

MACALESTER

# TODAY

FALL 2025

## THE CURRENCY OF CHANGE

Circle founder Jeremy Allaire '93  
is redefining the way money  
moves around the world.





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PHOTO BY ANDRES HERNANDEZ





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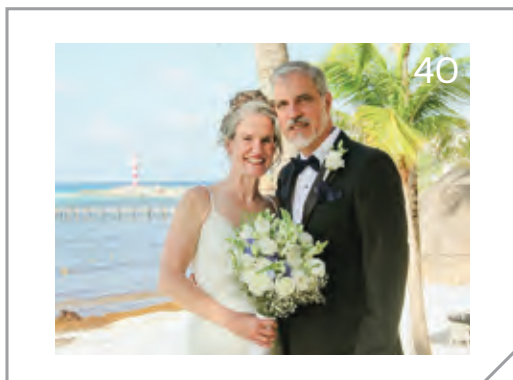
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Bagpipes at every event!  
CINDY WELDON '89

## TRADITION TIME CAPSULE

Campus traditions are in full swing as the 2025-26 academic year picks up speed. We asked Scots about the moments that still stick with them—quirky, beloved rituals they talk about long after the tassel is turned.

### Keep the conversation going!

We want to know: What advice or other thoughts would you share with a current Mac student?

Email [mactoday@macalester.edu](mailto:mactoday@macalester.edu).



Dancing a Highland fling and the sword dance, of course!  
LISA SCHRENK '84



Grand Avenue snowball fight  
ANNE DUBA '90



The petting zoo  
LILIANA OLIVO BRUNNER '22



Painting the rock  
CARYN HANSON '71

## CONNECT WITH US

Visit Mac's social media hub at [macalester.edu/macsocial](https://macalester.edu/macsocial) and join in by using the [#hey\\_mac](https://www.instagram.com/hey_mac) 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:


- Email: [mactoday@macalester.edu](mailto:mactoday@macalester.edu)
- Mail: *Macalester Today*, Macalester College, 1600 Grand Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105



In December 2001, Macalester took out a full-page advertisement in the *New York Times* celebrating United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan '61, who recently had won the Nobel Peace Prize. In the ad, published during the wave of visa restrictions and anti-immigrant sentiment following the September 11 terrorist attacks, Macalester President Michael McPherson underscored the vital role of colleges and universities in fostering connections across borders, reminding readers that Annan himself had entered the United States through a student visa.

McPherson's reflection—as timely today as it was then—ran under the headline “International Education. Now More Than Ever.”


To me, the phrase “now more than ever” honors the consistent, enduring values that have shaped this community for generations—and will continue to propel us into the future. It evokes the “ever the same” message in our college song, “Dear Old Macalester.” These cherished values provide a strong foundation for our work and guide our response to every chapter of challenge and turmoil we face as an institution. “Now more than ever” recognizes the history of moral leadership that demonstrates Macalester’s commitment to its values, such as President Charles Turck bringing to campus Japanese American students from internment camps during World War II and recruiting international students and faculty during his tenure. It includes President Arthur Fleming creating the Expanded Educational Opportunities program, President McPherson encouraging colleges and universities to lead the way on international engagement rather than withdraw, and President Brian Rosenberg establishing in 2005 the Institute for Global Citizenship, which was named in Annan’s honor in 2018.



"The challenges of our age are problems without passports; to address them we need blueprints without borders. The United Nations is there to provide them."

~ Kofi A. Annan  
Macalester College Commencement 1998

Macalester College and its 21,000 alumni around the world congratulate Kofi A. Annan, Macalester Class of 1961, U.N. Secretary-General, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate 2001

 MACALESTER COLLEGE

[illegible]

Macalester is uniquely positioned to produce the leaders our world needs today. And the initiatives taking shape through our strategic plan (a blueprint without borders!), supported by the Brighter campaign, ensure our values are fortified and transmitted to future generations of Mac students. I see this work's impact in our community and around the world, and how much it matters—yes, now more than ever.

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# 1600 GRAND

Three of the twelve pillars in *Creation*, Natchez Beaulieu's new campus mural between the DeWitt Wallace Library and Old Main.



## CREATING A MURAL IN COMMUNITY

On a sunny Saturday in October, Minneapolis artist Natchez Beaulieu and her team are installing the final panels of a new campus mural outside the DeWitt Wallace Library, part of the college's ongoing work to honor Minnesota's Indigenous land, water, and communities. With Mac Fest celebrations happening all over campus, the walkway is bustling. Early in the afternoon, Beaulieu pauses to wash glue off her hands and lead a Mac Fest program about the project in a full Harmon Room. An hour later, she's back to work—with frequent breaks to talk with passersby who stop to ask questions, watch the process, and admire the pillars.

Finishing the mural amid these community connections is fitting for Beaulieu, who deliberately centered community engagement throughout the entire process. As soon as she was selected by a Mac working group led by Native and Indigenous staff and faculty, Beaulieu, an Anishinaabekwe from the White Earth Nation, prioritized creating the mural in collaboration with

the Mac community. This past winter, she hosted discussions with Native alumni, students, faculty, and staff, as well as the campus community. With that input, Beaulieu and codesigner Graci Horne (Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate) shaped the project's focus on the Four Directions and Dakota land. Later in the spring and summer, Beaulieu hosted painting sessions with students, faculty, staff, and alumni, including the Class of 1965, which provided generous support for the project.

Beaulieu's mural work uses an indirect fabrication method with polytab, which becomes a canvas that's paintable, portable, and designed to withstand Minnesota winters. This fall, her team adhered the panels to the twelve pillars under the Link in the heart of campus—an intentionally chosen location, designed to spur learning, reflection, and meaningful action.

"Finishing up this weekend with people around—it gives me goosebumps," Beaulieu said in October. "It's just what I wanted this to be."



See more of Natchez Beaulieu's work: [@ashagistudio](#), Ashagi Studios





# TRANSFORMING CAMPUS SPACES

With construction on Macalester's new residence hall and welcome center set to begin this spring, several projects moved forward over the summer as part of the preparation. Among them, the Cultural House residential program moved to Summit House (a location selected with student input), and two major renovations transformed the DeWitt Wallace Library and the Lealtad-Suzuki Center for Social Justice in Kagin Commons.

In Kagin, the renovation expands community-centered spaces for students to connect and foster a sense of belonging that reflects their identities and values. It enhances the work of the LSC, as well as the living-learning program in the Cultural House. With philanthropic support from Decker Anstrom '72

and Sherry Hiemstra, the renovation adds an event space named in honor of former Macalester president Arthur S. Flemming, a teaching kitchen, multifunctional study spaces, a conference room, quiet lounge spaces, a Wudu station, and an all-gender restroom.

In the library, the first floor represents a microcosm of the Mac learning experience, illustrating diverse ways of learning that include traditional book stacks along with art, tech, and displays from the special collections and archives. The renovation included relocating tutoring and academic coaching from Kagin into the library, where the first floor now includes a science and quantitative center, and the third floor is home to a writing center with research librarians nearby.



**Watch videos** about the renovations and learn more about how these changes support the strategic plan's commitment to create a campus that fosters innovation, access, and connection: [macalester.edu/strategic-plan](https://macalester.edu/strategic-plan)



# Exploring the Twin Cities, One Clue at a Time



This year, as part of new student orientation, the International Student Programs' citywide scavenger hunt took first-year international students around the Minneapolis/St. Paul metro area, including Minnehaha Falls in south Minneapolis, to discover, explore, and get acquainted with the Twin Cities. The Class of 2029 is represented by students from 59 countries.





## Scots Snapshots

First day of classes means first-day photos—September 2 marked the beginning of the 2025–26 academic year.





1600  
GRAND



# Energizing Tomorrow with Yesterday's Batteries

At the Minnesota State Fair, Mac's CollectED project turns toxic trash into an electrifying lesson.

In between the crop art, carnival rides, and fried food, the Great Minnesota Get-Together unveiled a new kind of exhibit this year—one that's all about powering the future. Visitors to the state fair's Eco Experience building were met with a power-packed, interactive experience from Macalester College's CollectED project, a new initiative aimed at educating the public around battery recycling.

With a giant basket of recycled batteries suspended overhead, fairgoers fanned out across the colorful exhibit. They tested their knowledge about e-waste in an animated "Power Play" trivia contest. Visitors charged their phones at the "Recharge Bar." Kids searched an interactive mural for batteries using special magnifying glasses. And, in a literal show of strength, Minnesotans were challenged to play "Power Up," spinning a wheel to see if they could generate the equivalent power of a battery (hint: It's harder than you think).

PHOTOS BY KURT STEPINITZ



The experience is the brainchild of Macalester environmental studies professor and self-described “battery lady” Dr. Roopali Phadke. “People just bring me batteries,” says Phadke. “Whether they’re in my neighborhood or at work, people just drop them off at my doorstep.”

An expert on energy and climate policy, the professor came up with the idea to establish CollectED when she noticed used batteries starting to pile up around her home. “I thought to myself, ‘I don’t know what to do with these. I know they’re valuable. I know they’re toxic. So how can I better understand this, and how can I help my communities understand this as well?’”

The problem itself is threefold. First, batteries pack a toxic punch. In landfills they slowly leak chemicals into the soil, water, and air. That often leads to a second issue: Tossed batteries are fire hazards, sparking multimillion-dollar blazes at recycling facilities every single day. Finally, there’s the waste of precious resources: the cobalt, lithium, and nickel inside your watch battery or electric vehicle battery can be recycled again and again, powering everything from laptops to solar farms—but that’s only if it’s recycled properly.

Phadke’s dream to deliver the ultimate lesson in battery recycling was recently buoyed by a \$1.77 million grant from the US Department of Energy. The agency’s Battery Recycling, Reprocessing, and Battery Collection program was impressed by CollectED’s plan to increase consumer participation in collection programs across the nation.

In addition to its state fair exhibit, CollectED launched the REcharge Academy, which has been training educators across the nation to explore creative ways to teach about batteries and energy systems. The project has also been developing a digital StoryMap, an interactive platform where users can explore stories from communities engaged in battery recycling, locate the nearest recycling facilities, and learn safe disposal practices.

To help lead the world into a new era of battery recycling, Macalester faculty, staff, and student researchers are collaborating with community partners, including the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and Upstream Exhibits, which designed the new fair exhibit. Local poets were even commissioned to write works themed around batteries and delivered their pieces at the fair.

Recycling Electronics for Climate Action, a nonprofit focused on developing creative e-waste solutions, is also a partner, and its co-director, Maria Jensen, was a regular volunteer staffing CollectED’s Recharge Bar and enjoyed testing fairgoers on their battery knowledge.

“What we’re really doing is addressing an education gap,” Jensen says. “Being here at the fair, I’ve had so many great conversations with people who say they still have all their old batteries in a plastic bag in their basements. This is a great chance to get those batteries out of their homes and to reclaim those precious metals.”

According to the International Energy Agency, up to 30 percent of the nickel, cobalt, and lithium needed to build new batteries between now and 2050 could come from recycled batteries. CollectED believes a strong circular economy powers a bright future.

So what should someone do with their old batteries? The answer varies depending on where someone lives. Find a drop-off site near you at [call2recycle.org](https://call2recycle.org).

No matter what: “Do not throw your batteries in the trash,” Phadke says. “Get them to a hazardous waste center, and then from that point forward, they can start doing work for everybody.”

—Abraham Sweet

▶ Watch a video that takes you inside the CollectED Minnesota State Fair exhibit.





## MAC FEST MAGIC

**The annual festival saw peak fall vibes, Scots spirit, and one very photogenic guest of honor.**

This October 10–11, over 1,400 community members—parents, families, current and prospective students, alumni, staff, faculty, friends, and neighbors—celebrated the season with a fun-filled fall weekend. And this year we welcomed Hartnett, a mini Highland coo, to join in the festivities!





## ATHLETICS

# MIC'D UP AND LOCKED IN

Offensive lineman Sammy Casillas '26 (Downey, Calif.) is a psychology and creative writing double-major and sports broadcaster for the Scots year-round. When he's not playing football, he's covering men's and women's soccer and basketball, volleyball, softball, and baseball. As he looks ahead to a career in sports communications, he reflects on the lessons he's learned through the Athletics community at Mac as he weaves together his love of sports and storytelling.

I've been shaped on and off the field by the Athletics community since coming to Macalester. It's pushed me to not only be the best athlete I can be, but also the best teammate, student, and friend. On the field, that means holding myself accountable and giving everything for the people beside me. Off the field, it's meant caring just as much about my academics, relationships, and long-term career development.

I've been fortunate to have opportunities since day one at Mac to broadcast, but this passion goes way back. Ever since I was a kid, I've been fascinated by the way sports tell a story—the momentum shifts, the big plays, the heartbreak and celebration. Broadcasting is a natural extension of that love. I love the challenge of painting a picture with my words, describing the rhythm of the game, the emotion of a big moment, and the little details that make each matchup unique.

I'm not just calling the action or watching the game—I get to be a part of it by sharing the story in real time, capturing that excitement, energy, and atmosphere, and connecting the audience to it all. It's rewarding to know that family members, alumni, or fans who are far away can still feel part of the action and part of the team's story.



Tune In to Live Events: [athletics.macalester.edu](https://athletics.macalester.edu)

Broadcasting has also taught me how to prepare more thoughtfully, balance storytelling with play-by-play, and stay composed in live situations. And by watching our teams practice, prepare, and compete up close, I get to see the support system we create together in action. I've learned that being a part of a team is about much more than performance on the field—it's about being a part of something greater than myself.



## Join Us!

### Inside Mac Athletics: Leadership in Action

A virtual panel discussion about leadership featuring alumni and student-athletes.

Thursday, December 11  
7:30 p.m. CST







# Beer Today, Beer Tomorrow

## Sustainability leader Monica Keaney '10 is working to make sure the brewing business has a future.

Of the many business enterprises threatened by climate change, beer may be the most ubiquitous.

Though it's still the most popular alcoholic beverage on the planet, growing demands on water resources and challenges facing the farming of barley and hops mean beer is now facing a cloudy future.

But there's some cheering news coming out of Denmark, where global beer and beverage giant Carlsberg has been making big strides toward more sustainable operations, working to steer the beer and beverage industry toward a more resilient future. A recent example can be found in the barley fields. The company just announced that in 2026, it will be procuring 40 percent of the malt-making grain for its Danish operations from regenerative practices, up from just 1 percent in 2024. The company aims to source all of its grains from regenerative practices by 2040.

"Working in sustainability teaches you to be happy with small, incremental wins, but shifts like this show that impact can actually scale faster than you'd expect and really get the needle moving," says Monica Keaney '10, a sustainability manager at Carlsberg's Copenhagen headquarters.

Helping communities and corporations rethink how we live and do business has been the common theme in Keaney's path since graduating from Macalester with majors in geography and history. "Change from the inside has been the cornerstone of my career—trying to be the squeaky wheel shifting things in a new direction," says Keaney. "The companies I've chosen to work for have put some very meaningful and serious action behind the commitments they've made. They are industry leaders, but that said, even they still have a long way to go."

After moving to Denmark to earn a master's degree at the University of Copenhagen, Keaney got her start with a design and planning firm that promotes better bicycle infrastructure and later worked for a global sustainability think tank. As a doctoral student at Sweden's Lund University, she explored the connections between green jobs and justice. Next, she joined IKEA Denmark as the company's sustainability manager, working on such projects as a buy-back resale program designed to curb consumption while keeping discarded furniture from entering the waste stream.

Now a manager with the environment, sustainability, and governance team at Carlsberg, she closely tracks the carbon footprint of every stop on the company's supply chain. One of the world's

largest beer and soft drink makers, with seventy-five production sites in thirty-three countries, Carlsberg has committed to achieving zero water and packaging waste, as well as net-zero emissions in its value chain by 2040. To comply with the European Union's strict new Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive, Keaney's team just produced the company's first comprehensive annual report, a 200-page document that provides a side-by-side accounting of both financial results and sustainability efforts such as beer can recycling and water conservation. Collecting fine-grained data and finding the right way to present it felt at times "more like a game of Tetris than an instrument for driving climate action," she says. "But the 'why' behind it all is that new demands for consistency, comparability, and transparency are going to help drive action faster and more efficiently."

"This is not the sort of job I ever thought I would have when I was a student," Keaney continues. "But a liberal arts experience like we had at Macalester gives you the analytical skills, critical thinking, and questioning of the status quo to take you in lots of directions."

One of her adventures at Macalester was spending her junior year in Cape Town, South Africa, where she studied the connections between geography, history, and apartheid after being inspired by history professor Peter Rachleff's class comparing freedom movements in the United States and South Africa. While she was there, she met her now-husband, Jonas, eventually moving to his native Denmark, where they live with their two young children, Hector and Adrian.

Living abroad as an American means being asked many questions about politics ("Everyone wants to talk Trump"), and watching with deep concern as the current administration unravels environmental regulations and protections. "I think it will continue to be a really scary world for sustainability professionals in the US until they're able to speak the truth—recognizing climate change is real and man-made and that we have a part in stopping it," she says.

Yet the pushback against environmental protection is happening in the European Union as well, a trend she says is forcing sustainability leaders like her to build an even stronger business case for the value of circular economy, renewable energy, and other Earth-friendly shifts. In the case of regenerative barley, the crops, which improve soil health and make farms more resilient to extreme weather events, act as a way to future-proof Carlsberg's business.


"We can't expect companies to fall in line just because we say that doing things a new way is better for the world. It's our job to show it's better from a business standpoint, too." **M**

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

# BANKING ON THE FUTURE

SERIAL ENTREPRENEUR AND CRYPTOCURRENCY LEADER JEREMY ALLAIRE '93 IS REDEFINING THE WAY MONEY MOVES AROUND THE WORLD.

BY DANIEL OBERHAUS



When Jeremy Allaire '93 testified before the Senate Committee on Homeland Security in November 2013, the fledgling cryptocurrency industry was in crisis.

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A month earlier, the FBI had arrested Ross Ulbricht, the operator of a notorious dark web marketplace called the Silk Road that had become synonymous with cryptocurrency in the public mind. The site allowed people to buy drugs and other contraband, paying with cryptocurrency to evade detection. A few days after Ulbricht's arrest, Allaire launched Circle, a company designed to bring cryptocurrency into the mainstream by making it easier to move money between dollars and the dominant cryptocurrency, Bitcoin.

Circle's launch might have seemed like bad timing. But for Allaire, the fear and uncertainty swirling around the cryptocurrency ecosystem had created an opportunity for companies that were willing to work with regulators. He had come to Washington to sell lawmakers on Circle's vision for the regulated future of digital currency.

"I believe that global digital currency represents one of the most important technical and economic innovations of our time," he told the committee. "As this technology moves from early adopters into mainstream acceptance, it is critical in my view that federal and state governments establish policies surrounding digital currency."

Cryptocurrency got its start in 2008 with the launch of Bitcoin, a peer-to-peer digital currency that allowed anyone with an internet connection to transact without going through a regulated

ANDRES HERNANDEZ







CRCL  
LISTED  
NYSE

CIRCLE

CRCL  
LISTED  
NYSE

## DIGITAL CURRENCY BASICS

Jeremy Allaire '93 recently joined the Macalester community for an educational conversation about cryptocurrency and its role in today's financial landscape. Here are three takeaways from the webinar that offer insight into Allaire's experience and perspective on this rapidly changing industry.

### A major puzzle: solved

Cryptocurrency and its use of blockchains has solved a problem that had previously eluded technologists for decades—how to transfer a unique piece of data that the whole world can agree upon. Allaire describes blockchains as new network operating systems that allow people to share incontrovertible data. With their "perfect records of data," blockchains are now relied upon for the safe transfer of digital currency and financial contracts.

### Turning dollars into digital tokens

When people deposit funds in a traditional bank, bankers usually loan out those funds to others. But when investors provide dollars to Allaire's Circle, the company issues its version of cryptocurrency, USDC, that is fully reserved. Circle safeguards invested funds in liquid assets like treasury bills or cash held by major custodians.

Once USDC is issued as a digital token, it circulates freely on the public internet, allowing for the exchange of dollar value at the speed of the internet—"in a fraction of a second and for a fraction of a cent."

### Power of open networks

Allaire's work in technology is rooted in a deep commitment to open networks. His exposure to the beginnings of the internet while at Macalester led him to believe that open infrastructure would "completely change the world." He now applies that commitment to developing public pathways for digital currency, which can afford people greater freedoms and increased inclusion. Examples include Venezuelan refugees who are able to hold on to their wealth across borders and women traditionally excluded from financial systems, such as in Afghanistan, who now have autonomous financial access.



**Left: Circle founder Jeremy Allaire, center, and members of the company's leadership team ring the opening bell of the New York Stock Exchange on June 5, 2025, ahead of the stablecoin firm's initial public offering. Circle saw shares more than double on the first day of trading, raising \$1.1 billion.**

central intermediary like a bank or payment process. Allaire was one of the few early crypto entrepreneurs who actively sought regulation—a maverick approach in crypto's Wild West culture.

But, twelve years later, Allaire's strategy of working with regulators has proven prescient. Circle has become critical infrastructure for the nearly \$4 trillion crypto industry and a key player in its mainstream adoption. It processes trillions of dollars in transactions annually and has been adopted and used by major legacy payment platforms like Visa and Mastercard and global financial powerhouses like BlackRock, Robinhood, Stripe, and others.

The key to Circle's success is an innovation in digital money called a stablecoin, a particular type of cryptocurrency that is typically backed by real dollars and is designed to maintain a stable price. The first stablecoin, BitUSD, was released by a pair of programmers in 2014 and promised to make even cross-border transactions as simple as sending an email. For years, internet users have been able to digitize and share music, images, and text. But money could move only via proprietary systems such as wire transfer services and Venmo. Stablecoins change that by allowing people to send money between different payment platforms because they share a common protocol. It's the same concept that allows emails to be sent and read despite users having different email providers.

At Circle, the company's stablecoin, USDC, is able to maintain a stable dollar value because it is backed one-to-one with actual cash and Treasury bills held in highly regulated custody. "A stablecoin is essentially a very safe version of a dollar," says Allaire. "But it has all these superpowers that we love about internet communication and information access."

Besides making it easier to send money between payment platforms, stablecoins enable billions of people without traditional banking access to participate in the global economy for the first time. "This is important for the democratization of the financial system and ultimately the ways in which credit becomes available to people and businesses around the world," says Allaire, who traces the inspiration for Circle to his time at Macalester. "If it wasn't for my liberal arts education and my ability to think from an interdisciplinary perspective about society, political systems, and the economy, I couldn't do what I'm doing today," he says.

Macalester was where Allaire first explored the internet when his first-year roommate connected their dorm room to an early research network that preceded the commercial web.

"I was communicating with people behind the Iron Curtain as they were witnessing tanks rolling by during the collapse of the Soviet Union," he says. "It blew my mind."

Allaire decided to spend his career working on the technology. In 1995 he and his brother, J.J. '91, developed ColdFusion, a web development platform that made it easy for anyone to build dynamic websites and was adopted by companies including Boeing and Target. A few years later, Allaire launched his second

“

I believe that global digital currency represents one of the most important technical and economic innovations of our time.”

—JEREMY ALLAIRE  
Founder of Circle

company, Brightcove, which gave individuals, content creators, and brands the power to distribute content at the same scale as legacy television networks.

Both companies expanded access to tools that had previously been unavailable to most people. With Circle, Allaire applied the same logic to money itself.

The company has faced fierce competition from Tether, an offshore rival operating in regulatory gray areas. In 2022, the collapse of crypto projects such as FTX sent shockwaves through the industry, and Circle faced its own crisis when Silicon Valley Bank failed with over \$3 billion of the company's reserves trapped inside, causing USDC's price to briefly dip below its dollar peg.

But those challenges have only validated Allaire's long-term strategy to advocate for and comply with federal regulation. This summer, President Trump signed the GENIUS Act into law, creating the first federal regulatory framework for stablecoins and establishing guardrails such as maintaining 100 percent reserve assets kept in US dollars or similar safe assets. Circle used this regulatory clarity to overtake its rivals and become the dominant compliant stablecoin issuer, growing over 100 percent year over year. Earlier this year, it went public with a \$1.1 billion IPO in one of the most successful tech IPOs in recent decades. It was exactly the type of mainstream validation for stablecoins that Allaire had been pursuing for more than a decade. But he sees this as just the beginning.

"When I was at Mac in the early 1990s and having these visions of the internet, it took twenty years for a lot of those ideas to happen," he says. "I think we're in a similar place with cryptocurrency right now, and the transformations are going to be just as significant." **M**

Daniel Oberhaus is a science and technology writer in New York. He is the founder of the creative agency HAUS and the author of *The Silicon Shrink: How Artificial Intelligence Made the World an Asylum* (MIT Press, 2025).





# MACALESTER'S STEREO TYPES

For nearly fifty years, WMCN 91.7 has been the soundtrack to student life and a training ground for students who pursue audio-linked careers.

BY ERIN PETERSON



JON GORDON

On a wintry weekday evening in the mid-1980s, Jon Gordon '88 was hosting a radio show at WMCN in the studio on the second floor of the student union. One floor down, students packed the building, watching the snow pile up as they studied, chatted, and listened to WMCN over the student union speakers.

Gordon saw an opportunity to break news on his show and called up Macalester President Robert Gavin. "I asked him, 'What's the status of school for tomorrow?'" he recalls. "He announced that there would be no school, and as soon as he said that, a roar lifted from the first floor. Pretty soon, there was a march of Macalester students down to the nearby O'Gara's pub."

Nearly four decades later, Gordon now serves as deputy managing editor of *Marketplace*, an American Public Media show about economics that draws more than 12 million listeners each week. While he appreciates both the privilege and the responsibility of leading a program with national reach, he notes that there was something uniquely beautiful about his work at the campus station, where he could speak so directly to a deeply invested audience. "In some ways, I've been chasing that ghost of radio purity ever since," he says.

For about a century, Macalester students have been broadcasting from some version of a campus radio station. Though music has always been its backbone, the station has also aired talk shows and other types of programming. It has served as a joyful experience in and of itself while helping many of its DJs, music directors, and station managers develop skills that have proven valuable after graduation.

And while there is no question that the role of radio has shifted in a world of unlimited streaming, podcasts, and algorithm-driven content, WMCN has remained remarkably resilient: about one hundred students are involved with the station each semester. They draw on the experience to hone their taste, sharpen their voice, and find a community where they belong.

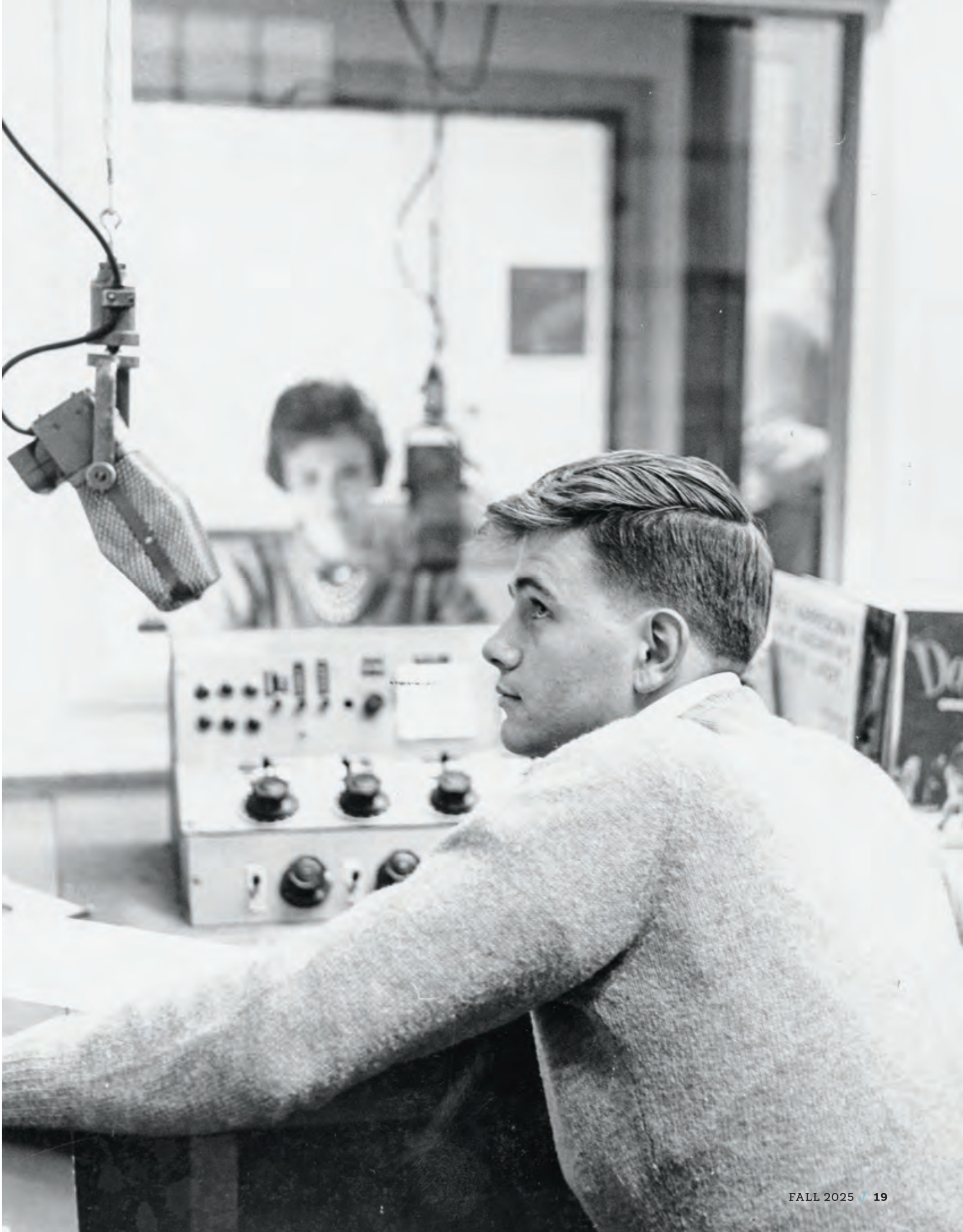
We asked alums from across the decades—as well as current students—to share some of their favorite WMCN stories and the ways that their experience at the station influenced them.



**Above: Two Macalester College students perform a segment for the campus radio station in 1962.**

**Right: Students broadcast on KMCL 550, which began broadcasting on February 5, 1960, from a room in Dayton Hall and later moved to the student union in 1966.**









Tune in at <https://www.wmcn.fm>



## Left of the dial\*

WMCN 91.7 went live on the airwaves in the fall of 1979, but Macalester's radio history stretches back to the 1910s. Students formed a class in wireless telegraphy in 1917 and an active radio club on campus as early as the 1920s, with students and staff appearing on local radio stations including WMIN, WCCO, and KSTP.

In 1946, the college installed a "wired wireless" system that operated through dormitory fuse box circuits (rather than over the air with an antenna), and the college cycled through stations in fits and starts for the next thirty years. For more than a decade, KMAC could be found at 550 on the AM dial.

In 1978, the FCC granted approval to build an FM station with the call letters WMCN. The broadcast radius was—and remains—about three miles. On October 6, 1979, three bands broadcasted from the student union to celebrate the station's launch.

*\*"Left of the dial" refers to college and other noncommercial radio stations broadcasting on the lower end of the FM spectrum; the phrase was popularized by the Replacements' song of the same name.*

## Two generations at WMCN



Father and son Grant '86 and Owen Killoran '27 each found a home at WMCN—four decades apart. Grant, a partner at the Milwaukee-based law firm of O'Neil Cannon, currently cohosts *The Happy Monday* weekly radio show at the alternative radio station WMSE with Pat Buckley '96. Owen, who is majoring in political science and environmental studies, is a host and an incoming station manager at WMCN.

Here, they share how the campus radio station has influenced and connected them.

**GRANT:** I was involved at the radio station at my high school in Green Bay, Wisconsin. When I went to Macalester, I knew I wanted to get involved with its radio station, too. I realized that my musical tastes were not quite adventurous enough for Mac's station at first, so I waited until my sophomore year to apply for a show. At the time, they needed a Broadway show tunes show, so I did that to start but later played a bunch of different formats.

**OWEN:** I was very much influenced growing up by the musical tastes of my dad and my mom [Carrie Norbin Killoran '94]: artists like Prince, the Replacements, and Bob Mould ['82], and Hüsker Dü. Every once in a while, I'd join my dad on his show in Milwaukee. No matter where I would have gone to school, I think I would have been involved in campus radio.

**GRANT:** When I was doing radio at Mac, there were not many outlets for listening to alternative music. You could listen to the left end of the dial on commercial radio or try to find cable TV to watch MTV. Or you could go to a record store and buy albums or cassettes. I think the campus maybe was more involved in listening to the station when I was in school for that reason.

**OWEN:** Right. Radio is less of a main source of listening now; there's an abundance of choices for hearing music. I've almost evangelically tried to recruit my friends to join WMCN. Some students don't even know what campus radio is.

**GRANT:** I try to listen to Owen's WMCN show here in Milwaukee in real time online. It's during the workweek, so whether or not I can listen is a little hit or miss, but when I can listen, it's pretty awesome.

**OWEN:** My show, which I've had all four semesters, is *Good Albums, Bad Advice*. I play albums in their entirety, and in between songs, I give satirically bad advice to problems people send in to the show through social media channels. Like, if someone asks how to impress their professor, I'll tell them to sit close to the front and breathe loudly so that the professor knows that you're focusing.

**GRANT:** One of the things Owen and I talk about sometimes is the structure of a music show. He's a musician. I am not. He plays the drums, so I think he hears music differently than I do. I always think about how I want the songs I play to mesh together and build during a show. To me, it's like a crossword puzzle.

**OWEN:** One thing I appreciate about my time at WMCN is just being exposed to a huge industry full of people. I've learned what it's like to talk to venue managers and bands, and I've learned what it's like to set up a concert and know what gear you need. I've just gotten a glimpse, but I'm excited to keep learning and experiencing it.

PHOTO PROVIDED





**A student double-checks a station log inside the WBOM 630 (We Broadcast over Macalester) studio, which was constructed in the attic of Weyerhaeuser Hall in 1947, where it remained until 1957.**

## Fuel for First Avenue

As a high school student, Sonia Grover '97 was captivated by the Twin Cities music scene and says it was one of the reasons she chose to attend Macalester in the first place. She landed her first WMCN show—an unenviable weekday time slot from 2 to 4 a.m.—the fall of her first year.

Despite the early hour, it wasn't long before she was earning notice for her love of local music. Grover spun tunes and interviewed musicians from bands including the Jayhawks, Polara, and Run Westy Run as part of her show, *Indie 500*. "I'd start and end every show with a song from my favorite band, the Replacements," she says.

She took on roles outside of hosting, including record room manager—keeping the space with records, CDs, and cassettes organized—and, by her senior year, music director. "I was one of the few people who had keys to the station," she recalls. "That meant

that I'd have to trek across campus from Kirk at 7 or 8 a.m. to let the first DJs in. It was cold! But that was how much I loved the station."

Her experience at the station helped her land a position in 1998 at the iconic Twin Cities venue First Avenue, where she has remained since, becoming a nationally recognized talent buyer who identifies and books musical acts. Over the years, she's been named the nation's best by trade industry organizations and publications including *Pollstar* and the International Entertainment Buyers Association.

Grover is happy to talk with current Macalester students about her work in part because of WMCN's impact on her. "Getting two hours to play whatever you want, learning about different artists and different genres that I might not have otherwise been exposed to? That's what helped sustain and fuel my love for music," she says.



## WMCN today

Emily Hueser '26 had no particular passion for radio her first year at Mac when she tagged along with a friend to the station. But almost immediately, she felt at home. "The physical space is really cozy and comfortable," she says of its current basement location in Bowman Hall. The space is filled with shelf after shelf of records and CDs. "It's covered in art and graffiti from students, and there's a window where you can watch people walk back and forth from the dorms."

It wasn't long before she was hosting shows including *How Not to Get Laid* ("a joke about different music stereotypes that losers listen to") and *Hot Girl Walks* ("different types of walks you might take, and the music that fits that").

The shows have been a creative outlet and connection point. "WMCN is a platform that really encourages people to explore their passions and find the people who really connect with that," she says. "You feel not just like you're engaged physically in the community, but you're also talking to the community."

Today, Hueser is one of three station managers, along with Elliot Pearson '27 and Cade Klein '27. The trio helps manage show hosts, FCC requirements, and events including Live at Garth's, which brings bands to campus to play live sets.

Director of Campus Center and Programming Andy Williams says that while WMCN's role on campus has evolved over the decades, the experience continues to be deeply rewarding for those who are involved. "We hope that students have multiple touch-points on campus where they feel at home and feel a connection with others, and I think for many people, WMCN is that place."

Williams adds that WMCN has shown a staying power across the generations: When he volunteers at Reunion, he's often asked by alumni if they can get back into the station. "The thing that has always struck me is the sense of community that exists. It's like, once you're a part of WMCN, you're always a part of WMCN."

**Current station managers, from left to right, Elliot Pearson '27, Emily Hueser '26, and Cade Klein '27 pose for a photo inside the WMCN studio.**

DAVID J. TURNER







John Gallos '49, center, interviews a group of Macalester students for WBOM in January 1949.



Louie House '51, left, host of the disc show *House of Joy*, speaks with announcer Loyal Farrell '59, who appears to have lost his script.



Station managers and DJs, including general manager Joel Becker '80, bottom left, gather to celebrate the launch of WMCN in fall 1979.



NINA SLESINGER

## From behind the mic to behind the camera

As an award-winning independent filmmaker—her most recent short documentary project, *Chainstitch*, landed a De Laurentiis Film Prize from the National Italian American Foundation—Nina Slesinger '14 has had to master a range of different skills to excel.

Slesinger's job requires her to be a crisp storyteller and smart marketer. It also demands sharp management skills and a boldness of purpose and execution. She strengthened all of those skills during her years at WMCN.

After an initial foray into music-based shows—classic country, glam rock—Slesinger switched to a storytelling format for *Romantic Comedy*, a show in which guests shared lighthearted tales about their dating lives. “I liked picking guests, meeting new people, and hearing funny stories,” she recalls. And she learned a trick for reaching a larger audience: “When you have a guest, the guest will tell people to listen.” The show instilled in her a fearlessness when it came to reaching out to new people. It also helped her stay open to a wide range of conversations.

Eventually, she took on leadership roles at WMCN, including program manager. She helped fundraise for a new soundboard and expanded the range of on-air talent, adding an employee from the nearby Common Good Books. “He was outside of the ‘Macalester bubble’ who cared about the station but who became more tied to the campus that he had been working across the street from for years,” she says. “It felt like a special connection.”

More than a decade after her final show ended at Macalester, Slesinger still values the skills and mindset she built at the station. “WMCN is very community-oriented and scrappy. It gave me a lot of practice in getting people together to be excited about the same thing,” she says. [M](#)

Erin Peterson is a Minneapolis-based writer.









# FRAME —OF— REFERENCE

MACALESTER'S LIVING ART COLLECTION

BY MICHAEL HOUSEHOLDER



Mac's permanent art collection reflects a dynamic intersection of education, identity, and creative legacy.

Four pieces from Macalester's permanent collection (clockwise from top left): Salvador Dalí, *The Quest*, 1981; Chank Diesel '90, *Guess What? Spies Rule! #3807*, no date; Valerian Mikhailovich Formozov, *Stogov's Yard*, 1983; and Jim Denomie, *Indian, Horse, and Crow*, 2012.



O

n a Monday morning this past February, seven members of a multi-institutional team huddled around piles of cardboard boxes and tubes in a workspace in Macalester's Law Warschaw Gallery. Gently placing one of the boxes on a work table, college curator Heather Everhart slowly revealed its delicate contents, a lithograph produced by an Inuit artist working in an area of Nunavut, Canada, known as Cape Dorset. For a moment, the team paused in wonder and appreciation.

Over the course of the week, the scene

would be repeated many times as more than 200 additional items, including more lithographs, stencils, stonecuts, and three-dimensional objects were unboxed, measured, evaluated for damage, and catalogued. It was a week of painstaking curation punctuated by breathtaking discovery.

Soon, this trove of objects will be available for the world to see and study on Macalester's campus, thanks to the college's nearly 100-year-old commitment to maintaining a large, diverse, and robust permanent art collection.



Macalester curator Heather Everhart shares material from a recent gift of Inuit art (clockwise from top): Nikotye Mills, *Following the Route*, 1996; Qavavau Manumie ᐅᐅᐅᐅ ᐅᐅᐅᐅ, *Migration of the Whales*, 2002; dozens of prints arrived tightly rolled in tubes; Mary Pudlat, *The Whale Hunt*, 1990.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: DAVID J. TURNER (2); DANIEL SEO '25; JOHN SCHOLLMESTERS



## Art as anchor

The college began collecting art intentionally and systematically in the 1930s. Today, Macalester College's Permanent Art Collection, which is a program of the Art and Art History Department and is stewarded by Law Warschaw Gallery leadership, holds a growing collection of more than 1,800 objects, including paintings, sculptures, textiles, photographs, and mixed media works. Many of the objects were made by past and current faculty and students, thus serving as an archive of the college's teaching and activities. The collection is also home to works by art world luminaries like Ansel Adams, Judy Chicago, Salvador Dalí, Käthe Kollwitz, Joan Mitchell, George Morrison, and Isamu Noguchi, as well as artifacts and art historical objects like African carvings and Chinese ceramics.

Objects from the collection can occasionally be seen inside the Law Warschaw Gallery, but a wealth of pieces appear all over campus every day. A tapestry, *Dragon Ship*, by Laurie Jacobi hangs on a wall in the Kofi Annan Institute for Global Citizenship. A ceramic, *Yellow Sweater*, by Gail Kendall, rests on a pedestal in the library. A ceramics installation, *Sunbathers*, by Marta Sorenson '25, is tucked below the stairs in the Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center Commons. They are the concrete manifestation of the college's commitment to preserving, sustaining, and growing the arts. As both decorative objects and teaching tools, they prompt and sustain reflection, inspiration, dialogue, and community.

It's a collection that is almost always changing. Through the thoughtful acquisition and display of artwork from a range of cultures and perspectives, Everhart believes the collection continues to evolve as a more "reflective, inclusive, and accessible resource that supports both academic inquiry and personal connection."

## Where learning meets legacy

Promoting students' direct engagement with the collection is one of Everhart's primary goals as director and curator of both the Law Warschaw Gallery and the permanent art collection. She intends to launch a formal study collection in the coming years that will expand access to objects for instruction and research. Recently, instructors in the Art and Art History Department have used objects to teach methods of visual analysis and critical thinking. Students have also used objects as models and sources of inspiration for their own creative projects.

For student artists themselves, the collection can provide more than inspiration. Over the years, the college has acquired works from student exhibitions, as well as works produced later in graduates' careers. For early-career artists, acquisition provides validation and public recognition. It is also a means through which they can support future generations of Macalester students, cultivating a virtuous cycle of giving back to the campus community.

"Collections and their holdings represent what an institution finds valuable and worth protecting," says Nora de Rege '24, an alum who spent years working with the collection. "The artwork that I was responsible for researching, organizing, maintaining, all represents and contributes to the identity of the college."

For de Rege and other students who participate in the gallery's work-study program, the collection provides a range of hands-on experiences in the form of curation, research, conservation, and museum education. These opportunities represent experiences where practice and theory meet. De Rege describes their



DANIEL SEO '25

**Jane Becker Nelson, director of the Flaten Art Museum at St. Olaf College, and Nora de Rege '24 work to catalog dozens of pieces of Inuit art from a recent donation that will be divided between Macalester and St. Olaf.**

## Inuit Art Collection Finds a Home at Mac

Two years ago, the offices of the Associated Colleges of the Midwest (ACM), a consortium of liberal arts colleges to which Macalester belongs, received an astonishing message. Despite having no connection to any of its member schools, Robert C. Leestma, as part of his estate, had gifted the ACM a collection of more than 200 contemporary prints and objects. The remarkable collection features work by artists from Kinngait (Cape Dorset), a renowned center of Inuit printmaking, whose innovative practices reflect layered relationships between tradition and change, land and identity, community and representation. Two ACM member institutions, Macalester and St. Olaf College, agreed to share the collection between them.

The gift, now known as The Associated Colleges of the Midwest Robert C. Leestma Collection, will significantly enhance Macalester's holdings in global contemporary art and Indigenous cultural production. As culturally sensitive works requiring thoughtful interpretation and care, they also deepen both the scope and ethical responsibility of Macalester's collection.

This past summer, with support from the Macalester Native and Indigenous (MNI) initiative and the Ikway Ogimaa fund, students Kalei Ganer '25 (CHamoru/Kānaka Maoli) and Lucas Wood '25 worked on the collection. Under the guidance of curator Heather Everhart, Ganer researched artist family lineages and identified key themes and locations to support culturally informed cataloging and tagging. Wood produced high-resolution digital photographs of each work to improve documentation and accessibility within the collection database.

experience as "invaluable" as they begin their career in the museum industry. "Because my work with the collection often coincided with my studies," they observe, "I understood the value of an art collection through a theoretical framework."

In addition to being an invaluable academic resource, the college's collection nurtures the intellectual life of the campus community, and connects it to the vibrant Twin Cities cultural scene. This past spring, Everhart and de Rege assembled a highlights show (appropriately titled *The Hits*), bringing together works from Mitchell and Dalí alongside gifts of work by alums Siah Armanjani '63 and Cynthia Brewster '64, as well as by the celebrated Minneapolis artist Judith Roode. Underscoring the importance of such shows, de Rege notes, "I was always amazed to discover that some of my favorite artworks in the collection were by former students or staff members—I was even more amazed to realize it meant that the people of Macalester are core to the identity of the college."









**Pieces from Macalester's permanent art collection (clockwise from top left):** Suriya Khuth '20, *Labyrinthine*, 2019; Marta Sorenson '25, *Sunbathers*, 2025; Leonardo Corral '25, *Be Good (detail)*, 2025; Judith Roode, *Approach-Avoidance #23*, 1987; Barbara Kreft, *Lily Pad*, 2014; (center) Patricia Olson '73, *Snow White and Rose Red*, 2015.

## Creating space for complexity

Understanding which objects make sense for the college to acquire and preserve is one of the many challenges Everhart faces. In accepting and selecting works consistent with the institution's mission and the role of the collection, Everhart strives to balance a range of aims. Within that broader vision, she applies her own vision of art "as a vital tool for cultivating empathy, connection, and collective responsibility," a view shaped by her perspective as a Dene First Nations lineal descendant and multi-disabled person.

"I think a lot about invisibility—whose experiences are centered and whose are overlooked," Everhart says. "Building this collection is about creating space for complexity: work that doesn't tokenize marginalized communities but instead invites understanding, sparks conversation, and deepens care across difference."

The college's location on the Dakota land of Mni Sóta Makoce places it in a unique position within a vibrant network of contemporary Native artists from across Nations and geographies—an area of Everhart's expertise, scholarship, and enthusiasm. The collection will begin to see greater representation of Dakota artists, along with work by Anishinaabe and Ho-Chunk artists who also call this region home.

"It's an ongoing process, anchored in creating new relationships and deepening existing ones," Everhart says. "We'll also stretch outward, because our students, faculty, and staff are from lands and Nations of the global home. In doing so, the collection can welcome, expand, and complicate how we understand one another in ways that are more borderless, rooted, and empathetic."

## Curating with care

Occasionally, a single donation or acquisition, such as the gift of Inuit contemporary prints, has the potential to transform the art collection, creating new opportunities

for scholarship, teaching, and elevating the college's profile. Such opportunities, however, are accompanied by additional responsibilities to care for and ethically share the collection's holdings.

Even as new objects come in, work continues on a comprehensive inventory of pieces already in the collection. As part of that work, objects are registered and recorded digitally. Their condition is noted, and, if necessary, preventative conservation is planned to ensure their stability and accessibility over time. Exposure to light is one of the most common causes of damage to artworks—particularly works on paper, photographs, and textiles. Many objects around campus have been removed in order to place them on light rest.

## An invitation to look closer

While the permanent art collection makes a vital contribution to Macalester's overall ambience as a place that offers stimulation and contemplation, shared history and individual innovation, the life of the mind and the enlivening pleasure of aesthetic experience, campus leaders believe the collection can also be taken for granted.

It's a concern that associate professor and chair of art and art history Megan Vossler acknowledges, but which also leads her to double down on the collection's vital importance. "In times of cultural and political pressure, art becomes even more essential—not less." More than an assemblage of objects, Vossler adds, the collection feeds Macalester's lifeblood: "It's about upholding and sustaining our capacity to ask difficult questions, to imagine alternatives, and to connect across difference."

For those willing to notice, the campus surrounds them with invitations to make those connections. **M**

Dr. Michael Householder is a scholar of American literature.





# THE GROUND WE SHARE

**Dance scholar  
Alessandra Williams '07  
uses movement to  
connect communities  
and create social change**

BY ABRAHAM SWEET

**When the lights came up** at the Southern Theater in Minneapolis on June 9, 2005, Alessandra Williams '07 sat stunned in her seat. The Macalester student had just witnessed Ananya Dance Theatre's inaugural performance, *Bandh: Meditation on Dream*. As applause began to build, Williams didn't know what to think. The performance—which featured a new company of transnational feminist artists exploring issues around social justice—had defied everything she had come to know about movement, identity, and art.

"I sat there and thought, 'What in the world was that?'" Williams recalls. "There was nothing like it."

For Dr. Williams, who earned her PhD in culture and performance at UCLA and is now an associate professor of dance at Rutgers University-New Brunswick, the moment was quietly revolutionary. It is a moment that has since shaped her movement through the world, encouraging Williams to embrace dance as a conversation between body, land, and community.

Her trip to the Minneapolis theater that night was no accident. Williams was part of the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program, led then by professor Peter Rachleff, who brought his students to the performance as part of their exploration of race, history, and the arts. Williams, a dance minor and American studies major, was no stranger to the power of dance at Macalester. A Black woman on a predominantly white campus, she had worked to create community and founded Bodacious, the college's first hip-hop collective featuring Black students, women



and queer persons of color, and those of the African diaspora.

And yet, what she saw on the Southern Theater stage on that evening in June—an ensemble of people of color and queer artists, who performed fast and intricate footwork while tackling subjects like women's empowerment and generational healing—expanded the boundaries of what dance could mean. “I just didn’t know what to think,” she said. “And I didn’t really know if I ever wanted to see it again, as I didn’t have anything to connect it to.”

Confusion would soon give way to clarity. While studying away at the University of Cape Town, Williams interned for a youth dance organization, Jikeleza Dance. The project uses movement to help children in South Africa’s most undervalued communities shed the weight of daily constraints and express themselves freely. The experience, once again, expanded her understanding of dance and what it could be.



LYNNE DELADE

**“The dancing is an intense aliveness and an unwavering concentration on one’s body and all others in the movement space. There is never a moment of dropping your energy, your focus, or your rootedness to the ground.”** —ALESSANDRA WILLIAMS

Back home in the Twin Cities, Williams returned to the Southern Theater and, with a broadened worldview, watched a fresh work from Ananya Dance Theatre. “I felt connected as a person of African descent whose ancestors were enslaved on this land in America,” Williams says. “I was weeping, and I felt touched.”

She would join the company as an artist during her senior year at Mac, performing with the group and studying Yorchhā, its signature technique. With the use of spirals and curvilinear extensions of the spine, the movement practice combines principles from traditional Indian dance and the martial art form Chhau. For its practitioners, Yorchhā demands total presence and an awareness of one’s connection to the Earth.

“The dancing is an intense aliveness and an unwavering concentration on one’s body and all others in the movement space,” Williams says. “There is never a moment of dropping your energy, your focus, or your rootedness to the ground.”

Williams has spent much of the past two decades either studying Yorchhā as a member of Ananya Dance Theatre or sharing the technique with others. In 2016, she joined her fellow company members at Standing Rock, where they offered up the movement practice to Indigenous communities protesting the Dakota Access Pipeline.

“Every dance we must think about the land on which we dance,” Williams says. “When we work with communities and offer the Yorchhā practice, we give them energy and send them vitality. That’s social justice and that’s artistic excellence intersected.”

The dance scholar explored that intersection as coeditor of the anthology *Dancing Transnational Feminisms: Ananya Dance Theatre and the Art of Social Justice*. Joining her on the project were company founder Ananya Chatterjea and fellow company member Dr. Hui Wilcox, now the dean of the Kofi Annan Institute for Global Citizenship at Mac.

“Alessandra has this incredible vision, and she will not give up on it,” Wilcox says. “Our book took twelve years to complete. There were times we thought it wouldn’t happen, but Alessandra kept us going. That book exists because she kept reminding us of the dream.”

As a faculty member at Rutgers, Williams now shares her vision

with the next generation, teaching dance history, theory, and the Yorchhā technique as part of the university’s curriculum. Yorchhā became the first non-European-derived form taught at Rutgers as formal technique, rather than as a rotationally taught form. It can pose an uncomfortable challenge for students, as it once did for Williams.

“Inspiring my students to broaden their horizons, to understand the possibilities of what dance looks like, what technique looks like, and what excellence looks like—it’s always an eye-opening experience for them,” Williams says.

Two decades after that first performance left her quietly contemplating in a darkened theater in Minneapolis, Williams plans to return home again in 2026 to perform with Ananya Dance Theatre. For the dance scholar, to come home and dance again is a return to family and purpose. “Dancing feels like the hardest thing I’ve ever had to do—and one that is most illuminating.” **M**







BY ABRAHAM SWEE / ILLUSTRATION BY BELICTA CASTELBARCO

While not all of the world's top chefs consider themselves scientists, many approach cooking with a scientific mindset. And it's hardly surprising why. In chemistry professor Dr. Susan Green's course Food Chemistry, it quickly becomes apparent that knowing even a little bit about the making of your favorite meal can have an outsized effect on its texture, appearance, flavor, and aroma.

From the science behind fluffy pancakes to the "magic" of self-hardening chocolate sauce for ice cream, students in the course gain valuable experience cooking for themselves (and often their friends and family). But it's not all about creating a "better" meal. Green and her action-packed food demos also work together to teach students how to thoughtfully navigate conversations at the intersection of local foodways, social justice, and environmental chemistry.

**Inspiration for this course comes from the adage "Never trust a chemist who can't cook." Can an understanding of food chemistry truly reveal the worth of a chemist?**

That's a truism that many chemists share among themselves to acknowledge the fact that if you can follow a recipe and make a cake, you can also probably synthesize a diol (an organic compound). And while it is a fun saying, I really do believe that an understanding of

food chemistry can tell you quite a bit about who someone is as a chemist. For instance, if you can follow a procedure in a journal article to synthesize something, you can follow a recipe. So chemists tend to be recipe followers for the most part. Although, I do think it's important to note that cooking and baking are two different things, right? People who bake tend to follow rules, and people who cook tend to not follow rules as much. I always read the whole recipe (or procedure) first because I've learned the hard way from doing experiments that you always need to have an idea of what's coming next.

**There's also the idiom "Nothing can account for taste," but, scientifically speaking, people do taste things differently. How should that inform our conversations around food?**

One of the really fun demos that we do in class is having students taste-test strips containing thirty micrograms of phenylthiourea. Typically, an unfortunate quarter of students will find it extremely bitter; half will find it mildly bitter; and the rest find it completely tasteless. And so, together, as a class, we learn that things are fundamentally not the same when we put them in our mouth. And once you understand that, it's much easier to have respectful conversations about how something should taste, how you should cook something, and how you should eat something.





**Food Chemistry has been a hit with non-science majors and advanced chemists. Why does it prove so engaging for both?**

Food is universal. Everybody eats, whether you cook or not. And so, I can sneak some chemistry in there when we're talking about food, right? For my chemistry majors who have had several years of study behind them, they learn how to apply what they've learned and have some fun. They think about what making scones has to do with acid-based chemistry and all these very technical things. And then I have the nonmajors who are like, "Wow! I know what those squiggly line drawings now mean. I can tell you that this is a carbon, and I can tell you that this is a stereocenter." It's so fun to watch political science majors and art majors suddenly geeking out in a chemistry lab.

**Your course features a variety of cooking demonstrations and lab experiments. What's one of your favorites?**

Oh, that has to be bomb calorimetry—that's the really cool one. On food wrappers and packaging, companies always list the number of calories in an item. Well, the way that food scientists measure that is by literally blowing it up. By blowing it up, they can measure how much energy is released and note the calories. In our course, we have students bring in a food item

that they've created in their own kitchen, and we take it into the physical chemistry lab and put it in the bomb calorimeter. We learn how to wire it up, let it explode, and then measure the energy that's produced. Not only are students getting to do an advanced chemistry experiment; they're getting to do so on a food creation of their own making—whether that's pulled pork, onigiri, or sourdough bread.

**Your course often incorporates local resources and food pathways. What's it like teaching this course in Minnesota and the Twin Cities?**

Minnesota offers such interesting case studies which showcase how an understanding of food chemistry can open eyes to how local food pathways work. One of the best lectures in this class actually comes from my fellow chemistry professor Ron Brisbois, a descendant of the White Earth Band of Ojibwe in northern Minnesota. Ron talks all about wild rice and what it means to his family. And then we talk about how wild rice grows, how the plant is impacted by sulfate in lakes, and how mining projects can impact that sulfate concentration. When levels get too high, it causes wild rice to die off. An understanding of that science and local traditions helps students understand why many Native peoples are working with environmentalists to protect wild rice lakes across northern Minnesota. **M**



# CLASS NOTES

## 1958

Bill Kansas competed in a US Masters Swimming event in April as part of a relay swim team composed of members eighty-five years of age and older. Bill's team set a new record for the 400 medley relay, completing the race in 8:40.44.

## 1962

Former Macalester track, cross country, and football athlete LeRoy Martin Jr. competed this past July in the Washington State Senior Games track and field championships, taking first place in both the fifty-meter and one hundred-meter races.

## 1966

*The Class of 1966 will celebrate its 60th Reunion June 4-7, 2026.*

## 1969

Greg Renstrom has moved to the Episcopal Homes in St. Paul. "It's a terrific residence," he writes, "and I am delighted to see several Macalester alumni and retired Macalester faculty and staff."

## 1970

Super LaBatte Jr. reports, "[I] had much fun, much to my surprise," at his first Macalester reunion. "Thank you, Macalester, for the good vibes and memories."

## 1971

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

Barbara Phillips operates a Substack site featuring "sporadic postings of my creative nonfiction and tidbits like the

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

### CLASS NOTES PHOTO POLICY:

We publish one photo per wedding.

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

Photos must be high-resolution, approximately

2MB or greater in file size.

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

most beautiful arrangement of 'We Shall Overcome' you've ever heard." She is a named plaintiff in a federal case against a State of Mississippi anti-DEI law that would eliminate her third-year law seminar "The Role of Lawyers in Our Democracy."

## 1972

Since retiring from the Hopkins, Minn., school board in December 2023, Steve Adams has kept busy as co-chair of the Hopkins Legislative Action Coalition and as a member of the board of the Hopkins Education Foundation. He also serves as lay leader for Spirit of Hope United Methodist Church in Golden Valley, Minn., vice-chair of his local DFL precinct, and a trustee for two family trusts. "For fun, I attend meetings!" he writes.

## 1974

Sherilyn Fritz was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in April.

## 1975

Debbie Thorne received the Illinois Jewish Judges Association's Ilana Diamond Rovner Lifetime Achievement Award. The honor is named for the first woman appointed to the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals.

## 1976

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

## 1981

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

## 1984

Barry Peterson recently recon-



Rachel Z. Meyer '18 and Carolyn Siegman '18 met up at the Sonic Temple Art and Music Festival in Ohio.



A group of alumnae from the Class of '67 who have met a few times a year since graduation recently gathered at Olive Garden in St. Paul to celebrate their "year of turning 80." From left: Mary Hamry Albrecht, Nancy Cowles Colby, Lynne Nichols Hendrickson, Pat Holm Lindstrand, Dianne Johnson Gearty, Mary Modlin Gilmore, Anne Ovre Kaphingst, and Susan Shogren Stein. "Many of us were teachers and along with our families we have shared common interests all these years," Lynne writes. Two members of the group, Carol Huber Lindberg and Sharon Peterson Johnson, were unable to attend, and three members—Joni Gilbertson Behm, Dorothy Holmquist Joy, and Carol Soine Carter—have passed away.

nected with his friend Rob Forsyth '83 by email. Barry reports that Rob has also been in touch with Macalester roommate Peter Vanden Broeck '83. "I will share how important it is to keep up with old friends," Barry writes.

## 1986

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

(Continued on page 37)



# Daniel Kerwin '10 and Ryan Kerwin '12

Each year, Macalester alumni across generations reconnect through Tartan Trivia, a competition that brings out the best of Mac's signature curiosity, wit, and love for learning. At the helm of the reigning champion team are brothers Daniel Kerwin '10 and Ryan Kerwin '12—two proud Mac grads who've turned their love of trivia and sibling camaraderie into a fun and easy way to give back.

Based in Denver, the Kerwin brothers first brought their competitive streak to Tartan Trivia in 2024. They've now led their team to back-to-back wins. While Daniel, a history major-turned-high school social studies teacher, specializes in handling quandaries around pop culture and historic events, Ryan, who majored in math and computer science and now works as a software engineer, complements the team with STEM-focused knowledge. Both, though, revel in their love of all things Mac.

## Why do you enjoy participating in Tartan Trivia?

**Daniel:** After growing up in six different countries (first Australia, where both Ryan and I were born, then New Zealand, Hong Kong, England, and Japan, then the US for the first time ever when I came to Macalester), I feel I've always had a knack for picking up a wide array of knowledge from all over the world.

## What keeps you volunteering with Mac, including serving as co-captain of a trivia team?

**Ryan:** There was an alumni event at a local brewery earlier this year, and I met Mac grads from as far back as the 1960s. It struck me

that there was a familiar spirit in everyone in the room, regardless of when they graduated: a blend of intellectual curiosity, social awareness, and a keen sense of humor. It's very gratifying to meet people like that who you don't have to try too hard to connect with since you've got this strong common touchstone right out of the gate.



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

**Daniel:** As a high school social studies teacher currently, I'm heavily involved in just as many extracurriculars as I was at Macalester (I am the boys' and girls' golf coach and also am the faculty advisor for student government). Being able to have such a well-rounded college experience—where yes, my extracurriculars took up just as much time as my classwork did—has certainly carried over into my post-grad life.

**Ryan:** I particularly have benefited from Mac's focus on students as well-rounded humans, not committed solely to what they are majoring in. After a decade of working as a software engineer, I recently branched out into improv comedy and filmmaking as hobbies, and I'll be submitting my first short film to festivals soon. I'm grateful that Mac let me foster my creativity alongside my STEM majors.

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

# NATIONWIDE TARTAN TRIVIA FEBRUARY 19, 2026

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

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



Scan the code to sign up to be a team captain for your area by Dec. 1. Reach out to [alumnioffice@macalester.edu](mailto:alumnioffice@macalester.edu) with questions or in-person location ideas.





**Marty Leistikow '67.** *Touching History: One Family's Twentieth Century* (Leistikow, 2025)

Using firsthand accounts, Leistikow connects her family with important trends and events, with one chapter for each decade of the twentieth century. Macalester features heavily, with the alum unraveling tales about her experience on and off campus in the '60s, including humorous anecdotes about her debate partner, an inspiring lecture from Professor Yahya Armajani, and a sobering study away experience in Europe where she visited London and East Berlin. In later decades, Leistikow describes raising a herd of highland cattle, Mac's new mascot.



**Miriam Moore-Keish '19.** *This Is My Wonderful Face* (Capstone Young Readers, 2025)

Every face tells a story, and our facial expressions are the words. In this picture book, young readers can explore all the different variations in facial features and learn to celebrate the diversity of beauty in every face. "In the end, I wanted to paint a picture of all the ways we can look, feel, sense, and connect," Moore-Keish says. "And I wanted readers to feel it all in their own unique ways."



**Jennifer Veilleux '99.** *Open to Emotion: How Acknowledging, Understanding, and Regulating Your Feelings Can Improve Your Mental Health* (American Psychological Association, 2025)

Dr. Veilleux's new book serves as a practical, engaging resource that offers a clearer understanding of the science of emotion and a helpful path forward in regulating emotions.

A dramatic arts major at Mac, Veilleux is now a professor of clinical psychology at the University of Arkansas. "I learned to lean into the discomfort of emotions via theater," Veilleux says. "One of the things I've always loved about theater is that it can bring forth

uncomfortable emotions, and people are willing to feel them because the feelings are about someone else. In therapy, we guide people to feel those feelings for themselves."



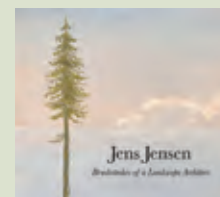
**Bimbola Akinbola '11.** *Transatlantic Disbelonging: Unruliness, Pleasure, and Play in Nigerian Diasporic Women's Art* (Duke University Press, 2025)



Drawing on the work of contemporary visual and performance artists, experimental filmmakers, and writers, Akinbola redirects the focus in diaspora studies from questions of loss and longing to acts of unapologetic self-definition. Throughout the book, Akinbola examines how Nigerian diasporic women use contemporary performance, visual art, video art, and literature to contest and redefine their familial, cultural, and national belonging in Nigeria and its elsewhere.

"In this project, although I am theorizing about ways of seeing and being seen, intimacy, and community, I am also very much writing about seemingly insurmountable loneliness and alienation and what it means to sit with it, work with it, and attempt to transform it," Akinbola says.

**Carlynn Trout '82 and Cora Trout '16.** *Jens Jensen: Brushstrokes of a Landscape Architect* (The Clearing Folk School, 2025)



A mother-daughter project, "the book is meant to raise awareness about Jensen, an important landscape architect, environmentalist, and philosopher who in 1888 launched a new and sustainable direction for landscape architecture that was founded upon using mostly native plants rather than exotic imports." – Carlynn Trout '82

## 1988

Kurt Schwabe was elected chair of the board of directors of Feeding America Riverside San Bernardino Counties in July.

## 1990

Holly Elwood reports that, "like so many others," she left the federal government in January after working for 31 years on sustainable procurement and sustainable information technology at the Environmental Protection Agency. She is now vice president of strategic engagement and category development for the Global Electronics Council. She thanks Macalester political science professor Chuck Green "for interesting me in using policy to drive change."

Texas A&M University professor of geosciences Andrew Klein received the institution's Director's Award for Outstanding Service to Honors Programs. Andrew's research in geographic information science has contributed to the understanding of the cold regions of the Earth.

## 1991

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

## 1993

The *Boston Globe* included Jeremy Allaire in its fourth annual Tech Power Players 50 list of important individuals working in technology in New England. He is chief executive of the cryptocurrency company Circle.

## 1994

Shannon Hyland has begun a new full-time position as a telehealth psychotherapist with Lyra, a national employee assistance program provider that contracts with major corporations in Minnesota and across the country. She works remotely from home in Northfield, Minn., where her two daughters attend Carleton College.



"What do Mac alumnae from the 1960s do when they get together?" asks Maggie Poindexter Freese '70. "Protest, of course!" Linda Karrer Trout '69 traveled from Overland Park, Kan., to join Carol Craig Greenough '69 and Maggie to attend a recent demonstration near Portland, Ore.



Four members of Macalester's Class of 1982 met up with Tom O'Neill '81, author of the bestselling book *CHAOS: Charles Manson, the CIA, and the Secret History of the Sixties*, in May at The Historian in Sawyer, Mich. From left: Gigi Meyers Korosec '82, Daina Mileris '82, Elaine DeBuhr '82, Tom, and Jessie Despard '82.



Tom Ziebell '69 and Sally Satrom Ziebell '72 visited Peggy and Neil Blatchford '68 in Deerfield, Ill., in April.



Geography students from Macalester's Class of 2015 gathered for a photo at their ten-year Reunion. Top row (from left): Shelby Maidl, Matt Creasy, Miranda Adams, Ben Schwed, Andy Timm, Will Matsuda, Jordan Lim, Charlie Stanton, Natalie Westberg, and Zhe Yu Lee. Bottom row: Anoushka Millea, Lucy Kane, Annie Gurvis, Amy Lebowitz, Natalie Izzo, Lisa Hu, Claire Finn, and Caitlin Toner.



Former Macalester football player Rich Galvin '85 drove from his home in Stuttgart, Germany, to meet Max Menache '25 and watch him play professional football with the Potsdam Royals.



While on a self-guided birding trip, current Macalester student Ben Grijalva '27 ran into fellow birder and Macite Jim Neitzel '77 in the village of Crooked Tree, Belize.



Ann Williamson '60 and Maggie Leighninger Hopkins '94 met in March at a special event celebrating "Smokefree Heroes" at the American Nonsmokers' Rights Foundation in Berkeley, Calif. Maggie works as director of data management and analysis for ANRF, and Ann was recognized as an early advocate for smoke-free air.



## CLASS NOTES

Sarah Spangler Pfeiffer McCarthy joined Heart of Maine United Way as director of corporate and community engagement in June 2025. "After 17 years reinvigorating the Bangor Symphony Orchestra's fund-raising efforts, it was time for a change," Sarah writes.

### 1996

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

### 2001

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

### 2002

Mary Robert Nahm Garrett has been appointed inaugural dean of faculty development at Berea College.

### 2003

As a 2025 Andrew Carnegie Fellow, Jessica Smith is studying

political polarization and the energy transition. She leads social science research for Department of Energy projects and serves on the innovation advisory committee for the chief technology officer of Rio Tinto, the world's second-largest mining company.

### 2006

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

### 2011

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

### 2013

Zachary Popkin-Hall has accepted a position as assistant professor of biology at Western Connecticut State University.

### 2016

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



A large group of former Macalester football players and coaches reconnected in early July in St. Paul. Front row, from left: former coach Marc Davies, Jack Schultenover '18, Dean Smith '20, Jacob Jones '18, Matt Bonazzoli '18, Alec Beatty '19, former head coach Tony Jennison, and Chance Carnahan '18. Back: Christian Adams '18, Cody Petrich '19, Patrick Haley '19, Patrick Gruggen '19, Phil Wettersen '18, Ben Lewis '19, A.J. Imholte '18, Cash McGregor '18, Connor Doak '18, former coach Reed Thompson, Sam Bordo '18, and Gunnar Goeden '19.

Erin Murray defended her doctoral dissertation in counseling psychology, *Sense of Belonging, Identity, and Social Justice Engagement Among College Student-Athletes*, at the University of Kansas. She plans to return to the Twin Cities to complete her counseling

psychology doctoral internship and hopes to receive her doctorate in May 2026.

### 2021

*The Class of 2016 will celebrate its 5th Reunion June 4-7, 2026.*

## SAVE THE DATE FOR REUNION

Join your fellow alumni for Reunion 2026, June 4-7.

Embrace traditions, connect with friends old and new, and experience that special moment of returning to the campus where it all began.

Everyone is welcome, regardless of class year.

Learn more at [macalester.edu/reunion](https://macalester.edu/reunion).

# REUNION JUNE 4-7, 2026

# NEW ALUMNI BOARD MEMBERS

The Alumni Board builds and strengthens the Macalester alumni community by fostering meaningful relationships between alumni and the college, connecting with current students, helping the college achieve its strategic priorities, and acting through its members as ambassadors of the college. Learn more about the newest members of the Alumni Board.

## Jessica Ding '22

**What advice or thoughts would you share with an incoming student?**

Be courageous. Be curious. Be yourself. Macalester is a place where it's OK not to have all the answers—just be open to the journey.



## Juliane Ray '01

**Did you study away while you were at Mac? What have you carried with you from that experience?**

I had an opportunity to study in South Africa in 2000 as a junior. Just six years post-apartheid, the wounds were still fresh, and the HIV/AIDS pandemic was creating a new crisis, with an estimated 40 percent of the population testing positive for HIV. I had the opportunity to engage with CEOs of multinational corporations, government officials, nonprofit leaders, and several community members and listen to Nelson Mandela, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, and other inspiring leaders address the nation. The lessons that I learned from that experience and during my time at Macalester have made me a better leader today—listen more than I talk, be curious, always keep learning, and don't assume that I already know the answer.



## Gary Mainer '72

**What is your favorite Mac memory?**

I spent my junior year studying at the University of Bristol in the UK with a close friend. There wasn't a program then—Dr. Boyd Shafer helped me arrange this. We traveled through much of Europe that year as well. Travel and exposure to different cultures provides perspective and challenges many of your assumptions even more directly than a classroom experience.



## Elee Wood '93

**Who was your favorite professor/lecturer and why?**

Professor Sears Eldredge of the Theater and Dance Department was by far my favorite and became an important mentor to me, and we kept in touch until he passed away. He was a tough instructor, but I think his attention to detail, his own curiosity and search for excellence is what mattered most. He always encouraged me to explore ideas and to put disparate concepts together to find something new.



## Sona Muzikarova '09

**How has the Macalester community helped you since graduation?**

I made lifelong friends at Mac—especially through the international student and athletic communities. They've become my support system across continents. And the professors and peers I met there still set the bar for how I challenge ideas, stay curious, and think about service.



► Visit [macalester.edu/alumni/alumniboard](https://macalester.edu/alumni/alumniboard) to learn more.



## WEDDINGS



**1. Josie Ahrens '14** and William Wilcox were married June 15, 2024, in Oakland, Calif., in a ceremony officiated by **Lucy Andrews '14** and attended by a number of Macalester alumni. Pictured, from left: **Andy Timm '15**, **Miranda Adams '15**, **Becca Cohen '14**, **Abbie Shain '14**, Josie's uncle **Tim Ahrens '80**, **Clare Sigelko '14**, **Mark Skopec '14**, **Rachel Harrington-Abrams '14**, Lucy, the newlyweds, **Faith Kwon '11**, and **Mira Hager '14**.

**2. Max Meyerhoff '17** and **Rachel Ladd '17** were married July 12, 2025, in Union, Wash. Numerous alumni attended the ceremony. Front row (from left): **Jeffrey Meyerhoff '83**, **Merrit Stueven '17**, Max, Rachel, **Hannah Scout Field '17**, **Maddie Coy-Bjork '19**, and **Jordyn Whitman '17**. Second row: **Madeline Murnane '19**, **Hank Hietala '17**, **Kate Rhodes '17**, **Sara Ludewig '17**, **Josh Marcus '17**, **Danny Mussie '17**, **Andrew Boyer '17**, **Cole Ware '17**, **Lydia Fermanich '17**, **Mitchell Peterson '17**, **Shay Gingras '17**, and **Caleb Drickey '17**. Not pictured: **Rachel Swanson Hardebeck '15** and **Stephen Smith '82**.



**3. Mary Robert Nahm Garrett '02** married Dan Huck on June 6, 2025, in Cancun, Mexico. Mary's four daughters (ages 16, 13, 11, and 6) were in attendance.

**4. Abby Gore Farber '21** and Sam Farber were married May 25, 2025, at Mount Zion Temple in St. Paul. They "had fun celebrating with many Mac alums and two Mac professors." From left: **Heather Renetzky '15**, **Carla Granados '21**, **Asher de Forest '21**, **Jacob Geers '21**, Abby, **Gabriela Helf '23**, **Sabine Peterka '21**, and **Gabi Isaac-Herzog '22**.

**5. Asher de Forest '21** and **Jacob Geers '21** were married June 15, 2025, in Macalester's Weyerhaeuser Memorial Chapel by their college chaplains, Rabbi Emma Kippley-Ogman and Rev. Kelly Stone. It was the first ceremony the two chaplains co-officiated.





**6.** Austin Ahlman '21 and Noah Nieting '17 were married at Macalester in the company of many alumni. Pictured, from left: Esha Datta '17, Ryan Dugan '17, Gabriel Barrett '17, Alex Abramson '18, Cami Garcia-Flahaut '17, Ned Read '17, Mariah Geiger-Williams '15, Christian Smith '15, Liz Isaac-Herzog '16, William Theriac '16, Noah, Austin, Haley Heine '23, Bianca Acevedo Gonzalez '19, Connor Valenti '17, Sam Doten '16, John Glasgow '17, Judith Wodzak '15, Ben Ullerup Mathers '17, Emma Burt '17, Ellen Ullerup Mathers '17, Kevin Fortune '17, and Alexander Joel Watson '17.

**7.** Liz Isaac-Herzog '16 and Riley Palmer were married Sept. 9, 2024, at Macalester's Weyerhaeuser Memorial Chapel by Rabbi Emma Kippley-Ogman. Joining them to celebrate were (from left): Jenny Wollner '13, William Theriac '16, Gabi Isaac-Herzog '22, Rock Park '22, Jordyn Whitman '17, Marz Heim '17, Michelle Coblens '16, Mariah Geiger-Williams '15, Nate Geiger-Williams '15, Lizzie Hutchins '16, Hayley Williams '16, Eden Teller '17, Zoe Nardone '17, Tess Huber '18, Akilah Sanders-Reed '16, Jinath Tasnim '16, Judith Wodzak '15, Alex Coppins '15, Bridget Gustafson '17, Aubrey Rickle '14, and Natalie Kasper '16.

**8.** Anna McFall '13 and Adam Ross were married Feb. 22, 2025, in Berkeley, Calif. Pictured: David Ports '13, Boone Epstein '13, Zoe Michael '13, Claire James '13, Delia Sie '13, the bride and groom, Sam Tygiel '13, Ben Lauer '13, Bess Boever '13, Emma Lynn '13, and Kevin Schaefer '13.



**9.** Marta Vegdahl-Crowell '17 and Daniel Lund were married Sept. 1, 2024, near Leavenworth, Wash. Back row (left to right): John Katuska '15, Bridget Gustafson '17, Gordy Moore '17, Max Meyerhoff '17, and Laura Abril '17. Middle row: Emily Royer '17, Georgia Gempler '17, Naomi Becker '16, Rachel Auerbach '17, Claire Looney '17, Martine Cartier '17, the newlyweds, Hannah Bonestroo '17, Sophia Wiedmann '17, and Grace Guenther Penning '17. Front: Shannon Mahedy '17, Ryan Dugan '17, Hannah Scout Field '17, Jordyn Whitman '17, Rachel Ladd '17, and Joe Klein '16.

**10.** Annabel Gregg '22 and Ethan Levin '20 celebrated their wedding on June 20, 2025, at the Gregg family home in Stillwater, Minn. The Macalester community was well represented by many alumni, coaches, professors, and staff. First row (from left): Gabi Isaac-Herzog '22, Ciara Williams '21, Ethan, Annabel, retired Macalester mental health counselor Mia Nosanow, Suzanne Garfield '79, Oriana Galasso '20, Augusta Fricke '22, Aidan Trummel '22, Kianté Miles '20, and Dean Smith '20. Second row: senior lecturer of classics Nanette Goldman, Jan Shaw-Flamm '76 (retired from Macalester's Communications and Public Relations Department), assistant provost Marga Miller, Rock Park '22, Alisa Folen '22, Margot Bickler '22, Reese Bresson '20, former head football coach and current associate director of philanthropic giving Tony Jennison, Trevor Cramer '20, Niko Bjork '22, Gabbi Rutherford '20, Joey Rothstein, Antony Gor '20, Alexander Hopkins '22, and Claire Wilson '22. Third row: Dane Ku Blake '20, Johnny Bice '20, and Joseph Wriedt '20.

## CELEBRATE WITH MAC!

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





## Bowman Hall: A Legacy Preserved

**Macalester honors educator Earl W. Bowman, Jr. '50 P'75 with residence hall naming**

The Macalester community gathered during Mac Fest on October 10 to officially dedicate Earl W. Bowman, Jr. Hall. Previously 30 Mac residence hall, the new name honors the late Earl W. Bowman, Jr. '50 P'75, an accomplished higher education leader and community advocate. The college's Naming Committee and Board of Trustees unanimously approved the renaming in May.

Bowman's connection to Macalester began in January 1945 when he arrived as a first-year student. After pausing his education to serve in the US Army, he returned to earn his degree in history in 1950, distinguishing himself as a scholar-athlete. He captained two varsity sports, earned All-MIAC honors three times in football, set a state pole-vaulting record, and was named Macalester's Athlete of the Year.

Following leadership roles with Minneapolis Public Schools, Bowman returned to Macalester in 1969, working with President Arthur Flemming before becoming dean of students and vice president for student

affairs. Students and colleagues remembered him at the dedication ceremony as a mentor who led with curiosity, grace, and integrity.

"Earl taught us how to value history, build relationships, respect and appreciate one another, and if given a chance, make a difference," said Broderick Grubb '73, a Macalester trustee. "He left a legacy of a significant life well-lived."

In 1981, Bowman became president of Minneapolis Community College (now Minneapolis Community and Technical College), serving until his retirement in 1990. Before his passing in 2005, Bowman received Macalester's Distinguished Citizen Award and an honorary doctorate and was inducted into the M Club Hall of Fame. He is revered in the Twin Cities for his lifetime of work with young people and the strength and dignity he exemplified at every step.

St. Paul Mayor Melvin Carter, who grew up hearing stories about Bowman's success on the athletic field, believes the residence hall will inspire current and future Mac students. "This moment is about the students who live in this dorm," said Carter. "They'll be able to look to where their classmates live and the building they walk by every day ... and gain encouragement for their own journey."

**Members of the Bowman family pose for a photo with St. Paul Mayor Melvin Carter at the dedication of Earl W. Bowman, Jr. Hall.**



**Earl W. Bowman, Jr. '50 P'75**





Barbara Carpenter '72, Claudia Kanter, James Jeddelloh '72, Christine Manlove Hartman '72, Anne Lewis '72, and Wendy Anderson Postier '72 got together in southern Minnesota this past summer to "joyfully celebrate" their 75th birthdays.



Barbara Schueler Colliander '65 writes, "Our group met in September in North Fork, Calif." From left: Gail Otterness Baker '65, Margee Smith Wheeler '65, Barbara, Evelyn Harm Headen '65, Betty Green Risser '65, Barbara Rudberg Anderson '67, and Carole Chinn-Morales '65.



While attending his 20th Macalester Reunion, Jon Lentz '05 "tracked down a fellow alum with a very similar name," John Lentz '65. "We are not related, as far as we know," Jon writes.



Joanne Ruby '76 and Mike Tarino '89 met at a bed and breakfast in Susanville, Calif. Over dinner, they discovered they were both Macalester alums.



Karen Yoshida Weldon '14 is pictured weeding rice in her mother's hometown of Tsubata in Ishikawa, Japan, with Aaron Backs '22 and Emmy Curtiss '21. "Aaron and Emmy are (as far as I know) the fifth and sixth Mac grads who have helped grow rice in Tsubata," Karen writes.



Jean Freyberger '83, Julie Smalley '83, Sally Wilson Rose '83, and Stephanie Ward '83 held a mini-reunion at Stephanie's home in Fayette, Maine. "The photo was taken with a Highland coo at a nearby farm," Sally writes.



Alumni Board member Abaki Beck '15 toured the Waiahole Poi Factory, the restaurant, community space, and former art gallery in Kaneohe, Hawaii, that Charlene Terwilliger Hoe '68 and Calvin Hoe '67 have owned for more than fifty years.





# Yeukai Mudzi '12

When Yeukai Mudzi '12 graduated from Macalester, she quickly identified a dream employer: the World Bank Group. An economics major, Mudzi entered the job market with a passion for driving sustainable and inclusive economic development around the world. Attracted to the World Bank Group's

mission to inspire economic growth in more than one hundred countries, the possible pairing seemed like an obvious fit.

But snagging a full-time staff job at the World Bank Group—where she now serves as an operations advisor to the director for Central Africa and Anglophone West Africa—hardly happened overnight. In fact, it took more than a decade and plenty of resilience.

"I used to have this five-year plan, and there's nothing wrong with that, wanting things to go a particular way," Mudzi says. "But you can't anticipate everything, and you can always figure it out on the way."

Mudzi refers to much of her career journey as strategic meandering, trusting God while pursuing positions that aligned with her professional interests—internationalism, strategic thinking, and strengthening innovation ecosystems. That triple threat of true norths guided her to projects and roles in more than a dozen countries. Along the way, she earned an MBA from the University of Oxford and a master's in public policy from the University of Maryland.

"Some people follow a straight line, but often you are meandering," she says. "I learned to seek advice, make the most of each moment, trust in the Lord, and make the best decisions I could based on my true norths and the opportunities before me."

At the World Bank Group, Mudzi now advises on a variety of economic development opportunities across Africa and works to solve critical economic development challenges. Here, she shares some of what she's learned in her career journey.

## Build resilience.

There are so many lessons that I've learned through the meandering between roles, navigating contracts that you may or may not know if they are going to be renewed, and moving between countries. But I've learned to be resilient

through each moment, embrace a willingness to learn from each experience, and through it all, be true to what you want to do with your life. There are many times I could have given up. And that's where the growth happens. It happens in the lessons learned and the openness to learning those lessons along the journey.

## Always deliver with excellence.

Whether it's a highly visible task or a seemingly insignificant one, always turn in quality work. Building this track record will allow people to remember you over the years. And, at the same time, it's OK to pivot if you're in a space in which you are persevering but not finding yourself learning and thriving.

## Remember that you work with people.

Relationships and people are so important. As much as tasks need to get done, we work with people. You need people to do things, so consider people and your relationship, not just the task. And don't forget that your own ability to influence others or even advance in your own career relies on others feeling respected by you. It's not enough for others to think you're smart or that you have the right answers; they must respect you.

## Track your outreach.

Create your own client relationship management tool. It could be a Google sheet or an Excel sheet, but it doesn't have to be anything sophisticated—just enough to track the name and how you've connected with someone. What was the last thing you spoke about and when? So when you're job hunting, you can ask yourself, "Do I have a connection there?" Whatever it is, embrace the notion of being structured in your networking.

## Don't let the pebbles get in your shoes.

There are some things in life that really are not a big deal in the grand scheme of things. But you could make these smaller issues a bigger issue, and along the way, you may ruin relationships or just get yourself frustrated over something you don't need to. Learning how to identify what's a pebble versus what's actually important to flag can help you in so many situations.

## Seek advice.

Really. Seek out advice. That sounds so basic, but I've met people who don't necessarily seek advice, and I think it's such a disadvantage. If you're not actively seeking advice, then you're not leveraging what other people know, and people know quite a lot that you don't. Seek that knowledge. Seek advice.

## 1941

**Merle Hermann Strom**, 105, died July 18, 2025. She worked part time in data and stock transfers with First Trust Co. and volunteered with Pilgrim Lutheran Church and Meals on Wheels. Survivors include three children, four grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

## 1946

**Joyce Wheeler Garrett**, 97, died Aug. 31, 2022, in Bloomington, Minn. She served on Macalester's Alumni Board. Survivors include two daughters, three grandsons, and four great-grandchildren.

## 1948

**Shirley Peterson Bethke**, 98, of St. Paul died April 17, 2025. She worked in the transportation division at Great Northern-Burlington Northern Railway for thirty-three years and taught at Minnehaha Academy, Mechanic Arts High School, and Rasmussen Business College. Survivors include twin granddaughters.

## 1950

**Marian E. McKechnie**, 96, died May 20, 2025. She taught history at the high school level in Minnesota and North Dakota, at the college and university level in North Carolina and Puerto Rico, and for many years at Susquehanna University. Survivors include cousin Patricia Burr Ryberg '60.

## 1951

**Hans J. Abrahamsen**, 96, of Inver Grove Heights, Minn., died May 12, 2024. After serving in the US Army and Air Force, Abrahamsen worked as a commercial airline pilot for Northwest Airlines. He also owned a farm near Coates, Minn. Survivors include his wife, Phyllis Bailey Abrahamsen '52, two daughters, five grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

**Orrin T. DeLong**, 96, died Feb. 26, 2025, in Northfield, Minn. He served with the US Army in oc-

cupied Japan. During his thirty-plus-year career in education, DeLong taught seventh grade and served as a lead teacher and union representative. He received the Joseph Lee Hayward Award for his community service. Survivors include four children, seven grandchildren, fifteen great-grandchildren, sister Audrey DeLong Benjamin '58, and a brother.

**Barbara Higgins Miles**, 94, of Mandeville, La., died Dec. 29, 2023. She was a social worker during the 1950s and 1960s and later worked as a real estate agent in Baton Rouge, La. Survivors include four children.

## 1953

**Janet Strane Engeswick**, 93, of Roseville, Minn., died June 12, 2025. She served on Macalester's Alumni Board and chaired the Reunion planning committee. Survivors include three children, ten grandchildren, and ten great-grandchildren.

## 1954

**Harrison B. Sherwood**, 92, of Longstanton, Cambridgeshire, United Kingdom, died June 17, 2025. He served with the US Army in Germany and, after two years with USAID, began his career with the US Foreign Service in 1960. He worked primarily in the commercial branch of various embassies and was chief steward of a State Department labor union. After serving at numerous posts in Europe and Latin America, Sherwood retired in 1993. Survivors include six children and three grandchildren.

**Donald M. Wheeler**, 92, of Columbia, Md., died Feb. 12, 2025. He worked as an educator, computer scientist, mathematician, and senior business executive. Survivors include four sons and six grandchildren.

**Thomas W. Zwickel**, 90, of Roseville, Minn., died Aug. 29, 2022. Survivors include his wife, Arlene, two children, and eight grandchildren.

## 1955

**Charlotte Harrison Cole**, 91, died March 27, 2025. She taught Spanish at the Lincoln Learning Lab in Watertown, S.D., and technical writing and business English at Watertown Business University. Cole also helped her husband, the late Thomas Cole '53, with his business and worked as a real estate agent. Survivors include two children, six grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

**William C. Riecke**, 91, of Hendersonville, N.C., died May 20, 2025. He attained the rank of captain in the US Army. Riecke practiced pediatrics in Bismarck, S.D., for more than thirty years, during which he formed and led a heart and lung clinic department specializing in pediatric chest disease, allergy, and cystic fibrosis. Survivors include his wife, Margaret, a son, and a grandson.

## 1956

**John V. Oyen of Fergus Falls**, Minn., died April 24, 2025. He served in the US Army during the Korean War and worked in human resources and labor relations. Survivors include two children, four grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

## 1958

**Nils T. "Ted" Lillie**, 87, died May 8, 2024, in Bellingham, Wash. He co-owned Lillie Newspapers, which published eleven weekly community newspapers in the suburbs of St. Paul, including the *Ramsey County Review*. Lillie also co-ran tourist cabins near Lake Phalen in St. Paul. Survivors include his wife, Mary, his children, nine grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

**Dianne Davis Phillips**, 88, of Cambridge, Minn., died July 2, 2025. She taught speech, English, and debate at the high school level and taught speech at Anoka Ramsey Community College. Phillips was also a part-time buyer for the Anderson Drug gift department and a

Macalester Alumni Board member. Survivors include three sons (including Gregg Phillips '82), eight grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, and six siblings (including Nancy Davis McKay '60, Deborah Davis Jansen '61, and Miriam Davis Lynne '68).

## 1959

**Janet Bollinger Hansen**, 87, died May 22, 2025. She taught kindergarten, served on the Hastings, Minn., school board, and was a trustee of Cottey College. After retiring from her twenty-two-year teaching career, Hansen became a certified yoga teacher. Survivors include her husband, Glenn, two daughters, ten grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and sister Genie Bollinger Dueber '67.

**Wallace L. Hanson**, 97, of Vadnais Heights, Minn., died May 18, 2025. He served in the US Army and taught elementary education. He retired as a social worker with Hennepin County in 1989. Survivors include three daughters, two grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and a sister.

**Robert C. Johnson**, 87, formerly of Eagan, Minn., died June 2, 2025. He taught high school and coached wrestling and football for decades for the St. Paul Public Schools. Johnson also worked as a carpenter during the summer and after his retirement. Survivors include three children (including Dana Baird '94), five grandchildren, a great-granddaughter, and a brother.

## 1961

**Karen Johnson Dague**, 86, of Cumberland, Wis., died Aug. 1, 2025. She taught middle school physical education in Des Moines, Iowa, and worked as a teacher's aide and long-term substitute teacher in Cumberland. Dague also founded the Island City Piecemakers, an organization that creates quilts and donates them to the community. Survivors include her husband, Lowell, two daughters, six grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.



**Martha McDonald McBride**, 86, of Topsham, Maine, died June 5, 2025. She taught middle school science and was a professor of chemistry at Norwich University. McBride also helped run the Vermont State Science Fair for 25 years and served as a major in the Vermont State Militia. She and her husband, Hollis, had three children and five grandchildren.

**John Zupfer**, 86, of Roseville, Minn., died May 24, 2025. He taught science at the secondary school level in Roseville for 35 years. Survivors include three sons, eight grandchildren, and a sister.

## 1962

**Mary Martin Hasti**, 84, died June 17, 2025, in Apache Junction, Ariz. She taught first grade for 28 years in St. Paul and Bismarck, N.D. Hasti had four children and six grandchildren.

**Rodney E. Olsen**, 86, of Malvern, Pa., died July 3, 2025. He worked as an electrical draftsman for the Great Northern Railroad and then as a sales executive focused on serving the railroad industry. Olsen also served in the Air National Guard. Survivors include his wife, Jo, three children (including Jim Olsen '82), and two grandchildren.

## 1963

**Alice Song Chu**, 90, died June 28, 2025, in Mercer Island, Wash. She worked for 3M from 1973 until her retirement in 2000. Survivors include her husband, Shu Tung Chu.

**Frederick O. Kiel**, 82, of Lanesboro, Minn., died Sept. 24, 2023. He co-founded the Minneapolis-based firm KRW International and provided feedback and coaching to business executives. He was coauthor or sole author of three business books, including *Moral Intelligence* and *Return on Character*, and he built Sacred Clay Country Inn in Lanesboro in 2005. Survivors include six children (including

Kelly Kiel Garramone '89), ten grandchildren, and two siblings.

**Bonnie Butler Melzarek**, 84, died June 17, 2025. She worked for 3M for 26 years. Survivors include four daughters, seven grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

**Andru M. "Monk" Peters**, 84, of Lake City, Minn., died May 14, 2025. After serving with the US Army during the Vietnam War, Peters pursued a career in transportation and management for thirty-two years. He worked as a lobbyist in California and Minnesota and was an adjunct faculty member at colleges in California and at the University of Wisconsin at Eau Claire. Peters also served on the City Council in Lake City and with numerous community and civic organizations. Survivors include a sister.

## 1964

**Patricia Wallace Ingraham**, 82, died June 22, 2025, in Seattle. She worked for the North Carolina Fund, the Model Cities Program, the US Department of Education, and the Valley Development Foundation. Ingraham also served as commissioner of planning for Broome County, New York; taught for many years at Syracuse University's Maxwell School; and was founding dean of the College of Community and Public Affairs at Binghamton University. College professors around the world continue to use her book *The Foundation of Merit*. Survivors include her husband, Charles, two daughters, two grandchildren, and two brothers.

**Victoria Yarger Kuster**, 82, of Albuquerque, N.M., died Aug. 6, 2025. She taught high school English literature and gave piano lessons at her home. Survivors include two children, four grandchildren, and a brother.

## 1965

**Paul E. Fellows**, 83, of Metropolis, Ill., died July 14, 2025. He worked as a historic site

superintendent at state parks with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Fellows also wrote a column for the *Metropolis Planet* and was a charter member and president of the Massac County Historical Society. Survivors include his wife, Betsy Johnston Fellows '67, a daughter, two sons, a grandson, and a sister.

**Carole Lynch Jorgensen**, 80, of Milton, Del., died April 29, 2025. During the 1980s she was a social worker with the state of Delaware and Mecklenburg County, N.C. Jorgensen later worked as a rural route carrier with the US Postal Service in North Carolina. Survivors include two daughters, two grandsons, and a great-granddaughter.

## 1967

**Margaret A. Keeney**, 80, died March 18, 2025, in Cedar Falls, Iowa. She served with the Peace Corps in Malaysia, worked in production control at John Deere Engine Works, and taught secondary-level English for thirty years in Iowa and in many countries abroad. Survivors include a sister.

**Barbara Bohn Kostial**, 80, of Longville, Minn., died July 27, 2025. After more than a decade as a stay-at-home mom, Kostial worked as an elementary school paraprofessional educator specializing in computers. Survivors include two sons, three grandchildren, and a sister.

## 1969

**Glenn W. Olsen**, 77, died June 4, 2025. He briefly taught history and urban studies with the Minneapolis Public Schools and later was a professor in the hospitality and home economics division at the University of Minnesota-Crookston and an assistant professor and department chair in the teaching and learning department at the University of North Dakota. Olsen also served on the Crookston school board and coached and

refereed girls' soccer. Survivors include his wife, Barb, three daughters, nine grandchildren, and brother Gordon Olsen '71.

## 1970

**Steven D. Floyd**, 76, died May 9, 2025. He served in the US Navy and worked for his family's business, Floyd Steel Erectors. Floyd was married to Barb and had three children and seven grandchildren.

## 1971

**William Michael Kleine**, 77, died April 21, 2025, in Little Rock, Ark. He retired in 2017 after more than thirty-five years as professor of rhetoric and writing at the University of Arkansas, Little Rock. Kleine's academic writing includes a book about a medieval Italian rhetorician, *Searching for Latini*. He was also the author of hundreds of poems and a devoted teacher in the classroom. Survivors include his wife, Susan, a daughter, and a sister.

## 1972

**David L. Brostrom**, 75, died June 19, 2025. He worked with the Minnesota Department of Resources on a team tasked with addressing pollution in Lake Superior. The effort helped secure a court decision affirming the government's authority to regulate pollution. Brostrom continued to work independently on environmental projects, particularly ones promoting clean drinking water. Survivors include his wife, Sue, two daughters, four grandchildren, and a brother.

## 1974

**Charles R. Morrow-Jones**, 72, died April 29, 2025, in Columbus, Ohio. He taught geography and business computing at the University of Colorado and business at Otterbein College. Morrow-Jones also worked as a consultant, coauthored numerous academic journal articles, and worked as a computer administrator at Ohio State Uni-

versity. He and his spouse, Hazel Morrow-Jones '74, exhibited their photographs and donated images to the image library at Ohio State University's School of Architecture. Survivors include his spouse.

## 1975

**Gregory P. Bulinski**, 71, of San Diego died April 14, 2025. He joined the firm of Bassford, Lockart, Truesdell & Briggs as a defense attorney and practiced law for nearly 40 years in Minneapolis. Bulinski served as president of the Minnesota Defense Lawyers Association. Survivors include two children, four grandchildren, and four siblings.

**Marcia L. Wilson**, 69, of Eden Prairie, Minn., died Aug. 6, 2022. Survivors include her husband, Doug White, and a sister.

## 1976

**John Bickner**, 71, of Bay St. Louis, Miss., died July 7, 2025. He worked in computer programming for the State Board of Electricity and Care Call in St. Cloud, Minn. Survivors include two sisters and four brothers.

## 1982

**Paul Gralen** passed away on July 22, 2024. His artwork was featured in two Shipyard Open Studios shows in San Francisco. Survivors include his wife, Beth.

## 1983

**Cassandra V. Butts**, 78, died Jan. 13, 2025, in Los Angeles. She worked as an actress. Butts had five sisters and a brother.

## 1985

**Thomas J. Frantzen**, 62, died June 5, 2025. After working for St. Paul Mayor George Latimer, the United Way, and the Boy Scouts, Frantzen owned a sports card and memorabilia store. Survivors include a sister and brother.

## 1992

**Susan M. Jacobsen**, 55, died June 3, 2025. She worked for thirty years as a management consultant in the financial services sector and as an information technology product manager for public, private, and nonprofit organizations in the Twin Cities. Survivors include her husband, David Weihrauch Jacobsen '90, and two children.

## 1998

**Helena-Izabel Chiareli**, 81, of Roanoke, Va., died April 14, 2025. She taught Spanish and English as a second language in Roanoke and created handmade jewelry. Survivors include children Alessandra Chiareli '88, Antonio Chiareli '91, and Christina Chiareli van der Linden '91; seven grandchildren; and three sisters.

# // COMMUNITY LOSSES



**Lisa Destabramlet**, associate director of admissions at Macalester for more than 25 years, died June 18, 2025, in St. Paul. She was 60. Destabramlet joined the Admissions team in 1991, serving as associate director of admissions until she retired in 2018. While at Mac, she connected with countless prospective students, current students, alumni, and colleagues. Destabramlet also loved traveling, decorating, and writing stories. Survivors include her husband, John Goetz, a son, her mother, and three siblings.



Former Macalester trustee **Pierson Grieve**, 96, died in February 2024 in Naples, Fla. During Grieve's 15 years as CEO of Ecolab (formerly Economics Laboratory), the company's annual sales more than quadrupled to over \$2 billion. He was also a partner with Palladium Equity Partners and chair of the Minnesota Metropolitan Airport Commission. In addition to serving on the boards of several Minnesota companies and various arts and educational organizations, Grieve helped launch the Dorothy Day Center in St. Paul. Survivors include three children, five grandchildren, and a great-grandson.



Former Macalester professor of classics **Jeremiah Reedy** died May 28, 2025, in Mendota Heights, Minn., at the age of 91. Before joining Macalester's faculty, Reedy taught at the University of South Dakota. His scholarship focused on Greek philosophy. After retiring from Macalester in 2004, Reedy taught Latin and Greek at the University of St. Thomas School of Divinity. He also published a book about his time at Macalester and promoted classical education as the founding chair of New Spirit School and the founder of Seven Hills Classical Academy in Bloomington, Minn. Survivors include a daughter, a son, and four grandchildren.



Former Macalester psychology professor **Gerald Weiss**, 94, died July 17, 2025. He joined Macalester's faculty in 1965. In 1998, then-psychology chair Jack Rossman told *Macalester Today*, "Throughout his years at Macalester, Jerry served as an important mentor for large numbers of students, especially those whose interests included both philosophy and psychology." After his retirement, Weiss converted to Islam, and he is buried in the Minnesota Islamic Cemetery in Burnsville. Survivors include four children, including Shayna Weiss Connolly '89 and Amy Weiss '81.





The original Mac Trio, Minnesota Orchestra first chair violinist Joseph Roche, Mac professor of music Donald Betts (piano), and Minnesota Orchestra cellist Eric Wahlin, pose for a photo.

# A RESONANT HISTORY

Did you know that Macalester once had its very own professional chamber music “trio in residence”? For thirty-two years—from 1968 to 2000—The Macalester Trio was that group.

The trio, consisting of Mac professor of music Donald Betts (piano), Minnesota Orchestra first chair violinist Joseph Roche, and Minnesota Orchestra cellist Eric Wahlin (later, cellist Camilla Heller) came together in 1968 to perform Romantic Era trio compositions, such as those from Brahms, Beethoven, and Mendelssohn.

At some point early on, a “residency” program was arranged for the group at Mac: the trio would get access to free practice space with superior acoustics (the Concert Hall in the Janet Wallace Fine Arts building); secure space to store their instruments, and in Betts’ case, access to a concert-quality piano; and Roche and Wahlin (and later Heller) would be hired as instructors of music for their instrument.

What Macalester got in return was a soon-to-be nationally known Classical music trio, performing at the highest level, playing regular free concerts on campus. They soon expanded their repertoire by also commissioning and playing new compositions by twentieth century composers, as well as new compositions created by Betts.

In archival audio of an interview with Roche, he states of the residency idea, “It would be kind of nice if we tied ourselves to something which is a total commitment—where we got some kind of salary, and where we didn’t say, ‘Well, there’s something good on TV tonight; let’s not practice.’ So, we decided that if we got together twice a week, no matter what, we could have a group with some kind of consistency.”

That consistency turned into six albums, hundreds of concerts at Mac and across the country, and many hours of recorded performances (MPR alone has approximately 200 different recorded movements in their music archives).

Of note: all of the scores composed by Donald Betts over his lifetime have been donated to the Mac Archives by his children, and they are now fully processed into a collection which is open to use and research. The Archives has also fully digitized each score, and they will be made available for public access later this year on our digital archives platform, CONTENTdm (<https://contentdm.macalester.edu>). —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).

# HONOR THOSE WHO SHAPED YOU.

# EMPOWER THOSE WHO COME NEXT.

Professor emeritus Adrienne Christiansen's planned gift to Macalester honors the legacy of her former professor, beloved mentor, and lifelong friend, Dr. Karlyn Kohrs Campbell '58.

"Karlyn once told me, 'I like to do good things for good people.' I wanted to leave a gift to Macalester that would further the kind of life commitments she made."

**Like Adrienne, over 900 alumni, staff, faculty, and friends have turned gratitude into opportunity by including Macalester in their will or estate plans. Joining them is easy and there's no minimum amount required.**



To learn more, call Theresa Gienapp at 651-696-6087, scan the code, or go to [macalester.edu/plannedgiving](https://macalester.edu/plannedgiving).



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## MANY ROOTS, ONE COMMUNITY

This fall, Macalester's Class of 2029 lined up for the ultimate group shot: A total of 534 new Scots from 42 states and 59 countries. Together, they form a community that represents a wide range of backgrounds, perspectives, and viewpoints. Among our new students, 32 percent identify as people of color, 17 percent are international, 15 percent are first-generation college students, and 31 percent speak a primary language other than English.