

# TODAY

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leading a local news renaissance  
from her own backyard.





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PHOTO BY DAVID J. TURNER





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# Behind the Lens

If you saw photos on Mac's social media accounts this year, chances are student photographer Daniel Seo '25 was behind the lens, capturing everything from Fall Ball to campus snowball fights. As we celebrate his graduation, here are a few more of his best images.



## 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 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:

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- Mail: *Macalester Today*, Macalester College, 1600 Grand Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105



# Stronger Together

My undergraduate major was called American civilization (now American studies). Because it is an inherently interdisciplinary field, I was able to immerse myself in history, philosophy, sociology, political science, and literature to better understand our country and its unique attributes. Through that lens, I read and studied many different perspectives on the ambitious and inspiring aspects of what some call “the American experiment.” For me, *E pluribus unum* is not just a slogan, it’s a profound and worthy goal. Of course, in many respects, we have not yet achieved it, but the process of striving is itself an important aspect of our democracy.

It struck me then, and I remain moved by it now, that, when French philosopher Alexis de Tocqueville came to the United States in the 1830s, he marveled at the ways in which civic groups shaped American society. People in this country, he wrote, “of all ages, all conditions, all minds, constantly unite” through associations. American greatness, Tocqueville posited, stems from the freedom of its people to meet, to exchange ideas, to learn from one another, and to work together.

This year, through all the political tumult and amid numerous critiques leveled against the higher education sector, I’ve been reflecting on how American college campuses—and, especially, Macalester—are paragons of this Tocquevillian ideal. Nearly two hundred years after the philosopher made his observations, higher education institutions in the United States contribute to a stronger and more prosperous society by serving as powerful conveners of people from all walks of life—and all corners of the globe—who choose to live and learn together.

College and university campuses are vital spaces where free expression is essential, where hard questions are asked, and where democracy is not only studied but strengthened. They are intentional communities in which we practice the skills of listening with curiosity and settling our differences peacefully. As anchor institutions in their cities and towns, they also are employers, discoverers of ideas, promoters of creativity, and cradles of innovation. All of this is made possible because different kinds of people find common ground and form alliances in service of shared interests and goals. The magic is made through association.

At Macalester, for example, we build connections across differences through a deep appreciation for celebrating the variety of lived experiences within the human family—even when we disagree vehemently, even when it gets messy or uncomfortable. We learn with one another and from one another. United by our distinctive institutional mission, we celebrate those attributes that make each person special. We do this not only because it is good and right to honor each other’s gifts, experiences, and perspectives, but also because it is necessary for a thriving pluralistic society.



Our students explore the power of association in many different ways, beginning with the global Mac network that they join as soon as they choose Macalester. They experience association through affiliations with the people and organizations on campus where they find a home: first-year courses, residence halls, athletic teams, clubs, choirs and bands, religious organizations, and cohort programs like Posse, QuestBridge, and Bonner. As I told the Class of 2025 at Commencement, these ties will endure for the rest of their lives, if they tend to them.

Indeed, I think our greatest strength is our capacity to work together and care for one another. We are stronger in collaboration, in solidarity, and in our shared belief that a better tomorrow is possible. And we’ve seen the power of collective action this year, among our students and institutionally, such as Macalester’s participation in national coalitions to promote access to higher education, celebrate its public purpose, and elevate democratic principles.

I witnessed an extraordinary example of the Mac network in action in May, when the college pledged to offer housing and meal plans for international students who needed a safe place to stay this summer, out of concern that our visa holders might not be able to get back into the United States this fall to continue their education if they were to go home between semesters. Our alumni and friends answered the call for help by raising more than \$425,000 to support these unforeseen expenses.

While recent federal policy shifts have made it more difficult for international students to join our community, we are doing all we can to foster an environment rich in diversity—of experiences, perspectives, and points of view. I like to think Tocqueville would be pleased to know that the tradition of association among people of “all minds” lives on at Macalester. For more than 150 years, in joyful and challenging times alike, we share a sense of purpose. And, on campus and around the world, we are stronger together.

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

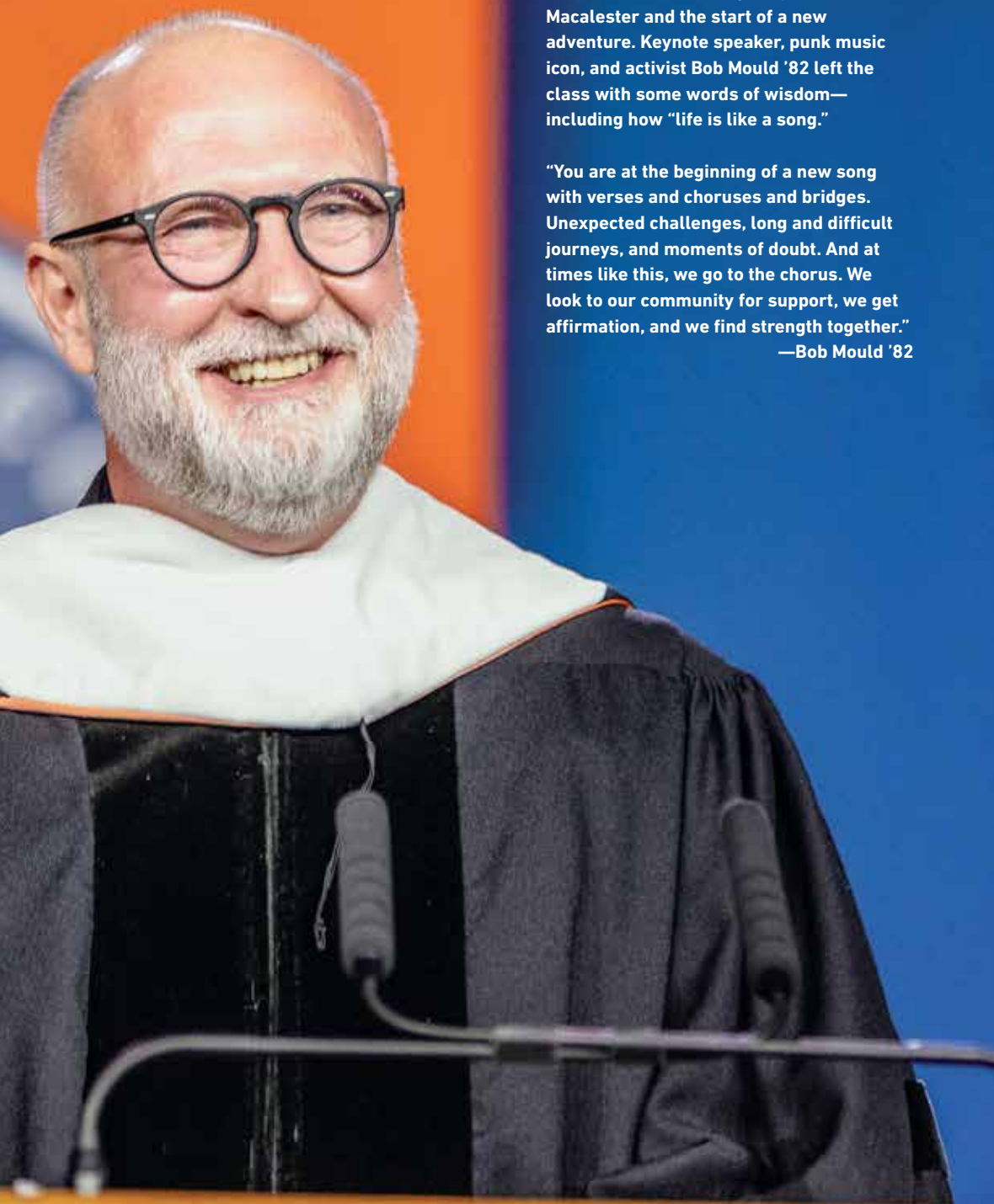
# 1600 GRAND

## ‘LIFE IS LIKE A SONG’

At Commencement, the Class of 2025 celebrated their closing chapter at Macalester and the start of a new adventure. Keynote speaker, punk music icon, and activist Bob Mould '82 left the class with some words of wisdom—including how “life is like a song.”

“You are at the beginning of a new song with verses and choruses and bridges. Unexpected challenges, long and difficult journeys, and moments of doubt. And at times like this, we go to the chorus. We look to our community for support, we get affirmation, and we find strength together.”

—Bob Mould '82



PHOTOS BY DAVID J. TURNER



“MAC PUT US FACE TO FACE WITH PEOPLE WHO WERE NOTHING LIKE US. PEOPLE WHO CHALLENGED OUR ASSUMPTIONS FIERCELY, YET WARMLY. MAC TAUGHT US THAT WE’RE NEVER JUST ONE THING, AND NEITHER IS ANYBODY ELSE.”

—Student speaker Ryan Connor '25

Before the big day, Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. Kathryn Kay Coquemont hosted an event for graduating seniors to participate in the time-honored tradition of decorating graduation caps.





1600  
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# SHADES OF INJUSTICE

With their January Live It Fund project, Shades of Injustice, Sabine Sullivan '25 and Alison Harris '25 aim to take on racial disparities in dermatology by creating and circulating a toolkit for doctors, designed to raise awareness of the different ways skin conditions can present on a wider variety of skin tones.

The genesis for the project came from personal experience. Sullivan describes how, despite being from the San Francisco Bay area—"one of the most diverse regions in the country"—her mother was turned away from dermatologists who were uncomfortable working with her darker skin color.

"So when we heard about the Live It Fund, Alison and I thought it would be a great opportunity for us to figure out a way to bring awareness to this," she says.

As the two researched the issue, they learned more about its harmful scope and impact.

"Black people are less likely to develop skin cancer, but more likely to die from it," Harris explains, due to the prevalence of misdiagnoses and late diagnoses. "Physicians aren't familiar with what

these conditions look like in people of color, so they progress to a later stage."

To counteract this, Sullivan and Harris's toolkit focuses on physicians and patients in primary care settings. The toolkit consists of a website, a poster, and an educational pencil holder with images of common skin conditions in various skin tones.

"We hope the toolkit can increase the rate of healthy and productive relationships between primary care physicians and underrepresented communities in the US, because members of those communities are less likely to report having a healthy relationship with the provider, which exacerbates so many health issues," Sullivan says.

The two are excited about the project's future. Although both students graduated in May, they're going to keep working on Shades of Injustice as they explore paths in medicine. "It can go so far," Harris says. Sullivan adds, "It's been wonderful to help spread awareness of these issues through word of mouth and this project."

—Robin Shurmur '27

The Department of Entrepreneurship and Innovation's Live It Fund empowers students in turning innovative ideas into meaningful action. Live It Fund cohorts receive funding, structured programming, and in-depth support to develop, test, and pilot innovative solutions to complex local or global issues.

LEARN MORE







## SINGING SYNTHESIZERS: Musical Language Revitalization through UTAUloid

**Abstract:** Music plays many important roles in language revitalization, from attracting learners and fostering speech communities to supporting language learning. These effects, however, are largely independent from the skills which linguists bring to language revitalization. This study introduces one concrete way in which applied linguistics can directly support musical language revitalization with UTAUloids—speech-and-music software synthesizers—illustrated through the creation of a Cherokee UTAUloid as part of ancestral language reclamation by a learner-linguist Cherokee Nation citizen. Through their focus on “massive collaboration,” low-resource music production, and youth involvement, UTAUloids are uniquely situated to serve as instruments for language revitalization. Even the act of creating an UTAUloid itself allows speakers and learners who may not consider themselves “musical” to contribute to musical language revitalization, and this study provides a step-by-step methodology to make creating an UTAUloid as accessible as possible for anyone interested in incorporating music into their own language revitalization practice.

Dr. Morgan Sleeper '11 is an associate professor of linguistics; his primary research interests are music and language, Patagonian Welsh, and language in Japanese popular media, along with language contact, code-switching, and revitalization.

## STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE: THE FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE

This month, Mac's Class of 2029 is making plans for Move-In Day. The transition from high school to college, though, stretches way beyond that milestone—it's a yearlong journey.

Around campus, faculty and staff are creating a more cohesive, intentional approach to the first-year experience to foster more seamless transitions for all students, setting a strong foundation for the rest of their college experience. So far, changes include:

- Hosting Zoom group advising sessions this summer for incoming students.
- Creating a video series for incoming students to guide course selection and registration.
- Hosting Orientation during the week before Labor Day to create a more welcoming environment and encouraging students to connect with one another and the Twin Cities.
- Continuing to pilot two-credit spring courses such as “Thriving at Macalester College” that build on the traditional first-year course experience.



**LEARN MORE** about how these initiatives align with the strategic plan's commitment to create a developmental four-year experience: [macalester.edu/strategic-plan](https://macalester.edu/strategic-plan)

▼ New Student Orientation 2024





1600  
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# REUNION 2025

Every year, Reunion at Macalester is a touchpoint: for celebrating, reconnecting, rejuvenating our sense of purpose, and honoring our Mac experiences. This year, more than 1,700 alumni and friends gathered at 1600 Grand. (Special shout-out to the Classes of 2005 and 2015 for setting a new attendance record at 43 and 41 percent, with the Class of 2005 receiving the Summit Award for highest alumni attendance!)

This year featured programming for class years ending in zero and five, our 50th+ Golden Scots, and the Alumni of Color Reunion.

At the Grand Celebration, alumni were honored with Alumni Awards (see p. 28), and the college celebrated \$32.7 million in total commitments for the 2025 fiscal year, including \$4.7 million to the Macalester Fund. This year, the Class of 1975 won the Summit Award for class gift participation, with 42 percent of the class participating in raising \$4.1 million for their class gift.







## 'What classes are you taking this year?'

Remember that first-day-of-class energy? Out of more than 800 courses offered at Mac each year, we rounded up a few that might catch your eye.



### Thinking Internationally About (and With) AI and ChatGPT

International studies and computer science  
Professor David Moore

Explore AI topics including human agency displacement, cognitive surrender, hallucination, human trainer trauma, autonomous warfare, speculations on existential risk, and even more—and work with AI itself in the process.



### Beginning Breaking

Theater and dance  
Professor Cheng Xiong

Physically and mentally rigorous, this course teaches the fundamental techniques, the histories and origins, and the evolution of breaking/breakdance with an emphasis on community building and connecting to the mind, body, and spirit with theory and concept.



### Ghost Stories

English  
Professor Andrea Kaston Tange

Explore nineteenth-century ghost stories, and their legacies in modern fiction: How do the shadows of the past haunt the present, in terms of unhealthy fascinations, or whispers of doubt, or standards of greatness to which a writer must rise?



### Research in Chemistry: Creating Novel Dyes

Chemistry  
Professor Dennis Cao

Learn about the science of color and how it is perceived, created, and used, and then put it into action by synthesizing brand-new dye compounds in the lab.



### Leaves to Landscapes: A Visual Journey Through Plant Ecology and Art

Art and Biology  
Professors Megan Vossler and Mary Heskel  
Combine the studies of plant ecology with a range of studio art practices and explore the intersections of art and science.

## ATHLETICS

## 'OUR FIRST-YEARS ARE FEARLESS'

When Ariella Rogahn-Press '28 arrived at Macalester last fall, she didn't have to wait long to contribute to the track and field program—she broke school records in each of her first three meets as a Scot, and didn't stop there. By the end of the outdoor season, she had collected numerous Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) Athlete of the Week accolades and run the eleventh-fastest 400-meter dash time outdoors in Division III history, earning back-to-back trips to the national championships for both indoor and outdoor track.

Around the Leonard Center, though, she's not alone in her remarkable first-year success. Over the past year, she's one of four Mac first-year students who received MIAC Rookie of the Year honors in their respective sports (see sidebar). It's a first in Mac history—and a key indicator of meaningful growth in the college's athletics program.

"Our first-years are fearless," says director of athletics Donnie Brooks. "We're seeking students who are going to come in and lead by pushing their teammates right away, and that looks different for a first-year than a senior. Our first-years are pushing the pace for our upperclass students, and there's real joy in it. We're not running from the tension of pushing—we're running toward it."

Brooks credits each coach for building team cultures that are both competitive and supportive, an important balance for many top recruits. Most athletic recruits now apply through Early Decision admissions cycles—committing to Macalester up to ten months before they arrive on campus—which creates valuable opportunities to form early relationships with coaches and teammates. And as soon as athletes are on campus, they're immersed in the department's focus on leadership development, including through the Scots LEAD program's coursework, with an emphasis that athletes across all years practice leadership skills.

At the annual athletics banquet in May, teams gathered to celebrate the year's many accomplishments. But they're not going to rest on their laurels. "I have to tell them, 'Guess who's coming next year? There are baby sharks coming in next year who are looking at your times, your box scores,'" Brooks says. "I tell them: don't get comfortable."





Ariella Rogahn-Press '28 wrapped up a standout first year with a fourth-place finish in the 400-meter dash and All-American honors at the NCAA Division III Outdoor Track & Field Championships in May.

## ROOKIES OF THE YEAR

In the 2024–25 academic year, four Mac athletes were named MIAC Rookies of the Year in their respective sports—a first in Mac athletics history.



**KATE FOX**

Seattle  
Women's cross country

**Highlights:**

All-MIAC, All-Region, Division III All-Academic Athlete



**KEAN PAJARILLAGA**

Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands  
Men's swimming and diving

**Highlights:**

MIAC champion (200-yard backstroke), All-MIAC honorable mention in two other individual events and two relays



**JOHN IHRKE**

Northbrook, Ill.  
Men's indoor track and field

**Highlights:**

MIAC indoor champion (800-meter run), 800-meter indoor school record, All-MIAC in the 800 and the 4x400-meter relay outdoors



**ARIELLA ROGAHN-PRESS**

Albuquerque, N.Mex.  
Women's indoor and outdoor track and field

**Highlights:**

All-American honors twice, MIAC track athlete of the week five times, five school records

PHOTOS BY CHRISTOPHER MITCHELL

Fall competition kicks off Aug. 29. View schedules, watch webcasts, and learn more: [athletics.macalester.edu](https://athletics.macalester.edu).







# Fighting for Justice

BY ROBYN ROSS

## Honza Cervenka '13 pursues a fairer society through litigation on behalf of victims of discrimination and abuse.

By the time Reena and Sandeep Mander called their local adoption agency in 2016, the British couple had gone through several unsuccessful rounds of fertility treatment. But a staff member turned them away. The agency, the social worker told them, had primarily white children waiting for adoption and preferred to place them with white parents instead of the Manders, who are of Indian descent.

Suspecting they had been discriminated against, the Manders sued the agency and the regional government council that oversaw it. Their legal team at London-based McAllister Olivarius included Honza Cervenka '13, who had interned at the firm before coming to Macalester and returned after graduation. In 2019, the Manders triumphed: a judge awarded damages that included the expenses the couple had incurred to adopt a child from the United States. Adoption agencies across the United Kingdom took note and refined their own practices.

For Cervenka, this was the best possible result: the party he represented won, and the victory prompted the transformation of a larger system.

"Some of the most satisfying outcomes in my work have been using litigation on behalf of one or two clients to effect broader change," he says.

Now a senior associate at McAllister Olivarius, Cervenka has created change by fighting for victims of workplace discrimination, sexual harassment, and sexual abuse, in both the United Kingdom and the United States.

Cervenka grew up in Ostrava, Czech Republic, a former mining and industrial center near the country's border with Poland. For his last two years of high school, he attended United World College of the Adriatic in Italy, where the experience of living and studying with an international student population prompted him to consider the United States for college. One day, a poster on the wall caught his attention: Secretary-General of the United Nations Kofi Annan '61, it said, was an alumnus of Macalester College. Cervenka was impressed by this endorsement and decided Mac was a good fit because of its liberal arts curriculum and urban location.

At Mac, he majored in international studies and music, taking multiple courses with professors Nadya Nedelsky and Mark Mazullo. He sang with the concert choir, completed a conducting honors project, and even considered conducting as a career. Cervenka also interned in St. Paul with Jeff Anderson and Associates, a law firm that specializes in child sex abuse cases, particularly

those involving clergy. He came to understand the complexity of the investigative work as well as how meaningful it could be to hold institutions accountable. After graduation, he returned to McAllister Olivarius as a paralegal and earned his degree from the University of Law.

One area of his legal practice is image-based sexual abuse, the release of a person's intimate photos without consent. Although such abuse has been called "revenge pornography," Cervenka says that term is misleading: "revenge" implies that the victim did something to merit retribution, and "pornography" suggests the images were created for public consumption. The person who leaks the photos may be a former partner, to whom the victim sent the pictures, or a stranger who hacks an account. The perpetrator might send them to the victim's friends and coworkers or post them to a pornography website. These days, perpetrators can use artificial intelligence to create deceptively realistic digital forgeries using only a person's headshot and an AI-generated body.

The abuse causes grave personal and professional harm. "The effects of this crime are lifelong and debilitating, in some instances," Cervenka says. "It's such a fundamental betrayal of trust." The challenge is compounded because, even if the images are removed from one website, they can continue to surface elsewhere. A 2019 study suggested one in twelve US adults has been a victim.


Cervenka quickly realized the limitations of the law around image-based sexual abuse. Criminal law generally classifies the abuse as a misdemeanor, and websites have immunity from civil liability for third-party content. Laws about the crime vary across state and national borders, making it difficult to pursue a perpetrator in a different jurisdiction. Sometimes the victim doesn't even know who leaked the images.

"We should all be a lot more worried that a frighteningly easy way to completely ruin someone's life is, for the most part, practically impossible to get justice for," he says.

Even when true justice is elusive, Cervenka works to get the images removed from the internet. Sometimes the most effective approach has been leveraging copyright law. When a victim took the photos themselves, they own the copyright and have legal grounds to demand their removal from pornography websites.

Cervenka says the European Union and Australia have made the greatest strides toward combating the crime. He has advocated for legislative change in the UK, such as holding websites responsible for harmful content posted to them. And he urges reconsideration of the attitudes toward sexual expression that lead to shaming and blaming of the victims, who are usually women. "There's still so much stigma associated with being a victim of this crime," he says.

In the meantime, he continues to represent people who have been violated or discriminated against by an institution that current law can hold accountable.

"I like representing the Davids rather than the Goliaths," he says. "I take a lot of satisfaction from taking on the legal of others and saying, 'What happened to you was awful. It's illegal. Let's see what we can get you in terms of a sense of justice.'" 

Robyn Ross is a writer in Austin, Texas.

# WHAT WE CAN ALL AGREE ON

Forensics students at Mac excel in competitive argumentation—and thrive in an environment of shared values.





In the four years since Beau Larsen became director of forensics at Macalester, the program's five teams—mock trial, ethics/bioethics, policy debate, moot court, and Model United Nations—have earned plenty of national attention.

Macalester individuals and teams have landed top finishes at the Cross Examination Debate Association Nationals and celebrated an ethics bowl national championship win with coaching support from Casey Moerer '23. They've qualified for the American Mock Trial Association's National Championship in 2023 and 2024 with guidance from Niloy Ray '99.

Larsen has also relaunched the policy debate program, a century-old program that dissolved during the 2010s—and it has roared back to national relevance. During their tenure, Larsen has coached a team to the quarterfinals of the National Debate Tournament (NDT), the most prestigious competition in the field.

It's the kind of wide-ranging success that places Larsen firmly in the company of previous beloved forensics leaders including Dick Lesicko '75, Scott Nobles, and Roger Mosvick '52. And a new generation of celebrated student competitors is earning recognition alongside Mac's most notable forensics alumni, including Vice President Walter Mondale '50 and United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan '61.

Today, Larsen and the eighty students who participate in forensics each year remain deeply committed to the approaches that have long fueled Macalester's success. "In forensics, students have space to test ideas, build intellectual rigor, and refine the skill they need no matter what their major is—communication," says Larsen. "My students learn across the course of a season what it means to dedicate yourself to something fully and submerge yourself in hard work as part of the process."

Larsen is also positioning students for future success and leadership opportunities. In an era of polarization, Larsen sees forensics as a way for students to practice the skills of respectful and thoughtful disagreement both on campus and beyond it. "We want to push one another to not settle for the easy answers, and instead to think deeply together and dialogue across difference as an antidote," they say.

Forensics students at Mac are experts at dissecting arguments, asking key questions, exposing contradictions, and finding the heart of a disagreement. But as fiercely competitive as they are, they share a powerful sense of common purpose. That's why we asked alumni, students, and coaches to share some of the values instilled by forensics that we can all agree on.







## Your authentic voice is your power

*Li Guan '15 is a climate and environment manager for the fashion company SHEIN.*

Shanghai native Li Guan joined the mock trial team as a first-year student and was proud of the rapid improvements she had made in her public speaking skills since she'd arrived at Macalester.

For some, that hard work wasn't enough.

Guan remembers one early tournament when an older judge stopped her and said, "Your English is good—for a foreigner."

The offhand comment stunned her. But it became a catalyst. "I made up my mind: I wanted to perform as well as any native speaker. I would invest the time to get better," she says.

She did. With intense focus, she huddled with teammates to hash out case theories, write out direct and cross-examinations, and practice relentlessly. She spent long bus rides to tournaments as far away as Cincinnati finding ways to improve, and analyzing every success and failure on the return home.

It wasn't long before she shifted her focus from polishing her English skills to developing a voice that would set her apart. "At first, I would observe and copy the styles and tones of the juniors and seniors who were experienced in presenting themselves in a sophisticated way," she says. "Later on, I found a style and tone—a little bit sassy—that fit who I was."

Her efforts paid off. She was an integral member of Macalester's mock trial team that advanced to nationals three times over the course of her four years as a student. And she landed All-American honors as a witness in 2015.

Today, Guan, who lives in Guangzhou, contributes to projects for the fashion retailer SHEIN that support the company's efforts to manage its environmental impact responsibly and transparently. "A lot of my job is to persuade the leadership and cross-functional teams that the company must run sustainably to succeed," she says. "So the skills I learned in forensics, like effective communication, public speaking, and even putting yourself in someone else's shoes, continue to be beneficial to me."



### EVERYONE LOVES A BEFORE-AND-AFTER

Sam Price '25 captained the policy debate team and reached the quarterfinals of the National Debate Tournament, receiving a Top 10 Speaker Award.

**"I used to get rattled in debates. Now, hopefully, we're the ones doing the rattling."**

### A crash course in forensics at Macalester

While many college forensics programs focus on just one or two events, Macalester's "big tent" approach includes five distinct competitive formats—a significant advantage for students, says forensics director Beau Larsen. "It means that there are many different types of public speaking and argumentation 'laboratories' for students to choose from—and it gives them a chance to shine in the events they choose."

Here's a guide to all of them.

**Mock trial:** Teams of up to ten students compete in tournaments by performing as attorneys and witnesses in simulated criminal and civil cases.

**Ethics/bioethics bowl:** Teams of up to six students analyze real-world cases centered on contemporary ethical dilemmas, building arguments grounded in philosophical frameworks.

**Policy debate:** Students develop arguments around a yearlong legal, domestic, or international policy resolution.

**Moot court:** Students simulate Supreme Court-style proceedings by presenting appellate oral arguments on a yearlong case problem.

**Model United Nations:** A team of twelve students represents a country's interests in diplomacy, negotiation, and policymaking at a national Model UN conference each spring.



### DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES PROPEL SUCCESS

*Colette Lawler '27 was a member of this year's national champion Ethics Bowl team.*

**"People on my Ethics Bowl team come from a wide variety of majors. We have computer science and econ majors and history and political science, and I'm the only philosophy major on the team. It's really special for people to have their area of expertise and share it with everybody."**



# Preparation drives top performance under pressure

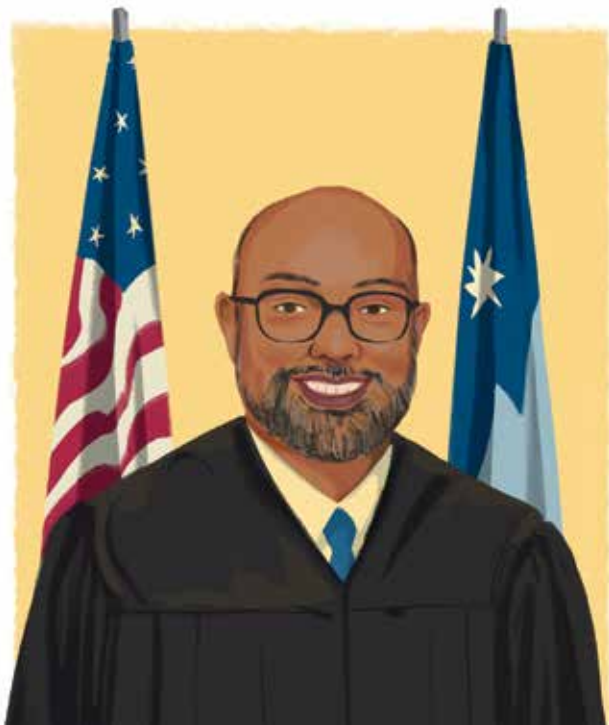
**Andrew Gordon '05 is a district court judge in Ramsey County, Minnesota's Second Judicial District.**

As a student, Andrew Gordon says he sometimes got a knot in the pit of his stomach before mock trial competitions. "It was a little bit of self-doubt," he says. "I was thinking: Can I do this? Am I the right person to do it? Am I going to win this case? That feeling was what made me put in the work to answer all those questions in the affirmative—even if I didn't end up winning."

The pressure felt particularly acute because Gordon had grown up in Jamaica. While he had participated in parliamentary debate as a high school student, he hadn't absorbed details and nuances of American law in the same way as many of his teammates.

But as Gordon looks back on those sometimes nerve-racking experiences two decades later, he knows they have benefited him in his current role as a district court judge. "I learned to express an opinion not just in front of an audience, but in front of an audience where you expect to be challenged," he says. "Being a judge is not like a political rally where everyone who's there will agree with you. You know that someone in that room disagrees with you, maybe vehemently. You're trying to figure out what's going on, and you develop the presence of mind to be in that moment."

Gordon adds that this capacity for composure and clarity has been essential in his work. "Often, the stakes are high. Someone's liberty is at stake. Money is on the line. There may be constitutional issues. The skills you learn in debate are skills that have value in the real world."



## There's a great big world beyond Macalester to discover



**Beau Larsen has been director of forensics since 2021.**

Students often joke about the "Macalester bubble"—the sense that campus can feel like its own world and culture.

But Beau Larsen says that for forensics students, the whole point is to go beyond that bubble, both literally and figuratively. National tournaments bring together dozens of the top teams from across the country.

"Students can test ideas with students from other colleges and universities, which is something they can't get through traditional classes," Larsen says. "This is my favorite part of the job: traveling with students so they can immerse themselves into the transformative power of forensics competition."

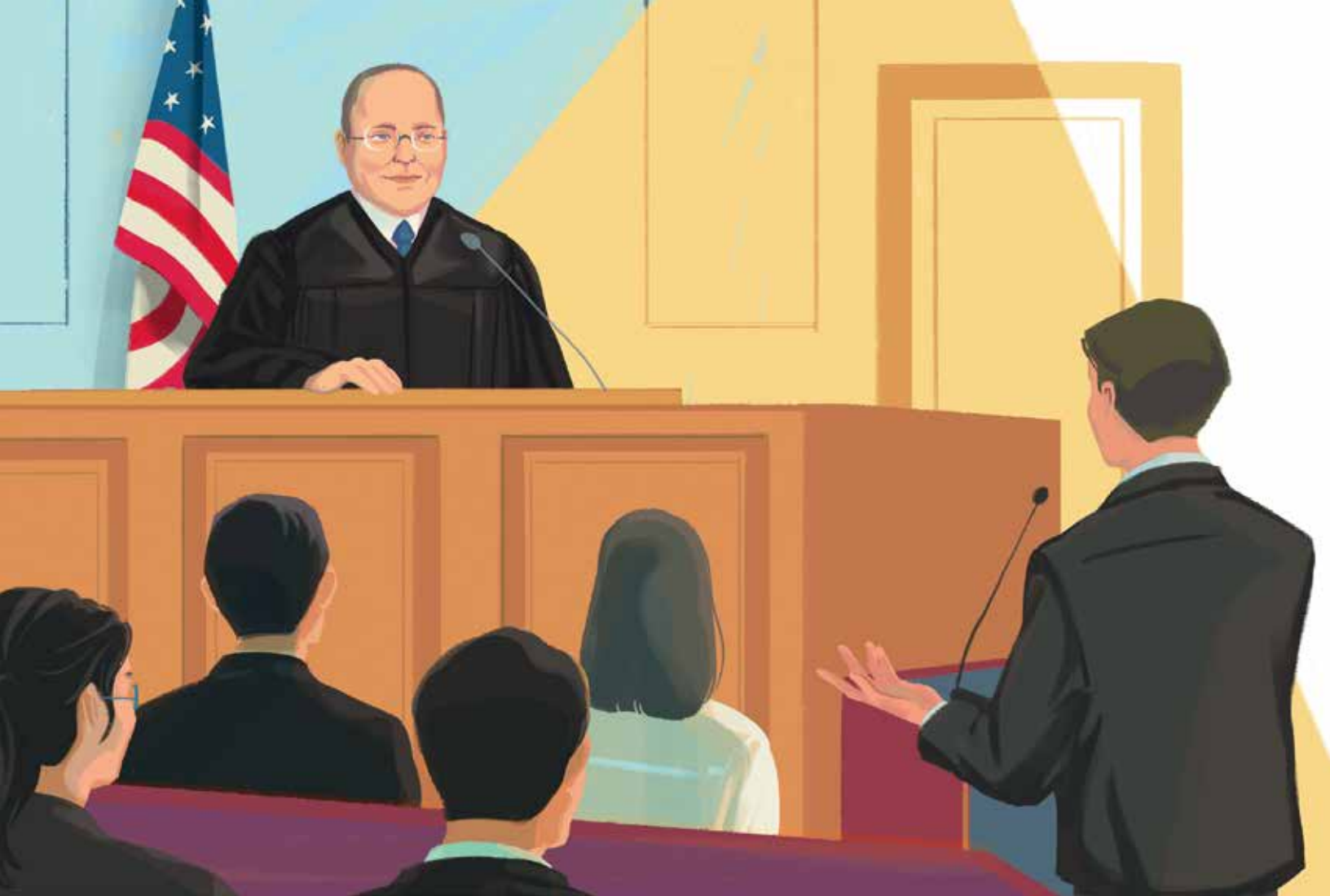


## MACALESTER LANDS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP IN ETHICS BOWL

In February, Macalester won the 2025 Ethics Bowl National Championship, besting thirty-five teams from around the country. The victory, a nailbiter against Stanford decided by a single ballot point, tackled everything from policies on space weaponry to term lengths for federal judges.

It marked the second time in four years that the team had won the national championship. Sihaam Barre '28, Madeleine Heafey '28, Colette Lawler '27, Vin Leang '27, Rūta Rupeikyte '27, and Eva Sturm '26 were led by Coach Casey Moerer '23.





**THE MACALESTER  
NETWORK IS INVALUABLE**

*Kofi Anyimadu '28 is a member  
of the mock trial team.*

**“My mock trial coach, Niloy Ray '99, is a Macalester alum. That has opened so many doors, in terms of the alumni network. We have public defenders and attorneys at law firms in Minneapolis coming to coach us. That’s extremely helpful for our preparation.”**

## Collaboration helps people achieve at the highest levels

*Toby Heytens '97 is a judge for the US Court of Appeals  
for the Fourth Circuit.*

Toby Heytens is the first to admit that his 18-year-old self was “extremely competitive.”

That’s what attracted him to Macalester’s forensics team in the first place. With high-stakes tournaments and clear winners and losers, mock trial seemed all but engineered for him.

But it was also an intensive education in collaboration and communication. “A mock trial team has to have at least six people on it, and no single person can earn more than 30 of the 140 possible points,” he says. “It’s literally impossible to win alone, even if you’re the greatest mock trial competitor in the history of the world.”

That structure led him and his teammates—fierce competitors in their own

right—to pursue a more cooperative approach.

If a case needed an overhaul, for example, it meant they couldn’t rely on ego or individual brilliance to carry them through—they had to trust one another’s judgment, stay aligned on goals, and commit to rebuilding it together.

The cooperative strategy was successful: Heytens was part of a team during his junior year that went undefeated at nationals.

Nearly thirty years after graduating, Heytens considers the lessons he learned about building effective teams to be some of the most important of his life. “To achieve competitive success, you have to care about and work well with each other,” he says.



## Finding “your people” is life-changing

**Molly McGinnis Stine '87 was a two-time Cross Examination Debate Association national champion; today, she is a lawyer at Troutman Pepper Locke in Chicago.**

“What did I get from Macalester forensics? The ability to think critically, the ability to research, the ability to see things from more than one point of view, and the ability to listen. It helped me develop my voice and my willingness to speak out. I learned to build consensus and I learned how to push back in a productive way.

But also, as is true of any group endeavor, these people became my people. We were in those tin cans of vans for all those hours on dark highways. We were staying in budget motels, and we were trying to figure out how to stretch our daily food allowance. I became friends with them, and I’ve stayed friends with them.”



## THERE’S ALWAYS ANOTHER ANGLE

**Will Kochel '27 reached the quarterfinals of the 2025 National Debate Tournament.**

**“In debate, you always argue both sides of a resolution. That forces me to really question my own biases. I’m incentivized to approach a topic from all different perspectives, and that’s really broadened my academic horizons in a way that no other activity could have done.”**



## Strong minds can change

**Dick Lesicko '75 led Macalester’s forensics program from 1984 to 2021.**

After competing successfully in Macalester’s forensics program as a student—including a top-sixteen performance at the National Debate Tournament as a senior—Dick Lesicko '75 couldn’t wait to return to Macalester as a coach.

It wasn’t just that he felt he could have an impact with the raw talent that Macalester attracted. It was also that he’d be helping students develop skills and habits that they’d lean on for the rest of their lives—including the often-undervalued skill of changing their minds. “When you’ve had to argue both sides of a proposition, I think it makes you a little less dogmatic and a little more willing to compromise,” he says. “Sometimes, you realize that you’re wrong—and when you’re testing your ideas, it’s okay to admit that you’ve changed your mind.”

Lesicko says that this is a useful skill within the context of forensics, and even more powerful beyond it. “In life, you can’t have a real interaction with someone unless [you’re open to] the possibility that they can change your mind, and you’ll be the better for it,” he says. “That’s hard work, but it’s also a sign of real emotional maturity.”

## What’s next for Macalester forensics?

Forensics—much like student research experiences, internships, study away programs, and athletics, among other programs—is considered a “high-impact practice.”

These time-intensive activities happen outside the classroom, and they also require students to work closely with faculty and staff. Research has linked such activities to improved critical thinking and writing skills, a greater sense of engagement in college, and greater satisfaction in the years after graduation.

That’s why these experiences are a key area of emphasis in Macalester’s

Brighter campaign and the *Imagine, Macalester* strategic plan, which prioritize ensuring that every student has the resources they need to participate in high-impact practices at the highest levels.

For forensics students, that might mean having opportunities to participate in national or even international events—traveling as far as their skills and training can take them. Many students have already participated in competitions across the country, and support through the campaign will make it easier for more students to take part in highly competitive events throughout the year. [M](#)



## GROWTH HAPPENS OUTSIDE YOUR COMFORT ZONE

**Sihaam Barre '28 was a member of this year’s national champion Ethics Bowl team.**

**“I secretly hated public speaking, but it’s really rewarding to put yourself in difficult situations and challenge yourself. You learn so much about yourself and the people around you. You can come out of these experiences so much more confident.”**

Erin Peterson is a Minneapolis-based writer.



A black and white photograph of Shigeru Ochi and a young child standing in front of a stone lantern and a torii gate in Miyajima Island, Japan. Shigeru Ochi is on the right, wearing a military uniform and a beret, with his arm around the child. The child is on the left, wearing a sweater and shorts, and a headband. The background features a stone lantern and a torii gate.

# SHIGERU OCHI'S LONG HISTORY

BY HILLARY MOSES MOHAUPT '08

Shigeru Ochi '49 with young relatives in Miyajima Island, Japan, after atomic bombs were detonated over Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945.



## As Shigeru Ochi '49 approaches 102 years old, he and his family reflect on his path from an internment camp to Macalester to MIT and beyond.

**IN DECEMBER 1941**, Shigeru Ochi '49 was in the middle of his senior year of high school in south central Los Angeles when the Japanese military attacked Pearl Harbor and the United States entered World War II. Soon after, in February 1942, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, authorizing the removal from the West Coast to inland "relocation centers" those deemed a threat to national security. Japanese Americans were swiftly targeted and interned.

A few months later, Ochi became one of the first Japanese Americans ordered by the federal government to Manzanar, an internment camp in the remote California desert. Government officials told Ochi—who'd been born in Los Angeles to Japanese-born parents—and the other young men who arrived early that if they helped construct the camp, they would be allowed to come and go as they pleased.

This turned out to be untrue, and eventually 10,000 people—mostly American citizens—were crammed into one square mile with extreme and harsh conditions: up to 110 degrees Fahrenheit in the summer, below zero in the winter, and always windy and dusty. By the war's end, more than 120,000 people would be interned in a total of ten camps across the country.

Ochi was held at Manzanar for one year and one day before being released into the custody of the Church of the Brethren, based in Chicago, in March 1943. The religious group was sponsoring people like Ochi who were eligible to leave the camp, and they helped him find a job in a Chicago model airplane factory, which allowed him to save enough money to pay for a year of tuition at Macalester.

"Mac was my first exposure to Minnesota," Ochi says, recalling how the Twin Cities at the time, with its Scandinavian influences, were so different from where he grew up in south central Los Angeles, surrounded by Mexican and Japanese immigrants. Mac was the right fit for him, Ochi's son Jim says, because of its academically rigorous yet welcoming environment.

Esther Torii Suzuki '46, one of the namesakes of the current Lealtad-Suzuki Center for Social Justice on campus and the first Japanese American student at Mac, had arrived in 1942. Ochi remembers there being about a dozen other Japanese American students at Mac when he was there.

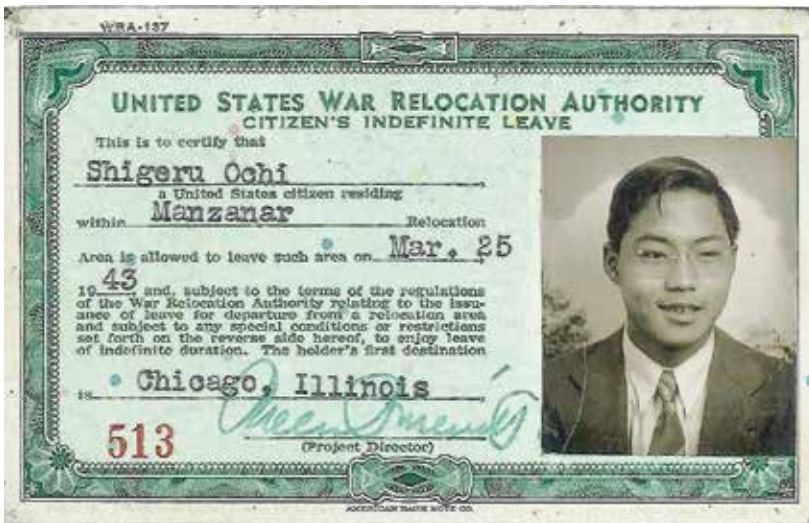
While Ochi had earned enough money for tuition, that didn't cover all of college's expenses. In exchange for a cot next to the coal furnace in the Bigelow basement, he stoked the dorm's fire every morning at 5 a.m. and again after classes. To earn money for bread and peanut butter, he washed dishes at a nearby restaurant.

Ochi's Macalester education was interrupted after his first year, when he was drafted into the Army in July 1944. He completed basic training at Fort Hood in Texas, where he met members of the 442nd regimental combat team, a segregated Japanese American regiment that became one of the most decorated teams in US military history. Ochi graduated from the US Military Intelligence School at Fort Snelling in St. Paul, where he took Japanese language classes before being sent to the Pacific theatre. He'd never attended any formal Japanese language





Ochi (far right) served as secretary-treasurer of the Macalester Christian Association in 1947. Below: Ochi's ID card upon release from Manzanar in 1943 and his Macalester Homecoming pin from 1946.



classes as a child growing up in California, but spoke a mixture of Japanese and English with his parents.

In 1945, Ochi was sent to Hiroshima—where his family had lived for centuries—with the American occupational forces after the city had been leveled by the atomic bomb. He sent a letter back to Macalester that was printed in a December 1945 issue of the *Mac Weekly*, reporting on the dire effects of war he was witnessing. Miraculously, he tracked down members of the Ochi family—who had survived the blast but were suffering from radiation sickness, burns, and malnutrition—and delivered high-protein meals and other supplies.

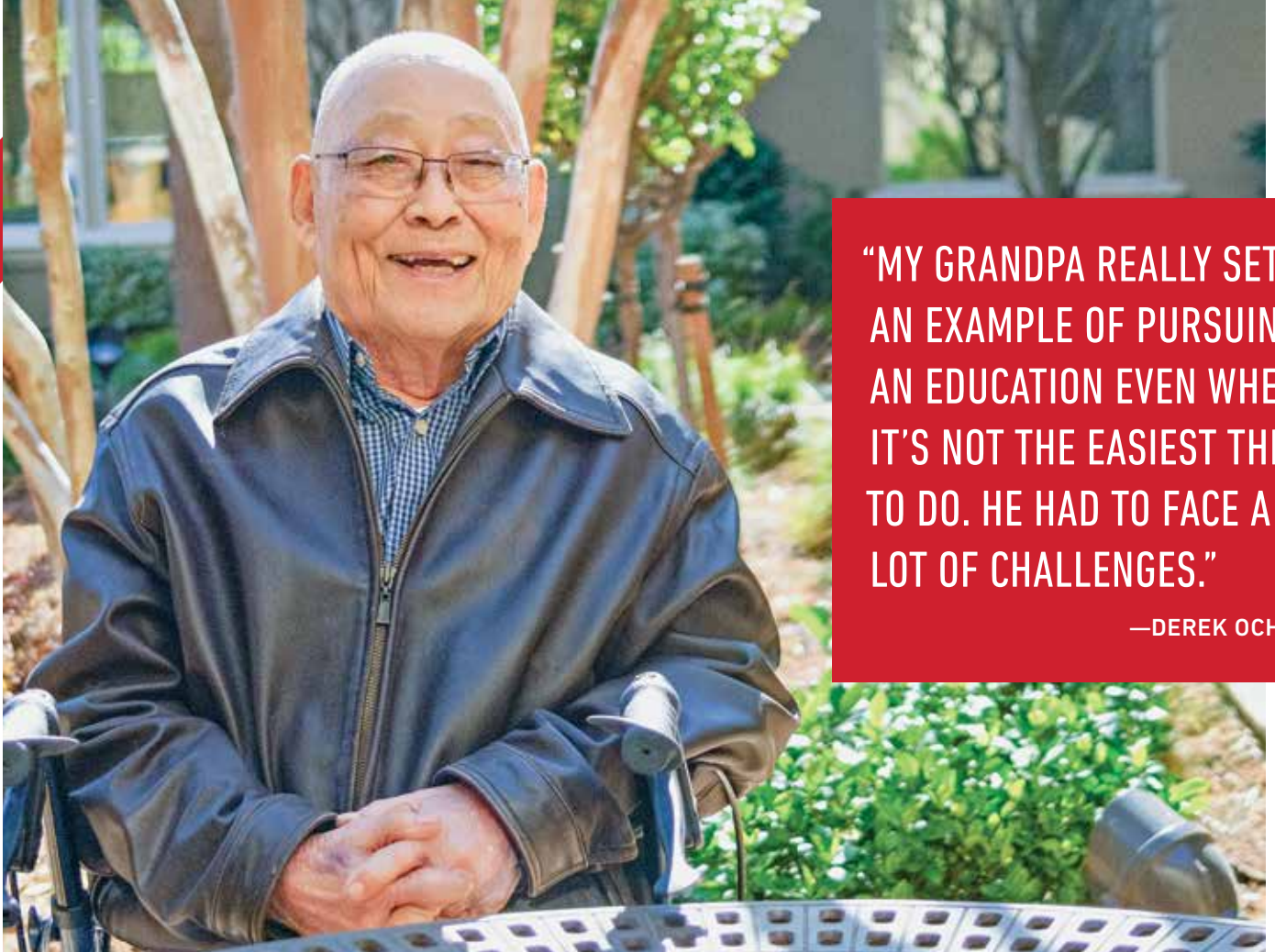
After being honorably discharged in October 1946, Ochi resumed his studies at Macalester—well into the fall semester. Despite his late arrival, he aced his courses that semester, going on to double-major in math and chemistry. “As far as I was concerned, math was one of the easier subjects, and a good way to get along,” he says. Thanks to the GI Bill, he was

able to live in a dorm room like most Mac students. He would play active roles in the Macalester Christian Association and the Junior Toastmasters, and his name frequently appeared on academic honor rolls.

In the spring of his senior year, the Graduate Record Exam was administered nationally for the first time. A perfect score in its math section and his outstanding grades earned him a full scholarship to MIT for graduate school.

Later, his son Jim '80 would marvel at Ochi's academic success, especially during an era when there was so much anti-Japanese sentiment. Whenever Jim asked his father about it he would, in Jim's words, “just shrug his shoulders and say, ‘I don't know, I tried really hard and I got good letters of recommendation.’” The widespread standardization of the GRE may have also worked in Ochi's favor. “For the first time ever schools had an opportunity to objectively evaluate applicants from throughout the country,” Jim says. “And I believe that's how Dad





**“MY GRANDPA REALLY SET AN EXAMPLE OF PURSUING AN EDUCATION EVEN WHEN IT’S NOT THE EASIEST THING TO DO. HE HAD TO FACE A LOT OF CHALLENGES.”**

**—DEREK OCHI '12**



**From left: Shigeru Ochi '49, son Jim Ochi '80, great-granddaughter Naomi Ochi and grandson Derek Ochi '12 on Ochi's 101st birthday.**

got MIT's attention.”

Ochi and his wife Virginia raised their four children in New Brighton, a Twin Cities suburb a short drive from Macalester. He was an engineer at UNIVAC, one of the first computer companies in America, and later formed a startup with several other engineers called Comten that went public on the New York Stock Exchange in 1968.

Ochi was the first person in his family to attend Macalester, but he wasn't the last. Six others fol-

lowed him, including his younger sister, Midori '48, who'd graduated from Manzanar High School while interned. A niece, Meloni Hallock '70, serves on the college's Board of Trustees. His sons Jim '80 and Bob '85 and grandson Derek '12 all majored in biology at Mac, and all three became physicians inspired by Shigeru's determination to receive an education. Bob also met his wife, Amy Shapiro Ochi '85, at Mac.

In 2019, Derek accompanied his grandfather to Ochi's 70th Reunion. “He was so elated to go back to the place that provided him those opportunities and memories,” Derek says. “I could tell from the way Grandpa always spoke about Macalester that it was one of the most important experiences in his life.”

Now 101, Ochi lives outside Sacramento, in a memory care facility not far from several family members.

“My grandpa really set an example of pursuing an education even when it's not the easiest thing to do. He had to face a lot of challenges,” Derek says. “He doesn't come out and really talk that much about all the details of his story—he's an open guy, but he's very humble. As I learned more I realized that it's important to take advantage of the opportunities you're given. That inspired me to try to do the same.” [M](#)

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



HOMETOWN

# HEADLINER

Once an intern at Bay City News, **Katherine Ann Rowlands** now owns the regional wire service, a hub for in-depth local news coverage, civic information, and tech experimentation.



According to the headlines, owning a news organization these days is a losing bet: News readership has been in decline for decades. Newsrooms have shed nearly three-quarters of their workforce since the Great Recession of 2008. More recently, Northwestern University researchers have found that newspapers have been closing or merging at a rate of nearly 2.5 every week, often leaving behind news deserts with little to no local coverage.

But none of that stopped journalist Katherine Ann Rowlands '88 from making a bid for Bay City News, a wire service near her hometown of Berkeley, California, when it went up for sale in 2018. The regional wire service, which provides news coverage used by broadcast, print, and digital outlets in Northern California, has launched the careers of hundreds of young journalists over nearly fifty years—including Rowlands, who interned there during summers while a Mac student. “I had always imagined how great it would be if I could run the organization or build something like it,” says Rowlands, who used her savings to buy every share of the company and invest in its expansion over the last seven years. “I’m still standing—but it is not for the faint of heart.”

Community journalism has motivated Rowlands, a former Mac Weekly editor who studied political science and journalism with such civic-minded Macalester professors as Chuck Green and Ron Ross. “Journalism to me is fundamentally about being curious and creating a conduit of information that can be useful to people to be informed, make better choices about their lives, hold public officials and government accountable, connect the dots, and make sense of the world,” she says. After spending her junior year at the London School of Economics and then graduating from Mac, Rowlands went straight to Columbia University’s journalism master’s program, which honored her with its Alumni of the Year Award in 2024 for contributions to her field. For more than a decade, she made a living writing and producing news from compass points around the world including the Bay Area, Honduras, the Netherlands, New York, and London for outlets such as *The Economist*, *Newsweek*, and niche publications serving international readers.

Back in California, she served in editing and reporting roles around the state through the 2000s, just as newspapers started to struggle with competition from digital venues and decreasing ad and subscription revenues. She found the professional atmosphere discouraging. “Instead of hiring more people and doing more ambitious projects, we were downsizing,” she says. She also had grown frustrated with the dearth of women in decision-making roles in the field. As a past president of the Journalism and Women Symposium, a national network for women in the news business, she knew the talent was available. “There’s so much experience, expertise, and wisdom that was not being well represented at the leadership level. I wanted to figure out: Why is that happening, and how can we change it?”

She was able to seek answers to those questions after winning a prestigious John S. Knight Journalism Fellowship at Stanford University in 2016–17, exploring ways to close the gender gap in journalism. But when she heard Bay City News was for sale, it felt like a sign from the universe. With two adult children out of the house and in college, “It was the right moment in my life to take that risk and to do something more entrepreneurial and mission-driven,” she says. “Learning that it was for sale at this serendipitous

moment also allowed me to tap into all the smart people around me at Stanford to figure out how I might be able to do it.”


With support from her network, including an informal advisory board she calls the “Wise Women Council” of female leaders, Rowlands built a hybrid business that focuses on diversifying revenue and growing news coverage. The commercial Bay City News legacy company continues covering big headlines and breaking news for a subscriber base of local TV, radio, and newspaper outlets that use its reporting to supplement their own efforts. Meanwhile, the new nonprofit Bay City News Foundation accepts donations and grants that help fund less lucrative and often overlooked beats such as arts and culture, data and investigative journalism, climate change, equity issues, and contextual stories that tie all these threads together. These stories are published on a free site called Local News Matters: Bay Area. The hybrid structure, she explains, is “allowing us to do a much wider range of coverage than we ever could have done with just one or the other of these enterprises.”

Since launching in 2018, the virtual newsroom Rowlands runs out of the Berkeley home where she grew up now includes about fifty-five staff and freelance editors, reporters, web producers, data journalists, audience engagement staff, and photographers, who together publish more than 10,000 original stories every year. Bay City News and the affiliated Local News Matters site won two

“It was the right moment in my life to take that risk and to do something more entrepreneurial and mission-driven.”

national awards from the Local Media Association this spring, for best website and for most innovative use of AI for an election project that made collecting ballot information and results much more efficient for her staff and user-friendly for their readers.

The mission-driven work is what drives her. In addition to preserving daily news coverage for nine million potential readers across thirteen counties in the greater San Francisco Bay Area, Rowlands is also deeply involved in protecting the role reporters play in defending democracy. She’s the current board president of the First Amendment Coalition, a group that recently filed suit in San Francisco federal court to force the disclosure of emails from Elon Musk and the Department of Government Efficiency.

And her organization continues to create pathways for future journalists, supporting ten paid internships every summer so students get the experience and inspiration they need to forge their own paths. “Maybe one of them will come back to buy Bay City News when I’m ready to retire,” Rowlands says. 

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



# Cinemas of Abya Yala

## Representation, Collaboration, and Production

**“For a Western audience, there are elements in Indigenous films that will be always inaccessible—elements of the culture that we won’t be able to fully understand, starting with the language.”**

Film is about representation, and who controls the camera and the narrative matters. In his new Spanish-language course, “Cinemas of Abya Yala: Representation, Collaboration, and Production,” Dr. Daniel Coral Reyes and his students examined Indigenous representation in contemporary cinema from Latin America, or Abya Yala, which is a term that reclaims Indigenous identities and knowledge from the territories known as the Americas. Professor Coral Reyes is the inaugural postdoctoral fellow for the Macalester Native and Indigenous Initiative (MNI), a multi-faceted project dedicated to engagement with and scholarship around Indigenous people, culture, and history.

### What does Abya Yala translate into in English and what is its history?

The term Abya Yala comes from the Guna people in Panama, and it roughly translates as “the land that has matured” or “the land that has been saved.” Today, it’s a term that reflects a shift in the politics of Indigenous people in Latin America. It’s a term that, in a way, opposes the European roots of the term “Latin America,” and that centers the political fights of Indigenous people across both Latin America and North America, so it has a transnational component. Abya Yala is a revindication of their existence in the territory that we call “the Americas.” It’s worth noting that it is a term that originally did not describe the entire continent—Indigenous people did not have a term that described it—but it’s a reappropriation that has had a newly acquired political resonance.



### How would you describe the various ways Indigenous peoples in Abya Yala have engaged with filmmaking as an art form?

If we go back to the cinema of the first half of the twentieth century in South America, you see the emergence of the *Indigenista* movement. The *Indigenista* movement in cinema and literature meant a revindication of the Indigenous identity for national purposes. But it was done mainly by white and mestizo artists and intellectuals, so it was representation but not self-representation. Throughout the second half of the twentieth century, we see a push for greater self-representation in the New Latin American Cinema movement. This emerged within a political framework of liberation during the decolonization movement of the 1960s. Later, in the '80s, '90s, and especially in this century, we’ve seen a claim for greater access to technology and self-representation, framed as the right of Indigenous people to represent themselves.

### In your syllabus, you reference the politics of representation in Latin American cinema. What are some of these forces at play and how do they manifest onscreen?

The question of self-representation is a political one, and many have framed it as an effort to decolonize cinema in Latin America. Alongside this push, we can also think about other political struggles, say,



**Scenes from *Wiñaypacha (Eternity)*, a 2018 Peruvian drama directed by Óscar Catacora. It is the first film to be done entirely in the Aymara language.**

for land ownership or for greater political access. So the emergence of Indigenous cinema is not isolated from political movements, especially in territories like the Amazon.

In the course, we study movements like *Video nas Aldeias*, which translates as “video in the towns.” In this program, many Amazonian peoples learned how to use the camera to tell their own stories. Even though this started in the '90s, today they are creating cinema to denounce illegal logging and mining, and that's where you see this alignment between the camera and politics.

### **Your course was centered on feature films and documentaries made in the twenty-first century. By focusing on more recent films, what did you aim to show students?**

I wanted to show them the continuation of certain conventions when it comes to representation, as well as certain ruptures. We watch films that, in a way, reproduce stereotypes that one might deem racist, as well as films that are written and directed by Indigenous filmmakers and reflect their cultural perspectives in ways that are not always legible to a Western audience.

### **What's an example?**

A classic final scene in many Latin American films is the disappearance of the Indigenous character, with only the mestizo or white character left in the

frame. However, in a film titled *Wiñaypacha (Eternity)*, the Indigenous character does seem to disappear, but when you watch the scene again, you can see that the protagonist is actually going back to the Andes to be in greater contact with the mountains (*Achachilas*), which are deities from the Aymara cultural perspective. So something that seems like a defeat is actually a victory from the filmmakers' perspective.

For a Western audience, there are elements in Indigenous films that will be always inaccessible—elements of the culture that we won't be able to fully understand, starting with the language. Most of these films are recorded in Indigenous languages, sometimes for the first time.

### **This is the first time you've taught this class. What do you hope students will take away most?**

First, I'm fascinated by the fact that the students have shown a great interest in Indigenous cultures, political fights, and sovereignty. That has been a very pleasant surprise to me.

One takeaway that I want them to have is how self-representation in cinema should be seen as a right, and that it has great cultural and political implications for Indigenous peoples. The second takeaway is that filmmaking and ancestral cultures, especially oral cultures, can go hand-in-hand—they can enhance each other. [M](#)



# CHANGEMAKERS **IN** **ACTION**

Each June, Reunion weekend on campus includes celebrating our Alumni Award winners. Nominated from across the global alumni community and selected by the Alumni Board, honorees exemplify Mac's values through leadership, achievement, and community engagement. Individually, their stories unfold in different places and paths around the world; collectively, they're all working to build a better tomorrow.

Meet this year's winners—and start thinking about who you want to nominate this fall for next year.

**Dr. Matthew Johnson '89**  
**Distinguished Citizen Award**

Matthew Johnson '89 is a global leader in scientific and technological efforts to understand and improve Earth's climate.

As a professor of atmospheric chemistry at the University of Copenhagen, Johnson has combined academic excellence with entrepreneurial innovation. He's played a leading role in six clean technology start-up companies, including one based on his invention of an indoor air purification system that mimics Earth's natural atmospheric processes.

Another company, Ambient Carbon, is commercializing systems to eradicate methane—a powerful greenhouse gas Johnson identified as a major driver of climate change. His work has appeared in *Nature*, the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, and a book from Cambridge University Press. Johnson has consulted for the Environmental Protection Agency, NASA, and testified for the National Academies report on methane. He holds a dozen patents and has nearly fifty collaborators in every continent on the globe.

Raised by a Presbyterian minister, Johnson sees no conflict between science and spirituality. "The idea that science is crushing religion or spirituality makes me itchy," he says. "I think they work together, powerfully, and are just different aspects of the same human spirit."



The idea that science is crushing religion or spirituality makes me itchy.



It is as hard to be legendary as it is to be beloved, but Dick is a beloved legend, which is hardest of all.

**Richard Lesicko '75**  
**Distinguished Citizen Award**

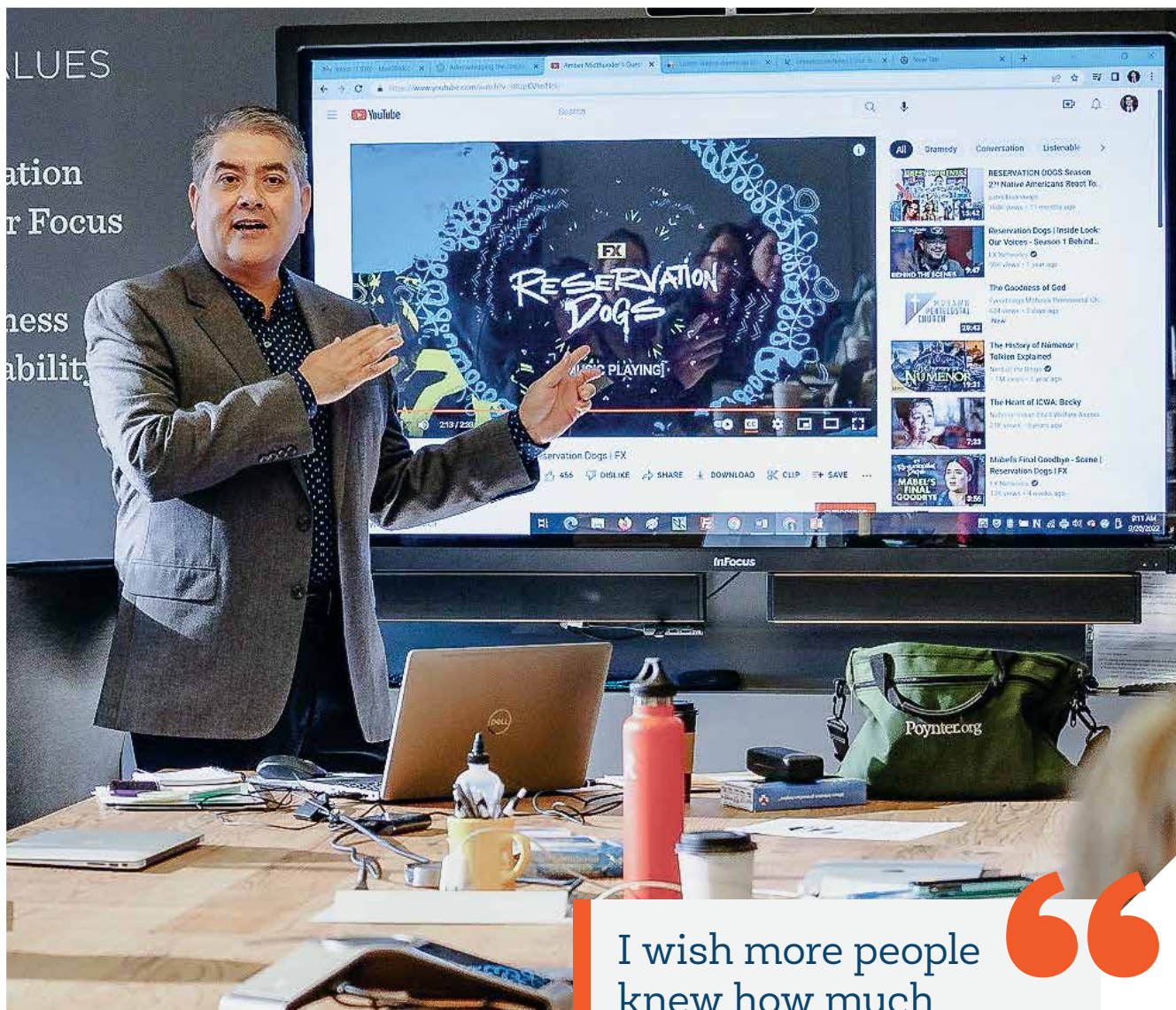
Dick Lesicko '75 brought together students from across the country and the world to represent Macalester in forensics. His innovative coaching led to numerous championships and national titles. More importantly, many describe him as their favorite teacher, coach, and mentor of all time.

Lesicko led Macalester's forensics program for over 30 years, expanding it to include multiple forms of debate, mock trial, ethics/bioethics bowl, and Model UN. "These events are outstanding laboratories for students to develop teamwork and soft skills every employer and graduate program values," he says.

Though he could have pursued research, law, or the private sector, Lesicko chose to stay with his students and his calling to teach. "Watching someone go from being afraid to give a speech to transforming into an incredibly accomplished public speaker was something that got me up in the morning," he says.

His nominator writes: "It is as hard to be legendary as it is to be beloved, but Dick is a beloved legend, which is hardest of all."





### **Brian Bull '91**

**Catharine Lealtad '15 Service to Society Award**

Brian Bull '91, a member of the Nez Perce tribe, is a journalist dedicated to amplifying underrepresented voices. Throughout his public radio career—including at stations in South Dakota, Wisconsin, Ohio, and Oregon—he earned numerous awards for work filed with National Public Radio member stations and National Native News.

"I wish more people knew how much importance we put into being sensible, balanced, and accurate reporters," he says.

Bull is now a senior reporter for Buffalo's Fire, a Native American-led media outlet covering Indian Country with depth and authenticity—from environmental stewardship to the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons crisis. For 25 years, he mentored aspiring journalists through NPR's

I wish more people knew how much importance we put into being sensible, balanced, and accurate reporters.

NextGeneration Radio Project. "Knowledge is like a fire that can be shared between people," he says.

Macalester's commitment to diversity, activism, and global awareness gives him hope for greater understanding. "I've made lasting friendships at Mac and am better for knowing so many generous, passionate people," he says.

His nominator writes: "Brian was an outstanding student in my psychology class, and I have admired his career ever since."

**Kathy Pinkett '75**  
**Distinguished Citizen Award**

From high school—where she managed Sonia Sotomayor's class presidential campaign—to the boardroom—where she mentored executive leaders—Kathy Pinkett '75 has spent her life lifting others. "Helping others achieve their full potential brings me joy," she says.

Pinkett began her career as a social worker before transitioning to Securian Financial Group, where she became the first person of color in the C-suite. As Chief Human Resources Officer, she strengthened diversity programs, helped propel the company into the Fortune 500, and remained a trusted adviser even after retirement.

In true Macalester spirit, Pinkett has embraced the principles of giving back through leadership roles on the boards of United Way, YWCA, and more. She brings that same energy to Macalester and has served on the Alumni Board and Board of Trustees. In 1999, she co-chaired the first Alumni of Color Reunion, which reengaged scores of alumni and helped spark the American Studies Department and the Department of Multicultural Life.

"Macalester taught me to think expansively, critically, and respectfully," she says. "To ask, 'why not?' instead of 'why.'"



Macalester taught me to think expansively, critically, and respectfully. To ask, 'why not?' instead of 'why.'



Richard is a true representative of core Mac values in humanity, humility, inclusion, empathy, and internationalism.

**Dr. Richard Solazzi '75**  
**Distinguished Citizen Award**

After participating in several medical missions, Richard Solazzi '75 grew frustrated with the impermanence of many medical aid models—so the Seattle anesthesiologist set out to develop a sustainable program to support long-term, holistic collaborations with communities. In 2008, he and a partner formed a nonprofit that later evolved into Resolute Health Outreach.

The team partnered with Black Lion Hospital in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and soon expanded to a second hospital. Several times a year, Solazzi led volunteers—anesthesiologists, nurses, medical technicians, and surgeons—to work at the hospitals for two to three weeks at a time. Teams provided equipment and trained an expanding group of health care workers. Throughout, his inclusive approach has been grounded in equitable partnerships, fostering close connections among volunteers and the city's medical community. "In the process, Solazzi has bridged cultural, economic, religious, and political gaps, and formed many lifelong friendships," his nominator writes.

Although civil unrest in Ethiopia paused Resolute Health Outreach's travel in recent years, Solazzi works remotely to provide equipment, supplies, and other support. Today, he continues to drive Resolute Health Outreach's vision as president and board chair, with plans to return to Addis Ababa soon. Writes his nominator: "Richard is a true representative of core Mac values in humanity, humility, inclusion, empathy, and internationalism."





### **Magdalena Mora '13** **Young Alumni Award**

As an illustrator and designer, Magdalena Mora '13 has built a career at the intersection of art, storytelling, and social justice. Her bold and evocative illustrations have brought to life children's books such as *The Notebook Keeper* and *Tomatoes in My Lunchbox*, offering young readers meaningful reflections on themes such as immigration, cultural identity, and family.

"Beyond her artistic accomplishments, what stands out most about Magdalena is her heart," her nominator writes. "Her design philosophy stems from her belief in art as a form of activism, a means to challenge the status quo, and a platform to celebrate the beauty of diversity."

Mora is committed to making children's literature more accessible and representative—particularly for Latinx and immigrant communities.

Her nominator writes: "Magdalena is not only a product of her Macalester education but also a source of inspiration for others looking to use their own talents to make a difference. She shows how creativity, passion, and a commitment to social good can come together to change the world."

Magdalena is not only a product of her Macalester education but also a source of inspiration for others looking to use their own talents to make a difference.

“



### **Daymond Dean '91** **Alumni Service Award**

Every few weeks on Saturday mornings, you can find Daymond Dean at the Good Day Cafe in Golden Valley with a group of Mac classmates—a tradition illustrating his deep belief in the power of relationships and community.

His nominators call him an exceptional connector who has remained deeply connected to campus life since graduation—serving on the Alumni Board and as a Strategic Planning Champion, volunteering with the M Club, nurturing intergenerational connections, recruiting committee volunteers, coaching football, and even working in Admissions and Alumni Engagement. He started at Mac with the Class of 1990 and graduated with the Class of 1991, but is so connected to both classes that he often helps plan both Reunions. It's no wonder he's earned the nickname "Mr. Macalester" from peers.

Along the way, he has found that opportunities to learn and grow at Macalester extend far beyond graduation. "I've developed my voice through volunteering, and this community is a great space to practice leadership," he says. "When you find such a caring community, you want to give your time to help sustain its mission and values."

When you find such a caring community, you want to give your time to help sustain its mission and values.

“

**Josh Aaker '05**  
**Alumni Service Award**

If you're a Macalester alum in Chicago, you've likely encountered Josh Aaker '05 at Mac events—especially the Nog and Glögg holiday party for alumni and parents that Aaker started in 2013 with his classmate Jeremy Barr. After the first gathering drew alumni spanning 30 years, Nog and Glögg has grown into a tradition—and the longest-running volunteer-led event in the Mac alumni community.

It's also just one example of Aaker's deep dedication to building community across generations. In addition to his leadership in the Chicago chapter, he has hosted Mac in Your City events, served as a Class Agent, and helped shape Scots Pride programming in meaningful ways including planning Scots Pride Reunions. He has also served on four class Reunion committees, including for his 20th Reunion this year.

In Aaker's words: "What inspires me and brings me joy is seeing the alumni network as a living, breathing community. It is amazing to watch brand-new grads swap ideas with those Golden Scots who've been flying the tartan for decades. That's the collaboration that makes Mac special and keeps me proud to be part of it."



“What inspires me and brings me joy is seeing the alumni network as a living, breathing community.”



“Do what you can to make a difference—you have gifts and skills that others don't, and you need to share.”

**Melvin Collins '75**  
**Alumni Service Award**

Melvin Collins '75 learned firsthand about community engagement from his mother, who led his school's parent-teacher association, then served as an alderman in St. Louis local government. "She was my shining example," he says. "She always told us, 'Do what you can to make a difference—you have gifts and skills that others don't, and you need to share.'"

Collins carried that inspiration into a career path focused on nonprofit organizations, as a community leader, and through five decades of extraordinary dedication to Macalester. In 1999, he co-chaired the first Alumni of Color Reunion, shaping a meaningful gathering that spurred renewed engagement among many alumni of color. After that, Collins served for six years on the Alumni Board, then six more on the Board of Trustees. His many committee roles include co-chairing the Class of 1975's 50th Reunion Engagement Committee this year. His nominators marvel at his inclusive, visionary leadership style, and his ability to harness a group's energy and ideas to reach everyone's goals.

He's motivated by ensuring future Macalester students have the same opportunities he did. "On this journey, how do we continue to add joy and add value?" he says. "Volunteering has been one way I knew I could do that." **M**

**Alumni Award nominations are open now through October 1. Learn more: [macalester.edu/alumni/alumniawards](https://macalester.edu/alumni/alumniawards)**



# CLASS NOTES

## 1968

Glenn Knight and his wife, Helen, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in June 2024 with a cruise from Seattle to Alaska. They were joined by Gerald Nordley '69 and his wife, Gayle.

After Macalester, Ashley Wilkes went to art school at the Brooklyn Museum, earning an MA in art there and an MS in psychology from the City University of New York. "Though I am disabled physically I am still deeply involved in digital art and AI-generated art," Ashley wrote.

## 1971

**The Class of 1971 will celebrate its 55th Reunion June 4-7, 2026.**

Carey Carlson has published a second edition of *The Mind-Body Problem and Its Solution*. Logan Crawford of the Spotlight Network interviewed Carey about the book.

Barbara Phillips is teaching a third-year law school seminar she created titled "The Role of Lawyers in Our Democracy" at the University of Mississippi Law School.

## 1972

The *Pacific Northwest Quarterly* published Tom Copeland's article "'Absolutely Confidential': The Bureau of Investigation's Suppression of Evidence in the Centralia Tragedy of 1919." Tom reports that one of the men on trial in the case was Elmer Smith of Macalester's Class of 1910.

## 1973

David Hoppe and sound designer Andy Fry have created *The Jefferson Airplane Still Matters*, a sonic documentary about "how great art outruns the intentions of those who make it." It is based on David's experiences when he and Bradley Stengel spent time with Jefferson Airplane while exploring the effects of rock music on the city of San Francisco during their 1970 interim term at Macalester.

Anthony Smith of Mayo Clinic Arizona was the Presidential Guest Lecturer at the Triennial Congress of the International Federation of Societies for Surgery of the Hand in Washington, D.C., in March. He presented on a forthcoming book he co-authored, *Dr. Sterling Bunnell: From Son of the Gold Rush to Founding Father of Hand Surgery*.

## 1975

Jay Wilkinson is a board member and volunteer with Neighborhood Network for Seniors, an organization that matches seniors with volunteers who "do small kindnesses that help them stay in their homes."

## 1976

**The Class of 1976 will celebrate its 50th Reunion June 4-7, 2026.**

Sue Abderholden plans to retire as executive director of NAMI Minnesota in October, after twenty-four years with the mental health advocacy organization. Under her leadership, NAMI MN grew from a staff of two and a half to thirty-seven and helped pass more than two dozen laws benefitting those with mental illness.

### 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).



**Cara Goff '06, Nick Sikon '04, Seth Benziger '99, and Katie Pastorius Benziger '06 got together in Park City, Utah, for fresh powder skiing and snowboarding.**



**Dr. Steve Hickman '75, Ruth Harms '77, and Audrey Smith '78 attended the University of Massachusetts-Amherst's ADVANCE annual lecture and awards reception, at which President Rivera was the keynote speaker.**

As Ellen Hartnett and Steve Larsen set out on a recent seven-month journey through Southeast Asia and Oceania, they connected with Kannika Damrongplasit '01. Kannika is a professor of economics at Chulalongkorn University

in Bangkok, and she and her husband have two daughters. Ellen and Steve write, "We are recently retired and following our bliss."

(Continued on page 37)

## Yulun Li '14



Although Yulun Li '14 lives in California, two thousand miles away from campus, he finds that Macalester often feels a lot closer. "The Macalester alumni community in San Francisco is vast and well-connected," Li says. "It's almost a running joke how often you'll be in a conversation with someone and discover they're also a Mac grad."

As a regional alumni chapter leader, the software engineer wants to foster even more of those links: with alumni, current students, and incoming students and their families every year through Summer Send-Off events in the city. In addition to helping expand internship opportunities for international students, he has facilitated Bay Area connections for the college's annual Mac Explore career exploration program—one of Li's favorite ways to engage. "There's a unique energy when you bring current students and professors into a professional, off-campus environment," he says. "It sparks fresh discussions and new perspectives, and you can really see the power of a liberal arts education in action as students apply critical thinking to real-world corporate challenges."

### What do you want students to understand about career engagement in the alumni network?

It's a truly reciprocal relationship. While the job market can indeed be challenging, companies are perpetually searching for the distinctive talent cultivated by a Macalester liberal arts education. The alumni network values your skills and perspectives just as much as you might value a connection for a job or internship. Don't hesitate to initiate contact; that first step is often just sending a brief message to an alum in a field or company. Introduce yourself, note your Mac connection, and yes, feel empowered to ask for a referral.

### What do you carry with you from your own college experience?

The most formative part is the profound sense of care and genuine curiosity within the community. It was in countless conversations where I consistently felt that people were truly interested in understanding different perspectives. This environment—where individuals are eager to learn from you as much as share with you—was incredibly enriching.

### What keeps you volunteering with Macalester?

The enduring spirit and "vibe" of the Macalester community travels with you, wherever you go. I volunteer with Mac because I genuinely enjoy it. There's a unique fulfillment in reconnecting with old friends, making new ones, and having the opportunity to support current students as they navigate their own paths.

Learn more about volunteering at Mac:  
[macalester.edu/alumni/volunteer](https://macalester.edu/alumni/volunteer)



During an "epic trip to Australia and New Zealand this past December and January," Kiki Weingarten Condon '93 met up with Roger Bridge '92 and Kirsten Lesar Bridge '95 in Auckland.



Mark Sherman '72, Shelley Sherman '73, Audrey Arner '73, and Richard Handeen '73 held a mini-reunion at Rideau Winery in Solvang, Calif., in February 2025.



Shirl Ahrens '62 traveled to India via Dubai in November. She is pictured with a copy of *Macalester Today* in front of the Jaipur City Palace in Jaipur, India.



Andrea Johnson '06 and Jenny Diaz '08, both former high school students of Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, spent last August through November organizing, speaking to the media, and door-knocking for the vice-presidential candidate's campaign. Several Macalester alums joined them in October to knock on doors in York, Pa. Front row (from left): Jenny, Andrea, Lynn Olson '68, and Sophia Hays '20.

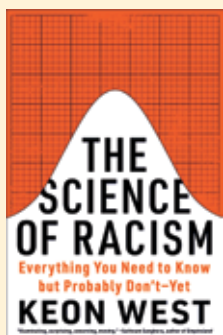




**Keon West '06.** *The Science of Racism: Everything You Need to Know but Probably Don't—Yet* (Abrams Press, 2025)

How do you measure something as complex as racism? At Reunion in June, alumni explored that question with social psychologist Dr. Keon West '06 and Minnesota Public Radio host Nina Moyni. Drawing on insights from West's new book, they discussed what research tells us about racism today, why facts matter, how the UK and US compare, and how we can engage in meaningful discourse across political and social divides.

► Catch the conversation, recorded live for Moyni's show *Minnesota Now*:



**Nick Greenberg '80.** *The Culinary Caper* (Speaking Volumes, 2025)



**R.J. Millhouse '13.** *Get Yo' Life: Black Queer Placemaking* (The Ohio State University Press, 2025)

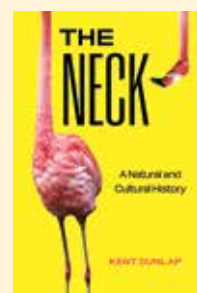
**Jillian Scudder '09.** *40 Ways to Know A Star* (Princeton Architectural Press, 2025)

"All along humanity's journey to understand the Universe, it is the stars that have led and lit the way. In this book, I introduce forty different ways to understand the stars, the galaxies they inhabit, and the cosmos they illuminate. I hope you enjoy the journey, and come away with a deeper connection to those faint pinpricks of light." —Dr. Jillian Scudder, astrophysicist and associate professor of physics at Oberlin College



**Kent Dunlap '85.** *The Neck: A Natural and Cultural History* (University of California Press, 2025)

"Retired Mac biology professor Mark Davis was a huge help in commenting on the book manuscript. Forty years ago, he gave me excellent writing instruction while I was a Mac student. So, decades later, I sought his advice once again—and once again, he offered extremely valuable feedback. Once a professor, always a professor; once a student, always a student." —Kent Dunlap '85



**Jeffrey Hassan '73.** *The Black Lawyer in Minnesota: 1973 to 2023* (self-published at [hassanesq.com](http://hassanesq.com), 2025)

Jeff Hassan's new book is a fifty-year retrospective anthology on the achievements of Black lawyers in Minnesota. "It features three Macalester alums who have gone on to do outstanding work in the community locally, state-wide, and nationally—Judge Michael Davis '69, B. Todd Jones '79, and Bobby Joe Champion '87," Hassan says. The book also includes Minnesota Supreme Court Chief Justice Natalie Hudson, whose father, Don Hudson, coached football at Macalester, and Judge Tanya Bransford, whose father, Jim Bransford '57, was a Macalester graduate.



**Professor Dan Trudeau, Professor Bill Moseley,** and former staff member **Paul Schadewald,** editors.

*Gleanings from the Field: Food Security, Resilience, and Experiential Learning* (Lever Press, 2025)



**David Maeda '87.** *This is Not Who We Are: Confessions of an Election Official* (Da Boyz Inc., 2024)



**Kathleen West '99.** *Making Friends Can Be Murder* (Berkley, 2025)



**Lawrence Perelman '98.** *American Impresario: William F. Buckley, Jr., and the Elements of American Character* (Simon & Schuster, 2025)



**Sue Ring-Jarvi '73.** *Can You Keep Up? Fifty Years of Organizing, Playing, and Coaching Women's Hockey in Minnesota* (Beaver's Pond Press, 2025)



**Kate Bredeson '98 with Thalia Wolff.** *The Inheritor: A Play*, English-language translation (Northwestern University Press, 2025)

Roberto Ochoa was elected a conference minister for the United Church of Christ's Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota Conferences. He began serving in the position on Jan. 2. Previously, he served in Cleveland as UCC national minister for ethnic inclusion and small town/rural churches, where he started in 2018.

## 1978

Paul Shambroom retired from his faculty position in the University of Minnesota's Department of Art. His retirement exhibition, Paul Shambroom's American Photographs, was on display at the university's Nash Gallery this past winter.

Rajiv Sharma and his wife, Kathy, have moved from Charlotte, N.C., to the Colorado high country about an hour outside Denver. A semi-retired pediatric radiologist, Rajiv reports that he makes monthly trips to Denver to "maintain my 'hobby' skill set." Rajiv and Kathy have four children and five grandchildren.

## 1981

*The Class of 1981 will celebrate its 45th Reunion June 4–7, 2026.*

## 1983

Lois Quam, Macalester trustee emerita, was named CEO of Blue Shield of California, the first woman to serve as CEO in the organization's 86-year history. "As I take on this new role, I am proud to lead the only statewide, nonprofit health plan as we continue our focus on delivering for Californians and our members," she wrote. She joined the company as president in 2024.

## 1984

As an advocate for people with mental illness, Barry Peterson served on the Hennepin County Adult Mental Health Advisory Council from 2012 to 2015. He was also a member of a 2022 advisory council that advised the World Institute on Disability,

which in turn advises the World Health Organization.

## 1985

Roger Scherck was named his school district's 2023–24 Elementary School Counselor of the Year. He has worked for the district for five years.

## 1986

*The Class of 1986 will celebrate its 40th Reunion June 4–7, 2026.*

## 1991

*The Class of 1991 will celebrate its 35th Reunion June 4–7, 2026.*

Michael Curry looked forward to receiving an honorary degree (his fourth) from the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth and being named a Distinguished Bostonian by the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce in May. Michael is president and chief executive officer of the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers.

## 1992

Jennifer Frisch was named chief judge of the Minnesota Court of Appeals last November. She was appointed to the Court of Appeals in 2020, and was previously assistant chief judge in the Second Judicial District and senior associate general counsel at the University of Minnesota.

Amy Knox graduated from Upaya Zen Center's chaplaincy training program in March. She plans to continue working as a nurse-midwife. "[I] look forward to seeing how chaplaincy will fold into my life," Amy wrote.

## 1993

Joy Moravec McKnight has been promoted to vice president/general manager of ITW EAE, a division of Illinois Tool Works based in Lakeville, Minn., that manufactures capital equipment used in the manufacture of electronic assemblies.



**Bill '94 and Dena Childs '93 and Johanna Hagelthorn '93** traveled to London and enjoyed some British cheese. Johanna and Dena also visited Catarina Peñalosa '93 in Edinburgh.



**Kwame Fynn '13 and Clementina Sanchez '14** met up in Arusha, Tanzania, in December 2023. Kwame organized a safari trip with his MBA program, and Clementina and her husband, who own and manage a safari company in Tanzania, made the trip happen.



**While Paula Lackie '84** was visiting her 99-year-old aunt, she enjoyed dinner with "the delightful and engaging" Elaine Griesbach McGregor '46. "You never know when you'll find a Macalester graduate," Paula wrote.



### 1994

Sarah Moeller is president and chief executive officer of The Greenlight Group, LLC. She was interviewed by MedTech Strategist Market Pathways and Citeline on the Food and Drug Administration's recent disengagement from the medical technology industry and from efforts to develop international standards. Sarah also participated in a Greenlight Guru webinar on the state of the medical device industry.

### 1995

The work of artist Rafael Salas was featured alongside the work of Charles Van Schaick in the exhibition "Everyday Heaven," which opened May 23 at the Portrait Society Gallery of Contemporary Art in Milwaukee. The transhistorical exhibition is intended to challenge "assumptions about what it means to live in rural America."

Richmond Sarpong has been elected to the National Academy of Sciences. He is professor of chemistry at the University of California–Berkeley, where he studies the synthesis of organic molecules.

### 1996

*The Class of 1996 will celebrate its 30th Reunion June 4–7, 2026.*

### 1998

Cailin O'Connor of Madison, Wis., has left the Center for the Study of Social Policy to launch Cailin O'Connor Consulting, LLC. The independent consulting business supports researchers, community leaders, nonprofit organizations, and government entities in improving outcomes for young children and their families. "[I am] starting college tours with my 16-year-old daughter," Cailin wrote.

### 2001

*The Class of 2001 will celebrate its 25th Reunion June 4–7, 2026.*

Gretchen Hooker has launched a design studio that offers natural science illustration and information graphics. She invites Macalester alumni who would like to work with her "to enhance public knowledge and appreciation for the natural world" to reach out via pixel-naturalist.com.

### 2002

Gretchen Wolf Burgess has been named a shareholder of the Madison, Wis., law firm of Murphy Desmond, S.C.

After fourteen years as chief of staff and senior policy advisor to U.S. Representative Tim Walberg of Michigan, RJ Laukitis has been named staff director of the US House Education and Workforce Committee.

*I, The Song*, a film directed by Dechen Roder, was shown at the Minneapolis St. Paul International Film Festival in April. The film is about a schoolteacher in rural Bhutan who sets out to find her doppelganger.

### 2003

Amanda Achterman was named Rural Health Provider of the Year by the National Rural Health Association. She is a family doctor serving the Elma, Wash., community.

### 2006

*The Class of 2006 will celebrate its 20th Reunion June 4–7, 2026.*

Chelsey Smith and her husband, Eric, welcomed their second child, Lorretta, on March 3, 2023, in St. Paul.

(Continued on page 43)



## MAC IN YOUR CITY

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

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

**September 25–27, 2025**

**A little bit of Mac, wherever you are.**  
macalester.edu/macinyourcity • macinyourcity@macalester.edu



## MAC FEST

**OCTOBER 10–11, 2025**

Join us for Mac Fest—the entire college community is invited to celebrate the season with events and programs that highlight the best of Macalester. All current and prospective students, parents and families, alumni, faculty, staff, and friends are welcome!

**macalester.edu/mac-fest**

# GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

Macalester's Alumni Board creates, amplifies, and celebrates alumni engagement. Members help develop engagement opportunities and energize community building and connections—everything from Reunion to Career Clubs to Mac in Your City. This year, one of the Alumni Board's areas of focus is amplifying pathways for international engagement. Wherever you are in the world, there are ways to connect with the Mac network—here are just a few examples.

## Apply to be on the Alumni Board

Every year, the Alumni Board includes members who live outside the United States. Applications for terms beginning in 2026 open in December.

“

I'm in my third year as a volunteer director on the Alumni Board. It has given me the opportunity to witness firsthand how Macalester's leadership and its alumni community continue to design and implement policies and programs that keep alive the Macalester ethos and moral compass that inspired a vanguard EEO program and anti-Vietnam war protests almost six decades ago.”

—Richard Cambridge '70



## Serve on your Reunion committee

This year, Reunion attendees represented eighteen countries—and there are lots of ways to get involved in planning, wherever you live. Want to join next year's committees for milestone class years ending in -1 or -6? [Learn more: macalester.edu/reunion](https://macalester.edu/reunion)

## Check out the International Connections program

The Alumni Board's International Connections initiative helps current students create connections with alumni during study away—an example of the Mac network in action.

“

This spring, I met with alumni living in China working in different fields from ESG to education to investment, sharing the same Mac values. It's soothing to know that Mac remains a bastion for true liberal arts education during these troubled times. My advice to alumni living abroad is to check your emails! From Mac Wire to Mac in Your City, there are tons of opportunities to stay connected.”

—Max Wang '15



In March, Max Wang '15 helped host gatherings in Shanghai and Beijing that brought together Mac staff, alumni, prospective students and their families, and current students studying away in China. Pictured here: a Beijing alumni gathering

## Build a Mac community wherever you are

Mac In Your City (Sept. 25–27) features alumni gatherings around the world. Any time of year, you can try hosting your own gathering, and we can help with logistics and communication. You can also connect with the WhatsApp alumni group in your city, or even start your own.

“

One of the most powerful things about Mac is how intentional it is about building a global community. And today, more than ever, that matters. What Mac did, and continues to do, is bring people from all walks of life together in one space. Today we may be far apart geographically, but we share a common experience and outlook that started at Macalester. That shared foundation shows up in how we engage with the world—with curiosity, empathy, and a real commitment to making things better.”

—Carola Stead de Fallon '94



► [Learn more and get started: alumnioffice@macalester.edu](mailto:alumnioffice@macalester.edu)  
or [macalester.edu/alumni/alumniboard](https://macalester.edu/alumni/alumniboard)



## WEDDINGS



**1. Elena Smith '19 and Christopher Boranian '19** were married Aug. 19, 2025. The classes of 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022 were represented at the ceremony. Christopher's great-aunt **Mayva Richards Boranian '53** was present, as well.

**2. Jake Waxman '14 and Rachel Wehr** were married in Baltimore, Md., on Nov. 10, 2024. From left: **Burt Masem '14, Anish Krishnan '14, Jeff Garcia '14, Annalisa Harty '14, Shawn Greene '13, Alexander Watson '17, Silka Schreiber '13, Jake, Daniel Knickelbein '14, Natalie Pavlatos '12, and Qingyang Liu '14.**

**3. Brittany Landorf '14 and Travis Sheridan** were married Sept. 14, 2024, in Stockholm, Wis., in the presence of family, friends, and several Macalester alumni. From left: **Rothin Datta '16, Becky Kane '14, Titus Levy '10, Sophie Nikitas '14, Freddy Kamps '13, the newlyweds, Katherine Ehrenreich '14, Clark Jacobson '14, Zoe Bowman '16, Yolanda Burckhardt '15, and Eura Chang '15.**

**4. Anya Shapiro '16 and Austin Clowes '16** were married recently. Joining them to celebrate were (clockwise from top left): **Patrick Sullivan '16, Casey Dallavalle '15, the newlyweds, Jackie Perman '16, Alex Bartiromo '16, Anna Van Sice '16, Thomas Oriente '17, and Sarah Vandelist '15.**

**5. Kiersten Yeazel '11 and Garrett Kaiser** were married April 12, 2025, in Defiance, Mo. Kiersten's Macalester swimming and diving teammate **Kate Vermann '11** (third from right) traveled from Tucson, Ariz., to join the bridal party.

**6. Alyssa Franzmeier '20 and Kaeden Jackson '20** were married Sept. 20, 2024, in St. Anthony, Minn. The groom's parents, **Chris Gilbert '91 and Heidi Jackson '91**, joined them to celebrate, along with several of the newlyweds' Macalester classmates. Pictured (from left): **Adam Greene '20, Andy Whitman '20, Rebecca Grossi '20, the newlyweds, Elena Youngdale '20, and Marisa Peredo '20.**





7



8

7. Will Anastasi-Matsuda '15 and Katy Anastasi-Matsuda '15 were married on August 10, 2024, in Hood River, Ore. Front row (from left): Antara Nader '15, Rachel Costello '15, Molly Sir '15, Mark McCrae-Hokenson '15, Georgia Cloepfil '14, and Cole Erickson '15. Second row: Hannah Rehak '15, Andrew Anastasi '10, Rose Friedman '10, the newlyweds, Sam Landsberg '15, and Alex Greenler '15. Back row: Scott Hurlow '15, Miles Margulies '15, Will Kent-Daggett '15, Oleh Zaychenko '12, Lane Holden '15, Ben Schwed '15, Olivia Natt '15, Eliza Summerlin '13, and Parker Field '15.

8. Dylan Kulik '20 and Serena Amdur '20 celebrated their wedding on Sept. 7, 2024, in Arcadia, Mich. In attendance were Riley McGlasson '20, Sam Liberman '20, Zoe Kulik '16, Guillermo Vera Carrasquero '16, Maddy Berg '20, Sofia Pozsonyiova '20, Jimmy Cooke '20, Jake Heasley '20, and Ema Erikson '20.



9



10

9. Oriana Galasso '20 and Dean Smith '20 were married Sept. 28, 2024, in Camarillo, Calif. Many Macalester alumni joined them to celebrate. First row, from left: Mike Babb '20, Ana Thompson '20, Ciara Williams '21, Anya Ptacek '20, the newlyweds, Anya Phillips '15, Omi Strait '20, Brooke Carey '20, Maya Michon '20, and Nuria Morales Coskran '20. Second row: Aidan Trummel '22, Antony Gor '20, Emma Higgins '20, Annabel Gregg '22, Gabbi Rutherford '20, Manya Jacobson '18, Graham Low '19, Semilla Stripp '19, Lucy Moran '19, Courtney Overland '19, and Cara Mullery '20. Third row: Ekaterina Hofrenning '21, Jack Streibich '19, Karl Schuetzle '20, Ethan Levin '20, Kianté Miles '20, Dane Ku Blake '20, Trevor Cramer '20, Mason Cohn '20, and Brendon Hodges '20.

10. Jackson Melius '13 and Ashley Haller were wed on Sept. 15, 2024, in Hastings, Minn. From left: Juliet Wilhelmi '14, Isela Gómez '13, Jeff Garcia '14, Andrea Wilhelmi '14, Tony Thao '13, Chelsea Hansen '13, Collin Calvert '13, Devon Kristiansen '12, the newlyweds, Graham Sutherland '13, Laura Moulton Sutherland '13, Katelyn McClure '26, Nick Ozanich '13, Julia Davidson '13, Hunter Bradley '13, Scott Tong '13, Joseph O'Neil '13, Jenny Wollner '13, and Daniel Schaefer '13.

## CELEBRATE WITH MAC!

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



# Jennifer Wofford '89

When Jennifer Wofford '89 visited campus as a prospective student, she and Admissions Director Bill Shain sensed a great match—except the college didn't yet have a women's studies program. Shain suggested, "Come and start it." She did. With support from professors Anna Meigs and Karen Warren, Wofford joined the curriculum committee that fall, helping launch new concentrations in women's/gender studies, and studies of American people of color.

Her self-designed major combined peace studies, African American studies, and women's studies. While leading several student organizations and editing a feminist literary journal, she also co-organized fifteen buses from Macalester to attend the March on Washington for women's reproductive rights—and later hosted a campus reflection.

That early passion for justice continued. After college, Wofford worked in community organizing—in Chicago, Massachusetts, and D.C.—on state legislation, economic justice, and innovative union campaigns. After a series of pregnancy losses and the toll of national travel, she shifted to social work, earned her clinical license, and opened a therapy practice while raising her son. She trained in advanced methods like Internal Family Systems and Somatic Experiencing and also consulted nationally on organizational development.

Today she's the founder of the Center for Grounded Action, leading resilience workshops for communities in crisis and conflict. Here, she reflects on her career path and lessons learned.

## Resilience is about coming back

When something terrible happens—a job loss, a war—we tend to react in one of two ways: anxious, edgy, stressed, and panicked; or flat, lethargic, frozen, and can't get off the couch. It's the fight, flight, or freeze pattern of a normal nervous system response.

Resilience is in the middle—the ability to recover, regulate, and keep moving forward. Under pressure, we might snap at our kids, lie awake at 3 a.m., or shut down. With resilience skills, we can come back to the regulation in the middle and move forward from a place of centered, grounded action.

## Step forward

When the October 7 Hamas attack happened, people immediately polarized. I saw a need for people to come together, whether or not we agree, and value all human life as sacred.

I quickly organized five events for collective mourning and connection. *The Boston Globe* and NPR covered it. I offered the vision that everyone was welcome, and we could gather together, whether or not we agreed. We

offered three stations: card-writing to Israelis, Palestinians, or both; inter-faith prayer; and donations to vetted humanitarian organizations. People from all backgrounds came. The response was deeply moving.

I also faced hostility, which I interpreted as fear. As a Jewish woman, I was accused of supporting terrorists. Others demanded I add a statement about Palestine on the flyer. I kept offering reassurance that we could gather together across the divisions.

Afterward, I started offering the Grounded Resilience model to help people have a dialogue across divisions and connect with compassion, even when they see it differently.

Then, with the massive Trump cuts to federal programs, I saw USAID staff under attack. I couldn't get food and medicine to Africa, Asia, and South America, but could support those here who'd lost their jobs. I offered free resilience workshops, contacted thousands of federal employees, and recruited 190 therapists and consultants as assistant trainers. Over two months, we held seven free workshops to tremendously positive feedback. Now, I'm pausing to raise funds to sustain the work. (Learn more at [centerforgroundedaction.org](http://centerforgroundedaction.org).)

When I see the world is in pain, I step forward and try to help.

## Follow what excites you

Follow your energy. For a long time, mine was mission-driven social justice. Then it shifted. I needed a lifestyle that was centered and soulful, without travel, so I could be a mother and have a baby. That worked beautifully.

Eventually, I realized: I'm a therapist, but I'm also a smart organizer. How do I take these complex psychotherapeutic neuroscience models and make them actionable and easily teachable? That became our Grounded Resilience workshops.

Doing good work is tough right now. Funding is shrinking. I get it: following your passion is hard when you need a paycheck. I worked full-time and went to graduate school part-time. Sometimes, you pay bills while you build toward what you love.

## Consider your role

In meditation, I asked the universe: *What is mine to do? There's too much, I can't do it all. Just show me what's mine. I saw a giant block of ice. Not sparkly or beautiful—just ice. I asked, Why? The answer was: Because the world is on fire. Be the ice.* Whether you call it meditation, prayer, or connection to the soul or God, it's about reaching that deep, wise place. I think all roads lead there.

—Alexandra McLaughlin '16



(Continued from page 38)

## 2011

*The Class of 2011 will celebrate its 15th Reunion June 4–7, 2026.*

## 2014

Nate and Amalia Centurión welcomed their first daughter, Maia Josephine, in January 2025.

Julia Huerta earned a BSN from the Duke University School of Nursing last December. She will work as an advice nurse for an OB/GYN clinic in Portland, Ore.

Clementina Sanchez and her husband, Emmanuel Kissila, welcomed their second child, Isidore, on Oct. 3, 2022.

## 2016

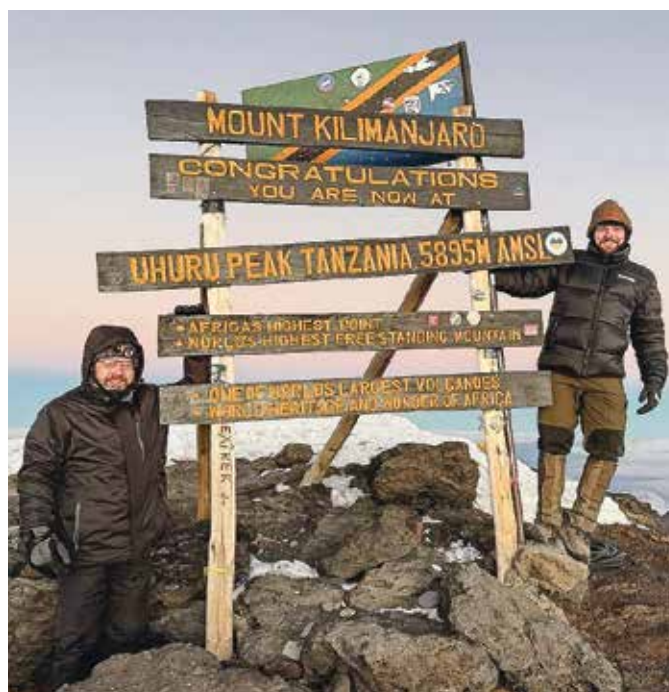
*The Class of 2016 will celebrate its 10th Reunion June 4–7, 2026.*

## 2021

*The Class of 2021 will celebrate its 5th Reunion June 4–7, 2026.*

## 2024

Ryan Cotter '24 is serving in the Jesuit Volunteer Corps Northwest Americorps program in Bethel, Alaska, as the wellness programming producer for KYUK Public Media, an information hub that features programming in both English and Yugtun. "The fifty-six surrounding villages in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta have limited access to reliable internet, and KYUK is the only way for them to access news, cultural programming, and life-saving PSAs like blizzard warnings and ice road conditions," Ryan wrote. She advocates for continued funding for public media and service programs like AmeriCorps.



George Wojcicki '23 and his father, Gregory, reached the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro on Jan. 5, 2025. They began their ascent on Dec. 30 on the Lemosho route.



Brian Bull '91  
Catharine Lealtad '15  
Service to Society Award

## ALUMNI AWARD NOMINATIONS

### Think about your Mac network.

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

Help us celebrate our alumni. Each year, Macalester honors graduates with Alumni Awards—and nominations are now open for 2026.

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

The nomination deadline is Oct. 1, 2025.



## 1944

**Adah Packerman-Bakalinsky**, 101, died Oct. 26, 2024, in Oakland, Calif. She taught a film appreciation course at Foothill College, where she also established a juried film festival. In 1984, she first published *Stairway Walks in San Francisco*, a guidebook listing more than seven hundred of the city's stairways and detailing thirty-nine stairway walks. The book is now in its tenth edition.

## 1945

**Betty Tucker McClain**, 103, of Maiden Rock, Wis., died Jan. 29, 2025. Survivors include a son, three grandchildren (including Phoebe Krejci '94), and seven great-grandchildren.

## 1948

**Wanda Harder Anderson**, 102, of Mesa, Ariz., died Oct. 13, 2024. She was a disaster specialist with the Red Cross for more than twenty years. Survivors include two daughters, five grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

## 1949

**Eleanor Engeman McNair**, 97, died Feb. 1, 2025. She taught music, English, and social studies with church missions in Iran, Turkey, and Taiwan. McNair was also a part-time music instructor at Central Piedmont Community College. Survivors include three children, three grandchildren, and sister Joyce Engeman Hayek '56.

## 1951

**Lucy Ruger Cox**, 94, died Feb. 19, 2025. She taught piano and swimming, and was one of the first nurse practitioners in Los Angeles County. Survivors include a daughter, a son, six grandchildren (including Laura Cox '13), and two great-grandchildren.

**Ruth Rasmussen Donahue**, 93, died Nov. 2, 2022. Survivors include eight children, fourteen grandchildren, and nineteen great-grandchildren.

**LeAnn Martin Sullivan**, 95, of North Oaks, Minn., died Jan. 21, 2025. She taught junior high and middle school in Mounds View, Minn. Survivors include three children, seven grandchildren, and a great-granddaughter.

## 1952

**Judith I. Engel**, 94, of Seattle died Feb. 12, 2025. She was an organist for St. Philip's Lutheran Church. Survivors include a daughter and six grandchildren.

**Joan Talle Estep**, 94, of Ft. Myers, Fla., and Eveleth, Minn., died Jan. 6, 2025. She taught in Two Harbors, Minn., and St. Louis. Survivors include three children, five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

## 1953

**Mayva Richards Boranian**, 93, of Edina, Minn., died Feb. 21, 2025. She was a schoolteacher in Minneapolis and Mahto-medi, Minn. Survivors include a daughter, a grandson, two great-grandchildren, three siblings, and great-nephew Christopher Boranian '19.

**Nancy Peterson Kiesling**, 93, died Feb. 26, 2025. She briefly taught high school art before becoming a homemaker. Kiesling also served as a state officer and chapter regent with the Daughters of the American Revolution. Survivors include a daughter, four sons, six grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

**Carol Johnson Law**, 93, of Portland, Ore., died Feb. 15, 2025. She worked in fund development at Providence Medical Center and served as associate director of the center that became the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization. Law also was development director for the Parry Center for Children. Survivors include four children, five grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

**Willis "Bill" Mouw**, 94, of Baudette, Minn., died Feb. 11, 2025. In addition to working as a tool and die maker, owning and

operating Baudette Laundry, and farming for thirty-two years, Mouw served twelve years as a commissioner of Lake of the Woods County. Survivors include his wife, Bette, two daughters, eight grandsons, and a brother.

## 1954

**Robert W. MacGregor**, 92, of Aurora, Ill., died Jan. 21, 2025. After graduating from Princeton Theological Seminary, MacGregor helped turn Andrew Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis into a thriving congregation. He later served as a Minneapolis alderman and held leadership roles with the Dayton Hudson Foundation; Chicago United; the Kansas City, Mo., Chamber of Commerce; and the Minnesota Center for Corporate Responsibility. He received Macalester's Distinguished Citizen Award and is in the M Club Hall of Fame. Survivors include his wife, Mari Gunderson MacGregor '55, two children, five grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and two siblings (including Don MacGregor '56).

## 1955

**Carol Felton Beaty**, 90, died Dec. 19, 2024, in Madison, Wis. She taught kindergarten on an air force base in Puerto Rico. Survivors include her husband, Gordon, two daughters, and two grandsons.

## 1956

**Joan Wilson Scallen**, 90, died Feb. 2, 2025. She was a homemaker and served on the boards of the PTA, the New Mexico Society for the Gifted and Talented, and the New Mexico Right to Life Committee. Survivors include four children and four grandchildren.

**Nancy Luxon Tjornhom**, 90, died Feb. 24, 2025. She worked as a receptionist in the chiropractic practice opened by her husband, the late Thomas Tjornhom '54. She also founded a Christian school choir, helped coordinate a Twin Cities World Vision banquet, and was vice-chair of her 50th Reunion Committee at Ma-

calester. Survivors include four children, sixteen grandchildren, seventeen great-grandchildren, and a sister.

**Harold F. Wildung**, 90, of Golden Valley, Minn., died Feb. 18, 2025. He taught music at the junior high and high school levels in Robbinsdale, Minn., and retired as the school district's coordinator of comprehensive arts and language arts in 1992. Survivors include a daughter.

## 1957

**Nita Moberg Logemann**, 89, died Dec. 12, 2024. She taught violin for thirty years. Survivors include four sons, seven grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and a brother.

**Howard P. "Skip" Quade**, 89, of Hutchinson, Minn., died Jan. 23, 2025. He served in the U.S. Army National Guard and U.S. Air Reserve. He also owned Quade Incorporated and expanded the company's sporting goods and electrical businesses. Survivors include his son, Kirk Quade '84, two granddaughters, a great-grandson, and "enduring companion" Joanne Stearns.

**Maxine Horning Sampson**, 90, of San Jose, Calif., died Oct. 4, 2024. She and her husband, Philip Sampson '55, grew Christmas trees in the Santa Cruz Mountains. She also worked as a nurse assistant for several years. Survivors include her husband, a daughter, a son, six grandsons, and two great-grandchildren.

## 1958

**Gayle Nechas Adelsman**, 89, of Minneapolis died Dec. 15, 2024. She is survived by two children and four grandchildren.

**Karlyn Kohrs Campbell**, 87, died Dec. 23, 2024. She joined the Department of Communication Studies at the University of Minnesota in 1986 and served as its chair for nine years before retiring in 2020. Her scholarship focused on the rhetoric of women's rights and the discourse of

US presidents, and she wrote or co-edited twelve books and more than fifty articles. She received Macalester's Distinguished Citizen Award.

**DeArv Gimm**, 91, died Jan. 25, 2024. Survivors include his second wife, Alice, three children, nine grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, and a sister.

**Shirley Kezar Holgate** died March 22, 2025, in Arroyo Grande, Calif. She taught at California Lutheran University and high schools in Minnesota and California. Survivors include three children and two grandchildren.

**Jill Trescott Miel**, 88, died Nov. 2, 2024. She taught elementary school in St. Anthony Village, Minn., for twenty-four years. Survivors include a daughter, a son, five grandchildren, a great-granddaughter, and "constant companion" Robert Anderson.

## 1959

**Nancy Peterson Flaming**, 85, died March 5, 2022. During her twenty-five years with the Cherry Creek, Colo., school district, she taught third and fourth grades and served as an assistant principal and principal. Survivors include her husband, Karl Flaming '59, two sons, two grandchildren, a sister, and two brothers.

**John L. Frost**, 90, died March 24, 2025. After thirty years with General Mills, Frost retired as senior vice president in 1990. Survivors include three children, six grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

**Donald Wicklander**, 91, died Dec. 11, 2024. He served in the U.S. Army. Survivors include a daughter and three grandchildren.

## 1961

**Gretchen Schade Tjossem**, 86, died April 21, 2025. She worked for several years as a lab technician in the biology facility at the University of Minnesota–Crookston. Survivors include four children, thirteen grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and a great-great-grandson.

## 1962

**Thomas G. Livdahl**, 84, of Bloomington, Minn., died Jan. 2, 2025. He served in the U.S. Navy and worked for Control Data, Ceridian, and General Dynamics. He was an Alumni Board past president and a 50th Reunion committee co-chair. Survivors include his wife, Carol Price Livdahl '63, a daughter, a son, two grandchildren, and brother David Livdahl '69.

## 1963

**Orrin J. Torkelson**, 83, of Wall, S.D., died March 20, 2025. He taught high school math and science for ten years and held a full-time teaching position in the mechanical engineering department at South Dakota State University. Torkelson then held engineering positions with 3M in South Dakota and New Jersey. Survivors include his wife, Eileen, a daughter, and a sister.

## 1964

**Jan Brackett Ellingson**, 82, of Jordan, Minn., died March 29, 2025. Survivors include seven children, twelve grandchildren, and a brother.

**Ellen Richardson Rau**, 82, of Spring Lake Park, Minn., died Dec. 18, 2024. She taught Spanish at Totino Grace and St. Francis High Schools. Survivors include her husband, Dennis, twin children, three grandchildren, and a sister.

**James Rollin Swanson**, 84, of Edina, Minn., died Jan. 6, 2025. He taught high school chemistry in Edina for many years. Survivors include a sister and a brother.

## 1965

**Allen A. Carlson**, 81, died Jan. 28, 2025. He joined the faculty of the University of Alberta's Department of Philosophy in 1969. A specialist in environmental and landscape aesthetics, Carlson published many articles and several books, including *Functional Beauty*. Survivors include his wife, Arlene, two daughters, and two grandchildren.

# // COMMUNITY LOSSES



**Donald A. Bailey**, a custodian at Macalester from 1976 until his retirement in 2017, died March 26, 2025, at his home in Woodbury, Minn. He was 70. Survivors include his wife, Bobbye, and two brothers.



**Charlotte M. Gavin**, wife of former Macalester president Robert Gavin Jr., died April 5, 2025, at the age of 84. During the twelve years her husband was president of Macalester, she traveled with him to sixty of the countries represented by international students attending the college. Survivors include her husband, five children, sixteen grandchildren, and eleven great-grandchildren.



**John Haiman**, professor emeritus of linguistics, died at his home in Brooklyn, N.Y., on April 7, 2025. He was 79. He taught at the University of Manitoba before coming to Macalester, where he taught linguistics from 1989 until 2017, imparting on his students his view of language structure as shaped by human creativity within the limits of cultural convention. The author of eight books and dozens of articles, Haiman received a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1989 to support his research on sarcasm. In *The Iconicity of Grammar: Isomorphism and Motivation*, his exposition of the role of iconicity in grammar (how the structure of language reflects conceptual ordering) would upend basic assumptions about language held up until that time. Survivors include his partner, Beth, and two daughters.



Former Macalester alumni director **Karen A. McConkey** died March 9, 2025, at the age of 85. She worked as a proposal writer for computer companies before joining Macalester's staff in 1986. McConkey retired in 1997. Survivors include her spouse, Jim, a daughter, a son, son-in-law Michael Vidmar '89, and four granddaughters.



**Virginia A. Schubert**, professor emerita of French, died Jan. 26, 2025, at the age of 89. She taught at Macalester from 1965 to 2005, and served as French Department chair from 1988 to 2000. When Schubert came to Macalester, she was one of few women faculty members on campus. She was active in the Faculty Women's Caucus and obtained a grant to design seminars to help women's professional careers. Schubert was also a founding member and president of the Twin Cities Catholic Choral. Survivors include a brother.

**Edyth L. Ellis**, 81, died March 3, 2025, in Chicago. After reporting on the 1982 World's Fair in Knoxville, Tenn., Ellis joined WBIR-TV's Action 10 News, becoming the station's first Black news anchor. She also was co-chair of the citizen-driven strategic planning initiative Nine Counties and a member of the board of directors of Beck Cultural Exchange Center.

**John D. Holmes**, 81, of Stevens Point, Wis., died Dec. 14, 2024. For most of his thirty-plus years in higher education, Holmes taught at the University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point and served several terms as chair of the Psychology Department. Survivors include his wife, Lyn Clutter Holmes '66, three children, four grandchildren, three siblings, and brother-in-law Allen Clutter '66.



**Steve R. Marquardt**, 80, died Aug. 31, 2024, in St. Paul. He was library director at the University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire and dean of libraries at South Dakota State University–Brookings. Marquardt, who worked with Amnesty International and local civil rights groups, received the Brookings Human Rights Commission's Butler Human Rights Award in 2006 and Macalester's Distinguished Citizen Award in 2015. Survivors include his wife, Judy Brown Marquardt '66, child Sam Marquardt '93, and a sister.

**David Tong**, 81, died on Jan. 28, 2025. He served with the Peace Corps in Nigeria and Malaysia before embarking on a career in journalism. Tong worked at the Honolulu, Hawaii, *Advertiser*; the Oakland, Calif., *Tribune* as business editor; the San Francisco *Chronicle* as assistant business editor; and *TheStreet.com* as an editor before retiring in 2012. Survivors include his wife, May, two sons, four grandchildren, and a brother.

## 1966

**Sandra Sampson McMechen**, 80, of Sebring, Fla., died Feb. 5, 2025. She worked for the Bell System as an engineer, for the ACBL as an educator, and for a newspaper in Sebring. Survivors include her husband, Harry, two children, seven grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and two siblings.

**Robert L. Wegman**, 79, of Normal, Ill., died June 23, 2024. He served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War and was library director at Normal Public Library for thirty-five years. Survivors include his wife, Lynn, two children, two grandsons, and two brothers.

## 1967

**Carole Geerdes Hanschen**, 78, of Hutchinson, Minn., died Dec. 25, 2024. She was a homemaker. Survivors include two daughters.

**Margaret A. Keeney**, 80, died March 18, 2025. She volun-

teered with the Peace Corps in Malaysia. After working in production control at John Deere Engine Works, Keeney began a thirty-year career teaching English at the secondary level, both in Iowa and abroad. Survivors include a sister.

## 1968

**Suzanne Blatchford**, 78, died March 31, 2025. She volunteered with the Red Cross during the Vietnam War. She served in various roles during a thirty-eight-year career with the Girl Scouts, including chief executive officer of the organization's Seven Lakes Council. Survivors include a brother.

**David L. Huestis**, 77, of Menlo Park, Calif., died Jan. 12, 2024. He received Macalester's Distinguished Citizen Award.

**Margaret Sterner Jones**, 79, died Feb. 16, 2025. She was a school psychologist with the Department of Defense Dependent Schools for seventeen years. Survivors include her husband, Bill, a daughter, two sons, eight grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, a sister, and a brother.

## 1970

**John P. Ellis**, 76, of St. Paul died March 27, 2025. He was a psychologist and a birder who recorded four hundred species in Minnesota. Ellis also restored his farmland in Miltons, Minn., to native hardwood forest, marsh, and prairie. Survivors include his wife, Suzanne Swanson, a daughter, two sons, two grandchildren, three sisters, and two brothers.

**Gary L. Johnson**, 76, of Rice, Minn., died Jan. 18, 2025. He was a director and labor negotiator with the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees. Survivors include his wife, Nancy, two daughters, two sons, a grandson, a sister, and a brother.

## 1971

**Nancy Dalldorf Jefferson**, 75, of Woodland Park, Colo., died

Jan. 14, 2025. She taught elementary school for seven years. Survivors include a daughter, a grandson, and a sister.

**Stephen J. Schneider**, 75, of Minneapolis died Dec. 26, 2024. He served with the U.S. Air Force as a navigator, taught at the University of Minnesota School of Journalism as an adjunct professor, worked for the TSA at Minneapolis International Airport, and owned Steve Schneider Photography in St. Paul. Survivors include his wife, Karen, and former spouse Denise Scharlemann '71.

## 1972

**John R. Brimsek**, 75, of Falls Church, Va., died April 4, 2025. He was a congressional staffer and later a lobbyist on behalf of railroads and airlines. Survivors include his wife, Tobi, a daughter, a son, and four grandchildren.

**Franco "Frank" Capriotti**, 74, died Dec. 30, 2024. He co-founded Pooneil Corner, a crisis telephone hotline service, and practiced international immigration law. Capriotti was also an adjunct professor at Northwestern School of Law at Lewis & Clark College and a volunteer with the Special Olympics and Ski for Light. Survivors include sister Pamela Capriotti Martin '74 and a brother.

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

## 1973

**James H. Langager**, 73, of Duluth, Minn., died Feb. 18, 2025. He practiced cardiology at St. Mary's/Duluth Clinic for twenty-seven years. Survivors include his wife, Dorothy Taylor Langager '73, four children (including Benjamin Langager '02), and six grandchildren.

**Stephen Rosenberg**, 71, of St. Paul died Aug. 19, 2022. He served for many years as an organist and choir director at Our Lord Catholic Church and Fairmount Avenue United Methodist Church in St. Paul and recorded three albums of organ music. Survivors include a sister and a brother.

## 1974

**Andrea S. Fruzzetti**, 80, died Dec. 12, 2024, in St. Paul. During his career in marketing and sales, Fruzzetti represented heavy construction equipment companies throughout the Middle East and Asia. He also worked with computer companies and consulted in the United States. Survivors include his wife, Sondra Decker Fruzzetti '71, a daughter, a son, daughter-in-law Carley Bomstad Fruzzetti '04, two grandsons, and two sisters.

**Fred S. Jacobson** died in the summer of 2024. He worked at Genentech for thirty-seven years, eventually becoming a staff scientist. He led the chemistry, manufacturing, and controls team for the breast cancer medicine Kadcyla.

**Harley M. Ogata**, 73, died March 4, 2025. He devoted his career to collective bargaining, educators, and public sector worker rights. Survivors include his spouse, Christina Clark Ogata '79, a daughter, a grandson, and two sisters.

**Kevin Schoenfelder** died April 12, 2025. Schoenfelder began his medical career in Tacoma, Wash., and specialized in orthopedic spine surgery. He and his wife, Emily, had three children and six grandchildren.

## 1975

**Gregory P. Bulinski**, 71, of San Diego died April 14, 2025. He joined the firm of Bassford, Lockhart, Truesdell & Biggs as a defense attorney. He practiced law in Minneapolis for almost forty years and served as president of the Minnesota Defense Lawyers Association. Survivors include his partner,

Charles Johnson, two children, four grandchildren, and four siblings.

**Sharon E. Freeman**, 92, died Dec. 28, 2024. She taught elementary school and worked in special education for twenty-five years. After retiring from that career, she became a nondenominational minister and published the book *Spiritual Perspectives: Gifts of a Prayerful Life*. Survivors include her husband, Harold (who passed away in February 2025), three children, and a granddaughter.

**Theodore Kohn**, 69, of Andover, Minn., died May 16, 2023. He worked as an insulation contractor. Survivors include his wife, Ellen, three children, five grandchildren, and a sister.

**Richard K. Nafziger**, 72, of Olympia, Wash., died Feb. 11, 2025. He worked for Americans for Indian Opportunity and served as legislative policy director for the Washington State Legislature, policy advisor for Gov. Booth Gardner, and policy director for the Service Employees International Union. Nafziger also taught policy and behavioral economics at Seattle University until 2020. Survivors include his wife, Kristin Swendal, two daughters, and three grandchildren.

## 1976

**Paul A. Lundgren**, 71, of Minneapolis died March 21, 2025. He worked in printing and graphics art with Olson Graphic Products and RR Donnelly. He was also a photographer known for his work documenting the local rock music scene. Survivors include his wife, Lori, a sister, and a brother.

**Thomas E. Martin**, 72, died March 3, 2025. During a long career in community planning, he worked for the Northern Maine Regional Planning Commission and the Lakes Regional Planning Commission in Meredith, N.H. Martin retired in 2018 after twenty-eight years as executive director of the Hancock County Planning Commission. Survivors include his wife, Susan Hughes, and three brothers.

## 1978

**Owens N. Franklin**, 69, died Jan. 3, 2025. He was executive director of global supply chain with several international companies. Survivors include his wife, Robbie, a daughter, a granddaughter, and three siblings (including Madeline Franklin '74).

**Mary Fick Vandegrift**, 68, of St. Paul died Dec. 30, 2024. She worked as a waitress at Baker's Square. Survivors include her husband, Dave, three children, three grandchildren, a sister, and two brothers.

## 1980

**Susan E. Rolle**, 80, died July 10, 2023, in Palm Coast, Fla. She worked at the University of Minnesota as an otolaryngology medical researcher and electron microscopist and was an award-winning quilter. Survivors include her husband, Robert, three daughters (including Shannon Rolle Dittbrenner '88), six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

## 1982

**Susan Widenhoeft Wade**, 65, of Ashfield, Mass., died Dec. 1, 2024. She was professor of history at Keene State College, where she also served as department chair. Her scholarship focused on medieval cultural history, monasticism, gender, and sexuality. Survivors include her husband, Bill Scaife, two sons, her parents, a sister, and two brothers.

## 1987

**Paul R. Damberg**, 59, died Feb. 21, 2025. He was director of development at KUMD in Duluth, Minn., for twenty years and retired as northern regional manager for Wisconsin Public Radio in 2024. Survivors include his wife, Nanci, two sons, and a sister.

## 1989

**Jim Curry**, 58, died in February 2025. After a career in the video game industry with Namco and Crystal Dynamics, Curry worked for Intel in marketing

# // COMMUNITY LOSSES



**James B. Stewart**, professor emeritus of history, died May 7, 2025, at the age of 84. He joined Macalester's History Department in 1969 and was eventually named James Wallace Professor of History. Stewart also chaired the department and served Macalester as dean of faculty and provost. The author of numerous books, Stewart specialized in the history of slavery and abolition and was active in social justice causes outside the classroom. He founded Historians Against Slavery and AHHA!, a collaboration between artists and historians to promote anti-racist education, and hosted *Historical Tonic for Fragile White Folks*, a sixteen-lecture series on YouTube. Stewart also helped establish The Way Forward: Mahmoud El-Kati Project Fund at Macalester, which supports faculty social justice initiatives and student engagement with local communities. His wife, Dorothy, passed away on May 12. Survivors include two daughters, three grandsons, and two brothers. There will be a public celebration of Stewart's life on Sept. 14 at 4 p.m. at St. Paul's University Club.



Longtime Macalester employee **Patricia Traynor** died Jan. 20, 2025, at the age of 81. She worked at the college from 1984 to 2014 as an executive assistant in Student Affairs. Survivors include four children (including Mark Traynor '89), seven grandchildren, three sisters, and a brother.



**Wayne C. Wolsey**, professor emeritus of chemistry, died Dec. 6, 2024, at the age of 88. After working for three years as an industrial chemist, Wolsey joined the Macalester faculty in 1965 and chaired the department for many years. The college chemistry textbook he published in 1969 is in its thirteenth edition. Wolsey served as president of the Minnesota Academy of Science and received many awards, including Macalester's Thomas Jefferson Award and the Minnesota College Science Teacher of the Year Award. He is particularly remembered for empowering girls and women in math and science. With his colleague, Truman Schwartz, Wolsey is endowing the future Schwartz-Wolsey Chemistry Lecture Series at Macalester. Survivors include a daughter, son Roger Wolsey '90, three grandchildren, and a great-grandson.

and business development for twenty years. Survivors include his wife, Ellen Fitch Curry '91, and three children.

**Cean F. Shands**, 57, died Jan. 7, 2025. He worked as a criminal defense attorney. Survivors include his partner, Dolly Agnew, two daughters, a son, his parents, two sisters, five brothers, and his first wife, Susan McMerty Shands.

## 2005

**Amber Schmutge**, 41, of Marshall, Minn., died Feb. 6, 2025. Survivors include her parents and five siblings.

## 2009

**Karl A. McPhee**, 39, died Dec. 31, 2024. He worked as a computer software engineer for the Defense Department. Survivors include his parents.

## 2013

**Sean Ryan**, 33, died Nov. 28, 2024. Survivors include his parents.

**Clara M. Thomann**, 33, died Dec. 27, 2024, in Crete, Greece. She taught high school physics in Goleta, Calif. Survivors include her husband, Elliott Finn, her parents, and two siblings.





## Beneath the surface

This summer, Grand Avenue is being resurfaced through the heart of campus. Watching the former brick surface and streetcar tracks emerge from underneath the modern asphalt gives us the opportunity to go into some history about that road's surface using archival materials.

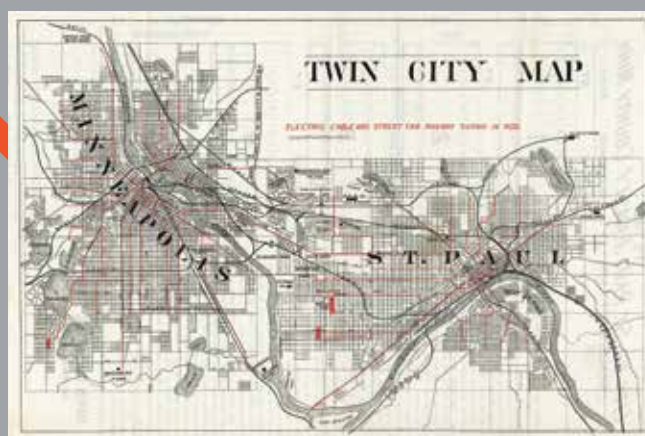
The earliest photos of campus show Snelling and Summit avenues as dirt roads (above). This photo, dated to 1889, shows the first buildings of the Macalester campus as we know it today—homes of the college president and professors in the forefront along Summit Avenue, with Old Main in the distance behind them.

A Twin Cities street map dated 1889 (top right) depicts the new electric cable and streetcar railway lines that were soon to open across the metropolitan area. The lines, highlighted in red, clearly show an electric streetcar line running down Grand Avenue from downtown St. Paul to Cleveland Avenue. The line's first run occurred on February 22, 1890.

The next mention of Grand Avenue paving has a start date of 1899, with the street surface comprised of fired brick—the same bricks that were uncovered in the roadwork this spring (bottom left). The streetcar lines ran until the early 1950s, and shortly thereafter the street was paved with asphalt. It is now obvious that the earlier fired-brick surface of the street, as well as the railway tracks, were left in place to act as a foundation for the asphalt surfacing (bottom right).

According to the workers on site, Grand Avenue's reconstruction plans do not include the re-use of the fired brick—so this is our last chance to see an important part of the street's history.

—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).



As part of the Innovation Scholars Program, a team of three Macalester students—Thomas Malecha '26, Laura Neal '27, and William Acosta Lora '27—presented project recommendations to SentryDX, an early-stage cancer diagnostic company affiliated with Medical Alley in Minneapolis.

# BRIGHT LIGHTS

Thanks to the generosity of our Mac community, the Brighter campaign is already expanding high-impact learning experiences like internships, mentored research, community engagement, and study away.

There's no better investment than our students. The spark they bring. The change they'll lead. The brighter world they'll help create.

**Thank you.**



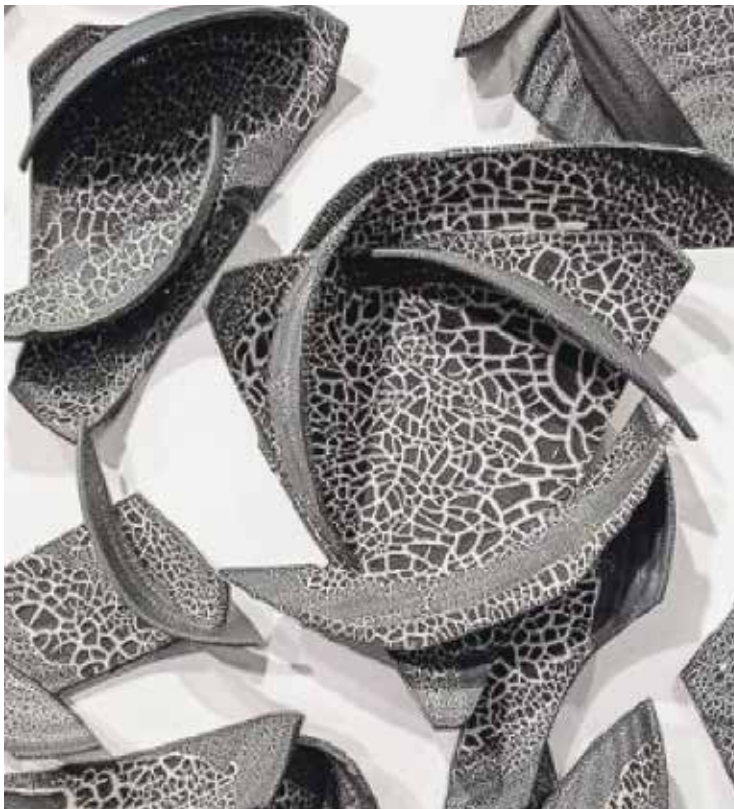
# MACALESTER COLLEGE

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## CLASS NOTES EXTENDED PLAY

St. Catherine University associate professor and ceramic artist Monica Rudquist '83 presented an exhibition at St. Kate's this past winter featuring work by herself and her father, the late Jerry Rudquist, longtime Macalester art professor and painter. Monica writes, "This exhibition is the result of my recent sabbatical when I was able to reflect on the parallels between our lives as artists who teach and consider if there is a relationship between our work. The exhibit involved many Mac alumni, including St. Catherine University professor emerita Pat Olson '73, who wrote an essay for the exhibition, and Mike Hazard '73, who produced the documentary video *The Painted Eye* about my father. My sister, Michelle Anton '89; son, Maars Beltrandy y Rudquist '13; and daughter-in-law, Bea Rendon '13, also contributed greatly to the exhibition behind the scenes. The exhibition's opening drew over 250 people, many with connections to Macalester. In May, I retired from teaching after seventeen years to focus on my studio practice."

**Left: Monica Rudquist, *Murmuration* (detail), 2024, porcelain with black crackle glaze**

**Right: Jerry Rudquist, *Warflower-Roll n' Rip*, 1997, acrylic on rag board**