Bender-Awalt '13**, **Beth Moretzsky '13**, **Kai Peterson '13**, **Jayne Discenza '13**, **Delia Sie '13**, **Micah Mumper '13**, the bride and groom, **Michael Ablan '13**, **Patrick Leppink-Shands '13**, **Jessica Sweet '12**, **Andrew Feinberg '13**, **Alyse Snyder '12**, **Michael McAlister '13**, **Ava Buchanan '13**, **Zoe Kusinitz '14**, and **Kalie Caetano '13**.



Ben Glickstein '09 and Shaina Shealy were married May 13, 2023, in Pell City, Ala. Standing (or being held), from left: **Maddie Bolton '09**, **Athalia Bolton-Schodt**, **Chris Schodt '09**, **Jessie Taggart '09**, **Tim Lehman Taggart '09**, **Arthur Taggart**, **Jake Levy-Pollans '09**, **Megan Macpherson '09**, the newlyweds, **Will Howell '08**, **Shalini Vallabhaneni '10**, **Elliott Niblock '09**, **Josh Porte '09**, **Stephen Miller '09**, **Seth Garfinkel '10**, **Hannah Kinney '09**, and **Charlie Ballard '09**. On the railing: **Roger Taggart**, **Mira Porte**, **Laila Porte**, and **Ernest Ballard**.



Fabiola Gutierrez '14 and **Benjamin Eagan-Van Meter '14** were married Aug. 8, 2023, in the Hennepin County Government Building in Minneapolis. In attendance were Ben's aunt and uncle, **Ellen Hartnett '76** and **Steve Larsen '76**.



Courtney Nussbaumer '13 and **Jim Blissenbach** were married Aug. 5, 2023, in Minneapolis. Back from left: **Evan Moorman '14**, **Katie Fuller '14**, **Brittany Ehmann '15**, **Isela Gómez '13**, **Anya Phillips '15**, **Sofia Shaw '09**, **Adam Oien '10**. Front from left: **Hannah Warman Nkeulia '13**, **Rebecca Boyland Moorman '14**, **Cleo Nagy '14**, **Jim**, **Courtney**, **Hannah Nethercut '13**, **Alex Cano '14**, and **Maddie Vargo '13**. Not pictured: **Robert Nollet-Newell '72**.



Amy Janett '14 and **Joseph Brown** were married Nov. 5, 2022, in Towson, Md. Top row, from left: **Yulun Li '14**, **Laura Mather '14**, **Heidi Anderson '14**, **Masha Bonik '14**, **Emily Ahmed TahaBurt '16**. Bottom: **Aaron Colhapp** (former director of Macalester International Student Programs), **Jinqiao Lin '16**, the bride and groom, **Rudy Henriquez '14**, and **Ruth Henriquez '14**.

1948

Edna Weieneth Christian, 97, died July 24, 2023. She taught, sold mutual funds, and did income tax work. Christian is survived by a daughter, a son, five grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

1949

Roger C. Wiese, 95, of St. Paul died Oct. 19, 2022. In addition to his three children, he is survived by grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Ethel E. Woestehoff, 95, of St. Paul died July 16, 2023. She was a manager at the Dayton Hudson department store and sang with the Sweet Adelines and Silver Harmony Singers. Woestehoff also worked at the University of Minnesota and in Macalester's bursar's office.

1950

Lorine Mogck Hanson, 93, of Montevideo, Minn., died July 25, 2023. She was a social worker in the Montevideo Public School System for many years and helped launch the district's Head Start program. Hanson is survived by three children, three grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Geraldine Linstad Lesney, 91, died Oct. 19, 2020. She is survived by two sons and five grandchildren.

Spencer C. Nagel, 92, died Feb. 12, 2020, in Gastonia, N.C. He served in the US Navy during World War II and the Korean War.

1952

Lorelei Bancroft Ademe, 92, died Aug. 30, 2023, in San Antonio. She is survived by four children, nine grandchildren, thirteen great-grandchildren, and a brother.

Walter Karl Bottemiller of New Hope, Minn., died Nov. 1, 2023. He served in the Army Audit Agency and worked for American Hardware Insurance in Minnesota and California. He is

survived by a son, a grandson, and sister Kathryn Bottemiller Fair '52.

Mavis F. Hawkinson, 92, died April 11, 2023. She worked as a medical technologist for many years, mainly at the University of Minnesota Hospital. She is survived by a sister.

Mary Herrmann Kaul, 92, died Aug. 16, 2023. In addition to working as a nurse, she owned a kennel and raised bearded collies. Kaul is survived by two daughters, two sons, twelve grandchildren, and ten great-grandchildren.

Gene L. Piche, 95, died Oct. 7, 2023. He served in the U.S. Navy, taught high school in Roseville, Minn., and was a faculty member of the Speech Communication Department and the English Education Program at the University of Minnesota. He is survived by his wife, Helen Bergstrom Piche '53, two daughters, and three grandchildren.

1953

Maxine Shafer Corder, 92, died Aug. 3, 2023. She worked as a teacher in Minnesota and served as a docent at the Grand Rapids Public Museum. Corder is survived by a daughter, a son, and four grandchildren.

Lyle C. Doerr, 92, of Stillwater, Minn., died Nov. 5, 2023. He served in the Minnesota Army National Guard and the US Army. After a sixteen-year career in architectural design, Doerr became Washington County's project manager. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy, a daughter, three sons, six grandchildren, and a sister.

Betty Dahl Johnson, 91, of New Brighton, Minn., died June 8, 2023. She is survived by two sons, six grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

1954

Nancy Burger Gilbert, 89, of Huron, S.D., died May 19, 2022. She taught in Minnesota and South Dakota and worked at

Carleton College, South Dakota Farmers Union, Huron College, and Fashion Bug. Gilbert is survived by two children, two grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

1955

Dorothy Olds Woodside, 90, of Kearney, Neb., died Aug. 30, 2023. After working in the travel industry for twenty years, she was employed in a tax office for four years. Woodside is survived by four children, six grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

1956

Harold E. Hansen, 88, of West Rush Lake, Minn., died Dec. 16, 2021. He worked at Dairyland/Sentry Insurance for thirty-nine years, retiring as regional vice president. Hansen is survived by his wife, Sandy, three children, three grandchildren, and a brother.

Mary Margaret Jones Trice, 89, died Oct. 31, 2023. She taught vocal music and worked for the Bremen, Ind., school district. Trice also directed the Betmar Chorus for nineteen years. She is survived by her husband, Jim, a grandson, and her sister, Wilma Jones Klak '59.

Kenneth A.B. Wells, 87, of Swarthmore, Pa., died Aug. 26, 2023. He served as pastor at Presbyterian churches in Pennsylvania and New York and led summer exchange pastorates in Wales and England. Wells was a supporter of social justice and the LGBTQ+ community. He is survived by his wife, Helga, and a daughter.

1957

Alice Presbrey Williamson, 89, of Gem Lake, Minn., died Sept. 14, 2023. She operated Texaco and Shell service stations and a camper business, drove a Metro Transit bus, and published the *Minnesota Skier* for the Minnesota Ski Council. Williamson is survived by two children, five grandchildren, and a brother.

1958

Lee E. Covart, 86, of Apple Valley, Minn., died Sept. 21, 2022. He taught high school math in Richfield, Minn., for thirty-two years, also teaching drivers' ed, serving as senior prom advisor, and building sets for school musicals. Covart served on the Richfield Credit Union board of directors for thirty years. He is survived by his wife, Bonnie, three children, five grandchildren, and a great-granddaughter.

Dwight B. Esau, 86, died Oct. 12, 2023. He served in the US Army and covered local sports for the Des Plaines, Ill., *Journal & Topics*. Esau and his wife, Karen, had three children and six grandchildren.

Mildred Schmoll Johnson, 93, of Brooklyn Park, Minn., died Aug. 25, 2023. She worked in education and established school, church, and community libraries. Johnson is survived by a daughter, two sons, and four grandchildren.

Janyce Tepley Olson, 86, of Maple Grove, Minn., died March 1, 2023. She was a schoolteacher. Olson is survived by her husband, Roger A. Olson '62, three children, seven grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

1959

Nancy Kuraishi Chapman, 86, died Aug. 8, 2023. She worked for the International Training Agency of the East-West Center on the campus of the University of Hawaii and for Marin County and the City and County of San Francisco. She retired from Fireman's Fund Insurance Co. in 2001. Chapman is survived by a daughter, a son, and five grandchildren.

David L. McLaughlin, 85, died July 24, 2023. After working at Hormel Foods, McLaughlin co-founded Advance Food Company in Enid, Okla. The company grew to become a leading producer of value-added meat products. McLaughlin also served as a regent of the University of

Science and Arts of Oklahoma and co-founded the McLaughlin Family Foundation in 2004. He is survived by his wife, Jean, four children, nine grandchildren, a sister, and a brother.

Robert B. Wagner died Sept. 1, 2023, in Houston. He worked in the oil and gas industry and pursued a second career teaching computer science and economics. Wagner is survived by his wife, MaryAnn, two children, and a sister.

1960

Forster Davis, 85, of Northfield, Minn., died Sept. 30, 2023. After serving in the US Army in Germany, Davis worked as a camp director with the Boy Scouts of America and as director of career services at St. Olaf College. He also served as a youth soccer referee for many years. Davis is survived by his wife, Ina, three children (including Rob Davis '98), and five grandchildren.

Brian Nichols, 85, of Stillwater, Minn., died Sept. 5, 2023. He worked as a schoolteacher for eighteen years, served on the board of Baytown for thirty-seven years, and owned and operated Davian Health Spa. Nichols is survived by his wife, Helen, four children, six grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and a brother.

Marree Olson Seitz, 84, of Duluth, Minn., died July 9, 2023. She served as scholarship coordinator with the Duluth Community Foundation. Seitz is survived by her husband, Robert Seitz '60, a daughter, and two grandchildren.

Rodney J. Sorrell, 86, died Sept. 7, 2023, in Sioux Falls, S.D. After working for Dayton Corporation, Iseman Mobile Homes, and Egger Steel, Sorrell purchased Soo Empire Plywood and renamed it Kitchens Unlimited. He retired in 2006, after nearly thirty-five years with the business. Sorrell is survived by his wife, Rebecca, a daughter, two sons, and five grandchildren.

1962

Jim Alinder, 82, died June 19, 2023, in Santa Cruz, Calif. He volunteered with the Peace Corps in Somalia and served as photography advisor to Mogadishu's Ministry of Information. While teaching photography at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Alinder exhibited his own photographs at such institutions as the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Smithsonian Institution, and the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris. He also served as executive director of The Friends of Photography and wrote or edited more than forty books. Alinder is survived by his wife, Mary, a daughter, two sons, and seven grandchildren.

Donald C. Bucher, 85, died Aug. 26, 2022. He served overseas in the Army Intelligence Agency and taught speech, debate, and advanced literature at Henry Sibley High School. As the school's debate coach, Bucher led his team to a national championship in 1975. With his wife, Sharon, he bought the Black River Falls, Wis., *Banner Journal* and the Cumberland, Wis., *Advocate*. He also wrote "For What It's Worth," a column that ran in the *Banner Journal* for forty years. Bucher is survived by his wife, a daughter, two sons, four grandsons, and a sister.

Donna Benson McBrien, 90, died June 20, 2023. She taught for twenty-two years in the St. Louis Park, Minn., School District, serving for sixteen of those years as gifted and talented coordinator. McBrien also served as president of the Minnesota Council of Teachers of English from 1976 to 1977.

Frank N. McKean, 82, of Bonita Springs, Fla., died Aug. 10, 2023. He began his career in banking in 1964 with Midland National Bank of Minneapolis and retired from Wells Fargo in 1999 as vice president of operations. McKean is survived by a daughter, two sons, and a grandson.

// OTHER LOSSES



Former Macalester admissions director **Robert A. Buntz** died Sept. 18, 2023, in Minneapolis. He also served as admissions director at the Breck School and pursued a career in real estate, construction, and renovation.

In addition to developing Bluefin Bay Resort in Tofte, Minn., Buntz promoted Rowbikes and took over Harbor Hill Inn and Harbor Hill General Store in Pepin, Wis. He is survived by his wife, Janice, two children, five grandchildren, and a sister.



Former Macalester academic dean **Ellen Guyer** died Oct. 20, 2023, at her home in Saddlebrooke, Ariz. She was 72. She taught English as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Gabon before joining Macalester's faculty to teach

linguistics and English as a second language and eventually taking on her administrative role. Guyer later chaired the Oro Valley Historic Preservation Society and served on the Oro Valley Parks and Recreation Board. She was named Oro Valley's Volunteer of the Year. Guyer is survived by her husband, Leland, professor emeritus of Spanish; a daughter; a granddaughter; and a sister.



Macalester English professor **W. Harley Henry** died Aug. 31, 2023, in Grinnell, Iowa. He was 86. Henry joined Macalester's faculty in 1966 and retired in 1999. A lifelong learner, Henry said during a 2007 interview with the

college that he arrived as a specialist in eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century British literature, with an emphasis on Romantic poetry, and finished as the department's American literature specialist. He also traveled widely and played jazz. Henry is survived by three children, including Else Henry '94.



Patrick D. Walker, who taught taekwondo at Macalester, died Aug. 7, 2023. He served in the Marine Corps and worked as a master scheduler in the printing industry for businesses in Pennsylvania, North Carolina, and

Minnesota. Walker was one of the first instructors at Sound Mind and Body School of Taekwondo in St. Paul and attained a third-degree black belt in the martial art. He is survived by his wife, Lynne, a son, and three siblings.

1963

Terry Anderson Alewine, 81, died July 1, 2023. She worked for Homecroft Elementary School for seven years and taught at Longfellow Humanities Magnet Elementary School for ten years.

Dallas R. Lindgren, 81, died July 28, 2023. She taught at the elementary and junior high levels, led English language learner classes, and worked as an archivist at the Minnesota Historical Society. Lindgren is survived by a daughter and two sisters.

Geraldine Zumbrunnen Westlund, 87, died Aug. 20, 2023, in Wayland, Mass. She taught special education and general education in the St. Paul area. She also had a lifelong passion for singing in and directing choirs. After retirement, Gerri dedicated many years to volunteering with ECHO, Inc. in Fort Myers, Fla. while still snowbirding north every May to enjoy Minnesota sum-

mers. Gerri is survived by two daughters, four granddaughters (including Emily Cogen '21), two sisters, and a brother.

1964

1965

Adair Murray Anderson, 80, died Aug. 1, 2023. She served as deacon and financial secretary for her church for many years. Anderson is survived by her husband, Charles, a daughter, a son, four grandchildren, and a sister.

Linda L. Wotring, 79, of Ann Arbor, Mich., died Aug. 27, 2023. She managed a cancer research

laboratory at the University of Michigan College of Pharmacy and researched HIV infection rates in Detroit for the state of Michigan. Wotring is survived by a brother.

1966

Bonnie Wilson Buzza, 79, died Sept. 3, 2023. She was a professor and administrator. Buzza is survived by her husband, David Buzza '66, and a brother.

Patricia Brown MacDonald died Nov. 11, 2023. She worked in a surgical research laboratory. She is survived by her spouse, Sanford.

Margaret Davidson Nield, 79, of Georgetown, Texas, died Sept. 17, 2023. She worked as a nurse in various settings across the country, published more than twenty peer-reviewed articles in professional journals, and received numerous awards and research grants. Nield also served as the national chairper-

son for the Nursing Assembly and the Thoracic Society. She is survived by two daughters.

Richard G. Weeks, 78, died Aug. 30, 2023, in Milford, Pa. He played saxophone and sang with the rock-and-roll band The Deacons, which was inducted into the Mid-America Music Hall of Fame in 2010. He taught and served as an administrator at colleges and universities in Arizona, Wyoming, Ohio, and New Hampshire. In 2015, Weeks retired from West Virginia Wesleyan College, where he taught European history. He is survived by his wife, Jacqueline, three daughters, nine grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and a sister.

1967

Kent A. Erlandson, 78, of Albert Lea, Minn., died Aug. 20, 2023. He took over his family's business, Erlandson Implement, in 1974. He is survived by his wife, Sue, three sons, four grandchildren, and a sister.



MACALESTER WEEK OF SERVICE

April 20–27, 2024



Amplify your civic engagement during Macalester's annual Week of Service. Find more information and events near you on the Macalester alumni pages, on MacConnect, or by scanning the QR code.

1970

Diana Lippmann Anderson, 75, died Sept. 18, 2023. She worked for numerous government agencies, including the Departments of Interior, Agriculture, and Justice. She is survived by her husband, Richard Anderson '68, a daughter, a son, three grandchildren, and a great-granddaughter.

Sandra Radke Dunnette, 75, died Oct. 30, 2023. She worked in laboratories at the University of Wisconsin and the Mayo Clinic, contributing to research in blood clotting and immunology and co-authoring several papers. Dunnette and her husband, Joel Dunnette '71, had two children.

Mary Ginzel Harris, 89, of Bloomsburg, Pa., died Oct. 1, 2023. She worked for twenty-eight years as a middle and high school teacher and student counselor in Los Angeles. After earning a doctorate from the University of Southern California, Harris became a professor of education at Bloomsburg University, retiring in 2009. She is survived by two sisters.

Theodore C. Jewett, 75, of Buffalo, N.Y., died Aug. 27, 2023. During his food service career, Jewett managed restaurants, clubs, and wholesale food companies. He was named 2007 Member of the Year by the Buffalo chapter of the American Culinary Federation. Jewett is survived by two children and three siblings.

John H. Rosa, 73, died Oct. 5, 2022. He worked as a truck driver, factory manager, farmer, carnival game operator, social worker, and restaurant owner. He also owned a farm that had been in his family since 1872. Rosa is survived by his wife, Janet, a daughter, a son, a grandson, and a brother.

Pamela Hickory Schmuki, 78, of Cottage Grove, Minn., died Sept. 23, 2023. She worked for more than twenty-seven years in the airline industry, starting her career with Republic Airlines in

credit and collections. After Republic's merger with Northwest Airlines, Schmuki worked in the engineering, international rates, and general sales departments. She is survived by two children, six grandchildren, two sisters, and a brother.

James R. Schultz, 74, died May 26, 2023. He raised a flock of sheep while teaching biology in Marion and Clintonville, Wis. After retiring, Schultz converted thirty acres of pasture to prairie, which he photographed extensively. He is survived by his wife, Ruth Ann Lines Schultz '69, three daughters, and seven grandchildren.

1971

Miles Carl McNally, 74, died Oct. 26, 2023. He worked in the insurance industry, led backpacking trips with Westminster Outdoors, and served on school, sports, and camping boards. McNally is survived by his wife, Marilyn Lund Holme, two daughters, three grandchildren, and three siblings.

1972

Marc F. Hult, 73, died Aug. 3, 2023, in Covington, Ky. During more than a decade as a researcher with the US Geological Survey, Hult designed and led a crude oil spill project in Bemidji, Minn. He later taught environmental geology, hydrology, and geomorphology at Macalester. After moving to Covington, Hult worked with the Kentucky Soil and Water Conservation Commission, the Kenton County Conservation District, and Licking River Watershed Watch. A trail in Kentucky's Morning View Heritage Area was named in Hult's honor. He is survived by two sons, three grandsons, and a brother.

Claudia Schalk Short, 74, died Sept. 3, 2023. She taught reading at Wyoming Indian High School, opened an antique photo studio in Silverton, Colo., and joined her father in the family business, Arapahoe Drilling. Short is survived by her

husband, Ron, two daughters, a sister, and a brother.

1973

Kathryn Burris Turner, 71, died Sept. 28, 2023. She served in the Peace Corps for two years in Zaire and pursued a career as a librarian in public libraries, corporate settings, and schools, including international schools in Pakistan, Côte d'Ivoire, Venezuela, China, and the Dominican Republic. She is survived by her husband, Ken Turner '75, two daughters, two grandchildren, a sister, and a brother.

1974

Elizabeth Cochrane Turner, 68, of Port Townsend, Wash., died June 6, 2021. While teaching in Venezuela, Turner was the first woman to earn Venezuelan Paratrooper Wings. She later wrote advertising copy and worked as a reporter for the *Los Angeles Times* and the *Asbury Park Press*. After moving to Bainbridge Island, Wash., Turner opened a psychotherapy practice and founded the Bodhi Center. She is survived by her husband, Kent, a daughter, a son, two grandchildren, and a brother.

1978

Rex L. Boutelle, 67, of St. Paul died Oct. 27, 2023. During his forty-year aviation career, Boutelle worked for Northwest Airlines, DHL, and Sun Country Airlines. Rex's children include Tony Boutelle '07.

1979

Christopher Carduff, 66, died Aug. 14, 2023. As an editor and publishing consultant with the Library of America from 2006 to 2017, Carduff oversaw the publication of the collected works of such writers as Jane Bowles, Shirley Jackson, Kurt Vonnegut, and Laura Ingalls Wilder. He also was books editor at the *Wall Street Journal* and served as a trustee and publishing consultant with the John H. Updike Literary Trust. Carduff is

survived by his wife, Elizabeth, two children, two sisters, and a brother.

1980

Leonard DeFino, 64, died April 1, 2023. He is survived by his spouse, Laura, four children, and three siblings.

Liane Sundin Rock, 94, of Anoka, Minn., died Oct. 21, 2022. She served as a Lutheran pastor for more than twenty-five years. She is survived by four children (including Raenay Rock-Hendrickson '84), fifteen grandchildren, and twenty great-grandchildren.

1981

Nancy C. Hebb, 64, of Clinton, Mich., died Oct. 17, 2023. She bred, raised, and trained border collies for sheep herding. She demonstrated her dogs' skills at a historical recreation of a working farm and participated in the international border collie community. Hebb is survived by a brother.

1987

Joseph M. Wisike Jr., 66, of Blaine, Minn., died Sept. 25, 2023. He is survived by his wife, Florence, a daughter, two sons, and sisters and brothers.

1989

John P. Alexander, 56, of Charlotte, N.C., died Aug. 21, 2023. He served in the US Navy and worked as a quality assurance manager. Alexander is survived by his wife, Pamela, a sister, and two brothers.



IMANI



The College Archives is on the lookout for the issues of IMANI that we're missing.

If you would like to donate your copies to our collections to make available for students and researchers or loan them to us temporarily for digitization, please reach out to archives@macalester.edu.

IMANI was the first Black student newspaper at Macalester, starting in the fall of 1972 and continuing through the mid-1970s by “seniors and juniors who felt that Black students lacked a communication vehicle to convey what they were about.” Published periodically by a ten-member staff, IMANI was circulated among St. Paul’s Black residents, Black people in state prisons in Stillwater and St. Cloud, as well as national Black organizations and ninety-seven other colleges and universities. IMANI featured articles on campus happenings, music, culture, politics, and even an ongoing comic with the Black superhero, Soulman.

IMANI defined itself as faith, “Faith in our leaders, teachers, parents, but first, faith in Blackness—that it will win. That we can build ourselves into a conscious nation of people again. Freedom from our emotional commitment to being [enslaved people].”

But IMANI has never left us. This year, students Milkee Bekele '24 and Asha Criner '24 began the process of reviving the paper with the help of Macalester’s Racial Justice Project Fund. Bekele and Criner, co-editors of IMANI, want to bring back the publication to celebrate the Black community at Macalester through art, writing, and archival research and have already published a new edition of the IMANI Black Book, a student guide to Black resources in the Twin Cities.

GIVE TO **MACALESTER** **DAYS** **MARCH 27–29, 2024**

Save the date for this year's special Give to Macalester Days as we celebrate 150 years and support the next 150 years!

macalester.edu/gtmd
866-814-0640



MACALESTER FUND

MACALESTER COLLEGE

1600 Grand Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55105-1899



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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



DAVID J. TURNER

Class Notes Extended Play: Remembering David Mao '97

The 2023 Macathon, the college's overnight innovation and creativity contest, was dedicated to David Mao '97, who died on July 15. He is pictured above, center, at Reunion 2022. At Mac, Mao was a member of the Traditions a capella group and a founding member of the Fresh Concepts comedy improv group. A beloved and longtime Macathon judge, Mao was remembered by Jody Emmings, director of Entrepreneurship and Innovation, at the Macathon awards ceremony in November. "During the three years he was at Macathon Dave brought pure joy to this event, making us laugh with his wit and hilarious stories and goofy shenanigans," she said. "Dave reflected back courage in every person he met—to help others see it in themselves. He was the one exuberant judge who would stay all night long to keep working with students." Mao also created and funded his own special Macathon cash prize called "Keeping It Real," awarded to the Macathon team that best demonstrates a spirit of playfulness, joy, and possibility that reaches beyond campus walls. The 2023 Dave Mao Keeping It Real award was bestowed on "The Goonies." Mao is survived by his wife, Laura Phillips-Mao '99, daughter Lucy, son Leo, his mother, his sister, and a vast global community of friends.