

# TODAY

**From *Mewinzha Waasa Wedi Giizhigong*  
(A Long Time Ago in a Galaxy  
Far, Far Away) to Minnesota**

Ajuawak Kapashesit '13  
is this galaxy's first  
Ojibwe-speaking Han Solo.





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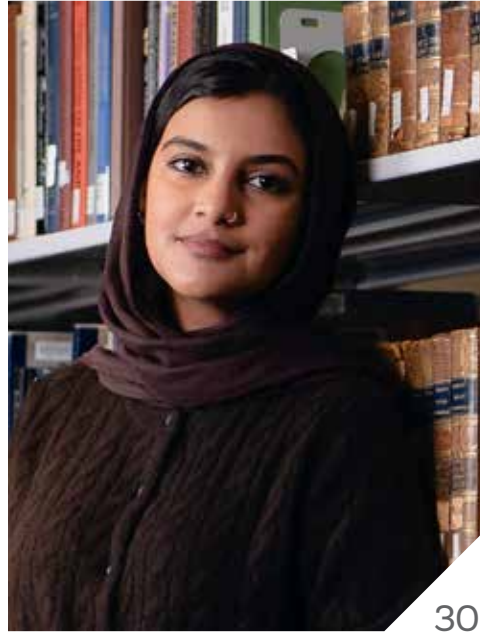
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Ajuawak Kapashesit '13 has been involved in Ojibwe and other endangered language revitalization movements since 2010.

PHOTO BY JAIDA GREY EAGLE



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## Kudos for Coo

I was delighted to see that Macalester adopted the Scottish Highland Cow as its new mascot, and that you included proper phonetic pronunciation. On a family trip to my ancestral village in Scotland we encountered several of these gentle giants on our strolls through the countryside. The new mascot not only evokes the kind of nuanced insight which distinguishes Macalester, it's also fun to say: Heilan Coo! Heilan Coo! Heilan Coo! As one of thousands of shaggy Macalester graduates, I could not be prouder.

**Stuart Smith '73**

## Influential Mentor

I was very happy to read the comments about Dr. J. Huntley Dupre ("You Said," fall 2024). Dr. Dupre was a major influence on my life, and I was very happy to see that another Mac alumnus remembers him so warmly.

**Norman D. Stanton '57**

## Another Curveball

I finally read the article "Curveball—stories of struggle, pauses, wrong turns, right turns, and reinvention" in the spring 2024 issue of *Macalester Today*. OMG I thought I was the only alum who had doubts, self-shame because I didn't climb the ladder of success often associated with Mac grads. "OMG, you graduated from Macalester and you are now working construction," was a common theme and self-criticism in my early life. I came to call them forks in the road but those led me to my life today of peace, self-confidence, and serenity. So I am grateful for all the varied experiences as I never led a dull life. When I read those other Mac grad experiences I felt being a comrade with them. Thanks for telling your stories, you Mac grads who also struggled. *De miye do.*

**Super LaBatte '70**



## A Proposal

Bravo to Basir Talayee '25 ("Empowering Entrepreneurship," fall 2024) for his efforts to help Afghan women attend college in other countries. Maybe they should try—wait for it—Israel. It is not widely known that Israel's population is about one-sixth Muslim, where they have more freedoms and prosperity than in any of the surrounding Muslim countries. Women in Israel have the same freedoms as men, and thrive accordingly.

As an avid online reader of *The Mac Weekly*, it is disheartening to read of the anti-Israeli atmosphere that Macalester students seem to embrace. Elite universities and colleges nationwide are rapidly losing the prestige—and donations—they once enjoyed.

**Bob Spaulding '64**  
Macalester Alumni of Moderation

CONNECT WITH US   

Visit Mac's social media hub at [macalester.edu/macsocial](https://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](mailto:mactoday@macalester.edu)
- Tweet: @macalester using the hashtag #macalestertoday
- Mail: *Macalester Today*, Macalester College, 1600 Grand Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105

# Brighter Days Ahead

In late January in St. Paul, the sun sets just after 5 p.m., and the average high temperature is a chilly twenty-four degrees Fahrenheit. These conditions might not sound ideal for planning a campaign launch event outside. Yet, in true Macalester spirit, we tried something a little different and threw an outdoor party for our campus community to close out our sesquicentennial year and kick off Brighter, a \$250 million fundraising campaign that will set Mac up for success for the next 150 years. The evening festivities included ice lanterns, twinkling lights, bonfires, cozy Mac mittens, a DJ, lots of hot chocolate, and even a pop-up ice rink.

In this season of long, dark nights, the lights and lanterns were especially welcome. So, too, was bundling up to gather with students, faculty, and staff just a few days into the new semester, trading stories about winter break and sharing our hopes for the spring. For me, the event was a powerful expression of the joy we experience when we gather in community and the excitement that's building about the ambitious charge we're undertaking with our fundraising campaign.

At this time of great pain and difficulty around the world, it may seem surprising to focus on joy. To do so might even be perceived as superficial or frivolous. But, in my view, we can be realistic about the challenges we face and—at the same time—understand that joy is an imperative. Seeking joy (or even inciting it, as recommended by the author Ross Gay) is an important way to promote wellness and self-care, especially when the world feels so hard. In difficult moments, it's even more important that we make space for joy. Joy is powerful fuel for the cultivation of optimism, and essential for fostering hope in the possibility of a better—brighter—tomorrow.

Joy is embedded in our work at the college because of our strategic plan's emphasis on amplifying the attributes that make Macalester unique. Accordingly, we've designed the Brighter campaign to focus on the student journey. At the heart of it all is the unique spark that every student brings to campus, transforming this community for the better. Every day, I have the immense privilege of walking beside our students as they nurture that spark and develop their own gifts. I see it happening on stage in musical performances, at the library during capstone presentations, and on the field at Ultimate Frisbee games. There's an incredibly joyful energy on campus when students are testing their limits, experiencing success, and finding out they're capable of more than they thought they were.

There's joy, too, in being part of a collective effort to care for a community that matters deeply to you. I experienced this care



during my own college years, and I feel so much gratitude for all the ways in which I was nurtured and pushed to grow. Accordingly, once I paid off my student loans, I felt huge pride in being able to express that gratitude by giving back to my alma mater so others could experience the privilege of higher education. In my conversations with many Mac alumni, I hear about the joy they feel in reconnecting with the college—while visiting a classroom as a guest speaker, establishing an endowed scholarship, collaborating with classmates on a Reunion committee, or supporting through the Mac Fund the areas of campus that matter most to them. By the way, to learn more about ways to stay engaged with the college, see page 22.

Like our current students, our alumni each have a unique spark. That's one of the biggest gifts of the Mac network—the variety of paths, perspectives, and lived experiences that make our community so vibrant. In unity, we're even stronger. We built our strategic plan together. Then we built the Brighter campaign together, with feedback from thousands of students, faculty, staff, and alumni that clarified our focus on the student journey. And now, together, we'll reach our ambitious fundraising goals. Everyone's connection to Brighter will look different, every contribution counts, and we've deliberately built many different kinds of opportunities to get involved. And throughout the coming years, I'm looking forward to hosting events for alumni and friends to engage with Brighter, starting with Reunion 2025.

We're just getting started, and I already have so much appreciation for your partnership. Thank you to everyone who shared their input, to all of the campaign committee members who are generating incredible early momentum, to everyone already investing in today's student journey, and to everyone who will pitch in to drive Brighter's success throughout 2025 and beyond. You are part of a legacy of people who have cared for and shaped Macalester over the college's first 150 years—and I can't wait to see where we go next!

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

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
[macalester.edu/brighter](http://macalester.edu/brighter)

# 1600 GRAND



# LIGHTING THE WAY

With the south end of campus illuminated by garlands of white lights and dozens of glowing ice lanterns, the Macalester community helped launch Brighter, The Macalester College Campaign, on a winter's evening in January.

To learn more about how you can be a part of Brighter, visit [macalester.edu/brighter](http://macalester.edu/brighter)



1600  
GRAND

# STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE

The college's new Residence Hall and Welcome Center will provide a new "front door" to campus and bring 250 students into campus housing. A rendering of the building, to be located at the intersection of Grand Avenue and Macalester Street in St. Paul, was shared in November.

The project is one aspect of the college's comprehensive campus plan, which is a flexible framework designed to guide priorities for development and investment in campus spaces. The new building is expected to be completed in 2027.

## LEARN MORE

Go to [macalester.edu/strategic-plan/comprehensive-campus-plan](https://macalester.edu/strategic-plan/comprehensive-campus-plan)



*Imagine,*  
MACALESTER





## Faculty research in a nutshell.

**Researcher:** Dr. Alix Johnson, assistant professor of international studies

**Subject:** The Surveillant Surrounds: Sonar and Sexual Surveillance in Iceland During the Cold War (*Surveillance & Society*, Vol. 22, No. 3, 2024)

**Abstract:** The Sound Surveillance System (SOSUS) was an American naval surveillance network developed over the course of the Cold War. Spanning from the Pacific coast across the Atlantic, SOSUS is remembered for its unprecedented reach and is often figured as a precursor to centralized, networked, and automated surveillance systems today. This article contributes to, and complicates, this history by approaching SOSUS from the perspective of one of its outposts. Iceland was neither an agent nor a target of American surveillance but, as a staging grounds for SOSUS, both shaped and was shaped by this process nevertheless. Theorizing this position as the surveillant surrounds, this article asks after the experience of being interpellated into someone else's surveillance program, or living where surveillance is a pervasive

part of the landscape while occupying neither the position of observer nor observed. In Southern Iceland, I argue, SOSUS both activated and was meaningfully anchored by a local politics of gendered intimacy. Doing so, I shed fresh light on the legacy of SOSUS and make a broader case for attending to the particular place-based dynamics that shape and situate "global" surveillance networks then and today.

Dr. Alix Johnson is the author of *Where Cloud is Ground: Placing Data and Making Place in Iceland* (University of California Press, 2023). Her research interests include digital infrastructure and information technology; spatial politics; surveillance; empire; and ethnography.

READ FULL ARTICLE



## Honoring Professor Emeritus Dan Hornbach

Professor Emeritus Dan Hornbach, John S. Holl Professor of Environmental Studies, was honored at a September gathering celebrating his retirement.

During Hornbach's remarkable forty-year career, he helped guide the growth of the Environmental Studies Department from one of the smallest majors at Mac to one of the largest; he served as director of the Katharine Ordway Natural History Study Area; and he championed student-faculty summer research opportunities focusing on aquatic ecology and conservation.

In his honor, the college dedicated the Dan Hornbach Environmental Studies Lab in Olin-Rice Science Center. Students are using the space to practice and build on the commitment to experiential learning that Hornbach exemplified throughout his career.

1600  
GRAND



# NOTEWORTHY ENSEMBLES

Macalester students make beautiful music. The Asian Music Ensemble, pictured here at its fall 2024 concert, is one of eleven ensembles managed by the Music Department.

Public performances take place every semester, along with regular student recitals held on Thursday afternoons in Mairs Concert Hall. To learn more about upcoming concerts, including streaming options, visit the College Events Calendar at [macalester.edu/calendar](https://macalester.edu/calendar).



1600  
GRAND

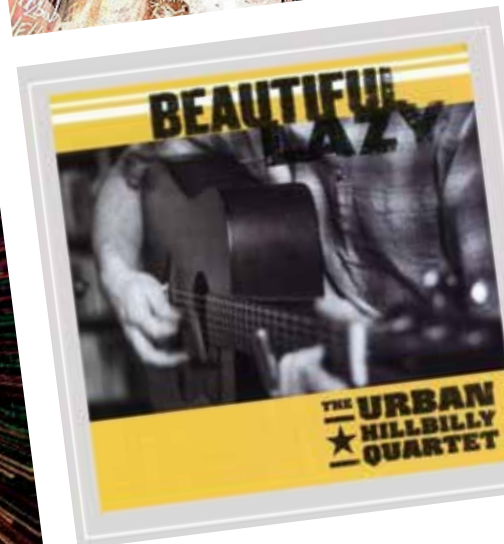
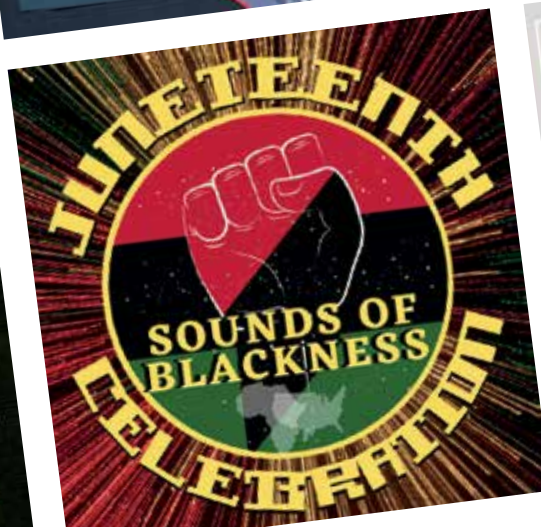
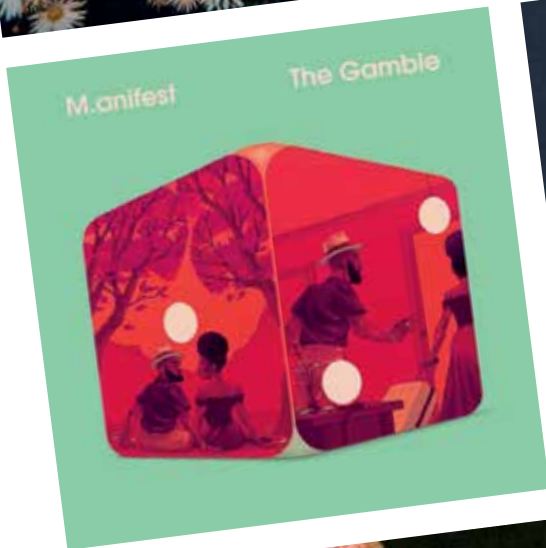
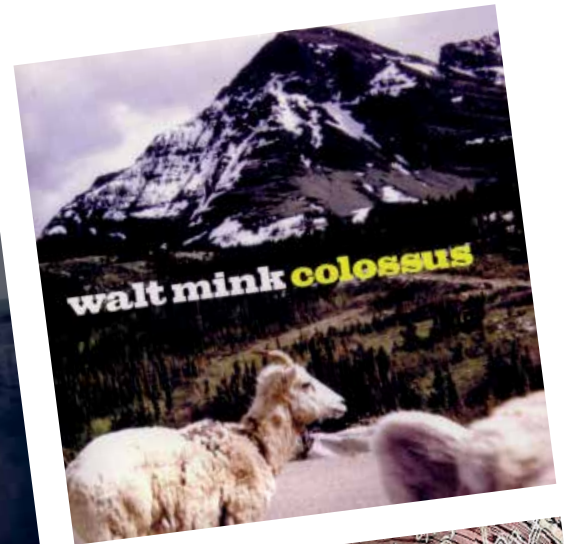
# CELEBRATE OUR 151st YEAR WITH BANDS@MAC

What do M.anifest, MNDR, Dwindle, Sounds of Blackness, Walt Mink, Hüsker Dü, Bad Bad Hats, Carroll, Okkervil River, Information Society, Steve Tibbets, The Urban Hillbilly Quartet, and more have in common? They are all bands or artists with Mac roots.

Dave Collins '85, Mac librarian, research and instruction, put together the Bands@Mac playlist in honor of the college's sesquicentennial year. You can stream Bands@Mac on Spotify by scanning the code.

And if we're missing artists or bands, let us know by emailing [archives@macalester.edu](mailto:archives@macalester.edu).

STREAM THE PLAYLIST





Students creating their own poems in class.

# WORLDMAKING: THOUGHT, PLACE, AND ACTION IN EDUCATION

A first-year course takes students beyond the classroom and helps connect them to the Twin Cities.

Where does education exist? Is school the primary place where we learn about the world? These questions anchored the first-year course “Worldmaking: Thought, Place, and Action in Education.” To learn more, we caught up with Dr. Cait Bergeon '06, faculty engagement program associate for the Community Engagement Center, who co-taught the course with associate professor and chair of Educational Studies Dr. Brian Lozenski.

## What’s the main goal of this course?

Professor Lozenski and I were intentional to build arteries into the Twin Cities in a myriad of ways. Education can be found on picket lines, in our family’s kitchen, in hair salons, on public

transportation, and in the woods.

Our class engages in a holistic exploration of land-based education, activist and labor organizing, and the arts in communities who center the cultural contexts of education. We focus on the voices and histories of marginalized communities, including Indigenous communities, communities of color, queer, and activist spaces. The goal is to expand students’ conceptions and borders of education beyond the formal classroom, and to grapple with the symbiotic relationship between education and *worldmaking*.

## Field trips

We took an East Side Walking Tour of St. Paul with Professor Emeritus Peter Rachleff, who

shared about the area’s labor history and introduced students to the mission, values, and programming of the East Side Freedom Library. We visited the Black Youth Healing Arts Center to learn about their community engagement work.

Students learned more about Traditional Ecological Knowledge while visiting Philadelphia Community Farm, an intergenerational, multi-abled, BIPOC and LGBTQ-led and centered farm community and nonprofit in western Wisconsin. We visited the Indigenous Food Lab in Minneapolis to learn about food sovereignty and Indigenous food systems.

## What do you hope students learn?

In their first year at Macalester, I hope students begin uncovering place-based stories and histories—questioning whose

voices are we hearing and whose voices are we not. This course invites them to connect with the Twin Cities and examine how education can be boundless and flexible. I hope students leave with more questions than answers and find themselves reimagining what their future studies can look, sound, and feel like.

## Memorable moments

I love exploring found poetry with students for its flexibility, creativity, and depth. In one class, I refashioned lines from our assigned readings into strips of paper for students to create their own poems. Some drew pictures around the poetic lines and others cut up words to form new sentences. That’s my favorite part of teaching: watching students illustrate their ideas in the ways most authentic to them.

# The Power of Saying Yes

Anahi Sanchez Lazcano '26 helped improve economic outcomes for her community.

When Anahi Sanchez Lazcano '26 (Minneapolis) stepped into the Minnesota State Capitol on a cold January morning, she wasn't intending to go viral, much less help change state law. Sanchez Lazcano, a neuroscience and biology major, recalls saying "yes" to a last-minute trip to the state capitol organized by the Latinx Student Union in conjunction with Comunidades Organizando el Poder y la Acción Latina (COPAL), a Minnesotan Latine advocacy organization.

"When I first heard of the day at the capitol, I thought, 'let me go see what that's about,'" she says of her decision to attend. "I'm from Minnesota and I'd only been to the capitol twice in my life; I thought it would be cool to get shown around."

COPAL was hosting a day at the capitol to advocate for the One Economy for Minnesota campaign, an effort to improve the economic outcomes of Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) holders. ITINs are federal tax identification numbers for people who cannot get Social Security numbers, which includes documented and undocumented immigrants. ITIN holders often face discrimination in housing, employment, and the ability to open bank accounts.

"I suffered because this bill wasn't in place when I was a kid, so of course I'm going to advocate for it," she says.

Soon, Sanchez Lazcano found herself in the offices of various Minnesota senators, talking to them about her experience as the child of ITIN holders. Organizers at COPAL saw her talent as a storyteller and advocate, and asked her to testify in front of the Senate in support of the bill.

"COPAL recruited me to speak in front of a bunch of legislators, restating my personal story and asking for the bill to be passed," Sanchez Lazcano says.

The day of her testimony, she went to the capitol right after classes got out and didn't leave until 10 p.m.

"I was very nervous," she admits, recalling the hours she spent waiting for her turn to testify. "I'm not a good public speaker, so it was scary sitting next to senators I didn't know." But her testimony resonated far beyond the Senate chamber walls.

A video of her testimony circulated widely on social media



within the Latine community, drawing supportive comments and thanks from community members who saw their own struggles reflected in her words.

Her testimony led to an invitation to join COPAL as a summer fellow, where Sanchez Lazcano discovered a talent for community organizing. Over the summer, she established a youth committee and organized events bringing together young people aged sixteen to twenty-four for professional development and mentorship.

But perhaps her most impactful work came through phone banking and canvassing, where she helped newly naturalized citizens navigate the voting process. One memorable and moving encounter in Richfield brought her face-to-face with a Cuban family who invited her into their home and shared their struggles with food insecurity.

Minnesota Senate Bill 3769 took effect in January 2025, and last fall Sanchez Lazcano received COPAL's Power and Action Award for her efforts on the bill.

"This recognition inspires me to keep advocating for change and breaking down barriers to ensure everyone has the opportunity to live an equal life," she says. "As a Mexican-American, I believe it is my responsibility to advocate for my community, amplify their voices, and address the issues that matter most to them. My community and I are interconnected—I need them just as much as they need me, to guide me in discovering who I am and how I can best serve others."

The intersection of advocacy and Sanchez Lazcano's majors in neuroscience and biology have led her to consider a career in public health.

"Through COPAL, I discovered that I really like interacting with people and hearing their stories," she explains. "That's what moves me to take action."

Her journey from curious student to community advocate reflects how her decision to show up on a cold Minnesota day led to meaningful change: sometimes the most transformative experiences come from simply saying "yes." —Catherine Kane '26



## ATHLETICS

# BRINGING THE HEAT

Pitcher Rileigh Morlock '27 (Lincoln, Ill.), pictured above in a game last year against Carleton, and her women's softball teammates will look to improve on last year's 25-16 record at their March 29 home opener double-header against the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. You can cheer on the team in person at the Macalester Softball Complex in St. Paul or stream the game from home.

To see all of the spring sports schedules and to learn more, visit [athletics.macalester.edu](https://athletics.macalester.edu).

*From Mewinzha Waasa Wedi Giizhigong*  
*(A Long Time Ago in a Galaxy Far, Far Away)*  
**to Minnesota**

*Ajuawak Kapashesit '13 is this galaxy's first  
Ojibwe-speaking Han Solo.*





When Ajuawak Kapashesit '13 learned he would be the voice of Han Solo for the Ojibwe dub of *Star Wars: A New Hope*, he couldn't help but scream.

"I want to say it was eleven at night; I'm doom-scrolling in bed," the writer, director, producer, and actor recalls. "And I get the email and just look at it like—oh, did all of my childhood dreams just come true?"

A dual citizen of Canada and the US, Kapashesit, who majored in linguistics at Mac, has been involved in Ojibwe and other endangered language revitalization movements since 2010. This summer's history-making dub of *A New Hope*—the first *Star Wars* film, released in 1977—is a collaboration between Lucasfilm, the University of Manitoba, and the Dakota Ojibway Tribal Council. It's the first major Hollywood film to be dubbed into Anishinaabemowin (Ojibwe), and a milestone for efforts to spark interest in learning and preserving the language. The dub was released in select theaters around the Great Lakes region and can be heard on Disney+.

Ojibwe is classified as severely endangered by the UNESCO Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger list. Language loss was one objective of federal Native American boarding schools in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, a key part of the cultural genocide enacted by the US against Indigenous peoples. Canada perpetrated similar acts of violence against First Nations peoples. The film aims to expose new audiences to the language in a more contemporary context, especially to the younger generations crucial to its preservation.

"Because it's *Star Wars*—which is infinitely quotable—you'll already know what a character is saying in English, and then get to learn it in Ojibwe too," says Kapashesit.

At the August premiere in Winnipeg, Manitoba, he felt the palpable joy and excitement of cosplayers, families, and traditional dancers—including a jingle dress dancer dressed as Princess Leia—who came out to celebrate the event. "Everyone who hiked to see it on the big screen was so hyped to hear it in Ojibwe." (Mac hosted a screening for students in November.)

Kapashesit's day job also focuses on language recovery. He is the interim executive director at Boston-based non-

profit 7000 Languages, which creates online language-learning materials in partnership with communities who speak endangered languages.

On his own, he makes films. One of his recent documentary projects, *Language Keepers*, follows three Ojibwe residents of Minnesota as they use film, video games, radio, and social media to inspire new generations to learn their heritage language.

"*Language Keepers* was a golden opportunity to merge my expertise in linguistics and a language that the majority of filmmakers I'm interacting with don't have any experience in," he says. "And on the other side, most linguists I know don't

“I want to say it was eleven at night; I'm doom-scrolling in bed and I get the email and just look at it like—oh, did all of my childhood dreams just come true?”

have any film experience. So I thought a lot about how to talk about language in a visual way that film people can understand but that is also accurate to concepts that linguists understand.”

He says it also was crucial to center the film in positivity.

"So many stories about Indigenous people are often pessimistic—most documentaries focus on the history around why the language is in this situation," he says. "And that's vitally important context, but I wanted to create something different—I wanted to tell this story in a hopeful tone.”

Kapashesit didn't start as a linguistics major at Macalester, but in his "Endangered Minority Languages" course, he grew more and more compelled by the field as the class explored languages from communities he is a part of—Cree in northern Canada and Ojibwe in northern Minnesota.

He supplemented his linguistics studies with creative writing courses and a Hispanic studies minor. As an alum, he audited an acting course with Professor Emeritus Harry Waters Jr.

For one of his first acting gigs, he starred in *Sneaky*, a dark comedy set prior to the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978, produced as a traveling show in 2016 by Twin Cities-based New Native Theatre. It's about three Native brothers who conspire to steal their mother's body to bury her in their cultural tradition, rather than a Christian one.

"The play was talking about things that have been taken from us, like language and culture, so it's still a relevant story to Native people," he says. When the production traveled to the Standing Rock Indian Reservation in 2016, during the large protests against the Dakota Access Pipeline,

it was especially meaningful. "The entire encampment and community were there, and we were able to perform this play for everyone standing in solidarity.”

As an actor and filmmaker, Kapashesit's accolades include a 2018 Red Nation Film Award of Excellence—Outstanding Performance by an Actor in Leading Role; being chosen as an Indigenous Film Opportunity Fellow with the Sundance Film Institute; a Vision Maker Media Shorts Fellowship for his and co-writer/director Morningstar Angeline's 2022 short film *Seeds*; and a 4th World Indigenous Media Fellowship.

Right now, he's focusing on writing, trying out new genres like sci-fi and horror. "So if anyone wants to invest in a movie, let me know!" he laughs.

In the meantime, we can only hope we'll catch him next in an Ojibwe dub of *The Empire Strikes Back*. But until then, *Gi-ga-miinigoowiz Mamaandaawiziwin*: May the Force be with you. [M](#)

Ashli Cean Landa is a writer and editor at Macalester.

# ABOUT FACE

Facial plastic surgeon Dr. Regina Rodman '01 helps affirm her patients' sense of self.

BY ROBYN ROSS

From the moment she arrived for a consultation with Dr. Regina Rodman '01, Emily\* was a delightful, upbeat patient. She happily posted "before" photos to social media in anticipation of her facial feminization surgery; once she recovered, she added glamorous, beaming post-surgery selfies.

Months later, Rodman discovered a testimonial the trans woman had posted to an online forum. Emily wrote that, before surgery, she had decided that life in the male body she was born into had become unbearable. She had planned to end it—but, as her last hope, she would try facial feminization surgery. The procedures, Emily wrote, had been miraculous; she felt like she finally could embrace life.

Rodman was startled to learn the stakes had been so high, but she was glad to have contributed to Emily's newfound happiness. Now, when Emily looks in the mirror, "Her reflection matches the person she knows inside," Rodman says.

Rodman specializes in gender-affirming facial plastic surgery. Her Houston-based practice helps patients align their physical appearance with their gender identity by changing not just the skin but the bones of the face, creating an entirely new appearance.

Although she had always wanted to be a doctor, Rodman majored in anthropology at Macalester, focusing her studies on medicine with help from DeWitt Wallace Professor Emeritus Jack Weatherford, Professor Emeritus David McCurdy, and Professor Dianna Shandy. She learned ethnographic interviewing techniques she uses today

in her consultations, ninety-minute conversations that always begin with the open-ended prompt, "Tell me about yourself." It's instructive to notice what patients mention first, she says: their job, their family, what they don't like about their face. "I learn a lot about their values and how they see themselves by the way they answer the question."

Rodman began her pre-medicine requirements at Macalester, then later completed them through a postbaccalaureate program at Loyola University. While applying to medical school, she worked for the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons, where some of the doctors talked with her about their reconstructive cases: rebuilding people's jaws and chins after cancer, military injuries, and other traumas. Before seeing case photos, she hadn't understood how radically surgeons could transform faces—but now she was hooked.

She earned her medical degree at Chicago's Rush University and matched with a Houston otolaryngology (ear, nose, and throat) residency, where she learned facial reconstructive techniques. She then completed a facial plastic surgery fellowship that focused on craniofacial surgery, procedures that correct birth defects or reconstruct the bones of the skull, face, and jaw. Rodman discovered she was suited for the long surgeries such cases entailed. "I can spend twelve, fourteen hours in surgery like no time has passed," she says. "It's my superpower."

After her fellowship she returned to Houston, a city she'd grown to love during her residency. In 2016 she launched





her private practice focused on facial skeletal surgery. The following year, she received an email asking if she worked with transgender women. The woman wanted V-line surgery, a procedure popular in South Korea that narrows the jaw and chin for a more feminine look. The patient was delighted with her results and spread the word online. Soon, more of Rodman's practice was facial feminization surgery, a natural extension of what she'd learned in fellowship training.

For patients who want to look more feminine, Rodman performs a browbone reduction, in which she lightens the forehead by removing, reconstructing, and replacing the bone between the eyebrows. She reduces the prominence of the orbital rims, the bones under the outside of the patient's eyebrows. She does a V-line to slim the chin and jaw, a rhinoplasty to create a more delicate nose, and an Adam's apple reduction.

"My happiest moment is when people say that they can't unlock their phone with their face, because the structure of their skeleton has changed," she says. Patients also will get soft-tissue procedures: a lip lift, hairline lowering, browlift and cheek augmentation. It's a full face transformation.

But some lawmakers have targeted gender-affirming procedures. Two years ago, the Texas legislature considered a bill that would hold insurers and doctors who provide "gender modification procedures or treatments" financially liable for medical or mental health complications for the rest of the patient's life, even if the physician wasn't at fault. The bill would effectively end the treatments in Texas, because providers would be unable to obtain malpractice insurance.

The bill applied to genital surgeries as well as "the removal of any otherwise healthy or non-diseased body part" if the procedure was undertaken to transition a patient's gender from their sex assigned at birth or affirm their perception of their sex.

The bill didn't explicitly mention facial surgery, but these days, about half of Rodman's patients are transitioning to another gender. The other half, though, are cisgender women who want browbone reductions, chin reductions, or hairline advancements—procedures that help them look more feminine by societal standards. If the bill became law, would Rodman be responsible for determining whether a patient's intent was to affirm her gender identity or just look prettier? "Who decides where those lines are drawn?" she muses.

The 2023 bill died in committee, but Rodman worries that, emboldened by a second Trump presidency, Texas lawmakers will resurrect it this spring. Until political leaders force her to make changes or fight back in court, she'll continue performing the surgeries that patients like Emily have credited with saving their lives.

"It's that type of response that makes me keep doing this," Rodman says. "Emily sees her face the way she feels—as a woman—and she thinks now she can live and move forward." **M**

\*a pseudonym

Robyn Ross is a writer in Austin, Texas.

DANIELLE VILLASANA

# 7 DAYS at Macalester



BY CATHERINE KANE '26

**Just about everywhere you look on Mac's small campus, you will find examples of student engagement.**

Campus organizations are a perfect reflection of this spirit. There are clubs for everything, from the big-tent groups, like the Outing Club, to the wonderfully niche, like Y.A.R.N. (Young Artists for Revolutionary Needle-Work).

Clubs aren't the only place where this campus ethos appears: Macalester students like me show up at countless events out of simple curiosity, interest, and love of learning. Over the course of a week I looked at clubs, hackathons, late night music, and underneath the Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center—and here's what I learned.

# 4:30 p.m.

## WEDNESDAY

### Steam tunnels

At 4:30 p.m., I'm welcomed into a nondescript conference room in the facilities office, along with two dozen other students and staff, by Nathan Lief, AVP of Facilities. Lief is something of a steam connoisseur: he oversees the miles of tunnels and tubing underneath campus that deliver steam across campus to keep us warm in the Minnesota winters. The conference room is the first stop on a tour of the steam tunnels, boiler, and cooling systems underneath the Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center. Lief presents a dashboard, created by a former student worker in the Sustainability Office, that tracks energy usage across campus.

"As summers get hotter and winters get warmer, the distribution of our use of energy on campus has shifted," Lief explains. In the warmer months, more electricity is used for air conditioning, and in the winter, less natural gas to power the boiler.

Most students on the tour attend out of curiosity, interested in seeing the bowels of



campus operations and the subterranean world under JWall. The pipes crisscrossing the rooms and corridors are painted in bright blues, reds, yellows, and greens, signifying what each line is carrying. The rooms and corridors resemble a colorful, industrial playground.

The boiler is the heart of the operation—it transforms water into steam using an ultra-hot natural gas flame. The boiler requires 24/7/365 monitoring by a highly-trained boiler technician. Lief notes as the campus transitions to geothermal,

however, the boiler will be phased out.

"We used to hire a lot of US Navy veterans, but they discontinued their boiler tech position in the mid-nineties," Lief says. He notes that an increasingly tight labor market for boiler technicians is an additional need for urgency in the college's geothermal transition.

Unlike the tunnels connecting the dorms on the northeastern side of campus, the steam tunnels are cramped, with low ceilings and unfinished walls, hardly a glamorous hangout. However, some of the rooms housing the massive machinery are vast and cavernous, with a warehouse-like scale. Passing between corridors, we occasionally find ourselves outside, met with a rush of cool air, much welcomed after the heat and humidity of the steam rooms. Looking up at the gray winterish sky, it is clear how far below ground level we were, nestled in the very depths of campus.

Once above ground for good, I orient myself, spending twenty minutes after the tour peering over walls and down shafts around JWall to figure out where exactly we had been. I'm able to mostly trace our path above ground, but some things, it seems, are meant to remain hidden—secrets to stay in the tunnels.

# 6:15 p.m.

## THURSDAY

### In the Kitchen With the Korean Cultural Organization

At 6:15 p.m. I hurry over to the Cultural House for the Korean Cultural Organization's "In the Kitchen With" event. These events are part of a programming series coordinated by the Lealtad-Suzuki Center for Social Justice, in which student organizations host meals at the Cultural House to share a cultural touchpoint through food.

In the C-House, I'm met by the sounds of students chatting at a long wooden dining table and the evocatively nostalgic smell of Spam. Laid out on the counter are a variety of Korean snacks: savory crisps, chocolatey cookies, and fruity candies. I sit down next to Luukas Cho '28 (Chapel Hill, N.C.), who tells me it's his second event with Macalester KCO.

Sophia Noh '26 (New York City), one of the KCO chairs, announces dinner is ready, and the two dozen-or-so students at the event line up for *budae jjigae*, a Korean stew. *Budae jjigae* (which can be literally translated as "army base stew") came to prominence during the Korean War when the country's economy was devastated and food was scarce. However, American military



bases in Korea were stocked with shelf-stable items like Spam and American cheese, which were smuggled off the bases and combined with traditional Korean ingredients like anchovy broth, *gochujang*, *kimchi*, and *odeng* (fish cakes).

The result is a delicious, hearty soup with an everything-but-the-kitchen-sink quality. *Budae jjigae* is often served with instant ramen noodles, a holdover from Japanese colonization of the Korean peninsula.

***Budae jjigae* is a delicious, hearty soup with an everything-but-the-kitchen-sink quality.**



As we eat, Noh explains the rich and often painful history of the dish.

“Many older Koreans call it ‘garbage stew’ because of its association with times of struggle, and others dislike the reminder of Japanese colonization and American imperialism,” she explains.

Cho says that his Korean grandmother has similar feelings about the soup.

“My grandmother refuses to make *budae jjigae*,” he says. Cho recalls being introduced to the dish in Korean restaurants, as the dish has had a resurgence among a new generation of Koreans.

“I like KCO because it isn’t gimmicky,” Cho says. “There’s so many examples of commercialized Korean culture in the United States, but this feels real.”

Noh says she seeks to create events where people can stay to eat, learn, and engage in conversation, while also having the opportunity to cook dishes that are popular among Korean students.

## 8:00 a.m. SATURDAY

### MacGPT

On Saturday at 8 a.m., around fifty students file into the Kagin Ballroom for the second annual MacGPT (Generating the Policy of Tomorrow). We fuel up on bagels and coffee for the day-long policy hackathon ahead of us. The event, launched last year by a committee of a dozen students, invites student teams to develop solutions for a public policy challenge.

At the opening ceremony, the day’s challenge is revealed: develop a policy that addresses two of the United Nations’s Sustainable Development Goals—Reduced Inequality and Sustainable Cities and Communities. Our mandate is to develop, write, and present an urban-focused policy that can address both goals. There also is a competitive element: at the event’s end a three-judge panel will hand out first, second, and runner-up prizes to the strongest policies.

I compete on a team with Everett Dalton ’27 (Boston), Owen Stein ’27 (Evanston, Ill.), Maggie Walker ’27 (Minneapolis), and Basil DiBenedetto ’28 (Portland, Maine). The five of us immediately choose a housing policy direction, as we believe it’s the best way to capture the challenge’s equity and sustainability parameters. We take an interdisciplinary approach: the Economics, Environmental Studies, Geography, and Political Science Departments are all represented on our team.

Throughout the day, we have group

work time and mentoring from Macalester faculty members. Our group work times are frantic and chaotic: whiteboards covered in brainstorming diagrams and equations, furious typing, and, occasionally, heated debate. Mentorship from geography professor I-Chun Catherine Chang, economics professor Sarah West, and ecology professor Anika Bratt helps us refine our approach, ensuring that our policy is both practical and impactful.

We develop a proposal for an affordable housing tax credit system, using a carbon-intensity formula to provide greater tax incentives for sustainable development projects. A key feature of our proposal is the focus on converting underutilized commercial office space into housing, which would address the affordable housing crisis and also contribute to a more sustainable urban environment. In the evening, each group presents their policy to the judges. I’m incredibly inspired

by the creative and thoughtful approaches taken by each group as they approach the questions of sustainable cities and reduced inequalities.

The day concludes with a networking dinner, where we meet Macalester alumni working in urban policy fields and hear a keynote address from Minneapolis City Councilwoman Katie Cashman. At the awards ceremony, the winning policy is an urban farming initiative; second place goes to a proposal aimed at reducing congestion and air pollution in Chicago; and our team is honored with the runner-up prize for our sustainable affordable housing policy.

MacGPT is a shining example of Macalester students undertaking a project and participating in an event simply because they have an interest in and curiosity about a subject, and hold an innate drive to create change in their communities. I found myself transfixed by my colleagues’ creativity and motivation the whole day.





## 10:20 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY

#### Late Night Vinyl

On a bitterly cold night at 10:20 p.m. in Mairs Concert Hall, professor and director of instrumental activities Mark Mandarano sets the mood for tonight's Late Night Vinyl. He tees up the night's selection with the soft and mellow rock of Sting's 1987 album *Nothing Like the Sun*.

"This is what was on the airwaves and the charts when Public Enemy first emerged," he explains to an audience of two dozen students sitting in the concert hall. "All the rockers had gone soft."

Mandarano has hosted these intimate Late Night Vinyl sessions since 2013, inviting the campus community to experience a full album on vinyl, from start to finish, surrounded by the hall's expansive acoustics. Over the years, he's played everything from Marvin Gaye's *What's Going On*, to Kendrick Lamar's *To Pimp a Butterfly*, to Kate Bush's *The Dreaming*. But tonight, it's *It Takes a Nation of Millions to Hold Us Back*—Public Enemy's incendiary 1988 classic.

"Admittedly, this isn't the venue that this album was designed to be listened to in," Mandarano says of the concert hall.

"This was made for the clubs of the Bronx."

After giving a short introduction to Public Enemy and the album, Mandarano slips the vinyl out of the album cover, gently places it on the turntable, and drops the needle. Soon, all the lights in the hall turn off; only the faint glow of the turntable on the stage remains. The air-raid sirens of "Countdown to Armageddon" fill the hall, an unnerving start to an album that went on to be considered a landmark of hip hop music. It stands in stark contrast to Sting's "Englishman in New York."

Chuck D and Flavor Flav's work was a sonic and ideological bombshell at the time of its release, featuring a blend of abrasive, dense beats, rapid-fire lyrics, and samples that range from James Brown to news clips. *It Takes a Nation of Millions to Hold Us Back* came out at a time when the federal government, led by President Ronald Reagan, had cut funding for social programs and escalated the war on drugs.

In Mairs Hall, it feels as though every layer and texture of the music is laid bare, the acoustics of the concert hall stretching and illuminating every track in the acous-

tic mix. The clarity and depth of the production are amplified, revealing nuances in the music that go unnoticed through a pair of earbuds.

The album concludes with a raucous and defiant anthem: "Party For Your Right To Fight," a track dedicated to the Black Panther Party and a nod to the Beastie Boys song "Fight For Your Right." When the last of the chanting at the end of the track concludes, Mandarano invites reactions from the audience.

Several students comment on the sonic experience of hearing the album on vinyl in the concert hall. Others note the echoes they hear of Public Enemy in contemporary music.

"These guys were doing something totally different," Mandarano explains of Public Enemy. "This changed the scene forever."

After midnight, we head home in different directions, letting the campus rest up for a few short hours. **M**

Catherine Kane '26 (Falls Church, Va.) is a writer and environmental studies major.

No matter when you graduated, you're a member of an engaged, lifetime community as a Macalester alum. How can you make the most of that connection? **Here are our best ideas.**





# Alumni Starter Kit



DAVID J. TURNER

When Niloy Ray '99 was recognized with an Alumni Award in the spring of 2024, his nominator gushed that Ray “wears Macalester orange and blue inside and out.”

It’s an apt description. Ray, who is married to fellow Scot Juliane Ray '01 and lives just steps from campus, has served on the Alumni Board, has attended Reunion almost every year since 2014, and frequently lends a hand for a variety of Macalester initiatives.

Still, it wasn’t always that way. For years, he was laser-focused on building his career. “I wasn’t at my five-year reunion because I was in the process of going to law school,” he says of a path that led to Virginia and later Illinois.

When he returned to Minnesota in 2014, he jumped into Macalester activities with both feet.

Ray’s journey illustrates both the flexibility and unique possibilities that exist at Mac for alumni: their engagement trajectory is unique to them. Today, Ray connects with Mac through both simple, everyday connections and deeper, meaningful commitments. “I’ve set up a Google Alert for Macalester, which integrates Macalester into my daily flow,” he says. “I’ve also spent ten years instructing students in trial advocacy for academic credit as part of the forensics program.”

Assistant Vice President for Engagement Catie Gardner Smith says that alumni have never had a better moment to strengthen their connection to the college. “Alumni tend to care deeply about their connections to Macalester,” she says. “And now, there are whole new opportunities for people to get involved that they might not even know about.”

Whether you’re ready to take a small step or a big leap, Mac is ready for you. In the following pages, we’ve listed twenty-eight ways you can connect with the college, show your support, and make a meaningful impact in the Macalester community. Use the color-coded legend to find options that are right for you.

BY ERIN PETERSON



NILOY RAY

## KEY

**PARTICIPATE FROM EVERYWHERE**

**PARTICIPATE IN MULTIPLE LOCATIONS**

**CAMPUS-BASED OPPORTUNITIES**

**CONNECT WITH OTHER ALUMNI**

**CONNECT WITH CURRENT STUDENTS**

## READY?

Get started at [macalester.edu/alumni](https://macalester.edu/alumni).

## No. 1

### Start your journey on MacConnect.

Update your addresses—physical and email—on MacConnect, Mac’s online alumni network, and you’ll get all sorts of goodies, starting with the magazine you’re holding in your hands. You’ll also get invitations to on- and off-campus Macalester events. Plus, you can use MacConnect to find a long-lost pal, submit a class note, or search job and interest boards.

EVERYWHERE

## No. 2

### Attend your Reunion.

Celebrate your milestones: every five years, you’re invited to join your class (and some 1,800 other Mac alumni and potential new friends) to reflect and reconnect at Reunion. And, while milestone celebrations include special dinners and class gatherings, everyone is invited to attend Reunion every year. This year, Reunion Weekend runs from June 5-8. Registration opens March 15 at [macalester.edu/reunion](http://macalester.edu/reunion).

CAMPUS-BASED

OTHER ALUMNI

## No. 3

### Compete in Virtual Tartan Trivia.

You went to Macalester, so we already know you’re plenty brainy. Why not join fellow alumni for the annual trivia contest to show off those smarts? You can build a team on your own or be placed with alumni in your region. Winners don’t just get bragging rights; they also receive official Tartan Trivia sweatshirts.

Ken Iosso '87, who served as host for a recent victorious group, says the best teams often bring together diverse groups of alumni. “Our winning team—which got every single question right, not that I was keeping count—included a member from the Class of 1973 and a couple from the Class of 2018,” he says. “It’s great to connect with close friends and the larger Mac community.”

This annual event takes place online each February.

EVERYWHERE

OTHER ALUMNI



## No. 4 MEET WITH CAREER-FOCUSED STUDENTS AT MACEXPLORE EVENTS.

Alumni are invited to share their professional expertise with current students in areas including media, technology, social science, and law at in-person MacExplore events in several major cities.

MULTIPLE LOCATIONS

CURRENT STUDENTS

## No. 5

### LISTEN TO WMCN.

If you’re in the Twin Cities, turn your dial to 91.7 FM; if you’re further afield, head to [wmcn.fm](http://wmcn.fm).

However you connect, you’ll hear what’s popular with student DJs today.

For an alumni perspective, tune in to “Mac Vintage Voice with Martha T.” Every Thursday from 2 to 4 p.m., Director of Philanthropic Giving Martha Truax '07 chats with alumni, who share thoughts on life after Mac and spin tunes from their era on campus.

EVERYWHERE

## No. 6 Send us your updates.

Let Macalester Today know what you’re up to! Awards and promotions, weddings and babies, mini-reunions and milestones—we want to celebrate them all with you. Send your updates to [mactoday@macalester.edu](mailto:mactoday@macalester.edu).

EVERYWHERE

## No. 7 Root for the Scots at M Club events.

Once a Scot, always a Scot.

Former varsity athletes and coaches are invited to several games, meets, matches, and competitions every year to cheer on Macalester athletes.

While the annual Hall of Fame Banquet held each fall is the M Club’s signature event, Fall Sports Day—now part of Mac Fest in October—also attracts alumni eager to watch Mac’s intercollegiate teams compete. “Whether they’re donning orange and blue gear, chowing down on a Scot Dog, getting a ‘Let’s go Mac’ temporary tattoo, or receiving a congratulatory plaque as a new inductee into our Hall of Fame, seeing the excitement and enthusiasm from the Macalester community is very rewarding,” says M Club president Steve Cox '76. “Based on the thank-you cards that come in from various teams, it’s clear that student-athletes are appreciative, too.”



CAMPUS-BASED

OTHER ALUMNI

## No. 8 Nominate a classmate for an Alumni Award.

Your college friends are doing amazing things. Let the rest of Macalester know how they are making the world a better place by nominating someone you know for an Alumni Award.

Alumni can nominate people in four categories: the Catharine Lealtad '15 Service to Society Award, the Charles J. Turck Global Citizen Award, the Distinguished Citizen Award, and the Young Alumni Award.

Recent recipients have included teachers and entrepreneurs, government leaders and coaches—and we know there are incredible Macalester alumni whose stories are just waiting to be highlighted. Award nominations are due at the end of September.

EVERYWHERE

## No. 9 Welcome a student who is far from home.

Through the International Connections Program, Mac grads who live around the world can meet with students who are on study away programs or internships. “Alumni can be a friendly face in those countries,” says Director of Alumni Engagement Erin Updike.

Ezequiel Jimenez '13, who has lived in London and Barcelona, says he loves talking with students to offer ideas about life overseas. “I’ve met more than fifty people through the International Connections Program over the years,” he says. “It’s always a pleasure to give back to Mac by helping others navigate a life outside the US. Mac prepares students for global citizenship, and I try to help that pillar in our mission.”

MULTIPLE LOCATIONS

CURRENT STUDENTS

## No. 10 APPLY TO JOIN THE ALUMNI BOARD.

Are you ready to represent 28,000 Mac alumni and turn your great ideas into action? Apply to become one of thirty board members who help nurture community connections and support meaningful engagement with the college.

EVERYWHERE

OTHER ALUMNI

## No. 11 Host or attend a Mac in Your City event.

Each September, alumni gather for events in more than fifty cities around the world for events including gallery crawls and happy hour meetups. Updike describes them as “a little bit of Mac wherever you are.” Yulun Li '14, who has hosted two San Francisco Mac in Your City events, says that the “Mac vibe” at these events is palpable. “Conversations are easy to start and people are very engaged,” he says. “No one expects others to be working in a field they majored in, and it’s super interesting to meet with alums who are in different spots in their careers and lives.” The next Mac in Your City runs from September 18-21, 2025.

MULTIPLE LOCATIONS

OTHER ALUMNI



## No. 13 COME TO MAC FEST.

During a weekend in October, students, their families, and alumni come together for a full slate of events on campus. Take in a theater production, watch a swimming and diving meet, participate in a 5k run/walk through campus, or stroll through an academic showcase. Share your memories with the Macalester Oral History Project and grab dinner from a food truck. “Mac Fest highlights what a Macalester experience is today for families and alumni,” says Updike.

CAMPUS-BASED

OTHER ALUMNI

CURRENT STUDENTS

## No. 14 See a Mac professor in your city.



LOUISA BRADTMILLER

A few times a year, faculty travel beyond the Twin Cities to present to alumni audiences. Update your information on MacConnect to get on the invitation list.

Last spring, for example, alumni in New York City were invited to a panel discussion about sustainability that featured Professor of Environmental Studies Louisa Bradtmiller and President Suzanne M. Rivera. The event was part of the college’s 150th anniversary celebration. “Some of my former students came and stayed to chat and catch up, and I also got to meet alums I hadn’t known as students,” Bradtmiller says. “It was a wonderful reminder that Mac alums are all over, and that they are still curious about the world and eager to connect with each other and the college.”

MULTIPLE LOCATIONS

OTHER ALUMNI

## No. 12

### JOIN YMAC.

Alumni who graduated in the last decade can connect on the yMac Facebook page and in a handful of regional chapters across the country. The group is a great resource for young alumni moving to a new area or transitioning to a new job.

EVERYWHERE

OTHER ALUMNI



**No. 15**

**POST A JOB OR INTERNSHIP ON MAC'S HANDSHAKE PLATFORM.**

We know exactly who wants more Mac alumni in their workplace: you.

**No. 16**

**Send a meaningful Mac memento to the archives.**

Not sure what to do with those cardboard boxes filled with your student-era scrapbooks, research projects, and event programs? Macalester College Archives might just be a great home for them. "If it has something to do with Mac, we want it," says College Archivist Ely Sheinfeld, whose recent acquisitions have included a 1940s-era scrapbook of a student canoe trip. "Archives is interested in anything that helps us tell the story of Macalester and its community."

**EVERYWHERE**

**No. 17**

**ENSURE YOUR MAC MEMORIES LIVE FOREVER.**

Sheinfeld also has a question for you: When people bring up Macalester, what memory immediately comes to mind? If you've got an answer, Sheinfeld wants to record it as part of the Macalester Oral History Project. He sets up his recording equipment at many major on-campus events, and encourages alumni to get in touch before they arrive on campus. "I would love to have more alums sit for this kind of oral history," he says.

**CAMPUS-BASED**

**No. 18 Plan your milestone Reunion.**

Make sure your Reunion reflects your class's distinctive character by serving on the committee that creates it. Make a difference with a thirty-minute monthly commitment and one on-campus meeting.

**CAMPUS-BASED OTHER ALUMNI**

**No. 19 Offer your skills as a career helper.**

Help Mac students and alumni get a leg up in their future careers by offering advice, connections, or simply friendly support. All you need to do is fill out a form or sign up on MacConnect, and interested students and alumni will occasionally reach out.

**EVERYWHERE CURRENT STUDENTS**

**No. 20 Make the world better by joining Mac's Week of Service.**

Alumni in cities across the country participate in activities including packing lunches for those in need and cleaning up parks, beaches, and roadsides. In 2025, Mac's Week of Service runs from April 19 to 26.

**MULTIPLE LOCATIONS OTHER ALUMNI**



**No. 21**

**REQUEST A "MACPACK" OR A MAC BANNER.**

Give your most formal or informal Mac gathering some official Mac flair with a Mac banner or MacPack (which includes blank nametags, pens, a Macalester sign, and swag). Send us photos from your event and you might see your group featured on one of Macalester's social accounts.

**EVERYWHERE**

**OTHER ALUMNI**

TOP: DAVID J. TURNER; ALISHA TOVA

# Paying it forward

For many alumni, giving plays a meaningful role in staying connected to Macalester.

The college is a careful steward of these gifts—and grateful for those who support Macalester at any level.



## No. 22 Make a gift to the Macalester Fund.

The Macalester Fund helps keep your favorite alma mater strong. Give a gift today or join thousands of your classmates during Give to Macalester Days, April 2-4, 2025.

EVERYWHERE

## No. 23 Advocate for your alma mater on social media.

You contributed to Mac during Give to the Macalester Days—now showcase your Mac pride on your social media accounts. Once you give, you'll get a link that makes sharing easy. It'll even allow you to record a short video if you want to make your case for Macalester more personal.

EVERYWHERE

## No. 24 Challenge your friends and classmates.

During Give to Macalester Days, you can create a simple challenge for your classmates—a \$10 match for the next ten classmates who donate, for example. "These are low-threshold ways that people can support the Macalester Fund in ways that don't feel like 'asking people for money,' but can inspire others who share your passion to support Macalester financially," says Catie Gardner Smith.

EVERYWHERE

## No. 25

### CREATE YOUR OWN MACALESTER LEGACY WITH A PLANNED GIFT.

Immortality doesn't come easy, but with a planned gift you can make an impact on Macalester even after you're gone. Include Macalester in your will, or add Macalester as a beneficiary to your life insurance policy or retirement account.

The support will earn you a spot in the James Wallace Society, which currently has more than 900 members.

Director of Planned Giving Theresa Gienapp acknowledges that these types of gifts tend to be more popular as alumni near milestones such as their 50th Reunion. But she says even recent graduates can participate by designating Mac as their/a beneficiary. "We have folks who have estate gifts of \$100, and we have a Wallace Society member from the Class of 2022," she says. "You don't have to be a millionaire! We appreciate every gift, they all go to this great college, and we celebrate all of them."

EVERYWHERE

## No. 26

### Become a Grand Society member.

Leadership-level giving to Macalester starts at \$1,600 a year.

A gift at this level grants membership in the Grand Society and supports Macalester's commitment to access, academic excellence, and innovation. Membership offers some pretty great perks, including insider updates from the president, invitations to special Macalester events, and a gold pin to show your support.

Alumni who have graduated within the past ten years are eligible to join the Young Grand Society and access the same privileges with a donation starting at just \$17 a month.

EVERYWHERE

## No. 27 Volunteer as a class agent.

More than 150 Mac alumni volunteer as class agents, helping write fundraising letters and connecting with fellow classmates to encourage support.

EVERYWHERE

## No. 28

### Bring us your great idea.

Interested in speaking to a class, planning a creative event, or supporting Macalester in another way? If you don't see something that interests you on this list, drop us a note and we might just be able to help you create it. Send an email to [alumnioffice@macalester.edu](mailto:alumnioffice@macalester.edu). [M](#)

EVERYWHERE

Erin Peterson is a Minneapolis-based writer.



# MAKING THE DREAM WORK IN BOSTON

BY DANIEL P. SMITH

# Dave Lewin '09 helped the Boston Celtics win an NBA championship, and he's ready for more.

Dave Lewin '09 had only recently washed the champagne out of his hair when he walked into the Boston Celtics practice facility on the morning of June 18, 2024.

Less than twelve hours after the Celtics clinched the 2024 NBA title with a 106-88 victory over the Dallas Mavericks, Lewin leaned against a gymnasium wall as Celtics staff put an NBA hopeful through a series of basketball drills. The NBA Draft was eight days away and Lewin, the assistant general manager of the Celtics, was already looking ahead.

"That's the reality of this job," Lewin says. "Championship or not, next season's happening and we need to be ready for it."

Lewin, of course, isn't complaining. This is precisely what he wanted.

## Targeting a career in pro sports

In his Boston-bred childhood, Lewin dreamed of being something different from his peers. While others fantasized about becoming a Boston sports legend like Larry Bird or Tom Brady, Lewin was more drawn to those who assembled the city's title teams, individuals like Celtics executive Red Auerbach or Theo Epstein, the hometown wonderkid who halted the Red Sox's eighty-six-year championship drought in 2004. In fact, when Lewin played video games like *NBA Live* or *Madden*, he devoted his time to assembling rosters through trades and signings before simulating the games.

"That was the perspective I operated from," Lewin says, crediting Boston's "intellectual fandom" for stoking his interest in front office work. "From a young age, I was aware that there were people whose job it was to find the right players and put together the roster."

When it came time for college, Lewin's Harvard-educated parents encouraged him to select an undergraduate-focused liberal arts school. Macalester appealed with its strong academics and invitation to play collegiate football.

By his sophomore year at Mac, Lewin, a math and econ double major, had become even more fanatical about data's role in athletic contexts. He embraced every opportunity to apply statistical concepts and techniques to team sports, including tackling independent projects with Vittorio Addona, a professor in the Math, Statistics, and Computer Science Department whose research includes sports statistics.

"That was me taking advantage of what makes Mac special: the opportunity to get help from a talented professor in my field of interest," Lewin says of Addona.

## Paying his dues

As *Moneyball*—a data-driven approach to evaluate players—further infiltrated professional sports, Lewin noted franchises' rising

interest in "quantitatively oriented" individuals and shared his work with Addona to generate opportunities with NBA teams. He landed summer internships with the Cleveland Cavaliers in 2007 and 2008, supporting a front office eager to create meaning out of basketball data and capitalize on the generational talent of a young LeBron James.

Back at Mac, meanwhile, Lewin traded the gridiron for the hardwood as his fascination with basketball swelled. He earned a spot on the basketball team and his two years as a reserve guard with the Scots delivered a heightened knowledge of the game's tactics and schemes, which only sharpened his analytics work.

"When I think of Dave, the first word that comes to mind is brilliance," says Abe Woldelessie '08, Mac's current head basketball coach and Lewin's former teammate. "He was thinking about basketball stats in a way few others were back then."

After graduating in 2009, Lewin began a three-year run with the Cavaliers. He fully immersed himself in the professional basketball environment, though he focused mostly on analytics and the salary cap. In 2012, he joined the Celtics.

Over the last dozen years, Lewin has filled a variety of roles for the Celtics related to scouting, salary cap, strategy, and analytics. He also had a three-year stint as general manager of the Celtics' G-League (minor league) team, the Maine Red Claws. There, given an organizational edict to find the best up-and-coming coaches, he was a part of hiring a young assistant coach from tiny Fairmont State University. Eight years later, that coach, Joe Mazzulla, steered the Celtics to a league-leading eighteenth championship.

## Constructing a champion

A naturally competitive person, Lewin relishes the challenge of trying to build the best possible team within the constraints of the NBA salary cap, one intentionally designed to promote parity. He spends his days collecting insights from coaches, players, scouts, and other front office peers and poring over spreadsheets of player information—a vital grind to ensure the Celtics possess every ounce of information necessary to make shrewd personnel decisions in the draft, free agency, and trade market.

"My job is a lot like the class you take in college in which the entire grade is the final exam," says Lewin, who was promoted to assistant general manager in 2022. "You prepare for the big decisions over months and years, but all anyone will care about is whether you get those couple of big decisions a year right."

Given the Celtics' success over the last dozen years—six Eastern Conference Finals appearances, two NBA Finals runs, and one title—Lewin enjoys stability rare to find in pro sports. He's also earned accelerating attention. In August, *The Athletic* named Lewin to its list of forty prominent NBA coaches, executives, managers, and influencers under age forty, and his name frequently arises when front office positions open elsewhere around the NBA.

"Long term, who knows what happens," Lewin says of someday leading an NBA franchise. "Right now, I just know I'm blessed to do this in my hometown as part of a high-level team alongside great people." **M**

Daniel P. Smith is an independent writer based in Chicago and frequent contributor to *Macalester Today*.

A woman wearing a brown hijab and a brown cable-knit cardigan stands in a library aisle. She is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. The background is filled with bookshelves containing various books, including several large, old, leather-bound volumes. The lighting is soft and focused on the woman.

# DIVINE POETRY

BY JOE LINSTROTH

Professor Sarah Ghazal Ali's debut poetry collection explores women of faith in Abrahamic Scripture.



What does it mean to have a woman's body when Scripture uses that body to bring forth a divine message or prophet?

In *Theophanies* (Alice James Books, 2024), English professor and award-winning poet Sarah Ghazal Ali explores this and other questions.

### **How would you describe this collection?**

*Theophanies* is preoccupied with naming and with questions about living in a gendered body that has a number of burdens and expectations projected upon it. The book is curious about the women of faith in Abrahamic Scripture. The speakers in the book look to and then embody those women as examples of what an elevated or ideal vision of womanhood could be. It begins with a speaker who shares my name, Sarah, and is curious about our namesake Sarah, who is the wife of Abraham in the Bible and the Quran.

### **A theophany is defined as a visible manifestation of a deity, or a revelation, if you will. What is it about revelations that interests you as a poet and artist?**

All of my speakers are isolated women who desperately want to feel like God could speak to them, or that God is paying attention to them in the way they've read that God has spoken to and paid attention to men throughout history. That doesn't necessarily mean that I would want a female prophet or want to be a female prophet, but I'm curious about where women find messages or signs from God, and where women feel most seen by, or in the presence of, the divine.

### **In many of the poems in *Theophanies*, you show an interest in names. What's in a name for you?**

I think everything is in a name. Names are the first things we're given in life, and they're meant to be these weighty honorifics of sorts that hold an attribute or quality that we work to embody throughout our lives. My interest in names stems from first seeing my family tree when I was in college, and finding that all of the women's names were missing. I was so excited to see it and to find myself, my mother, and my grandmother, but none of our names were there, and in their place were just visual gaps. So for me, the obsession with naming is in some ways a response to this crisis of absence that I faced where I felt as if I didn't know enough about the women in my own family. Though I couldn't look to them and call forth their specific names, I could, at the very least, look to the women in Scripture whose names and stories I do have access to and use them as models of womanhood instead.

### **How does this mystery around your family history show up in your collection?**

It shows up explicitly in the three "Matrilineage" poems; those are the poems where I'm also experimenting most heavily with fixed forms. One ("Matrilineage [Recovered]") is written in the shape of a family tree to visually explore the gaps in my actual family tree. Another ("Matrilineage [Umbilicus]") is a contrapuntal, which is a poem written in columns that can be read three different ways. The idea there was to weave in as many voices as possible—if you can read a poem three ways, you can experience it through three different perspectives. Because I don't have access to all the names that I want access to in life, and I'm looking to women who don't really have a voice in Scripture but are instead spoken about, I'm trying to weave together as many voices as possible in my work to create figures that have agency.

### **You have said you were not raised in a particularly religious household and that your mother is Sunni and your father is Shia. How does your own experience with religion come through in this collection?**

What I set out to do was write poems that are comfortable in ambivalence and the in-between space between right and wrong. Because I grew up in between two very different sects of Islam, I've had to make my own way through my faith and figure out what I believe, how I move through life, and what feels right in my own practice. I didn't want to write poems that were disrespectful to any tenets of my faith—that was extremely important to me—but I also didn't want to shy away from asking questions without fear.

### **What questions, for example?**

One in particular was that if women are made to give birth to men who go on to be prophets, why are those women not centered or more present in religious stories? I also had questions about the way culture and religion tend to be conflated. I'm South Asian, and often, I've noticed that patriarchal elements of culture can become synonymous in some minds with Islam. Teasing those elements apart can be complicated and feel heavy, especially when your family members might read those poems.

### **You recently became a new mom to a baby girl. What do you hope your daughter takes away from this collection when she reads it at some point in the future?**

I hope that if and when she reads this book, she comes away feeling like there's room in the world for her own questions about the way she lives and moves through the world, and that she feels like she's a woman with agency. I want her to feel that she has the ability to do her own exegesis around the tenets that she chooses to live her life by. **M**

Joe Linstroth is director of media relations at Macalester.

# On Television

Before the emergence of its most recent golden age, television as a communications and entertainment medium had long suffered from negative stigma, especially when compared to film and books. Think couch potatoes staring at the “boob tube.”

But when viewed with a more critical eye, which is what media and cultural studies assistant professor Brad Stiffler and his students do in his course “On Television,” what is depicted and most-watched on the small screen reveals a lot about who we are and what we value (or don’t) as a culture and society.

**The guiding principle of this course is that TV matters. Why is it important to have a deeper understanding of television culture in America?**

In class, we read a lot about what’s called TV’s installation period, when it was a new medium for Americans and they had to learn how to incorporate it into their homes, how to watch it, how to interpret and engage with the kind of information there. We compare it to cinema, radio, and newspapers to think about what makes television its own specific medium in that moment. As consumers, we go through this same process all the time with other media. By looking at the example of television, I think it helps us to see similar things happening in the current moment and ask critical questions about them.

**How did early television in the postwar era shape Americans’ view on family?**

The nuclear family as this supposedly universal way of life was something that had to be invented. For a lot of Americans, even in the mid-twentieth century, living at home with two parents and just the kids in a single-family house was not the most common way of life.

From television’s earliest moments with programs like *The Honeymooners* and *I Love Lucy*, the characters were still living in apartments with neighbors right on top of them. There’s more of a collective and communal life depicted. By the time you get to the mid-1950s and ’60s, many of the shows are taking place in suburbs and everybody is white and middle- to upper-middle class. Characters aren’t working class as much anymore, like *The Honeymooners’* Ralph Kramden, who was a bus driver.

Television, both as a site of representation and as a technology, helped ease the transition for people who were moving out of urban areas to the suburbs. The TV became this replacement for collective artistic, cultural, family, and community life that they left behind in the cities. On the other side, television also gave people in rural communities a way of connecting with and seeing parts of the world that they would have never seen in their daily lives.

**You point out that in the mid-twentieth century there was a symbiotic relationship between the civil rights movement and TV news outlets. How did that play out?**

This is an argument that comes from Sasha Torres’ book *Black, White, and in Color: Television and Black Civil Rights*. During the installation period, TV news was a brand-new institution that people didn’t really know how to engage with and didn’t trust.

We often think the civil rights movement courted news coverage, which it did. They wanted news cameras out there to cover their demonstrations and to show people the brutality of racist segregation in the South.

The symbiotic part was that the TV news institutions needed a story that they could cover in a way that newspapers and radio couldn’t—a uniquely visual story. You could see the clash of peaceful sit-in protesters at Woolworth’s counters and the violence of the white mob. Covering the civil rights movement gave TV news a kind of cultural legitimacy that it didn’t have prior to that.

In addition, newspapers and radio stations were largely regional. So, the coverage that you would get in the South, for instance, in the mainly white-run press, was either largely ignoring the movement or giving a much more establishment, white supremacist view. The national TV news gave a sense that this was something that people should care about outside of their own regions. It was a story of national significance and could be told in a way that wasn’t as highly censored.

**In the course’s section on reality television there’s a screening of an episode of *America’s Next Top Model*. What is instructive about that show?**

We’re in this neoliberal moment in which younger people are not necessarily expecting to have lifelong jobs. Instead, they are more trained to promote themselves as brands. That’s not too different from how students are taught to formulate their own careers—to think about themselves as a brand they have to cultivate in order to sell to prospective employers. Shows like *America’s Next Top Model*, through gamified reality competitions, show how to perform competitively some version of yourself for a market.

Modeling shows, in particular, depict this in terms of people’s stories about their race and ethnicity and how it can be a personal selling point. It’s a commodification of how we think about sexuality, ethnicity, race, and personal biographies. If we watch a show like that critically, it can help us see how this is happening in almost every field of work and how it’s really changed the way that people think about themselves as workers and as citizens. This is another example of how TV matters; even seemingly silly shows like *ANTM* actively train us in new ways of working and living. **M**

Joe Linstroth is director of media relations at Macalester.



# CLASS NOTES

## 1955

*The Class of 1955 will celebrate its 70th Reunion June 5–8, 2025.*

## 1960

*The Class of 1960 will celebrate its 65th Reunion June 5–8, 2025.*

## 1963

**Howard Mielke** received a Lifetime Achievement Award from *Marquis Who's Who* in recognition of his research into the effects of automotive lead emissions on children. While Howard taught at Macalester during the 1980s, Macalester students assisted in studies he conducted that were "foundational" to a Senate hearing on eliminating lead in gasoline. He continued research on the subject at Xavier and Tulane Universities.

## 1964

**Donald Gemberling** has been elected to the National Freedom of Information Coalition Hall of Fame. He also serves as the spokesperson for the Minnesota Coalition on Government Information. As a participant in the Global Visitors Program, sponsored by the State Department and Global Minnesota, Donald meets with international visitors to discuss issues of freedom of information, data privacy, and citizen engagement.

## 1965

*The Class of 1965 will celebrate its 60th Reunion June 5–8, 2025.*

## 1970

*The Class of 1970 will celebrate its 55th Reunion June 5–8, 2025.*

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

### CLASS NOTES PHOTO POLICY:

We publish one photo per wedding.

We 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](mailto:alumnioffice@macalester.edu) to request a Mac banner for an upcoming wedding or other gathering.

If you have a question about your class note, email [mactoday@macalester.edu](mailto:mactoday@macalester.edu).



**2017 M Club Hall of Fame inductee Heather Lendway '06 earned her third national title at the USA Triathlon Olympic-Distance National Championship in Atlantic City, N.J., in September. She also won the swimming, biking, and running event in 2013 and 2014.**



**Stanley M. Berry '75 and Deborah D. Delco Agbottah '75 traveled to Antarctica in November. Can you spot the penguins in the distance?**

## 1971

"Dignity Cookies," a creative non-fiction essay by **Barbara Phillips**, is included in the collection *Seven Secrets to the Perfect Personal Essay* by Nancy Slonim Aronie.

## 1972

**Gary Mainor** has launched a new business, Education Impact Advisors, with four partners (including a recent Macalester graduate). Its mission is to improve outcomes in K-12 education.

## 1974

*Would That Loving Were Enough*, an album of chamber music composed by **Lee Kesselman** and performed by the trio HA-VEN, was released in November by Blue Griffin Records.

## 1975

*The Class of 1975 will celebrate its 50th Reunion June 5–8, 2025.*



**TJ Naim '84 (center) met up with Scott Habermehl '84 (right) and Merrill Boone '83 to enjoy "fall colors and hiking in Steamboat Springs, Colo." Not pictured: Jonathan Steinhoff, who started with them at Macalester.**

## 1976

The New York-based climate advocacy nonprofit Waterfront Alliance presented **Chris Ward** with its Hero of the Harbor Award in October. He was recognized for his extraordinary contributions to the rebuilding of the World Trade Center, the completion of

the Croton Water Filtration Plant, the development of the 21st Century Harbor Master Plan, and the establishment of the NYC Ferry service. You can help celebrate Chris's award by donating to [waterfrontalliance.org](http://waterfrontalliance.org).

(Continued on page 38)

## Matthew Bergeron '08



When Matthew Bergeron '08 graduated from Mac with a double major in history and religious studies, he dreamed of becoming a political speechwriter. After attending law school and working at the state legislature and on several political campaigns, he found a way to incorporate both law and politics in his career.

Today, he's a health care and government relations attorney and partner at Larkin Hoffman, representing various health care providers and advising nonprofits on governance issues. He's also one of nine co-founders of the Minnesota Aurora FC—a pre-professional women's soccer team—and serves as its general counsel. He told *Macalester Today* more about volunteering his skills in service of the college, his role in the college's upcoming Brighter campaign, and his strong connections to Mac.

### What kinds of volunteering have you done for Mac?

I'm now in my fifth year on the Alumni Board. I spent two years chairing the Athletic Working Group, focused on engaging with alumni athletes, and then one year chairing the Arts, Athletics and Affinities Work Group. Now I'm one of the Alumni Board's representatives on the Brighter campaign committee.

Throughout my career I've done a lot of informational interviews and coffees with Mac students interested in politics and law and health-care systems. I've always enjoyed mentorship relationships and a lot of people invested time for me early in my career so it always felt like a good way to pay that back.

### What will you be focusing on during the college's Brighter campaign?

In politics the term is "write or raise." Folks either contribute a specific amount themselves or they engage others to contribute that amount collectively. I've got two kids four and under and I'm not yet in a position to write a big check. But reaching out to folks during this campaign and helping to plant the seed for future campaigns is something I can do. There are a lot of alumni situated similarly to me that I hope to engage.

### Do you have a favorite Mac memory?

Meeting my wife, Ashley Nepp '08, on the third floor of Bigelow Hall the first weekend of our sophomore year, and then later proposing to her under the Bell Tower. This October, we will have been together for twenty years. I can think of nothing more influential or significant in my life than that.



Several alumni held a mini-reunion at Tubby Creek Farm, Jody Williams Alexander '05 and Randy Alexander's Certified Naturally Grown farm in Ashland, Miss. Pictured are Nora Hilty French '05, Carmen Fridell Harris '05, and Chris Garza '11, along with their partners and children. "We all enjoyed lots of fresh-grown veggies, shared memories, and played fun board games," Carmen writes.



Curtis Stauffer '97 and Kayla Butler Schuchman '05 made an "unanticipated Mac connection" at a National Council of State Housing Agencies training event at Indiana University in November.



Wei-Chuan Hsu '07 served as lead animator on Disney's *Mufasa: The Lion King* and attended its world premiere in Los Angeles in December. She writes, "I think the film is really stunning with fantastic music from Lin-Manuel Miranda!"



Several members of the Macalester community attended the installation of Justin Brandon '00 as the 10th Head of School at George School in Pennsylvania. From left: Matthew Reid '01, Macalester Professor of American Studies Duchess Harris, Jamaane Saunders '00, Macalester friend Akbar Rasheed Muhammad, Justin, Wilson Lau '00, Megan June '00, and Scott Turnquest '00. Not pictured: Jitla Arner-Meyerhoff '05.



# NORTH AMERICAN ODYSSEY

12,000 Miles Across the Continent  
by Kayak, Canoe, and Dogsled

By Amy Freeman '04 and Dave Freeman  
Milkweed Editions, 2024

Named National Geographic Adventurers of the Year in 2014, Amy and Dave Freeman embark on a 12,000-mile journey across North

America, from Alaska's Inside Passage to Florida's Key West. As their adventure unfolds, they describe scenes of stunning beauty, alarming environmental degradation, and intensifying climate change. Their experiences, and conversations with Indigenous and rural community members along the way, help ignite their own environmental activism when they return home to Ely, Minn.

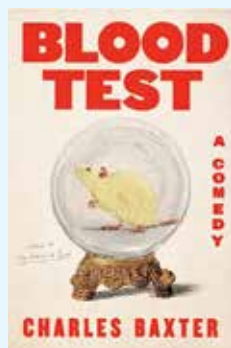
"As we climbed up another rise of granite on our third portage, the river split into many different channels and cascaded down over bedrock and boulders. It had taken us a week to settle into the rhythm of wilderness travel. The dark cloud of

concern and self-doubt abated and was replaced by bright rays of sunshine illuminating a landscape of endless possibilities. We could happily remain here, watching the water flow over the rocks and the light changing throughout the course of the day and the comings and goings of beavers and white pelicans. What would this place tell us if we were to remain here for a week, a year, indefinitely just listening? In our brief stay it simply told us that we as humans need wilderness."

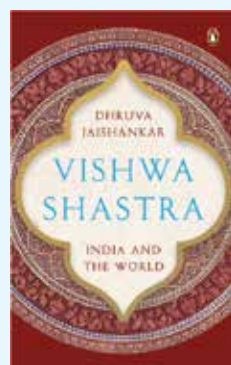
*All text and images are copyrighted by Amy & Dave Freeman. Selection published by permission of Milkweed Editions.*



**Kate Norlander '91.**  
*Unleashing Your Inner Insect: Use the Six Insect Types To Achieve Success and Understand Others* (Kindle Editions, 2024)



**Charles Baxter '69.**  
*Blood Test: A Comedy* (Pantheon, 2024)



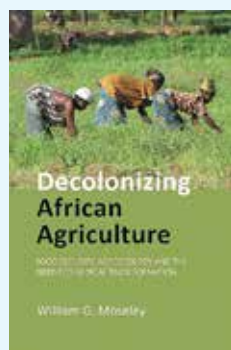
**Dhruva Jaishankar '05.** *Vishwa Shastra: India and the World* (Penguin Random House India, 2024)



**Legacy Russell '08.**  
*Black Meme: A History of the Images That Make Us* (Verso, 2024)



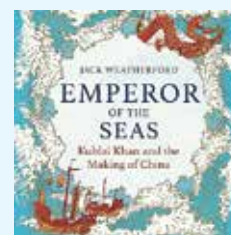
**Sarah Ghazal Ali,** assistant professor of English. *Theophanies* (Alice James Books, 2024)



**William G. Moseley,** DeWitt Wallace Professor, Geography. *Decolonizing African Agriculture: Food Security, Agroecology and the Need for Radical Transformation* (Agenda Publishing, 2024)



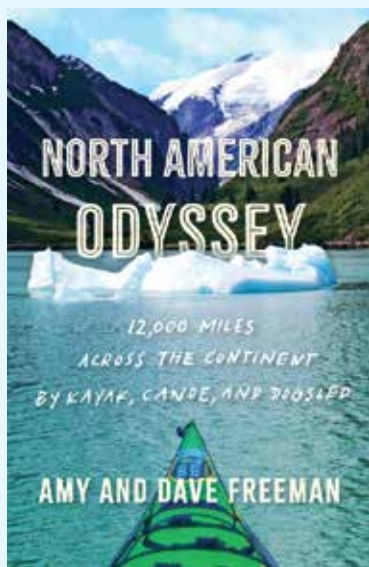
**Brianne Farley '06.**  
*Worm Makes a Sandwich* (Penguin Random House, 2025)



**Jack Weatherford,** DeWitt Wallace Professor, Emeritus. *Emperor of the Seas: Kublai Khan and the Making of China* (Bloomsbury Publishing, 2024)



**Patricia M. King '72,** Rosemary J. Perez, James P. Barber. *Exploring Complexities in College Student Development: Critical Lessons from Researching Students' Journeys* (Routledge, 2024)



## CLASS NOTES

(Continued from page 34)

### 1977

**Ruth Mandel** is an anthropology professor at University College London. She visited the Twin Cities in 2024 to give a lecture at the University of Minnesota. “[I am] grateful to Jim Spradley and Dave McCurdy, who gave me my start,” Ruth writes.

### 1980

*The Class of 1980 will celebrate its 45th Reunion June 5–8, 2025.*

### 1984

**Sarah Knowles Dent** and her husband, Dan, have moved to the Portland, Maine, area. Sarah writes, “I find myself back at a school that I attended for grades 7 to 9, [now] as director of family engagement and giving.”

### 1985

*The Class of 1985 will celebrate its 40th Reunion June 5–8, 2025.*

**Rebecca Wicks Otto** was promoted to executive director of the Minnesota Firefighter Initiative in September. The organization supports Minnesota’s 20,000 firefighters and their families.

### 1990

*The Class of 1990 will celebrate its 35th Reunion June 5–8, 2025.*

### 1991

**Kate Pendergrass Norlander** published her second book, *Unleashing Your Inner Insect*, on April 1. “The book is a satirical take on the personality type industry and self-help books,” she writes.

### 1995

*The Class of 1995 will celebrate its 30th Reunion June 5–8, 2025.*

After seven years on staff at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago in Hyde Park, **Erik Christensen** accepted a

call to serve as pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Evanston, Ill. He plans to move to Evanston with his husband, Kerry, in early 2025.

**Chad Stegeman** was sworn in as a judge of the California Superior Court of the County of Alameda on Oct. 25, 2024.

### 1996

**Janah Boccio** successfully defended the doctoral dissertation *How Do High School Students Perceive Their Experience of the Sexuality Education They Received in Middle School?* in December. “I look forward to the new opportunities this degree will bring me,” Janah writes.

### 1998

The Consulting Report named **Andrew Borene** one of its Top 25 Cybersecurity Consultants and Leaders of 2024 in October. Andrew is executive director of Flashpoint National Security Solutions.

### 2000

*The Class of 2000 will celebrate its 25th Reunion June 5–8, 2025.*

### 2002

**Nicole Miceli** became an associate member of the Association of Educational Therapists in September. She recently joined the Los Angeles-based firm edcahoots.com and would love to work virtually or in person with Mac families.

**Caitlin Vatikiotis-Bateson** struck out on her own in September 2023 and launched a full-service residential and land real estate firm in Graham, N.C., that specializes in land and farm transactions. She also works as a superintendent for a construction company and, in her “dwindling spare time,” operates a fiber farm with her husband and son.

(Continued on page 43)



## MACALESTER WEEK OF SERVICE

### April 19–26, 2025



Amplify your community 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.



# MEET ALUMNI BOARD PRESIDENT ABAKI BECK '15

We spoke with the American studies major and current PhD student to learn more about her and her work on the Alumni Board.

## What do you do when you're not volunteering for Mac?

I'm a public health PhD student at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, and a writer. I research how arrest and incarceration impact health, particularly in Native American communities. A lot of my time is also spent organizing with the new graduate labor union at the U. The union is negotiating our first contract and I was elected to serve on the bargaining committee to represent public health graduate workers—so this year has been really busy for me in more ways than one!

## When did you join the Alumni Board and what have you worked on?

I first learned about the Alumni Board after winning the Young Alumni Award in 2020, and I joined the Alumni Board in 2021. I've planned virtual educational events for alumni, selected Alumni Award winners, and volunteered at Reunion and Mac Fest.

One of my favorite projects was helping to plan a virtual event on racial justice organizing and community safety in the Twin Cities. The speakers included Sami Banat '24, a student who served on Mayor Carter's Community-First Public Safety Commission in 2020 to envision emergency response in St Paul; Educational Studies Department Professor Brian Lozenski; and SooJin Pate, an amazing local educator, writer, and DEI consultant, whom I took classes from when I was a student.

I've also worked with Macalester staff outside of my direct role on the Alumni Board. For example, I helped create a page on the Admissions website highlighting the Macalester Indigenous community. And I'm currently serving on a committee working to reimagine how Macalester honors the Dakota land where Macalester's campus currently resides.

## What are your goals for the Alumni Board?

In general, my goal for the Alumni Board is to help provide great spaces for connection, learning, and support to connect alumni to each other, current students, and the school. Mac has a great Alumni Engagement office and super dedicated staff, so a lot of our work is supporting the great work they're already doing.

Since last year, we've been working to provide more support for very recent alumni who experienced Macalester during



the pandemic. They had a totally different academic and social experience than a lot of other alumni and may have a different relationship with the Mac community.

## What Mac event are you most looking forward to this year?

Reunion! I've volunteered at Reunion for a few years in my capacity on the Alumni Board, but the 2025 Reunion will also be my ten-year reunion. Because my five-year reunion happened the first year of the pandemic, this will be my first in-person Reunion. I'm excited to see people, especially folks who may not have visited Minnesota or Macalester since they graduated!

## What's most rewarding to you about leading the Alumni Board?

The main thing I love about serving on the Alumni Board is meeting people. I've been able to meet and become friends with alumni from other generations that I normally wouldn't be able to meet.

I also love staying in touch with the college and learning what students today are passionate about, like the current activism around Palestine. In every era of history, student organizing and activism has changed not only conversations and perspectives but policy, and it's important for us to continue to look to and support student leaders.

## WEDDINGS



1



2



3

1. **Eiko Mizushima '10** and **Olivia Levins Holden** were married Sept. 9, 2023, at Wild Path Collective in Osceola, Wis. Mac guests included: **Erin Garnaa-Holmes '09**, **Jeff Garcia '14**, **Ngọc Nguyễn '10**, **Tina Park '10**, **Rebecca Harnik '10**, **Alizarin Menninga Fong '15**, **Laura Macke '10**, **Margaret Scott '10**, and **Sadie Bolt '09**.

2. **Soren Dudley '16** and **Victor Bordo '16** were married May 18, 2024, in Coxsackie, N.Y. From left: **Sam Bordo '18**, **Alexander Bartiromo '16**, **Rothin Datta '16**, **Ivy Bardaglio '16**, **Garrett Eichhorn '17**, **Alec Shub '16**, **Kathrene Garcia '18**, **Sarah Gotwals '16**, **Zoe Haas-Biel '19**, **Thomas Wakin '16**, **Wilson Merrell '16**, the bride and groom, **Kassia Massey '16**, **Emily Muscat '16**, **Francesca Zepeda '16**, **Reavey Alcott Fike '16**, **Cory Stern '16**, **Joshua Weiner '16**, **Grady Olson '16**, and **Alexander Dotabi '16**.

3. **Alina Luke '16** and **Bob Anemone** were married Nov. 16, 2024, in Atlanta. From left: **Emma Andelson '16**, **Alina**, **Katherine Brown '16**, **Alex Klopp '16**, **Joe Klein '16**, and **Julia Turner '16**.



4



5

4. **Celia Heudebourg '18** and **Will Milch '19** were married Oct. 19, 2024, in Charlottesville, Va. Front (from left): **Ahren Lahvis '18**, **Peter Willenborg '19**, **Celia**, **Will**, **Evan Meerscheidt '19**, and **Carrigan Miller '19**. Middle row: **Kabir Sandrolini '18**, **Carmen Bustamante '18**, **Angie Hoang '18**, **Yasmeen Abumaizer '19**, **Victoria MacKinnon '17**, **Nahla Almbaid '20**, **Hannah Viederman '18**, **Maya Rait '18**, **Meg Britton-Mehlisch '18**, **Anne Milch '81**, **Kavya Shetty '19**, **Alta Connors '19**, and **Margaret Moran '21**. Back: **Jacob Trout '19**, **Isaac Liu '19**, **Caleb Driker-Ohren '19**, **Mara Short '18**, **Paul Manning '19**, **Tejas Singh '18**, **Josh Upadhyay '21**, **Joe Fish '19**, **Harrison Mitchell '19**, **Penny Kahn '17**, **Delanee Hawkins '17**, and **Josh Doyle '18**.

5. **Shannon Mahedy '17** and **Sean Barry Lawrence '17** were married at their house in Minneapolis on Sept. 14, 2024. The event was a "Macalester affair": **Jordyn Whitman '17** officiated, **Hannah Bonestroo '17** baked the cake, **Grady Johnson '17** grew the wedding dahlias, and **Juliette Myers '17** painted the wedding mural. Pictured: **Mahala Miller '17**, **Suzanna Jack '19**, **Georgia Gempler '17**, **Amanda Feigin '17**, **Claire Looney '17**, **Marta Vegdahl-Crowell '17**, **Tyrone Lall '16**, **Sean and Shannon**, **Joe Tabet '17**, **Lucy Woychuk-Mlinac '17**, **Ted Toegel '17**, **Hannah Bonestroo '17**, **Joe Klein '16**, **Rachel Auerbach '17**, **Connor Vinson '17**, **Hannah Scout Field '17**, **Shay Gingras '17**, **Dorothy Moore '17**, **Jordyn Whitman '17**, **Smaranda Georgescu '17**, **Marla DeVault '17**, **Fabian Bean '19**, **Stephanie Martínez-Fernández '17**, **Lydia Fermanich '17**, **Anna Petersen '17**, **Gabrielle Rivera '17**, **Quinton Singer '17**, **Juliette Myers '17**, **Ruth Kendrick '17**, **Grady Johnson '17**, **Emma Swanson '16**, and **Nick Mangigian '10**. Not pictured: **Giselle Tisdale '19**, **Kate D. Gallagher '16**, **Bridget Gustafson '17**, and **Ellie Hohulin '19**.



6



7

6. **Elena Smith '19** and **Christopher Boranian '19** were married Aug. 10, 2024, in Glencoe, Minn. Back row (from left): **Halla Dontje Lindell '22**, **Emma Daily '19**, **Elia Engberg '21**, **Nadia Mezcic '18**, **Lydia Koh Krienke '19**, **Katrin O'Grady '19**, **Nate Merrill '18**, **Elijah Levy '21**, **William Feeny '18**, **Spencer Grant '19**, **Jake Lepak '20**, **Michael Milner '20**, and **Matthew Steele '19**. Front row: **Alia Benedict '19**, **Hallie Kircher-Henning '19**, **Amy Pelz '19**, **Christopher, Elena, Mayva Richards Boranian '53**, and **Lorna Sherwood Caballero '18**.

7. **Pia Mingkwan '17** and **Ned Stringfellow** were married Oct. 12, 2024, in Arles, France. Pictured from left: **Michaela McGonigle '17**, **Tre Nowaczynski '17**, **Ben Haltmaier '17**, **Allie Korbey '17**, and **Ari Hymoff '17**. Pia is in the foreground.



8



9

8. **Allison Dobscha '15** married **Jesse Yeager** on June 28, 2024, in a ceremony in the Columbia River Gorge. From left: **Claire Finn '15**, **Anoushka Milliar '15**, **Allison**, **Luiza Barbato Montesanti '15**, and **Eura Chang '15**.

9. **Sam DelSerra '12** and **Dan Polhamer** were married June 8, 2024. **Nelli Thomas '10** officiated the ceremony, and Mac friends from all over the world returned to the Twin Cities to celebrate with them. Back row (from left): **Will Hughes '12**, **Alyse Snyder '12**, **Ava Buchanan '13**, **Jack Wickham '12**, **Emily Engel Hurst '13**, **Brian Martucci '09**, **Nelli Thomas '10**, **Ellen Fitzharris '11**, **Erika Bisbocci '12**, and **Dan Volk '12**. Front: **Rosie Mate '12**, **Megan Fitzpatrick '12**, **Lizzie Boyle '12**, the newlyweds, **Patrick Malloy '10**, **Diego Ruiz '12**, and **Laura Chamberlain '10**.

## CELEBRATE WITH MAC!

Email [alumnioffice@macalester.edu](mailto:alumnioffice@macalester.edu) to request a Mac banner for an upcoming wedding or other gathering.

# Masami Kawazato '00

At Macalester, Masami Kawazato '00 was pretty sure she wanted a career in the arts. She assumed it would be in music. The clarinet player had managed the student symphony for three years for her work-study job. Conversations with her clarinet instructor, Shelley Hanson, director of Macalester's Wind Symphony, had helped her to see that while a full-time musician position might not be possible, there were other ways to work in the field.

When Kawazato graduated with a degree in history and minors in music and French, however, she had no job offers. She took a job in a gift shop, and she built her career in the arts from there. Today, as program director at the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council in St. Paul, Kawazato directs grant programs that improve arts access for communities through support to artists and organizations. She works closely with artists who are applying for grants, making a special effort to, as she says, "answer questions in a clear, accessible way," as a former boss did for her at the start of her own career. Here she shares more about her career journey, and what she's learned along the way.

## Find A Way In

After graduation, I found a listing to work at a satellite location for the Walker Art Center shop at the Galleria mall in Edina, Minn. That was my first nonprofit arts job. I worked in the shop part time, and eventually I co-managed it. Later, there was an opening for a membership and development position within the Walker. I started my nonprofit arts administration career there doing fundraising, and I stayed for a decade.

## Seek Clarity

When I started at the Walker, I didn't know anything about nonprofits. The membership and development job that opened up was all about general operations fundraising. My boss at the time told me I should apply. I read the job description, and I literally did not understand what it was asking for because I didn't know what general operations meant. I told my boss. He very kindly walked me through the job description line by line—this is what this means and this is probably what you will be doing. And I thought, "Oh, I could do that."

## Be Direct

After I left the Walker, I worked for myself for a couple years. I had volunteered for the Minnesota Regional Arts Council in the past. One day, I emailed MRAC and wrote: "Heard you are understaffed. I am underemployed. Can we work something out?" They took me on as a contractor to help with the grant program. During that time, one of the



program directors retired, and I applied for that job. I didn't necessarily plan for it to be a career in the beginning, but it does track with nonprofits arts administration.

## Don't Overstay

I'm Japanese, and in Japan longevity with the workplace is a thing. My dad worked for the same company for thirty-plus years. It's fairly unusual for folks to move jobs on the regular like it is here, so I had that cultural context. I believed for a long time that merit leads to promotion and recognition. I no longer believe that. Some people know when to leave without being told. It took me a long time to develop that awareness and those skills.

## Center Yourself

It's totally OK to leave jobs. You don't have to feel bad about it. Does your employer do enough to make you want to stay there? Does it feel good to go to work? Do you feel stressed about work? All of these things go together. At the beginning of my career, I didn't understand the balance of it all and I wished I had centered myself. Taking care of my health, taking more vacation days—I wish I had started doing all of those things a lot earlier.

## Say Yes to the Person

In grantmaking, I meet a lot of different people, and not everybody ends up getting a grant. For an individual artist, that can feel like a no about themselves. I try to make it really clear: I'm not saying no to you, the person; I'm just saying no to this idea at this particular time. Say yes to the person, and no to the idea.

## Keep the Cycle Going

When you are networking or doing informational interviews, be thoughtful about people's time. If you say thirty minutes, keep it at thirty. Be clear about what you want to talk about so that they are not surprised or unprepared. Always thank them at the end and always ask them, Who else should I talk with? And keep that cycle going.

(Continued from page 38)

## 2005

*The Class of 2005 will celebrate its 20th Reunion June 5–8, 2025.*

## 2006

After living and working in Stockholm, Sweden, for five years, **Ruth Chiu** has moved “back home” to the California Bay Area.

## 2010

*The Class of 2010 will celebrate its 15th Reunion June 5–8, 2025.*

## 2014

**Sophie Nikitas** is cocreator and coproducer of the spooky fiction podcast *Out Cold!* The stories in the anthology series are set mostly in Minnesota, in such locations as the Minneapolis skyway system and the Pantages Theatre. “Maybe Mac next?” Sophie writes.

## 2015

*The Class of 2015 will celebrate its 10th Reunion June 5–8, 2025.*

## 2018

**Kira Drew Pollack** earned an MS in natural resources science and management from the University of Minnesota in August. In September, she began her “dream job” at the institution as an extension educator specializing in forest regeneration. She “has her fingers crossed that she never has to go back for a PhD.”

## 2020

*The Class of 2020 will celebrate its 5th Reunion June 5–8, 2025.*

## 2024

**Carter Stacy** was named a fellow in the Coro Fellows Program in Public Affairs, a full-time, intensive nine-month postgraduate program in St. Louis in which professionals develop effective leadership skills and engage in civic activities.



Classmates **Mary Vignola '85**, **Lynda Ascher Delaney '85**, **Marcia Nation '85**, and **Susan Reed '85** met up in Nashville for a weekend in September. They took time to remember their classmate **Ann Brooke '85**, who passed away in 2018. “We went to **Rudy’s Jazz Room**—a place **Ann** would have loved—and raised a toast to our inimitable friend,” they write.



**Sarah Humpage Liuzzi '01** and **Jason Kohn '20** met in **Monrovia, Liberia**. Sarah, a senior researcher at **Mathematica**, was there supporting the **USAID-funded Liberia Foundational Skills Activity**, while Jason, a quality and systems specialist at **DAI**, was supporting another **USAID** project, the **Africa Trade and Investment Activity**.

# MACALESTER ALUMNI OF COLOR REUNION



## JOIN US!

The Alumni of Color Reunion is an intentional opportunity to reconnect, network, and learn from each other.

## SAVE THE DATE

# JUNE 5–8, 2025

## 1947

**Joan Hovde Haines**, 99, died Oct. 14, 2024, in Eden Prairie, Minn. She worked as a broadcast copywriter at a CBS affiliate in Missoula, Mont., before becoming a homemaker. Haines is survived by two sons, seven grandchildren, and twelve great-grandchildren.

## 1948

**Gail Kaufman Clark**, 94, of Broomfield, Colo., died Feb. 24, 2022. She taught music at schools in Minnesota and Wyoming and gave private piano lessons in Broomfield from 1965 to 2020. She was also a founder of the Broomfield Council on the Arts and Humanities and the Broomfield Piano Festival. Clark is survived by two daughters.

**Lola Werner Driessen**, 96, of Elk River, Minn., died June 27, 2023. She is survived by four children, fifteen grandchildren, and fourteen great-grandchildren.

**Cathryn Cole Simenson**, 97, died Aug. 8, 2024. She worked as a reporter and in a law office, taught at the Brainerd Vocational Technical Institute for ten years, and taught business education in the San Diego schools for twenty-five years. Simenson is survived by a son, a grandson, and two great-grandsons.

**Verla Gloege Vane**, 98, died Oct. 10, 2024. She taught at schools in Minnesota. Vane is survived by two children and four grandchildren.

## 1949

**Laura Hanson Hanks**, 97, of St. Louis Park, Minn., died Nov. 12, 2024. She is survived by four children, seven grandchildren, and eleven great-grandchildren.

## 1950

**Mary Jean Peterson Clark**, 94, of Newtown Square, Pa., died July 23, 2022. She taught many subjects, including English and

art, with the Department of Defense in Germany, Turkey, Spain, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines. She had three children, three grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren.

**Gladys E. Gudahl**, 96, of New Prague, Minn., died Aug. 31, 2024. She taught for many years in the Minneapolis Public Schools.

## 1951

**Richard E. Eichhorn**, 94, died Oct. 11, 2024. He served in the Navy and led the domestic and international sales and marketing functions of the company he co-founded, retiring in 1981. He is survived by his wife, Mardene Asbury Eichhorn '53, three children, including Mary Eichhorn '77, and six grandchildren, including Garrett Eichhorn '17.

**Dorothy Weber (Barlow) Gores**, 95, died Oct. 26, 2024. She was active in community organizations and philanthropy and helped found the Women's Resource Center and Women's Shelter of Rochester, Minn. Gores is survived by three children, including Dr. Paul Gores '76, eleven grandchildren, and sixteen great-grandchildren.

**Phyllis Dubs Sakalos**, 95, died Sept. 6, 2024, in Verona, Wis. She taught English and worked as a librarian in Minnesota and Oregon. Sakalos is survived by two children, seven grandchildren, eleven great-grandchildren, and a sister.

## 1952

**Helen Watkins Tenney**, 94, of Casper, Wyo., died April 1, 2024. She was active with the Sweet Adelines, a women's barber-shop ensemble. Tenney is survived by two daughters, a son, five grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and a sister.

## 1953

**Jeanie Davis Forman**, 90, of Dallas died Oct. 14, 2022. She worked for 3M, Dallas Market Center, Amersol, and Horchow

Finale. Forman is survived by a daughter, a son, and a grand-daughter.

**Ruth Albrecht Gerberding**, 93, died Aug. 12, 2024. She sang soprano with the London Symphony Orchestra Chorus and appeared on the ensemble's recording of Berlioz's *Romeo and Juliet*. She also assisted her husband, the late William Gerberding '51, during his career in academia, including his sixteen-year tenure as president of the University of Washington. She also served for decades on the boards of the Seattle Symphony and the Seattle Chamber Music Society. Survivors include four children and four grandchildren.

**Monte Jestus Pettersen**, 93, of Minneapolis and Bloomington, Minn., died Nov. 16, 2024. She is survived by three children, sixteen grandchildren, and twenty-eight great-grandchildren.

## 1955

**Meridel McCarthy Hedblom**, 91, died Sept. 6, 2024. She taught elementary school in South St. Paul and Hopkins, Minn., and worked in legal publications at Minnesota Suburban Newspapers. Hedblom is survived by her husband, Paul Hedblom '53, three sons, nine grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

**Janet Johnson Nelson**, 90, of Deerwood, Minn., died Nov. 9, 2024. She worked alongside her husband in Nelson Fabrics and The Frances Shoppe, among their other business ventures. Nelson is survived by three children, nine grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

## 1956

**Thomas G. Meier**, 90, of Andover, Mass., died Oct. 26, 2024. After a career at the Gillette Company spanning nearly four decades, Meier retired as director of engineering. He is survived by his wife, Judith, a daughter, two sons, eleven grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

**Joan DeBoer Norquist**, 90, died Oct. 12, 2024, in Sioux Falls, S.D. She taught at schools in Minnesota, Montana, and South Dakota. DeBoer Norquist began working full time in real estate in 1976 and retired in 2015. She is survived by two sons, several grandchildren, a great-grandchild, and two sisters, Dr. Carol DeBoer-Langworthy '64 and Diane DeBoer Moen '66.

**Beverly Cook Wylie**, 92, died Sept. 1, 2024. After teaching at several schools in Minnesota, Wylie began working as an in-home daycare provider. She received an Outstanding Daycare Provider of the Year award and retired in 1998. She is survived by four children, six grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and two sisters.

## 1957

**Joyce Bergendahl Beytien**, 88, of Hutchinson, Minn., died Sept. 25, 2024. She taught kindergarten and first grade and worked as a substitute teacher for the Hutchinson Public Schools, retiring in 2000. Beytien is survived by her husband, Spencer Beytien '60, two children, three grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

**Theodore A. Hansen**, 89, of Bowling Green, Ohio, died Oct. 27, 2024. He served in the US Air Force and taught at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater and St. Cloud State University. Hansen was also a developer of and instructor with SCSU's first student computer lab and did early research in artificial intelligence. He is survived by his spouse, Marjorie, five children, seven grandchildren, and a sister.

**Colleen Johnson Kottong**, 89, of North Hudson, Wis., died Aug. 22, 2024. She worked at 3M. Kottong is survived by two children and two grandchildren.

**Mary Bergen Shebek**, 88, died Oct. 19, 2024. She taught elementary school, launched a clothing printing business, operated a high school baseball

field concession stand, and, with her husband, brought automatic pool covers to the Midwest market. Shebek is survived by two daughters, a son, and seven grandchildren.

**Harold W. Thomas**, 93, of Roseville, Minn., died Oct. 25, 2024. He served overseas with the US Navy during the Korean War and was a financial planner with the New York Life Insurance Co. for nearly forty years. Thomas is survived by his wife, Phyllis, four daughters, seven grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, and sister Miriam Thomas Ritchey '56.

## 1958

**Arlene Erickson Cheeseman**, 91, of Bloomington, Minn., died Nov. 25, 2024. She taught in the Bloomington school district and worked as a bookkeeper and elementary school paraprofessional. Cheeseman is survived by a daughter, a son, and six grandchildren.

**Barton J. Mueller**, 88, of Barnes, Wis., died Oct. 2, 2024. He worked in sales with Federated Insurance and later worked for 3M. Mueller also served with the National Ski Patrol. He is survived by his wife, Lynne, two children, seven grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

**Henry L. Ruf**, 92, died Dec. 1, 2024, in Jacksonville, Fla. He served with the Air Force during the Korean War and taught philosophy, religion, humanities, and literary theory at Boston University, the State University of New York-Oswego, West Virginia University, Truman State University, Florida Atlantic University, and Jacksonville University. Ruf was also a Fulbright Lecturer in several Asian countries and the author of numerous published works.

## 1959

**Donald W. Finton**, 92, died Oct. 21, 2024, in Sacramento, Calif. He launched a certified public accounting firm in 1966

and served in several leadership positions with the Masons. Finton is survived by his wife, Nancy, three children, four grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and a sister.

**Audrey Sommerfeld Rauhut**, 86, died Nov. 14, 2024, in Elkhorn, Wis. She taught junior high English in Manitowoc, Wis., and was a high school librarian in Lake Geneva, Wis.

**H. Kris Ronnow**, 87, died Oct. 25, 2024. He was a community organizer with the Church Federation of Greater Chicago, executive director of the Inter-religious Council of Urban Affairs, and a member of the Presbyterian Church's Board of National Missions. Ronnow then served as director of the Oak Park Community Relations Department and vice president of public affairs at Harris Trust and Savings Bank of Chicago. He retired as vice president for finance and operations at McCormick Seminary in 1996. With his wife, Connie Youngberg Ronnow '59, he established an endowed scholarship at Macalester for first-generation college students from the Twin Cities. He also was a long-time member of Macalester's Alumni Board, and he received an Alumni Award in 2009. Ronnow is survived by his wife, three daughters, including Karin Ronnow '84 and Erika Ronnow '88, and two grandchildren.

## 1960

**Malcolm "Rod" MacCharles**, 90, of Minnetrista, Minn., died June 27, 2023. His wife, **Virginia Zontelli MacCharles**, died Aug. 24, 2024, at the age of 86. After working at Honeywell on thermostat design, Rod opened a power sports dealership and sold boats, motorcycles, and snowmobiles. Virginia owned a travel agency, and she and Rod worked in residential real estate at RE/MAX Advantage Plus. They are survived by their son, Roderick MacCharles '90, and two grandsons. Virginia is also survived by a brother.

## 1961

**Howard W. Krueger**, 94, died Nov. 8, 2024. He served in the US Army and worked as a tax auditor and accountant for the State of Minnesota. After graduating from United Theological Seminary, Krueger pastored several churches in Minnesota. He is survived by his wife, Dorene, four children, six grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and a sister.

**Darwyn E. Linder** died Feb. 24, 2022, in Littleton, Colo. He joined the Psychology Department at Arizona State University as a professor in 1972, and over the years served as director of the social psychology graduate training program, interim department chair, and co-director of ASU's applied sport psychology program.

**Myrna R. Strand**, 86, of Minneapolis, died Nov. 22, 2024. She taught in Mounds View, Minn., for thirty years and volunteered as a prospect researcher with Children's Hospital in St. Paul. Strand is survived by a brother.

## 1962

**Janice Miller Knight**, 84, of Ringwood, Ill., died Sept. 8, 2024. She was a special education teacher in the McHenry County School District for more than thirty years and collaborated on a children's educational book that was sold nationwide. Knight is survived by three children, five grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and a sister.

**Barbara Nicholson Schaar**, 86, of Tracy, Minn., died Oct. 21, 2024. She taught physical education and health at Tracy High School for thirty years, retiring in 1993. Schaar and her husband bought the Tracy Lanes bowling alley in 1974. She is survived by two children, five grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

## 1963

**Barbara Bauer Armajani**, 83, died Sept. 11, 2024. During a

career in retail that lasted more than six decades, Armajani was president of JB Hudson, Powers, and Pinstripes Petites. In 1995, she founded Ampersand Shops, a retailer of specialty gifts and tabletop accessories that she owned and operated for more than twenty-eight years. She helped place many of the signature sculptures by her husband, the late Siah Armajani '63, in major museums, including the Guggenheim Museum and the Walker Art Center. She is survived by a brother.

**Barbara K. Culbert**, 87, of Murray, Ky., died Sept. 22, 2024. She worked as a registered nurse and mental health consultant for hospitals in Colorado and Kentucky. Culbert also taught mental health nursing at Murray State University for twenty years. She is survived by a brother.

**Joan Swanson Velásquez** died Dec. 4, 2024. After her Peace Corps project in Bolivia was canceled, she remained there and established a day-care center in a poor barrio in Cochabamba. She later worked in administration and research for Ramsey County for twenty-five years. After taking a medical leave due to post-polio syndrome, Velásquez co-founded Mano a Mano with her husband, Segundo. The organization collects surplus medical supplies in Minnesota and sends them for distribution in Bolivia. Velásquez received the National Peace Corps Association's Sargent Shriver Award for Distinguished Humanitarian Service in 2008.

## 1964

**Kay Zimmerman Andrews**, 82, died Nov. 14, 2024. She served as a Presbyterian minister in Grand Rapids, Minn., and was executive director of Northwest Youth and Family Services in Shoreview, Minn. After her retirement, she was elected to the Falcon Heights, Minn., City Council. Andrews is survived by two children, a "chosen daughter," seven grandchildren, and a sister.

**Thomas L. Erickson**, 82, of Green Valley, Ariz., died Oct. 28, 2024. He took over his family's printing business, Chroma Glo Corporation, overseeing its transformation into the manufacturing company Chromaline Corporation (now named Ikonics). Erickson is survived by his wife, Laurel Wilcox Erickson '65, two sons, five grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and a sister.

**Donald D. Hamilton**, 82, of Naples, Fla., died Oct. 23, 2024. He served two tours in Vietnam with the US Marine Corps. During his fifty-year career in health care, Hamilton was CEO of health-care systems in Albuquerque, N.M., and Louisville, Ky., and established in-house health-care practices for Jones Lang LaSalle and Parsons. He also served as a volunteer sheriff for Collier County for ten years. Hamilton is survived by his wife, Gloria, two sons, and two grandchildren.

**Patricia Schutz Leiseth**, 81, of Ft. Madison, Iowa, died Aug. 13, 2024. During her more than forty years as an educator, Leiseth taught music and English from the elementary to the college level. She is survived by her husband, Keith, a daughter, a son, four grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and a brother.

**Marilyn Moody Reiter**, 81, died Sept. 12, 2024, in McHenry, Ill. She taught and tutored German in schools in Chicago for thirty years, retiring in 1997. Reiter is survived by a sister and two brothers.

## 1966

**Elizabeth Hawthorn** died Feb. 28, 2024. She worked for many years as a union representative with the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees. Hawthorn is survived by a sister and a brother.

**Roberta Mooney Holsten**, 84, died July 9, 2024. She taught elementary school, owned multiple businesses, and worked

as a registered nurse. She is survived by two sons and two grandchildren.

## 1967

**Curtis E. Evert**, 79, of Brainerd, Minn., died Oct. 13, 2024. He worked in insurance and financial planning. Evert is survived by his wife, Julie, two sons, four grandchildren, and two brothers.

**Carolyn A. Gallagher**, 79, died July 15, 2024. She worked as an organizational development consultant for numerous clients, including the World Bank. Gallagher is survived by a daughter, a son, and two grandchildren.

**Jeanne Flipp Gibbs**, 79, died Nov. 9, 2024, in Eagan, Minn. In addition to working in various roles in information technology, Gibbs was an English professor, a real estate agent, and operator of a weight-loss business. She is survived by two sons, including Ian Gibbs '91, five "bonus daughters," twenty grandchildren, seventeen great-grandchildren, four great-great-grandchildren, three sisters, and two brothers.

**Nancy Nelson Jacobson**, 79, died Aug. 5, 2024. After teaching at Tafari Makonnen School in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, for five years, Jacobson worked in education in South Dakota and Utah and served as a houseparent and counselor for teenage girls experiencing mental health challenges. She also served the United Church of Christ in several capacities, including as a member of the church's World Board and as a licensed minister for congregations in South Dakota and Kansas. Jacobson is survived by her husband, Martin, a daughter, a son, three granddaughters, and a sister.

**Anne Speer Knapp**, 78, of Bellingham, Wash., died May 24, 2024. She was vice president of institutional advancement at Manchester College in Indiana and worked at other charitable organizations, including the

American Heart Association, Woodland Park Zoo, and Northwest Harvest. Knapp is survived by a son and two grandchildren.

**William A. Rowen**, 79, of Spring Valley, Minn., died Oct. 25, 2024. He was a veteran of the US Air Force Reserve and served several Minnesota congregations during his forty-one years as a United Methodist minister. Rowen is survived by his wife, Claire Schmidt Rowen '69, a son, a granddaughter, and a sister.

## 1968

**Jeffrey E. Page**, 78, of Sarasota, Fla., died July 5, 2024. He is survived by two sisters and a brother.

## 1969

**Thomas A. Hardy**, 77, died Aug. 31, 2024. He taught communication studies at Syracuse University, Howard University, and the University of Massachusetts. Hardy also worked for the National Telecommunications and Information Agency for more than twenty-six years. He is survived by a son and a granddaughter.

**Joel J. Mueller**, 77, of Tequesta, Fla., died May 29, 2024. He is survived by a daughter, a son, a granddaughter, and a brother.

**Richard L. Plagens**, 77, died Sept. 4, 2024, in Fridley, Minn. During the Vietnam War, he served with the US Army at the Pentagon. Plagens spent most of his legal career practicing workers' compensation law with the firms of Lommen Abdo and Brown & Carlson. He is survived by his wife, Dee, two daughters, four grandchildren, a sister, and three brothers, including Steve Plagens '73.

**John W. Taylor**, 77, died Nov. 1, 2024. After teaching at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee for seven years, Taylor joined the faculty at South Dakota State University, where he taught English, composition, and science fiction. Taylor is survived by his wife, Lynette, three children,

including Patrick Taylor '92, and two granddaughters.

**George W. Yu**, 76, died Aug. 24, 2024. He was a clinical professor at George Washington Medical Center; a surgeon and urologist based in Annapolis, Md., and Washington, D.C.; a partner in Aegis Medical and Research Associates; and the inventor of numerous surgical instruments. Yu also performed medical missionary work in Cameroon, Malawi, and Honduras, and became chief medical officer of the biotechnology company JangoBio in 2015.

## 1970

**Charles A. Collins**, 77, of Collinsville, Va., died Nov. 1, 2024. He taught history and social studies for more than twenty years and served as an assistant football and track and field coach. Collins is survived by his wife, Mary, sister Betsy Collins Demiray '66, and a brother.

## 1972

**Jacqueline J. Eisenbrandt**, 74, of Roanoke, Va., died Nov. 7, 2024. She worked as assistant corporation counsel for Brown County, Wis., for eleven years. Eisenbrandt also worked for the Wisconsin Department of Employee Trust Funds and Virginia Disability Determination Services. She is survived by a daughter, a sister, and three brothers.

**Dorothy A. Kroll**, 74, of Osseo, Minn., died July 27, 2024. She is survived by two sons and a grandchild.

## 1973

**Neal A. Gaarder**, 72, died Aug. 10, 2024. He worked as a senior programmer at NCR, Cray, SGI, and HPE. Gaarder is survived by his wife, Pamela, and a brother.

## 1975

**Shannon Kelley Johnson**, 70, died Aug. 6, 2023. She retired after twenty years as co-owner (with her husband)



of Home Medical Equipment Center. Johnson is survived by a daughter, four grandchildren, two sisters, and two brothers, including John Kelley '81.

**James L. McIntire**, 71, died Aug. 16, 2024. He began his career in politics as an economist for Sen. Hubert Humphrey. After holding positions in government, academia, and the nonprofit sector, McIntire served five terms representing the State of Washington's 46th Legislative District beginning in 1998, and was elected to the first of two terms as Washington State Treasurer in 2008. Following his retirement in 2017, he helped the Sustainability Accounting Standards Board create corporate disclosure standards. McIntire is survived by his wife, Christina Koons, three children, including Seth McIntire '09, six grandchildren, a sister, and two brothers.

## 1978

**Scott G. Miller** died in 2023. He was a playwright, actor, and director who taught at the Cleveland School of the Arts.

## 1979

**Evert N. Fowle**, 67, died Sept. 14, 2024. He worked as a prosecutor for Kennebec and Somerset Counties in Maine for twenty-seven years, including ten as district attorney. In 2011, Fowle became a state district court judge. He is survived by his wife, Lori, three children, a granddaughter, and three siblings, including Janet Fowle '80.

## 1983

**Michael V. Montgomery**, 63, of McDonough, Ga., died Sept. 17, 2024. He wrote poetry and fiction, and his screenplays received awards from film festivals in Canada, Sweden, and Switzerland. Montgomery also taught humanities, literature, cinema, and writing for more than thirty-five years in Arizona and Georgia. He is survived by his mother, a daughter, and seven siblings.

## 1987

**Morgaine Wagner Sattva**, 79, of Richfield, Minn., died Sept. 30, 2024. She taught yoga at her own studio, pursued spiritual practice at Zen centers, and led mindfulness classes at Rush City Prison in St. Cloud, Minn. Sattva is survived by three daughters, including Colleen Doyle '95, two sons, nine grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and a sister.

## 1994

**James M. Hokanson**, 52, of Miami Beach, Fla., died Nov. 25, 2024. He worked in investment banking at Lehman Brothers, Bank of America, and Barclay's, before becoming an independent day trader in 2008. Hokanson is survived by his father and a brother.

**Michael L. Scott**, 51, died Aug. 23, 2024. He was an analyst at Wells Fargo, where he worked for eighteen years. Scott is survived by his wife, Emily, and his parents.

## 1996

**Heather M. Cannon**, 50, died Dec. 1, 2024. She worked as a systems librarian, an e-resources librarian, and a medical librarian. Cannon is survived by her mother and a sister.

## 2012

**Maura C. Warner** died in July 2024. She worked as a software engineer in Boston.

## 2018

**Hanna Mengistu** died in August 2024. She worked for research laboratories and biotechnology companies on both the East and West Coast. Mengistu is survived by family in Ethiopia.

## // COMMUNITY LOSSES



Former Macalester Professor **Nancy K. Johansen** died Nov. 28, 2024, at the age of 96. She joined Macalester's Department of Education in 1961 and later served for many years as its chair. She advocated for gender pay equity and quality children's books and mentored and supervised teachers across the state of Minnesota.

Johansen retired in 2003. She is survived by two daughters and a granddaughter.



Former Macalester Dean of Students **Fred P. Kramer** died Nov. 29, 2024, in Edina, Minn., at the age of 97. After serving as dean from 1960 to 1972, Kramer received a Fulbright grant and then returned to Macalester to work in administration for two more years. His daughter, Kay Kramer, writes that Kramer "was a beloved Dean

during a turbulent time, and the Class of 1972 asked him to be their Commencement speaker." He also worked at Capital University and the University of Minnesota. Kramer is survived by two children, two grandsons, a great-grandson, and a sister.



**Viviana Sanabria Toro**, a Spanish language lab instructor at Macalester, died Dec. 1, 2024, in Colombia. She began working at Macalester in 2022 and most recently had been teaching five sections of the Elementary Spanish I lab. Prior to coming to Macalester, she taught Spanish at the elementary and

secondary levels and English as a second language at the university level in Colombia.



## The Gift of a Tartan Shield

As sports fans enter Macalester Stadium, they might look up and see the marvel that fills the majority of the facade above the main entrance's doors: a giant shield sporting the Macalester tartan constructed through a mosaic of different colors and shades of polished granite.

The shield measures 12 x 14 feet and weighs over three tons. In order to match colors as closely as possible to the Mac tartan, the granite comprising the mosaic came from quarries located in six different states: Minnesota, North Dakota, New York, Vermont, North Carolina, and Georgia. And, but for the generosity of those involved in the building of the stadium, it almost never came into being.

Archival documents show that the stadium's original design included a granite Macalester shield above the front entrance; however, due to costs, this feature was left out of the signed construction contract. Nearing the completion of construction, the architects and the granite supplier reached out to President Harvey Rice with an offer: they would design and create the shield at their own cost and gift it to Mac. They also offered to raise the funds to cover the cost of attaching the shield onto the stadium. Macalester happily welcomed this gift, and the donors were honored guests at the dedication of the new stadium, with its tartan shield, on October 31, 1964.

—Ely Sheinfeld, College Archivist



Do you have a suggestion about what to cover next? Please email us at [archives@macalester.edu](mailto:archives@macalester.edu).

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## CLASS NOTES EXTENDED PLAY

### Summitting Mac

Some of Mac's most engaged alumni volunteers gathered over two days at the Macalester Summit in October. Participants got an inside look at the college and connected and conversed with each other and with Mac staff members. Pictured from left: Ed Deutschlander '93, Josh Roy, Burke Stickland '69, Richard Cambridge '70, Steve Burns '79, Bonnie Eldridge '79, Joedy Wiborg Cambridge '70, Tamoanchan Lucero, Abby Dos Santos '01, Julie Bailit '93, Jinqiao Lin '16, Yulun Li '14, Kyra Ostendorf '95, Patricia Hurley '82, Erin Updike, Brooke Carey '20, Daymond Dean '90, Joanna Clark '10, Bridget Barisonek, Michaela Harrison, Ashley Nelson, Lilly Mokamba, Leah Seidenkranz.