

LIZARD SPEAKING

Calvin Hoe '67 and Charlene Hoe '68 are on a mission to ensure Native Hawaiian culture endures through the generations.





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Calvin Hoe '67 and Charlene Hoe '68 carry forward Indigenous wisdom and culture, weaving connection between generations.

PHOTO BY TOMMY SHIH



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Tucked beside Old Main, this serene nook is just one of many gems found across campus. From native rain gardens to pollinator habitats and nearly 1,000 trees, Mac's outdoor spaces invite you to slow down and reconnect with nature.

Leaning into the Liberal Arts

Like many Macalester alumni, I went to college before email, cell-phones, Wikipedia, or grammar-correcting software. As an undergraduate, I could not have imagined the opportunities—and challenges—facing today's students, who increasingly will be expected by employers to use artificial intelligence (AI) tools in their work after graduation.

As AI resources become ubiquitous, abundant headlines question the relevance of higher education, suggesting machines may diminish the need for human learning. Understandably, there is one question I am asked at nearly every event where I am speaking to groups of alumni, parents, or civic leaders: am I worried that AI will replace traditional higher education?

My answer, which may be surprising to some, is I am confident that it won't.

What sustains my confidence is the thoughtful way our faculty, staff, and students are engaging this latest technological innovation. For example, this fall, we will offer several interdisciplinary classes grappling with the complexity of AI including "Thinking Internationally About (and With) AI and ChatGPT" (crosslisted between international studies and computer science) and "Philosophy of AI" (crosslisted between philosophy and computer science).

We're also being mindful about AI's moral dimensions, limitations, and environmental impacts, including consideration of how to use AI tools while honoring Mac's longstanding sustainability commitments. An advisory group composed of faculty, staff, and students is developing guidelines for AI uses both in and outside the classroom. Our center for teaching and learning is fostering dialogue among the faculty about how AI is affecting pedagogies. And Mac community members are contributing to national and global conversations about ethical frameworks for responsible AI use.

Of course, new technologies come with big questions about how to maximize benefit while protecting from potential harms. And that's where the liberal arts approach can be most helpful. It is a way of learning that is deliberately broad, interdisciplinary, and animated by curiosity. We train students to make meaning of what they learn and discover. Our students have the skills to ask critical questions, connect ideas across disciplines, communicate effectively, use evidence to support their arguments, work in teams, and see issues from different points of view. We prepare them to take these skills into their workplaces, graduate programs, and communities as engaged thinkers, doers, and leaders.

Accordingly, it's no surprise that employers tell us they love



President Rivera addresses the Class of 2026 at Commencement.

Mac students. Last year, our job/graduate school/fellowship placement rate for alumni six months after graduation was 93 percent—a figure we're tracking especially closely as a key metric of our *Imagine*, Macalester strategic plan. Through this plan, we're amplifying the human-centered learning that is at the heart of a Macalester education: faculty-mentored research, experiential learning through study away and internships, and cultivating a sense of shared social responsibility in a vibrant urban community.

We are preparing students not only for their first job, but also for future jobs that don't even exist yet—much in the same way that my own "technology-free" education prepared me to navigate a world of Wikipedia and smartphones. And we're taking steps to update our curriculum so that it will remain vital, relevant, and attractive to future students. We are encouraged in this important work by the feedback we received recently from the Higher Learning Commission, which conducted a thorough accreditation assessment of the college's performance relative to its mission and student success outcomes. We are pleased that the college has been reaccredited through 2035.

So, no, we're not afraid of AI. We're leaning confidently into the liberal arts with a deep appreciation for knowledge, discovery, ethics, creativity, and reverence for our shared humanity. When I see how well we prepare our students to lead lives of meaning and purpose, I'm not worried about our future—I'm excited to see how our students will help shape it.

While AI tools are powerful, they do not replace our need for human judgment, thoughtful discernment, or the ability to construct meaning. Those capabilities are precisely what we provide at Mac. As we prepare the leaders of tomorrow who will make decisions about how society engages with AI, I am confident that a liberal arts education will be more essential in the years ahead, not less.

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

1600 GRAND





Rising to the Challenge

Featuring the classic bagpipe procession and a parade of creative graduation caps, 2026's Commencement ceremony was filled with joy, optimism, and hope for the future. Keynote speakers physician-scientist Dr. Anthony Fauci and bioethicist Dr. Christine Grady encouraged Mac's newest class of alumni to stay resilient, cherish connections, think critically, and continue to strive to make the world a better place.

“ You have learned here and will continue to learn how to listen carefully, argue calmly and without prejudice, detect bias, and consider competing claims with an open mind. These are not just your academic skills. They are your societal responsibilities.” —Dr. Anthony Fauci

“ These are connections that will persist across space and time. Cherish them, nurture them, but also welcome the joy and challenge of building on them with new connections.” —Dr. Christine Grady

“ As you walk through a new set of doors, remember to hold them open for people coming behind you. Classes and generations of Macalester graduates before us did the same. And the world depends on those who pay it forward.” —Hamza Hassan Mahamud '26, student speaker

1600
GRAND



Members and friends of Macalester's Jewish community celebrate the Torah's arrival with singing and dancing.

MACALESTER WELCOMES A TORAH SCROLL OF ITS OWN

On a cold evening in February, a lively procession wound its way through the streets of St. Paul. Dance and song broke out on the Macalester campus as the procession reached its destination—Weyerhaeuser Memorial Chapel. The participants had much to celebrate: Members and friends of Macalester's Jewish community would now have a Torah of their own.

"I just love dancing with Torah," said Macalester Rabbi Emma Kippley-Ogman, the college's Jewish and interfaith chaplain. "In that circle, it's not about how fancy your footsteps are; it's about actually joining your heart with the person next to you to music, moving in space."

That spirit of togetherness could be felt throughout the Hachnashat Sefer Torah—a scroll-welcoming celebration. And it was felt across the generations as Macalester alums and friends of all ages returned to campus to celebrate alongside current students, staff, and faculty. On hand was Peggy Davis '72, who helped found the original Hebrew House on campus more than fifty years ago.

"I hope that Jewish learning, wisdom, and community is as strong a support for today's students as it was for me, given the difficult time in which we are living," Davis said. "Bringing the

Torah here today gives the students a physical, tactile reminder of history, survival, learning, and community."

Students and staff designed and built a portable ark to house the scroll, while others created its ritual clothing. Lucy Anderson '28, a leader with Macalester Jewish Organization (MJO), worked on the Torah's belt, cross-stitching a pattern inspired by the pomegranate, which is the organization's symbol. The pomegranate in Jewish tradition represents all of the mitzvot—righteous actions that a person can take in their life.

"It's really cool to create an item that people are going to touch and use, potentially for decades to come," said Anderson. "With that comes a little bit of pressure, but it's an amazing way to contribute to the community and the people around me."

As demand for on-campus Jewish religious practice, including holiday services and b'nai mitzvah celebrations, has grown in recent years, MJO leaders have felt the need for a scroll that they could call their own. Howard Berkenblit and Tina Schaper, parents of MJO alum Ellie Berkenblit '24, stepped in with a gift to repair a scroll donated by the Beth Jacob Congregation in Mendota Heights. It's a reunion of sorts, as the Torah that now calls Macalester home was once housed at the Sons of Jacob Congregation, just a few short blocks from campus.



Above: Mac community members add their signatures to a commemorative sign that will be installed in the facilities' geothermal plant. Below: Corinne Byus '26, who spoke at the Foundation Dedication Ceremony, poses for a photo in front of the construction site.



A rendering of the new residence hall and welcome center

Where Community Will Grow

A home for future Scots is rising at the corner of Grand Avenue and Macalester Street.

Construction is underway for Macalester's new residence hall and welcome center, the college's first new residence hall on campus in twenty-seven years. Expected to be completed in 2027, the building is poised to transform campus and community life.

At May's Foundation Dedication Ceremony, the Macalester community celebrated this significant milestone toward the college's *Imagine, Macalester* strategic plan and Brighter campaign's goals.

The building features 224 rooms, which will guarantee 3+ years of housing on campus for each student while freeing up much-needed housing in greater St. Paul. Other highlights include a cutting-edge heating and cooling geothermal system, major sustainability advancements, a café, and the new admissions office and welcome center. Pod-style suites—a group of bedrooms that share a common lounge and cooking area to facilitate student connections—particularly emphasize the vision for the space, rooted in the importance of community.

"As a resident assistant for three years, I can confidently say that residence halls are where connections grow and flourish," Corinne Byus '26 said at the ceremony. "From holding community gathering events to help students decompress to watching common rooms fill each week because students are hosting movie night, I have seen firsthand how important it is to have a space on campus that you can call your own."



Learn more about the new residence hall and welcome center at:
macalester.edu/brighter

1600 GRAND



Neuroscientist-turned-romance author Lauren Billings '96, above, sat down with creative writing professor and author Emma Törzs '09.



Hennepin County Attorney Mary Moriarty '86 reflected on resilience, the complexity of leadership, and the impact of this past winter's Operation Metro Surge.





Interactive stations at the Grand Welcome allowed alumni to reconnect with Mac's academic life, students, and faculty.



Reunion 2026

Reunion at Macalester sparks something different for every member of the Mac community, but it always centers on our bonds with one another. This year, more than 1,600 alumni and friends returned to St. Paul for another joyful weekend, kicked off by the Grand Welcome—a community celebration that honored this year's Alumni Award recipients [page 32], uplifted generosity and achievement, and connected students, faculty, staff, friends, and alumni.

Featured programming this year highlighted class years ending in one and six and our Golden Scots; panels ranging from romance writing to preserving Indigenous culture to Scots Pride through the years to the aftermath of Operation Metro Surge; and the opportunity to march in this year's Grand Old Day parade.



PHOTOS: DAVID J. TURNER

1600
GRAND



How Home Happens

REFLECTIONS ON A FIRST YEAR AT MACALESTER

BY SIA BOMBHORE '29

College isn't how it's shown in the movies. For me, it didn't arrive all at once (no matter how much I wanted it to). It wasn't so much immediately reveling in my new home as it was building it brick by brick with the Macalester walls as my guiding lines. Small, seemingly insignificant moments that I later realized weren't insignificant at all. Teachings.

The first week felt like everyone had been handed the same script. Name, major, Scottish house, first-year course, "I saw that class too." I remember thinking I had to get it right every time, like first impressions stacked permanently. They don't. People say slightly off things, laugh a little too hard, forget what they just asked you. It's less polished than it looks from the outside. That was one of the first things that eased up, even if I didn't notice it immediately.

There were quieter moments too, the kind that didn't feel typical to the "ideal" college experience but end up defining it anyway. Sitting at the Scots vs. Wildcats game and realizing everyone except me seemed to have arrived with someone. Taking a reusable box back to my room instead of staying in Café Mac. At the time, it

felt like a pattern, like I had somehow missed something essential. Looking back, it was just a moment, just one of many.

And then there were the moments that surprised me. A peanut butter and JAM session in JWall where nothing was planned and everyone was slightly offbeat, trying to harmonize lyrics that didn't exist ten seconds earlier. It wasn't impressive, but it was fun, genuinely fun in a way that didn't ask anything of me. Nights on the Great Lawn that stretched longer than intended, conversations that moved past the surface without effort, people who stopped feeling like introductions and started feeling familiar.

Somewhere in all of that, I stopped feeling like I had to be "on" all the time. There's a kind of quiet you find here that isn't loneliness. It's sitting in your room for a bit, or walking back early, or eating alone and not needing to explain it. It becomes a reset rather than something to fix. That balance—between being around people and returning to yourself—ended up mattering more than I expected.

Nothing about it was linear. There wasn't a single moment where everything clicked into place. No clear shift from unfamiliar to belonging. It didn't come from one night or one group or one decision.

It came from moments. The song you made up on the spot. The conversation that went longer than you thought it would. The thing you almost didn't go to. The person you met by accident.

On their own, they don't feel like much. But they stay. They stack, slowly and unevenly, until one day you look around and realize you're not trying to feel at home anymore.

You just are.

SIA BOMBHORE (3)

One for the Books

This year, Scots climbed the ranks to one of the best seasons in Macalester Athletics history.

“There’s an unmistakable current running through Macalester Athletics right now. From varsity teams to club rosters, the culture has fundamentally shifted. We’ve traded hope for expectation, rallying behind a single, defiant question: *Why not us?*”

—Donnie Brooks, associate vice president for Student Affairs and director of Athletics



Mac Baseball celebrates after capturing the 2026 MIAC playoff championship by defeating Saint John’s University at CHS Field.

Scoreboard, scoreboard!

By the box score, the Scots baseball team absolutely smashed their spring season: on their tear to win the MIAC playoffs and advance to the NCAA championship tournament (both for the second time), the team broke the school record for wins while becoming the first team in program history to win thirty games (30-17).

“Our team truly maximized everything it had in order to win the MIAC conference tournament and earn the program’s first NCAA tournament victory against Luther College,” head coach Matt Parrington said. “It was a special story and a memorable run—one that created memories that will last a lifetime.”

Go Scots! Baseball was far from the only highlight. These standout teams and student-athletes hit their 2025–26 season out of the park:

Men’s Soccer won the MIAC playoffs for the first time since 2009 and advanced to the Sweet 16 of the NCAA tournament, the team’s first berth since 2015. Ondieki Maina ’26 and Kasdan Blattman ’27 were named All-Americans.

Women’s Water Polo won third place at USA Water Polo’s national tournament; Jess Palmer-Sammons ’26 (CWPA MVP), Jayden Kratt ’26, and Reese Winegar ’29 earned All-American honors.

Club Ultimate Frisbee: Pursesnatchers (women’s all-inclusive) and Flat

Earth (men’s open) both headed to nationals in May.

Women’s Cross Country: For the first time since 1983, two individuals qualified for the national meet: Ingrid Norquist ’27 and Kate Fox ’28.

Women’s Swimming and Diving: At the NCAA diving championships, Ainsley Kashatus ’29 earned an All-American honorable mention.

Track and Field: Ariella Rogahn-Press ’28 (MIAC Track & Field Athlete of the Year) and John Ihrke ’28 earned All-American honors.

FALLING FOR THE CAREER

An illustration of a woman with blonde hair, wearing a white lab coat over a green top. She has a prosthetic dark blue arm with a magnifying glass attached. She is holding a purple pencil in her right hand, which is surrounded by pink flowers and green leaves. The background is a teal wall with a blue grid pattern. The overall style is a mix of scientific and artistic elements.

*of
her*

DREAMS

Lauren Billings '96 wrote the ultimate plot twist in her own story.

BY ASHLI CEAN LANDA
ILLUSTRATION BY MARINA ASTUDILLO

With twenty-one *New York Times* bestselling romance novels, Lauren Billings '96 seems destined to have become a writer. But, once upon a time, Billings had a very different career: she held a doctorate in neuroscience and studied neurodegeneration in aging.

"I really loved writing, but I just thought that it was going to be my hobby forever," she says. "I was super happy in my science career, but then I had this dream I've always wanted dangled in front of me."

Before her life as one half of acclaimed writing duo Christina Lauren, Billings was a principal scientist researching cognition, pain, and retinal degeneration at pharmaceutical company AbbVie (then Allergan). Helping solidify her path to neuroscience were behavioral psych classes at Mac and a monthlong shadowing program at a local inpatient mental health facility.

Learning about the intricacies of the brain and how mental illnesses are treated became a particular passion. So the decision to leave the fascinating and fulfilling neuroscience career she'd built for thirteen years wasn't easy. But momentum had been building since she and her writing partner, Christina Hobbs, secured their first book deal with Gallery Books, an imprint of Simon and Schuster, in 2012. Once their first six books all hit the *New York Times* list in 2013, Billings made the decision to embrace writing full time.

With the *Beautiful* and *Wild Seasons* series books all certified *New York Times* bestsellers, BookTok's (TikTok's devoted "book club" of sorts) swooning for *Love and Other Words* during the pandemic-era romance novel boom, consistent placements on end-of-the-year-best lists from Goodreads to Audible, and a Netflix adaptation of *In A Holidaze* this fall—it's an understatement to say her choice paid off.

"As somebody who had written her whole life for pleasure and joy, the idea that I could now do this for a living and support my family felt like a dream," says Billings, who lives in California. "I thought, 'I can't not take this opportunity,' and it's been the best decision."

Ironically, Billings believes her choice in undergrad to pursue neuroscience over creative writing gave her the very thing that led her to her current career: permission to stay playful.

"I think if I had taken some creative writing courses, I might have taken myself too seriously. I just get to have fun with it."

And if she hadn't just had some fun writing fanfiction in her free time—Billings' fandoms of choice: *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and *Alias*—she might not have ever met her beloved writing partner, Hobbs.

Fanfiction, a hobby in which fans write their own stories about characters from their favorite pieces of media, provided Billings a

creative outlet during the stress of being a new mother. In 2009, she met Hobbs, who lives in Utah, on FanFiction.net, an online forum. That summer, a grad school friend who directed Comic-Con programming invited Billings to organize a panel on fanfiction. Billings invited Hobbs to San Diego—and it was love at first sight. Three days later, they decided to write their first story together inspired by *Twilight*, and it received rave reviews in the fandom.

"People loved it, and we're like, 'This was kind of good. Should we try and write a book?'" Billings recalls.

Learning to co-write came with some growing pains. While the original plan was an even 50/50 split, the two discovered some speed bumps—different writing speeds, preferences, and specific skills. After seventeen years of practice, Billings now describes the process like "building one of those super layered cakes."

"We'll outline the book together, and Christina will do what we call the 'trash draft'—which is almost free association: she doesn't think about if it reads beautifully at that point; it's about getting everything out," Billings explains. "Then I come in and write the polished draft, and then she edits that, and we layer."

Their transition from fanfiction to established coauthors is a story they're fearless about sharing, in contrast to the conventional publishing-industry wisdom that writers who want to be seen as legitimate should keep quiet about their fanfiction. The reality, Billings says, is that "for some authors, their fandom platform is what literally sells their books."

She and Hobbs, who now mostly write romance, are also eager to dispel the notion that romance as a genre is "frivolous." For one, a sector written primarily by women for women is the highest-selling genre in fiction—"It basically keeps publishing doors open," she notes. But what Billings finds most compelling is the genre's "very quiet power."

"The wonderful thing about it is that you can do a lot of really powerful work because you promise the reader this happily-ever-after at the end," she explains. "You can explore issues of sexual identity, gender identity, class, race, culture, and so many other things because you are promised that soft landing."

Of course, that soft landing available in romance isn't always available in real life—but Billings credits her Mac education with helping her find the courage to dive in anyway. "Because I went in with the mentality of 'I am not one thing' at Mac, I knew I didn't have to be pigeonholed as a scientist—why couldn't I be a writer?" she says. "There was no reason I couldn't be both."

And for up-and-coming writers? "What is the book that you really wish you could stumble upon on the shelf?" Billings asks. "That's the book that you need to write because it's what your heart and soul are seeking." **M**

THE CULTURAL HOUSE'S NEXT CHAPTER

BY REBECCA DEJARLAIS ORTIZ '06 | PHOTOS BY SKYE RAYMOND '28

From a new campus location, Mac's Cultural House community explored intergenerational global solidarity through travel in Cuba.

For Guillermo Muñoz-Calanche '28, the Cultural House community on campus became part of his Macalester story even before he had officially made his college decision.

Muñoz-Calanche remembers the shock he felt visiting Minnesota for the first time after growing up in El Paso, Texas. But when he arrived, Muñoz-Calanche met a student who lived in the Cultural House, a Mac living-learning community for up to sixteen students each academic year interested in liberatory education, community engagement, and anti-racism movement building. He started to find out about the house's long legacy of BIPOC student activism and organizing, dating back to its earliest iterations in the late 1960s.

"I learned that the C-House has been a hub of learning, of discernment, of dialogue on campus," he says. "It shaped my understanding of the opportunities for me at Macalester—what kind of work students do here. I wanted to be part of that."

As a sophomore, Muñoz-Calanche did become part of the Cultural House, a community now creating the next chapter in its long history—with a new location in the Summit House, reimagined programming around a yearlong theme, and deepened experiential learning. This past year, the house community explored intergenerational global solidarity, including through a trip to Cuba with support from Mac's Racial Justice Project Fund.

Over ten days in January, the students put their education into practice as part of a Witness for Peace delegation, an organization dedicated to

helping people in the US understand the impact of US policies in Central and South America. In Cuba, the delegation examined the effects of US sanctions and the embargo in place since the early 1960s, following the Cuban Revolution.

Although students were drawn to the international travel opportunity, Lealtad-Suzuki Center for Social Justice (LSC) director Hana Dinku emphasized in the Cultural House application process that students would be required to engage deeply with the learning experience before, during, and after the trip: "We made our expectations very clear to students: this was not tourism," Dinku says.

The group prepared together through the framework of popular education—a participatory model that's an LSC cornerstone, acknowledging people's lived experiences and encouraging critical dialogue and collective action. Twice a month on Sunday evenings, students gathered for study sessions, co-facilitating the syllabus and rotating to allow everyone to take turns as teacher and learner. Assignments included articles, podcasts, and documentaries; discussions unpacked texts, connected topics to coursework and lived experiences, and interrogated assumptions about Cuba. For many of the students, Dinku says, the sessions broadened their understanding of Cuban people, history, and culture beyond the Cold War and the Cuban Missile Crisis.

As travel plans took shape over the fall and winter, the group assessed international travel restrictions and Cuba's worsening humanitarian crisis. Because of a new American fuel blockade, Cubans



At El Proyecto Rincón de los Milagros, a community initiative dedicated to preserving and celebrating Haitian culture and impact in Cuba, an elder connected with Brandon Souverain '27—a visit grounded in the group's focus on intergenerational solidarity. "They got each other's contact information to stay in touch," says photographer Skye Raymond '28.



New Spaces to Call Home

In 2025, preparation for the construction of Mac's new residence hall and welcome center jump-started a series of changes across the north end of campus. After challenging campus conversations about addressing the need for a new building while still caring for the Cultural House's legacy and future, the living-learning community moved from its prior location on Macalester Street to the Summit House at the corner of Snelling and Summit, a location selected with student input.

Across Snelling in Kagin Commons, a transformative renovation last summer in

the Lealtad-Suzuki Center for Social Justice created new community-centered spaces, including an event room named in honor of former Macalester president Arthur S. Flemming, a teaching kitchen, multifunctional study space, a conference room, and quiet lounge areas.

The renovation supports the evolving programming needs of both the LSC and the Cultural House and enhances the work happening in both buildings, with the Cultural House's capacity no longer stretched thin by doubling as both an event space for Mac's cultural organizations and a home for residents.

DAVID J. TURNER



"It was really important that our students engaged critically with the materials we studied, the people we met in Cuba, and the experience as a whole."

HANA DINKU, director of the Lealtad-Suzuki Center for Social Justice

faced widespread blackouts and food insecurity. Dinku and her colleagues consulted Cuban partners and decided to proceed with the Witness for Peace delegation, with a smaller group of students due to shifting US travel policies.

In January, Dinku, LSC assistant director and program co-organizer Sam Taitel, and eight students traveled to four Cuban cities—Havana, Cienfuegos, Santa Clara, and Trinidad—from their home base at The Centro Memorial Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a Havana center for popular education, social justice action, and community development. Their packed itinerary included visiting La Muñeca Negra (the Black Doll Project), the Latin American School of Medicine, La Casona de Toqui cultural center and museum, El Mejunje community center and LGBTQ+ sanctuary, El Callejón de Hamel to learn about Afro-Cuban culture, and Valle de los Ingenios to visit a sugar cane plantation.

But true to the group's focus and preparation, the learning went far beyond surface-level tours. Along the way, students engaged with community organizers, educators, historians, artists, and doc-

tors about Cuban culture, the history of US-Cuban relations, and the impact of the US embargo. In each conversation, Dinku urged students to listen deeply and observe contradictions.

"It was really important that our students engaged critically with the materials we studied, the people we met in Cuba, and the experience as a whole," Dinku says. "We wanted to ensure they learned without falling into the trap of overly simplifying or romanticizing the revolution. We wanted them to honor that history while thinking critically about the contradictions between the goals of the revolution and the current realities. We also asked them to analyze how decades of US sanctions and the embargo have hindered Cuba's growth and sovereignty. We could not be prouder of our students and how fully engaged they were while we were there."

On campus in February, students shared photos and stories with an intergenerational audience of faculty, staff, students, and neighbors. The students also are developing a website documenting their experience, working on Mac Weekly articles, and collaborating with Macalester's Archives team to formally record their journey. And in April, the LSC and the Minnesota Cuba Committee hosted the Cuban ambassador to the US, Lianys Torres Rivera, for a visit that included a student panel discussion.

Back in the C-House, the students noticed the trip's impact on their community, too. "The trip cemented all our friendships and how we interact with each other—there's more conversation, more dinners together, more using the dining table as a community space," Damaris Zamora-Aguilon '26 says. "Now we have a shared history."



We asked four Cultural House residents to tell us about their experiences in the house and in Cuba, and how those connections are shaping their education and perspective.



Above: At El Callejón de Hamel, the group learned about the origins of orishas in Afro-Cuban culture.

Right: The Macalester group at the LGBTQ+ community center and cultural space El Mejunje.



Skye Raymond '28

Media and cultural studies major

C-House story

I had gone to some Cultural House events and was like, "This is the 'it' place—this seems like where I want to be." I was sitting in the Grille when we all got the email telling us we got in, and I heard the people behind me also talking about it. I turned around and said, "Hey, I don't know you, but I also just got into the Cultural House!" I was really excited.

Individual roles

In Cuba, we all had designated jobs, and I was the media person. I do photography, so that was my lens. I felt humbled by the responsibility—I got to experience something in a very significant sliver of time, and then it lasts forever in my photos. I started becoming an activist by taking photos and sharing stories, which I didn't expect going in.

Community ties

The trip was made because of the people who were there. At the end, we formed a circle, and each person took a turn in the middle while we talked about how their individual actions and insights impacted us, and everyone got emotional. When I moved into the house, I'd go into the common areas and feel kind of nervous to talk to all the seniors—I'd smile at them and keep walking. Now, we have something unbreakable that ties us all together. We created such a tight-knit community.



At La Casona de Toqui, educator Ana Maria Salas gave the delegation a tour of her home, where students also met with a popular education network.

Damaris Zamora-Aguilon '26

International studies, political science majors

C-House story

I've always wanted to live in the C-House, and now I wish I would've done it sooner. What cemented it was hearing about the Cuba trip. My first-year course was Decolonizing the Caribbean, so when I found out about the trip, I thought, "This would be such a bookend. Even if I don't get in, I have to try." Now as a senior, sometimes I feel more involved in spaces as a mentor giving guidance—that's how my role has transformed in the house. If I see one of the sophomores, I want to talk to them and ask about their day, ask about that class they told me about in our last conversation.

Reflecting on identity

I'm Guatemalan American, and I think it's different to go to another Latin American country and see Latinidad from another perspective and angle, through a country that has had so much resistance and self-determination to stay sovereign. As Americans going to Cuba, there's this huge privilege. Especially in my positionality of being Latina, I think the way that I carry it forward is just to push back on the narrative of how we see Cuban Americans and how we think about Cubans in Cuba. Nobody has a great, beautiful story of liberation or revolution because revolution isn't pretty, right? It's very dark, and it's very hard.

Future plans

The trip showed me that I'm not done with studying. I need to learn more. I still need to do more. Five years from now, I hope I'm still learning and I apply that to not just in the Caribbean, but also to my ancestral homes in Central America. And I want to go back to Cuba. I want more people to have this cultural and educational experience where it's not such a top-down approach, but rather, we're learning together. I think about how important it is for Americans to get out of their bubble and tap into the international community.



At La Muñeca Negra, Guillermo Muñoz-Calanche '28 holds artwork the Macalester students purchased together to donate to the Cultural House—a gift for future C-House residents, signed by the artist.

Guillermo Muñoz-Calanche '28

American studies major

C-House lens

What's really shaped my time at the C-House was my introduction to popular education. I'm eternally grateful. Popular education brings folks of all ages together to discuss issues that are affecting them, pushing them to look at their situation with an international and historical lens. When we engage like that, people can be more vulnerable about how they're feeling, too—something that a lot of folks really need in this current moment. Popular education sessions are vessels through which that catharsis can happen, which can be channeled into building something more substantial when it comes to changing people's minds and realities.

Holding joy

In Cuba, we met with the educator Ana Maria Salas, who talked about her time in theater, and what I noticed was everybody just laughing—absolutely busting a gut at her storytelling, her wit, her humor. I got really emotional and started to tear up. At the end, I went up and thanked her. I think when we talk about revolution, there's obviously talk about overhaul, about the repressive nature. But I think something that's left out is those spaces in which we can just laugh and be joyful together. It was one of my favorite moments.

What's next

With regards to what now, I defer to the requests of the people who we met there, which was just to speak about Cuba, speak openly and honestly about our experiences in Cuba, and stomp out misconceptions about Cuba wherever we find them. That also means working in our hyperlocal communities. My solidarity with Cuba and its people means nothing if I don't take genuine action within Twin Cities communities, too.

Alexander Matthews '28

Geography major, urban studies concentration, Chinese minor

C-House story

In Cultural Anthropology in my first semester, we had an ethnography assignment focused on a campus group or microculture, and I focused mine on the Cultural House. I really connected with the mission to bring together people from all different backgrounds. When applications opened, I thought, "Oh my gosh, I really, really, really want to live there." I'm always remembering what my purpose in the house is: I'm there to learn about other cultures and backgrounds and also be an advocate for marginalized voices on campus and in the greater community.

Shared commitment

On the trip, we had people who majored in international studies, political science, economics, math—we all had our own perspectives on different issues. And it was just so earth-shattering to be in this group of people that all shared this determination and passion for change. We all really wanted to help our communities, bring change, and recognize the voices of marginalized people.

Intergenerational connections

As a young person, I feel really intimidated by older people, and it can hinder my ability to truly say what's on my mind



Skye Raymond '28 (left) and Alexander Matthews '28 at La Muñeca Negra

and do what feels right. What I've really learned from this trip and being at Mac—talking with my professors, going to lectures, being a board member on the Black Liberation Affairs Committee—is that a lot of activists who have been on the scene for years felt the exact same way when they were young, too. I make an assumption that because I'm young, they won't understand me. That's not true at all. We all start from the same point. And when we're able to come together as young people and as older people, we have power to bring change to our communities. [M](#)



Carrying a Witness for Peace banner to bring attention to the US blockade's impact on Cubans, the delegation traveled around the island in a blue school bus donated to Havana's Centro MLK by the US organization Pastors for Peace.

STILL SPEAKING

THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE AT 250

BY ASHLI CEAN LANDA AND SABRI ABDUSALAM '28 | ILLUSTRATIONS BY DOUG CHAYKA

The Declaration of Independence has always loomed large in American consciousness, but it is perhaps especially resonant during its 250th anniversary in 2026. In the wake of unprecedented immigration enforcement across the country, efforts to eliminate birthright citizenship, and a violent reckoning with what it means to be—and who gets to be—an American, political science professor Dr. Patrick Schmidt's *The Declaration at 250* course was a once-in-a-lifetime teaching and learning opportunity on the concept of constructing historical memory.

"The class was driven by a desire to match the ownership of people who are trying to claim the Declaration of Independence, thus contextualizing the class itself as a participant in the battle for culture memory in the United States," says Schmidt.

The various tales told about the history of the Declaration—and what erases or elevates certain features of that history—have a particular urgency in its 250th year. The document has been lifted up by Americans of varying political backgrounds in recent months, some at No Kings marches, others at Save America rallies.

"There's a tendency in current political discourse to assume that only those who display a certain kind of patriotism and nationalism get to claim the Declaration. But historically, that's not supported," Schmidt says. "In many cases, it has been the most progressive figures that have found ways of championing the Declaration—women in the suffrage movement, enslaved and then freed African Americans. They have made the argument about how we live up to the values rather than how we critique those values."

Before examining the present, Schmidt led his course on a global history lesson, examining the document's origins and its enduring impact throughout the world. Macalester students studied the original ideas of the Declaration, which could be found first bubbling up in the Dutch Republic in the sixteenth century. Then came an examination of the British context in the seventeenth century up to the later drafts of America's defining document in 1776, drafts that were largely dominated by issues of race. The Declaration's primary architect, Thomas Jefferson, who enslaved hundreds of individuals during his lifetime, debated with others at the Continental Congress whether to reference the transatlantic slave trade in its final iteration.

"There was a phrase that had condemned England for perpetuating the slave trade that got cut. And there's a good reason: because it was necessary to keep the Southern states on board," Schmidt explains. "It was, of course, also hypocritical to keep the domestic slave trade while criticizing Britain's role in it. But the founding fathers knew that slavery couldn't be touched—that if they talked about it, the convention might break up."



John Trumbull's painting *Declaration of Independence* hangs in the US Capitol rotunda and is depicted on the back of the US \$2 bill. It does not represent a real ceremony; the men portrayed were never in the same room at the same time.

In this 250th year of the Declaration's life—as the Supreme Court takes up cases that surround birthright citizenship and racial profiling—how do Americans see the document today? This discussion and debate made up a significant portion of the class.

"There's no debate to be shied from, and in the liberal arts, we are committed to always come at it from a holistic responsibility to understand and listen—and also to knowledge and facticity," Schmidt says. "There are ways to ground debates in the concrete, in the real. Debates aren't just hot takes and social media posts—they are a process of reason, discourse, thoughtful reflection, and engagement."

While debates like these grow in the classroom, they truly bloom in the broader community. Students created and participated in various community engagement projects, including teaching classes at a local elementary school, hosting podcasts, and collecting a plethora of opinions on the Declaration—which you can read on pages 22 and 23. For one of their final projects, students wrote opinion pieces on a topic related to the Declaration at 250, inserting themselves into the vital, historical, and contemporary tradition of public discourse.

Ultimately, Schmidt says, whether you critique it, support it, or feel ambivalent about it, one of the most important things about the Declaration is its relationship to the ever-evolving construction of cultural memory.

"It reminds me of a saying that the United Church of Christ hangs on their banners: 'God is still speaking,'" Schmidt says. "It reminds us that history is not closed—it is always an ongoing process of interpretation."

Declaration, DEBATED

As the nation marks the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, Americans are wrestling with questions about the country's founding document.

Sabri Abdusalam '28, a student in this spring's The Declaration at 250 course, asked her classmates and Mac community members to debate its relevance today, what history leaves out, and the contradictions that were visible even at the founding.

Here's what they had to say.



Is the Declaration of Independence worth celebrating in 2026?

"Absolutely, we need to celebrate the Declaration.

We're in a moment where there are competing ideas of what we're about, so I'm of the mindset that if we don't insert our voice, if we don't uplift it and engage in civic engagement, that other vision will win out. I'm a big fan of us celebrating what this country said it was supposed to be about and using their language to remind them, 'Hey, remember when you said this? Even if you didn't have me in mind, I'm here whether you like it or not.'"

—Dr. Gonzalo Guzmán, *assistant professor of educational studies*



"No. I think that as much as possible, we need to resist getting caught up in celebrations

on the Fourth of July if we're going to be critical of America the rest of the year. We shouldn't take our hats off and put our hands over our hearts even if it's America's founding. The American Revolution was not a revolution of the people, and things got considerably worse for many people on the North American continent. It's more of a time for reflection, not celebration."

—Mack Williams '26



"It is worth celebrating with clear eyes. We can celebrate it as a milestone while naming its contradictions honestly. Thomas Jefferson wrote of liberty while he owned six hundred enslaved Africans in his lifetime. The Declaration of Independence excluded women, Indigenous people, enslaved people, owned by many of the people who signed it, and so celebrating means grappling with the gap between rhetoric and reality."

—Dr. Duchess Harris, *DeWitt Wallace Professor of American Studies*



What have we typically excluded from our discussions around the history of the Declaration that we should talk about?

“I think the process of drafting the Declaration of Independence is oversimplified. We’re made to see that Jefferson wrote this document and everything was fine and widely accepted, but in reality the Declaration was a widely debated and revised document.”

—Leila Zuckerberg '29



“The context and compromise that went into the founding. Really, the founders were normal people that had a bone to pick with who was in charge. We should pay attention to that in the modern day, because no two founders had the exact same ideas, but it was the power of compromise that ended up helping them achieve a finished product over time.”

—Daniel Powell '27



“The lack of recognition of other countries speaks volumes. For example, the United States went nearly sixty years without recognizing Haiti’s 1804 independence out of fear it would inspire uprisings of enslaved people in the American South. I think it makes us reflect on who independence was really intended for.”

—Lillie Perez '29



What should we do today with the contradiction that enslavers were proclaiming a right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness?

“We should be taught that the founders had ideals that were worth celebrating and aspiring to, that they didn’t live up to those ideals, and that they didn’t want to. As Jefferson was drafting the Declaration and writing that all men are created equal, he was using the enslaved labor of Africans on land that they murdered Indigenous people for. We can say, ‘They were correct in their diagnosis—all men are equal—but they didn’t live up to it,’ and focus on people who did.”

—Navi Clark '28



“We cannot be naive and willfully ignorant of historical facts. But the point I would make is that the country has made progress toward its ideals. Are we there yet? No. But are we a lot closer today than we were in 1776, and 1789 and 1860? Yes, we’re a lot closer. Part of the reason is the leverage those ideas gave us. We can use the documents they left behind and say, ‘This is a promissory note, and I’d like to cash it in now.’”

—Dr. Andrew Latham, *professor of political science*



“The Declaration of Independence isn’t unique in that there’s contradictions. For example, the people the founders were inspired by, like John Locke, helped codify chattel slavery into law. The way I look at it is that the ideas are important, but the founders also had their self-interests, so to a certain degree we need to separate the ideas from the people and look plainly at what they wrote. We can expand those ideas to make them still applicable in 2026.” [M](#)

—Paramitha Pratha '29



A NEW WAY OF S [E + E] I N G

Photographer Will Matsuda '15 works to transform
how we view the world, one photo at a time.



SCOTT ROSSI

Wandering the streets of Hiroshima, Japan, **Will Matsuda '15** looks to reframe a piece of his family's history.

For the photographer, it's become a nightly ritual: both psychedelic and deeply personal.

For weeks at a time, he waits until darkness falls, only beginning his quest once the sun is securely below the horizon. As the city sleeps, Matsuda exposes light-sensitive photographic paper to shadows cast by objects and places that survived the atomic bomb: trees that still stand, artifacts preserved in a local museum, and often, just the light of nearby neighborhoods.

The resulting images are inversions of reality. Shadows appear as light, light as darkness. It's the same photographic process that occurred on August 6, 1945, when the bomb's intense heat burned human shadows into concrete. For Matsuda, a fourth-generation Japanese American, the project honors his ancestors who died when the bomb detonated. It's his way of reclaiming their story, offering a new perspective.

"I don't want to just think of this place through this wall of death," Matsuda says. "I am looking for new connections and finding beauty in this place while still acknowledging its history, which this process does."

The Hiroshima project is just one entry in Matsuda's journey as a photographer. Based in Portland but frequently on the move (usually with more traditional camera gear), he's photographed skateboarding legend Yuto Horigome for Nike, documented political tension in Washington, DC, for the *New York Times* opinion section, and captured the beauty of Hermès fashion events. His client list is long and a who's who of media titans: *National Geographic*, *The*

New Yorker, *The Washington Post*, Apple, and others.

He fell in love with photography while studying at Macalester, where former photography professor Eric Carroll introduced him to photographers like Rinko Kawauchi. The Japanese artist has become a sort of waypoint for Matsuda. Her images, he says, have the ability to change how you see the world.

"When you experience her images, it can change how you look at everyday objects. The mundane can become spectacular. It provides a new way of seeing," Matsuda said.

Today, Matsuda works at the intersection of fine art and documentary photography. His distinct style features rich colors drawn from the natural world, deliberate use of blur and obstruction, and the occasional use of flash. But all his images feature a distinct perspective as he approaches photography as anything but objective. His work often presents a certain environmental or climate awareness, something he attributes to growing up in outdoorsy Portland and a critical eye developed through his geography and educational studies double major at Macalester.

No matter where you find him, whether that's a movie set or the Columbia River Gorge, Matsuda is out to show that photography can be more than simple representation. Instead, it can bring life and transformation to its viewer.

The following pages showcase a selection of Matsuda's work. An accomplished writer as well, each image is accompanied by his own words.



+ **I love Depoe Bay, Oregon,** which is the smallest natural navigable harbor in the world. The ocean explodes into the seawalls. I watched thirty-foot waves churn for hours. It was the stormy Oregon coast at its best. There is a faded bronze plaque facing the ocean engraved with these words:

IT IS NOT TRUE.

LIFE IS NOT SLAIN BY DEATH.

THE VAST, IMMORTAL SEA SHALL
HAVE HER OWN,

SHALL GARNER TO HER THIS
EXPIRING BREATH,

SHALL REAP WHERE SHE HAS SOWN.



+ **Iceland is a strange place** where the sun doesn't set and the Earth launches itself into the sky. I was on the other side of the island when I saw on the news that a volcano had started to erupt on the Reykjanes Peninsula. I could not tell the scale of it from the pictures. It looked quite small. I changed plans and drove straight there and hiked four hours to see it. The eruption was not small. My eyelashes felt like they were burning off. I thought the local authorities would have kept us far from the lava, but there were no barriers. I stayed for hours in the pelting rain, watching our planet make itself anew.



This image is part of a project that revolves around my family's relationship with the atomic bombing of Hiroshima. Many of my family members died that day. There is a famous picture of a man's shadow fixed into the concrete near where the bomb exploded. The bomb was a photographic event, turning the city into a giant negative due to the intensity of the heat and light. As a photographer with a direct connection to the bomb, I want to reappropriate this photographic process. Rather than death, I want to show life, beauty, and resilience.

I've gone to Hiroshima twice this year to make these images without using a camera with the help of two generous grants. I used light-sensitive color darkroom paper and exposed it directly to personally and historically significant objects and their shadows: a charred and partially melted teapot at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, the branches of a willow tree that is the closest still-living tree to the epicenter, a paper lantern at a shrine in my great-great-grandmother's neighborhood. This process allows these forms and their shadows to imprint directly onto the paper.

In 2021 I lived on a no-till tomato farm in Hood River, Oregon, which is about an hour outside of Portland. I became friends with the wacky farmer, who had recently moved from Los Angeles. I helped build the hoop houses, shoveled compost across the rows, and watched the sunset with his chickens and sheep. I inhaled BLTs and swam in glacial melt all summer. On clear nights I watched the Milky Way stretch across the sky, photographing it with bits of the farm on occasion. This marigold made it onto the cover of *Aperture* magazine in the spring of 2022.





+ Giant fires tore through Oregon

over Labor Day in 2020. A hot summer had dried out the trees, and an unusual windstorm turned many of our forests into infernos. Yellow-brown smoke choked out Portland for days. I love the forest, and it made me sad to breathe it in. It smelled sweet. I knew I had to get out and take pictures of the strange skies. I drove south on I-5, toward the fires, and pulled off near a place where I used to play mini-golf as a kid at birthday parties. In the parking lot the sky looked terrible and beautiful. *The Atlantic* published this image, and *Time* published a few others from the day.



+ I took this portrait

of bluegrass superstar Billy Strings for a *New York Times* assignment in 2021. We were just outside Portland before his sold-out show at McMenamins Edgefield. I'll often get around five minutes to make a portrait with someone of Billy's stature, which I can understand. These are busy people. On one NDA'd shoot with an A-list actor I had less than 60 seconds with them. Billy was sweet and hung out with me for almost an hour. He climbed a tree for me too. He even took his shirt off!



+ **I covered Donald Trump's inauguration** on January 20, 2025, for the *New York Times* Opinion section. All of the outdoor events were canceled and moved indoors due to extreme cold. I had to photograph the scenes outside though. Lots of frigid people in red hats. I was freezing and hatless. I ran into a few photographers I knew while roaming the streets. We see pictures of DC every day, so I always try to photograph it in ways that feel unexpected. But there are only so many ways you can photograph neoclassical architecture. [M](#)

Cultural CONNECTORS

BY KATE NELSON

**Calvin Hoe '67 and Charlene Hoe '68
have dedicated their lives to
championing Indigenous rights.**

For Calvin Hoe '67, the countless contributions he and his wife, Charlene Hoe '68, have made to uplift Indigenous communities in his native Hawai'i and beyond can be summed up by two words: lizard speaking. Understanding this phrase requires an understanding of the Hawaiian language.

The Hoes, who live on the island of O'ahu, raised their three sons to be storytellers. Their middle son, Liko, who studied the Hawaiian language in college, helped Calvin understand the origins of the term *mo'olelo*, meaning story. It's derived from the words *mo'o* (lizard) and *'olelo* (to speak).

"As Liko explained to me, the lizard has this long tail that's connected to the brain through all these tiny bones of its backbone," says Calvin. "Our stories are our connections to the place we come from and to our ancestors. Our ancestors' bones are still here, and we are still here. Every day, I know that my ancestors are with me."



The duo has dedicated their lives to ensuring their cultural knowledge, arts, and right to their land endure in Hawai'i, despite the islands' history of colonization. As with many Indigenous communities across what's now the United States, Native Hawaiian culture was "nearly decimated with the influx of America," Calvin notes. "Our old ways of storytelling and dance were banned. We lost our language, and we had to bring it back. We have been able to preserve our history."

Calvin met Charlene, who grew up in Minnesota, at Macalester, and they married after graduation. They spent a short stint volunteering through the Peace Corps in Micronesia, a nation of more than six hundred islands midway between Hawai'i and Australia, before returning to Calvin's home in Hawai'i.

"After leaving Macalester, we wanted to help people create their own well-being within their communities," Charlene recalls. "When we got to Chuuk in Micronesia, it was very eye-opening to see that some families were self-sufficient, but others had very little to ensure their well-being." That experience prompted her lifelong efforts to uplift Indigenous sovereignty and self-determination through environmental, educational, and cultural activism. Although Charlene is not Native Hawaiian, she has worked to become a strong ally.

Calvin feared seeing the disparities he'd witnessed in Micronesia take hold back home in Hawai'i amid the rapid population growth underway in the 1960s. The couple took up taro farming only to realize that water was being diverted from the Hakipu'u area on O'ahu to neighboring valleys for development. The Hoes participated in the Waiāhole-Waikāne Struggle, a series of grassroots protests in the 1970s against urbanization that defended residents' right to

remain on their ancestral homelands. But the water issues persisted.

Charlene, who was working as an educator, served as a delegate at the watershed 1978 Hawai'i State Constitutional Convention—a "life-altering experience" that brought together representatives from across the islands to advocate for their communities' needs. They called upon the legislature to establish an independent water regulation agency to ensure people were prioritized over profit.

"We amended the state constitution to protect the fresh water," Calvin recalls. "Because if you protect the fresh water, you're also protecting the ocean. In our culture, there's no division between the land and the sea. It's all one, and we have to protect it."

For the Hoes, art is another form of activism, particularly when it comes to authentic Indigenous representation. They purchased the Waiāhole Poi Factory in 1971 and transformed it into an art gallery to showcase Native Hawaiian artwork (as well as Charlene's

own creations). Around the same time, Calvin dedicated himself to crafting and performing pre-contact Indigenous musical instruments, such as the *'ohe hano ihu* (nose flute). Today, he's considered one of Hawai'i's premier Native artisans. Liko runs the Poi Factory, a restaurant serving up traditional dishes, including its namesake taro-based starchy staple. And Charlene and Calvin still maintain a small art gallery there.

"Without a cultural base, we lose the rich integration of thinking, acting, and working within communities," says Charlene. "You want to help people be proud of who they are and where they come from."

These days, the duo is working to preserve Hawaiian culture by passing it on to the next generation. Encouraged by their *kupuna* (community elders), the couple founded the public charter school Hakipu'u Academy in 2001 to do just that. Known to their students simply as Uncle Calvin and Auntie Charlene, the Hoes believe education provides an opportunity to instill values-based leadership skills—much like their own college experience did for them.

"Being students at Macalester, we were exposed to the whole world," says Calvin. "There will always be conflict in the world because people think differently. But we can work things out if we choose to. In Hawai'i, we have a system of working things out based on values called *ho'oponopono*. The most important Hawaiian value is *aloha*, which is love—and it's a good way for the world to be. We're all connected as brothers and sisters, and our stories are forever intertwined." **M**

Kate Nelson, an Alaska Native Tlingit tribal member, is an award-winning writer and editor in Minneapolis.

LEADING with PURPOSE

2026 ALUMNI AWARD WINNERS

ILLUSTRATIONS BY LAUREN MORTIMER



JANE & DAVID

GEOFFREY

CHRISTY

MANI

MICHAEL

These Macalester alumni have built remarkable careers. We asked this year's Distinguished Citizen Award winners: **"What's something you wish people knew about your work?"**

Jane Breckinridge '86 and David Bohlken '86

“When I began working in monarch butterfly conservation, I was appalled to discover that no one from the governmental agencies or the major conservation organizations had considered tribes as potential partners in these efforts. After millennia protecting these butterflies who are sacred to us ... we have earned a right to have a seat at the table as decisions are made about how to save them.”

After twenty-five years in the corporate world, Breckinridge, a member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, dedicated herself to this cause. Her husband, Bohlken, founded and owns the Minnesota State Fair Butterfly House. Together, the two have worked to spark public awareness and interest in pollinator conservation.

Dr. Geoffrey Gates '70

“Everyone talks about leadership, but several of the roles of which I am most proud are ones in which I have contributed my talents to a group in which I was not the leader. I have often been a leader in my long career, but the most valuable lesson I learned is the ability to recognize good leadership and lend my talents to the group when that was what was needed.”

Gates graduated from Macalester at the height of the Vietnam War. Identifying as a conscientious objector, he joined International Voluntary Service and served at a high school in Tây Ninh province in South Vietnam, then with the British and Australian Quakers to support Vietnamese children in orphanages. As a physician at the Mayo Clinic and in retirement, he would return to Vietnam to volunteer and reconnect with neighbors.

Learn more about this year's winners—scan the QR code to watch their stories.



Dr. Christy Haynes '98

“The scientific achievements that I often get credit for are all collaborative efforts with hard-working junior colleagues who were willing to go on a journey with me. Almost none of our advances are what we expected when we started the work. There are almost no ‘Eureka!’ moments with a single person in a white coat in a lab; most real progress is slow, messy, and collaborative.”

In her work as chair of the Chemistry Department at the University of Minnesota, Haynes rarely makes discoveries in a moment of solitude. Rather, her research on nanomaterials happens in an intentionally collaborative environment.

Dr. Mani Mokalla '96

“I want people to know that doctors, and particularly those who serve vulnerable populations, do this work because of internal rewards that can't be measured in dollars. We are simply here to serve our fellow humans. American physicians work within a broken system. I feel that trying to serve all when access to healthcare is not treated as a right is a futile endeavor.”

When Mokalla was a child, he and his family fled their home in Iran to escape war, immigrating to the United States. With deeply rooted values grounded in serving others, Mokalla built a career as a pediatric hospital physician. Today, while practicing at Children's Minnesota, he keeps an envelope filled with dozens of thank-you notes from his patients and mentees.

Michael Wammer '61

“I want people to know how rewarding being a volunteer can be. You can change people's lives, as well as your own, by serving others. It's been a privilege to be able to serve my community throughout my lifetime.”

Wammer has held countless volunteer roles in his community, including as a hospice volunteer where he developed a singular connection to a WWII veteran; president of the Cormorant Lions Club; and school board member for the Lake Park-Audubon School District. His volunteer work complemented a successful career in insurance, which Wammer viewed as a “vehicle meant to be in service to others.”

Graduation is just the beginning. We asked this year's Service and Global Citizenship Award winners: **"What keeps you investing in the Mac community?"**

Justin Brandon '00
ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD

“Shared experiences at Mac created a special bond that lives through group text messages, birthday parties, weddings, pictures on social media, and family vacations. The support I received from faculty, staff, and friends was instrumental to my success at Mac and beyond. I welcome the opportunity to pay it forward and support Mac in becoming the best institution possible.”

That desire to pay his Macalester experience forward led Brandon to volunteer as an Admissions interviewer and as an Alumni Board representative, including roles as president and as the Board of Trustees liaison. Today, he serves on the Athletics Advisory Board, and you'll see him volunteering at events like Reunion and Mac In Your City.

Kim Cole '96
ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD

“Coming back to Mac reminds me of the person I resolved to be when I graduated. I was an idealist, committed to making the world a better place, part of a community of friends that were chosen family, clear in who I was and what I stood for, and ready to take on what was next. When I return to campus, I am inundated not just with fun and meaningful memories, but also lessons learned and a renewed sense of self.”

Since graduating, Cole has built a career as a nonprofit leader, working across educational, religious, and youth-centered organizations. Her commitment to service includes dedication to Mac, where she is a two-term Alumni Board member, a Mac In Your City host, and a longtime Class Agent.

Abby Dos Santos '01
ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD

“When I was nominated to the Alumni Board, I was looking for volunteer work that would counteract the negative news I was experiencing during the first Trump administration in DC. I also wanted to connect with people who held similar beliefs to me about a global, multicultural world. I continue to spend time investing in Macalester because I see all the amazing work that Macalester continues to do for students and, in turn, what Macalester alumni do for the community.”

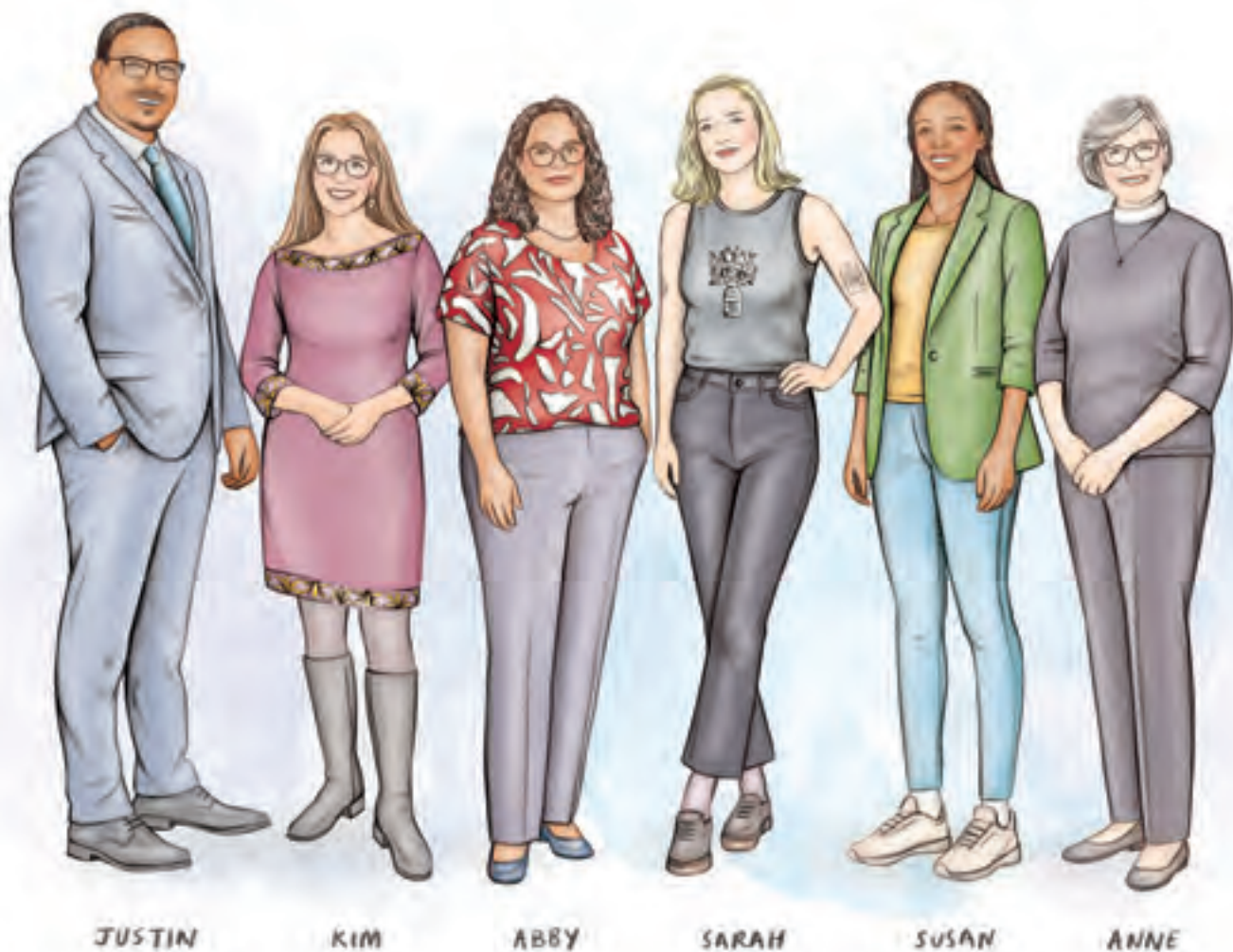
A former student employee in the college's Admissions Office and a member of Mac's volleyball team, Dos Santos now combines her love of Macalester with a desire to cultivate relationships. She has served as Alumni Board president and chaired the Athletics Working Group.

Dr. Sarah Ziegenhorn '11
YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD

“It often seems that I meet other Mac grads on a weekly basis—including those who work across government, academia, and nonprofits. Our shared history has been crucial in developing partnerships that support improved care for vulnerable communities and reduced overdose deaths. I've felt comforted knowing that I'm working with others from our Mac community toward shared values, goals, and ethics.”

Sarah Ziegenhorn studied community and global health at Macalester. She got her start in harm-reduction work right after graduating, driving a van around Washington, DC, distributing vital resources to keep the community safer and healthier. After moving back to her home state of Iowa to attend medical school, she founded the Iowa Harm Reduction Coalition, which has provided direct services to people with substance use disorder, as well as advised policymakers on harm-reduction focused addiction policy.

Do you know someone who exemplifies Mac's values of internationalism, multiculturalism, and service to society? Nominate them for an Alumni Award. Learn more: macalester.edu/alumni/alumniawards



Dr. Susan Brown '07

CATHARINE LEALTAD SERVICE TO SOCIETY AWARD

“Macalester is a place where values are lived, not just stated—where curiosity, inclusion, and service are woven into everyday interactions. The community continues to inspire me with its willingness to engage thoughtfully with complexity, to lead with empathy, and to invest in developing people who want to make a meaningful difference in the world.”

As a senior research and development leader at Dow Chemical, Brown has helped shape a safer and more sustainable future—and the next generation of scientists and engineers. At Dow, her inclusive leadership and commitment to fostering a diverse workplace includes membership in the Women's Innovation Network and the Global African Affinity Network, and mentorship through the Building Engineering and Science Program.

Rev. Anne E. Derse '76

CHARLES J. TURCK GLOBAL CITIZEN AWARD

“I came to Macalester because of its focus on service and international affairs, and I am delighted the college continues to do the good work of preparing global citizens and people committed to service. My experience at Mac definitely set me on my career path in the US Foreign Service and now in community service. I believe in the value of a global and service-oriented worldview.”

A career foreign service officer with the US State Department, Derse served throughout Asia, Europe, and the Middle East. Highlights of her distinguished career include supporting the establishment of the new US embassy in Iraq and appointments as US ambassador to Azerbaijan and Lithuania. After retiring from federal service, Derse became an ordained minister and now pursues a ministry of social justice, community engagement, and international peacemaking. [M](#)

CLASS NOTES

1964

Carol DeBoer-Langworthy has moved from her home in the College Hill neighborhood of Providence, R.I., to Medway Place in the Wayland Square neighborhood. "After some thirty-one years in the same house in Rhode Island, local lore and custom have seeped into my bones," Carol writes.

1967

The Class of 1967 will celebrate its 60th Reunion June 3–6, 2027.

1970

Richard Cambridge and Joedy Wiborg Cambridge recently traveled to Morocco, southern Spain, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, and Egypt. "We always wear Macalester swag," they write, and they report that, on every trip, they have met Macalester alumni, parents of alumni, or people who know about Macalester.

1972

The Class of 1972 will celebrate its 55th Reunion June 3–6, 2027.

Cherie Doyle Riesenbergs was among seventy-three artists who presented work in the exhibition *Legacy: The Women of WARM Gallery* commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the women's art gallery in Minneapolis.

Send **MAC TODAY** your class note by email at mactoday@macalester.edu, or through MacConnect.



CLASS NOTES PHOTO POLICY:

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

We publish one photo per wedding.

Photos must be high-resolution, approximately 2MB or greater in file size.

Email alumnioffice@macalester.edu to request a Mac banner for an upcoming wedding or other gathering.

1977

The Class of 1977 will celebrate its 50th Reunion June 3–6, 2027.

1982

The Class of 1982 will celebrate its 45th Reunion June 3–6, 2027.

1987

The Class of 1987 will celebrate its 40th Reunion June 3–6, 2027.

1988

Kurt Schwabe was invited to join the Rosenberg International Forum on Water Policy's advisory committee. The organization is dedicated to reducing conflict and promoting cooperation in the management of water resources globally. Kurt is also a senior consultant for the Public Policy Institute of California's Water Policy Center.

1990

Earlier this year, Michael Starobin held a leadership position in NASA's media efforts around the Artemis II moon mission and helped shape its television, social media, and other digital outreach activities. He looks forward to focusing on the upcoming Roman Space Telescope launch and the European eclipse, as well as planning for next year's Artemis III mission.

1992

The Class of 1992 will celebrate its 35th Reunion June 3–6, 2027.



Macalester alums dined on "authentic Hong Kong cooking and comfort food" at Sol Hong Kong Café in Duluth, the first restaurant opened by Antony Gor '20. Pictured from left: Noah Bresson '25, Annabel Gregg '22, Ethan Levin '20, Antony, and Dean Smith '20.



Several Macalester alums were present at the induction of Jeff "Freed" Freedman '87 into the George School athletics hall of fame in Newtown, Pa. From left: Macalester basketball teammate Keith Williams '89; Pauline Knaeble Williams '88; current head of George School (and the school's first Black head) Justin Brandon '00; Jeff; and Shondra Dickson '88. Jeff is a former attorney and director of enforcement for the NCAA and the current director and owner of an overnight sports camp.

1997

The Class of 1997 will celebrate its 30th Reunion June 3–6, 2027.

2002

The Class of 2002 will celebrate its 25th Reunion June 3–6, 2027.

Jason Schlude has been named Michael Blecker Professor of Humanities and the inaugural director of the Humanities Institute at the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University in Minnesota.

2007

The Class of 2007 will celebrate its 20th Reunion June 3–6, 2027.

2010

Jack and Jamie Moore Thorlin of Fayetteville, Ark., welcomed their third child, Astra, in January 2026. Astra joins brother Ellis (6) and sister Beatrix (3).

2011

Matthew and Candace Groth Kolodoski welcomed their second child, Elizabeth, in November 2025. Candace works as an attorney in Dallas, specializing in mergers and acquisitions and corporate law.

2012

The Class of 2012 will celebrate its 15th Reunion June 3–6, 2027.

2017

The Class of 2017 will celebrate its 10th Reunion June 3–6, 2027.

2018

Eamon Smith has completed a master's in library and information science at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

2022

The Class of 2022 will celebrate its 5th Reunion June 3–6, 2027.

Beth Goetting P'28 and Mark Gizzi P'28

Beth Goetting P'28 and Mark Gizzi P'28 know what it's like to receive a warm Macalester welcome. When their son, Aaron Gizzi '28, was getting ready to head off to college, a Summer Send-Off event hosted by local Parent Ambassadors gave their family a chance to connect with other incoming parents and students. That experience inspired them to pay it forward.

Now serving as Parent Ambassadors themselves, Mark and Beth host events and connect with prospective and incoming families in the San Francisco Bay Area. We spoke with the couple about their work as Mac ambassadors, and how Aaron's experience has given them plenty to talk about.

How does it feel to represent Mac to prospective students and families?

We are proud to represent Mac and have found it easy to do so for a number of reasons. We think highly of the education and college experience that Aaron is having at Macalester. It has also been our impression that students and parents, particularly those from the Bay Area, are interested in and intrigued by the college's steadfast commitment to promoting diversity, equity, and social justice.

What is your favorite aspect about serving as a Mac Parent Ambassador?

We have the opportunity, in our conversations with both the students and parents, to highlight the many academic, study away, and extracurricular programs at Mac. We also enjoy sharing how Mac is unique in its commitment to providing students with a rigorous liberal arts education that emphasizes the importance of diversity, global citizenship, and service to society.

What's the most unexpected way Macalester has shaped Aaron?

Aaron spent his childhood living abroad and moving often because of his father's job with USAID. As such, he is quite worldly and is able to adapt easily to new cultures and environ-



Mark Gizzi P'28 and Beth Goetting P'28 with their son, Aaron Gizzi '28, in Peru.

ments. However, security concerns—along with COVID-19—prevented him from having as much independence and freedom as perhaps many American teenagers. At Mac, Aaron has made up for lost time, embracing the independence he is afforded at the school. As a result, Aaron has grown a lot in his two years at Mac, gaining more self-confidence and a better sense of who he is, what it is he values, and how he wants to live his life.

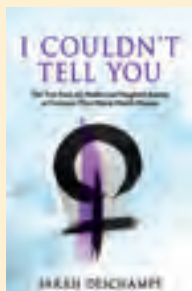
What advice would you offer to Mac parents interested in volunteering?

Join us as Parent Ambassadors. It's a great chance to meet fellow Mac families and help facilitate community. If you're considering it, reach out to the parent and family engagement team—the staff are incredibly welcoming and make being an ambassador easy and rewarding.

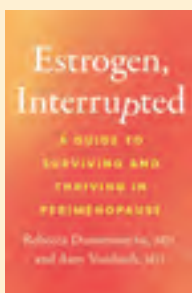
► Interested in becoming a Parent Ambassador? Learn more at macalester.edu/parents and contact Tony Saputo, Macalester's director of parent and family engagement at parentengagement@macalester.edu.



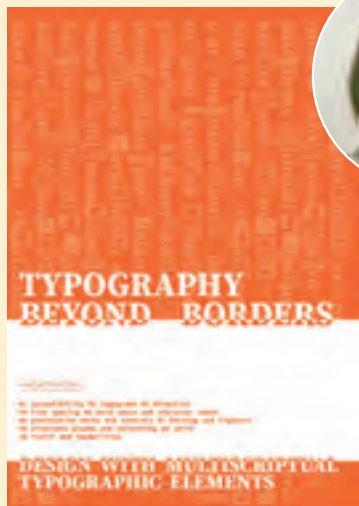
Deanna Ferree Womack '04. *Re-Inventing Islam: Gender and the Protestant Roots of American Islamophobia* (Oxford University Press, 2025)



Sarah Rossman Deschamps '88. *I Couldn't Tell You: The True Story of a Mother and Daughter's Journey to Overcome Their Mental Health Demons* (Gatekeeper Press, 2026)



Dr. Amy Voedisch '98 and Dr. Rebecca Dunsmoor-Su. *Estrogen, Interrupted: A Guide to Surviving and Thriving in Perimenopause* (Flatiron, 2026)



TYPOGRAPHY BEYOND BORDERS

Sherry Muyuan He '16 has spent her career thinking across borders. Now an associate professor of electronic design and multimedia at the City College of New York, He has channeled that curiosity into her new book, *Typography Beyond Borders: Design with Multiscriptual Typographic Elements* (BIS, 2025). Created to be a resource for designers and educators working with non-Latin scripts, it challenges the field's reliance on Western, Latin-script design traditions. But the book is as much about joy as it is about breaking barriers—one of her goals is to ensure that “everyone learns as comfortably as they feel when they rest on a pizza bed.”

Where did the impulse to write this book come from?

At my current job, I have students from many different countries. Their native languages are written in Arabic, Cyrillic, Gujarati, Hebrew, Korean, and many more. Is there a way to make them more excited about design? Frequently, when educators and researchers approach diversity, equity, and inclusion, it is about responsibilities and overcoming challenges. But there is also joy and innovation. It is really fun to share how many different ways Arabic letters connect with people who do not read Arabic regularly.

How do you hope your book will create a more inclusive world?

The most important thing is not to focus on checking boxes or having the “visuals” of diversity. It is about welcoming, learning, and absorbing as many different perspectives as possible. Yo-Yo Ma used the word “world wisdom bank” in one of his interviews, which I like very much.

How did your time at Macalester shape the way you think about type, script, and design?

Most of the time, I am not thinking directly about type and script; I am seeking connections between things that don't seem to share any commonalities. I started my Macalester education with one year of elementary Arabic, and I took one year of intermediate Japanese simultaneously. There was no Arabic House back then, so I spent more time in the Japan House. After that, I took the course that is currently named Sounds of the



World's Languages in the Linguistics Department. All of these experiences, both in and outside the classroom, contribute to my understanding. There is something that people learn with their brains, and there is something that people learn with their hearts.

What was the most challenging part of putting this book together?

Every part is challenging! Looking for publishers was stressful. The concept was so novel that I got rejected as soon as I delivered the summary. With that said, I got an offer after many years. My Dutch publisher granted me full freedom to write, design, and illustrate the book.



Kate Bowler '02. *Joyful, Anyway* (The Dial Press, 2026)



Eric Dregni '90. *Raising Bilingual Bambini: The Art of Immersing Our Family in La Dolce Vita* (University of Minnesota Press, 2026)



Stan Keillor '70. *Momentous: The Quest for an Article V Convention* (Mascot Books, 2026)



Audrey A. Mitchell '60. *Secrets of TGM: Paths to Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness* (self-published, 2024)



Jacquelyn Mobley Cronin '61 had a chance meeting with Twin Cities poet and award-winning author Bao Phi '97 in May 2025 at a Minnesota Museum of Art gala in St. Paul. They initially met when Jacquelyn was school librarian and Bao was a student at South High School in Minneapolis.



Natalie Powell Hellmer '98 and Elizabeth Ruvolo '18 are "proud members" of the Madison Curling Club. They are competing together on a league team and "enjoying every sweep along the way."



A group of Mac alums gathered at Lynette in Minneapolis in November 2025 to celebrate "decades of friendship." Pictured, clockwise from front left: Don Mackenzie '66, Margaret Dean '66, Betsy Collins Demiray '66, Jeanne Schleh (Bob Stanich's spouse), Judy Brown Marquardt '66, Don Gemberling '64, Janet Kinney '66, Susan Carlson Frank '66, Judy Petterson Mackenzie '66, and Bob Stanich '65.



Last November, a group of Macalester soccer players reunited to compete in a coed soccer tournament in Las Vegas. Pictured: Reid Usedom '12, Evan Elderbrock '12, Matt Weyer '12, Owen Smith '12, Andrew Lund '12, Machal Gradoz '12, Lucy Miner '12, Allison Kappeyne van de Coppelio '12, Jenna Machado '12, Kat Lenhart Usedom '13, Matea Wasend '12, and Claire Henkel '13.



Craig Laughlin '72 and six Macalester friends (accompanied by spouses and friends) went on a barge and bike tour through the Netherlands this past April. Left row (from top): Craig, John Callahan '71, and Gabrielle Lawrence '73. Right row (from top): John Austin '72, Jinny Johnson Craddock '72, Kathy Steiner '72, and Kim Miller '72. "Aside from a few bruised knees," Craig writes, "everyone made it to the end of the approximately 200-mile trip during a beautiful tulip season."

CLASS NOTES



Trang Tran '14 of Copenhagen, Denmark, welcomed a visit from Macalester roommate Amy Tran '14, who traveled from Minnesota this past April. "It's been eight years since we've last seen each other, so it was a great joy to meet again," Trang writes.



Sudha Setty '05, Kate Massell '21, and Sam Hopkinson '20 graduated from the University of Minnesota's master's program in nursing on Dec. 19, 2025. Sudha reports that the three of them found one another on the first day of orientation and "bonded over their shared Mac background."



Several alums joined Andrew Kaufteil '01 on a recent trip to La Paz, Mexico, to celebrate his birthday. Pictured: Brianne Coughlin Simms '01, Andrew, Katie Barrett Wiik '00, Jason Heil '02, Marie Zemler Wu '99, and Anna Payden '02. Not pictured: Kate Wolf '01.



Mac cross-country runners Derek Loudermilk '05 and Liz Connors '00 got together for a metaphysical quest retreat in Sedona, Ariz.



Mark Vander Ploeg '74 poses decked out in Mac gear after completing the Los Angeles Marathon.

A large photograph of the Macalester mascot, a red and blue furry creature with white horns, wearing a white baseball uniform with the number '00' on the front. The mascot is posing with its arms raised. In the background, a group of people is walking on a grassy area.

SAVE THE DATE FOR
MAC FEST
OCTOBER 9-10, 2026
macalester.edu/mac-fest

NEW ALUMNI BOARD MEMBERS

Each year, new members join the Macalester Alumni Board to build and strengthen our alumni community. In the coming months, these Scots will work to strengthen ties between graduates and the college, connect with current students, and serve as ambassadors for Mac's mission. Meet this year's newest board members.

Chuck Bean '86

How has the Macalester community shaped your life after graduation?

I think grad school carried my career for the first ten years; then Macalester really kicked in for me after that: Mac's critical-thinking, anthropology-lensing, existentialism-practicing, globalist-thinking vibe.



Ruth Girón '80

What advice would you share with current students?

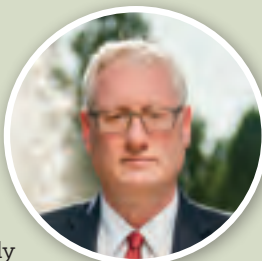
You won't believe how much time you have until you begin your career. Take advantage of everything, be curious, ask questions, and enjoy every moment of your college experience.



Ben Dille '82

What is one experience at Macalester that still stays with you?

Meeting international students at Mac and then participating in two study away programs in succession in my junior year (in UK and France) literally opened my mind to a world of possibilities, eventually drawing me to a diplomatic career (lived in fifteen countries, visited eighty-three).



Adan Martinez '16

What advice would you share with current students?

Whenever you are in doubt as to whether you belong somewhere, want to run for something, or need to take up space, remember what my first-year course professor, Adrienne Christiansen, told our class: "Why not you?" Macalester students and alumni are among the most brilliant and kind people on this Earth. And it's that combination, brilliant and kind, that is needed now more than ever, so do it—why not you?



Kwame Fynn '13

What advice would you share with current students?

Enjoy the college journey, explore the Twin Cities, and invest in relationships with faculty, staff, and peers!



Daniel Sword '05

What is your favorite Mac memory?

Easy! It was the first time I met my amazing spouse, Anna Plumb '05. It was love at first sight (for me at least), and a moment that has shaped the last 20+ years of my life for the better.



Peter Gartrell '05

Who was your favorite professor and why?

My advisor, Professor David Lanegran. I was not what you would call a great student, but he saw (and to this day, continues to see) something in me. That belief and support, in addition to his urban geography class, which made me feel like the world was a classroom, will always resonate with me.



► Visit macalester.edu/alumni/alumniboard to learn more.

WEDDINGS



Nikhita Jain '19 and Matt Yang '19 were married Dec. 27, 2025, in Jaipur, India, in the presence of many Macalester alumni. From left: Suveer Daswani '18, Saakshi Daswani '18, Aidan Tirpack '18, Brian Utz '16, Jongwon Han '22, Jackson Tak '21, Joshua Doyle '18, Tejas Singh '18, Clayton Smith '19, Peter Willenborg '19, the newlyweds, Brian Yu '19, Addy Perkins '19, Eric Frost '19, Ayushi Modi '21, Chase Yoo '21, Isaac Liu '19, Victoria MacKinnon '17, Taneeya Rele '19, Michael Lockhart '20, Lily Stein '18, Anandi Gupta '18, Lee Guekguezian '17, Camilla Bendetti '20, and Della Brown '19.



Joshua Conlan '17 and Vanessa Nommensen were married in July 2025 in "a lush Seattle garden." Several Macalester alumni and their partners joined them to celebrate. From left: Abby Eichhorn, Sammy Ginsburg Carpenter, Ethan Carpenter '17, Glen Hartford '17, the newlyweds, Garrett Eichhorn '17, Michaela McGonigle '17, and Clara Baumann '18.



Joel Peck '01 and Jennifer Simowitz were married Nov. 2, 2025, in Cincinnati.

CELEBRATE WITH MAC!

Email alumnioffice@macalester.edu to request a Mac banner for an upcoming wedding or other gathering.

Chris Dayton '98



Growing up on a farm in North Dakota, Chris Dayton '98 loved digging in the soil. Just below the surface, he'd often find Native American artifacts, a reminder of the people who had stewarded the same land for generations prior to his own family's arrival. Fascinated by the fabric of that landscape—and those who wove it together—Dayton has pursued a professional mission to dig, discover, and honor those who came before.

At Macalester he pursued majors in history and classics. But he also made time to keep digging, traveling to Ukraine with Dr. Andy Overman, the Harry M. Drake Distinguished Professor in the Humanities and Fine Arts, for an archeological excavation at the ancient Greek colony of Chersonesus. Inspired and moved by ancient fingerprints preserved on pottery from that site, Dayton went on to earn a PhD in archaeology and spent the next two decades studying the signs of human civilization across the Americas and Europe. Much of his work has been in cultural resources management (CRM) consulting, studying sites under local, state, and federal heritage laws before construction projects move forward. Along the way, he's become an adept entrepreneur. At his previous firm, he grew the archaeological division from a solo operation to dozens of staff before selling it in 2021.

Today, Dayton is the senior archaeologist at Poznecki-Camarillo, a small engineering firm in central Texas, where he manages archaeological work for public infrastructure projects—think city parks, county roads, and state highways. Although CRM projects involve less Indiana Jones-level drama than his earlier international adventures, which included getting trapped in a church crypt and riding out an earthquake on top of an unstable mountain, his current role may represent his most satisfying chapter yet.

Here, he shares what two decades of digging have taught him about mentorship, building teams, and embracing projects large and small.

Teach everyone to do your job.

When I moved into management many years ago, a mentor said to teach everyone to do your job. And so I set out to train anyone who was interested, at whatever level

of experience or education, to do the kinds of things that are crucial to any consulting business but are unfamiliar to most archaeologists: looking for opportunities, developing technical scopes, estimating costs, and preparing proposals. Sometimes it didn't work out, and that's OK! More often than not, it did work, and in unexpected ways. These responsibilities are more typically reserved for the most senior experts with decades of experience. Spreading them to all staff didn't weaken the team; it created a machine that built itself.

Your liberal arts degree is a superpower.

After Mac, I spent a couple of years at a financial firm before going to grad school. I was on a corporate strategy team alongside an architecture major, a Russian literature major, an art history major, and a fellow classics/history major. I asked the executive running the team why there weren't more people with finance or accounting backgrounds. He told me, "We can teach most people to do these spreadsheets, but we can't teach them to write a memo that succinctly lays out solutions to a billion-dollar problem." Employers really do value critical thinking, flexibility, and the ability to write clearly. Those are your liberal arts superpowers.

Listen. Even if you think you have the answers.

It's a common default in business, especially for a big, loud white dude like me: walk into a room and dominate the conversation to get everyone on board with your plan. But I'm learning to temper that using insights from colleagues and family and friends. This is all aspirational; I still have a lot of work to do to understand the facets of my own privilege and the ways I have inadvertently brought them to bear. I aim to approach other people's points of view with genuine curiosity. Even if someone's suggestion isn't ultimately adopted, being heard knits a team together. That doesn't destabilize anyone's authority. It creates it.

Find the joy in projects large and small. But especially the small.

I recently completed a historic site report for an infrastructure improvement the size of a modest backyard. I've supervised perhaps a thousand projects over the last twenty years—some spanning thousands of acres, some costing millions of dollars. But this little one might be the best report I've ever written. There's satisfaction in producing clean, solid, careful work. The joy doesn't have to come from the scale of the project or news headlines about impressive discoveries. It can come from the quality of the work itself.

1946

Lois Critchfield Awsumb, 100, of Bemidji, Minn., and Kettering, Ohio, died July 19, 2025. She worked as a medical technologist and as activity director at Kettering Convalescent Center. Awsumb also served as a member of Macalester's Alumni Board. Survivors include two daughters and three sons, as well as grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

1948

Roger V. Moore, 98, died March 23, 2026. He served in the US Naval Hospital Corps during and after World War II. Moore later worked for twenty-three years for Brown Printing Co. as an office manager and account manager and sold music software and performance equipment with Wenger Corporation. Survivors include his wife, Donna, six children, fourteen grandchildren, and ten great-grandchildren.

F. Thomas Probst, 98, died Oct. 25, 2024. He wrote for *Stars and Stripes* during the Korean War and worked for many years in public relations with Carl Byoir & Associates before launching his own firm. Survivors include his wife, Jean Anderson Probst '49, three daughters, and a son, as well as grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

1950

Mary Ann McDowell Davis, 97, of Arden Hills, Minn., died Nov. 26, 2025. She worked as a paraprofessional at the elementary and high school levels. Survivors include three children, four grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

1951

Duane C. Roberts, 96, of Inver Grove Heights, Minn., died Feb. 25, 2026. He retired from 3M in 1990 after thirty years as a corporate pilot. Roberts was inducted into Macalester's Athletic Hall of Fame in 2000. Survivors include a son, four

grandchildren, and a great-granddaughter.

1953

Richard C. Buhler, 100, died Nov. 9, 2024. During his career in ministry, Buhler served churches in Nebraska, Minnesota, and California. Survivors include five children and ten grandchildren.

Chuck Dietz, 95, died Jan. 23, 2026. He worked for 3M for forty years in various roles, including general counsel and senior vice president of legal affairs, and also served on the company's board of directors. Dietz was a member of Macalester's Board of Trustees and was involved in numerous community organizations, including the Minnesota Historical Society, the United Way of St. Paul, and the US Supreme Court Historical Society. Survivors include two children, six grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Virginia E. Lanegran, 95, died Jan. 26, 2026. After working on Hubert H. Humphrey's senatorial campaign in the 1950s, Lanegran joined his Senate staff. She also was chief aide to Minnesota state legislator Tom Osthoff and served with such organizations as the Metropolitan Airports Commission, the State Council on Aging, and the South St. Paul City Council. Lanegran chaired Macalester's Reunion Planning Committee and served on the college's Alumni Board. She received Macalester's Distinguished Citizen Award in 1978. Survivors include a brother, David Lanegran '63, and nieces Maura Kane Hackenmueller '78 and Laura Kane Gustafson '73.

Ann Mills Leitze, 94, of St. Paul died Feb. 7, 2026. She worked as a teacher and counselor and served on Macalester's Alumni Board. Survivors include four children, six grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Virginia Kohler McCall, 94, died Feb. 27, 2026, in Glen Carbon, Ill. She worked at the University of Minnesota's Counseling Bu-

reau and was active in community affairs in the Edwardsville, Ill., area, serving in leadership positions with the League of Women Voters and the Edwardsville Library Friends. Survivors include three children (including Todd McCall '82), four grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, a great-great-grandchild, and a brother.

1954

Roma Kee Jacoby, 93, died in February of 2026. She worked for Becker County's Welfare Department and Treasurer's Office and, with her husband, owned and operated K&M Books. Survivors include a daughter, four grandsons, seven great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren.

Marilyn Watkins Stevens of Los Alamos, N.M., died Nov. 30, 2025. She taught primary school in Alabama and worked as a secretary at Los Alamos National Laboratory. Survivors include four children and six grandchildren.

1955

David J. Bumgardner, 95, of Peterborough, N.H., died Nov. 24, 2025. He served as a medic in the US Air Force during the Korean War. Bumgardner developed overseas markets and established foreign subsidiaries for Fortune 500 companies and concluded his career as world product business manager with the Norton Co. Survivors include his wife, Gail, two children, and four grandchildren.

Donna Meline Haines, 91, of Willmar, Minn., died Feb. 21, 2026. She taught baton twirling for more than twenty years, worked as a substitute teacher, and taught early childhood and family education. Haines was also a partner and owner of Creative Originals in Center Point Mall in Willmar. Survivors include a son and four grandchildren.

John D. Hyslop, 91, died Dec. 25, 2025. He served in the US Army and worked on an agricultural development project with the US Embassy in Tunisia. Hyslop also worked for USAID

in Jordan and for the US Department of Agriculture's Office of International Cooperation and Development. He served as vice chair of Macalester's Reunion Planning Committee. Survivors include his wife, Grace, two daughters (including Alison Hyslop '87), son John Hyslop '92, and seven grandchildren (including Nora de Rege '24).

1956

Robert B. Boardman, 90, died Jan. 29, 2026, in Littleton, Colo. He served in the US Navy Reserves. After earning a PhD in pharmacy, Boardman worked for local pharmacies in Colorado before joining ER Squibb (now Bristol Myers Squibb), where he worked for twenty-three years. Survivors include three children and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. His wife, Shirley Zellmer Boardman '57, predeceased him on June 16, 2025, at the age of 89.

Donna Beernink Gunderson-Rogers, 91, of Minneapolis died Nov. 22, 2025. She was a speech pathologist in pediatric neurology at the University of Minnesota Hospital. Gunderson-Rogers also performed Renaissance music and toured internationally with Musica Antiqua. Survivors include three sons and four grandchildren.

Edwin W. Linner, 91, died Dec. 31, 2025, in Oak Park Heights, Minn. He worked for 3M for twenty-nine years and served as president of local chapters of the Jaycees and the American Cancer Association. Survivors include his wife, Lila, three children, eight grandchildren, many great-grandchildren, a sister, and a brother.

1957

Patricia Trump Collier, 89, died Dec. 24, 2025, in Vashon, Wash. She began her career in education in North Dakota. In 1962, Collier joined the Seattle School District, where she was an elementary school teacher, librarian, and principal. Survivors include a son and a brother.

Lois Keeney Rhoades, 90, of St. Paul died Jan. 8, 2026. Survivors include two children and eight grandchildren.

1958

Kent A. Burgener, 92, of Lake Bluff, Ill., died Oct. 14, 2025. He was drafted into the US Army at the end of the Korean War and worked for Pillsbury and American Hospital Supply Co. Survivors include his wife, Mary Loughman Burgener '56, four children, nine grandchildren, and a great-granddaughter.

Joyce Ziwick Pohl, 89, of Sauk Rapids, Minn., died Jan. 4, 2026. She taught at St. Luke School and Church in Chicago and volunteered as a Girl Scout leader. Survivors include two children, two grandchildren, a great-grandchild, and two siblings.

1959

Lenette Montzka Dillinger, 88, of Carol Stream, Ill., died April 9, 2026. She worked in ministry alongside her husband for twenty-seven years at the Baptist Mission Hospital in Côte d'Ivoire. After returning to the United States, Dillinger served in women's and children's ministries. Survivors include four daughters, five grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Mary Clover Obrzut, 87, of St. Augustine, Fla., died Feb. 4, 2026. After working as a social worker and serving as executive director of the first shelter for survivors of domestic abuse in northern Illinois, Obrzut earned a law degree in 1992 and was licensed to practice law in Illinois and Florida. Obrzut retired in 2001 as assistant dean of the Northern Illinois College of Law. Survivors include three children, six grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

1960

Merrilyn Thompson Dawson, 88, died March 9, 2026. She taught first grade in White Bear Lake, Minn., and taught pre-school at Faith United Methodist Church in St. Anthony, Minn. Survivors include two children and three grandchildren.

Sheridan F. Jaeche, 90, of Brainerd, Minn., died Feb. 8, 2026. He served in the US Army during the Korean War. Jaeche later taught English, social studies, and history at schools in Frost, Minn., Hayfield, Minn., and Minneapolis. He also coached basketball and led football teams to conference championships numerous times. Survivors include two children, five grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and three sisters (including Patricia Jaeche Keck '60).

1961

Hanna Jo Tecklenberg Kyhl, 88, of Ottumwa, Iowa, died Feb. 8, 2026. She ran the early childhood laboratory at Macalester and managed adult and continuing education programs at Indian Hills Community College. Survivors include three children, six grandchildren, and a great-grandson.

Liz Cofield Solem, 86, of White Bear Lake, Minn., died Dec. 3, 2025. She taught sixth grade and worked in the benefits department at 3M. Survivors include two sons and five grandchildren.

1962

Donald K. Ausemus, 95, of St. Anthony, Minn., died Feb. 4, 2026. He served in the US Air Force and, during his forty years with the St. Paul Public Schools, worked as a teacher and secondary school principal. Survivors include his wife, Nancy Nielsen '71, a daughter, nine grandchildren, twenty-one great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren.

Stanley P. Caine, 85, died Dec. 29, 2025. He taught at Lindenwood Colleges and DePaul University and served as vice president of academic affairs at Hanover College before serving sixteen years as president of Adrian College. Survivors include his wife, Karen Mickelson Caine '63, two daughters, a son, and eight grandchildren.

Barbara Becker Jaeche, 85, died Dec. 23, 2025, in Brainerd, Minn. She worked as a receptionist in a veterinary clinic

// COMMUNITY LOSSES



Former Macalester maintenance engineer **Mark A. Buck**, of Eagan, Minn., died Feb. 19, 2026, at the age of 72. He also served in the US Marine Corps, worked at American Linen and Hamline University, and owned Char Mar Corner Bar in Goodhue, Minn. Survivors include his wife, Char, three children, five grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and two siblings.



Former Macalester assistant professor of sociology **Judith B. Erickson** of Columbus, Ohio, died Feb. 27, 2026, at the age of 91. She joined Macalester's faculty in 1970. Erickson also served as director of research for the Indiana Youth Institute and compiled and updated the *Directory of American Youth Organizations*.



Psychology Professor Emerita **Roxane H. Gudeman** died Jan. 15, 2026, in Edina, Minn., at the age of 85. She taught at St. Olaf College and the University of Minnesota before joining Macalester's faculty. Gudeman developed courses on the relationship of psychology with gender, pluralism, and culture. Survivors include her husband, Steve, three daughters, and seven grandchildren.

and operated a home daycare. Survivors included her husband, Sheridan Jaeche '60 (who passed away in February 2026), two children, five grandchildren, several great-grandchildren, and a sister.

Lydia Mihelic Pulsipher died Sept. 25, 2025. She was professor emerita of human geography at the University of Tennessee Knoxville. Her research focused on the cultural and political ecology of the Eastern Caribbean after European contact, and she co-authored the college textbook *World Regional Geography: Global Patterns, Local Lives*. Survivors include brother John Mihelic '66.

1964

Peter D. Christensen, 83, died Dec. 14, 2025, in Ellicott City, Md. After teaching mathematics in Kenyon, Minn., Christensen began a career in computer programming and analysis, working for American Delivery Systems, National Bank of Detroit, and Compuware Corp. He retired after working as records manager for the Anne Arundel County Police Department. Sur-

vivors include his wife, Judith, six children, fifteen grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, and two brothers.

Lance R. Woodruff, 82, died Jan. 5, 2026. During the Vietnam War, Woodruff was information officer for the Vietnam Christian Service and the Vietnam correspondent for the US National Council of Churches. He later worked as an editor with the *Bangkok World* and MCOT Thai News Agency, an information officer with the Asian Institute of Technology, and a photographer with the *Tenderloin Times* in San Francisco. Photographs by the self-described "photo-iconographer" have been preserved by the San Francisco Library and the Thailand Foreign Photographers Memorial in Bangkok. Survivors include his wife, Corinna Samuel, a daughter, two sons, a sister, and a half-brother.

1965

E. Russell "Rusty" Lynn, 83, of Arlington, Va., died Feb. 22, 2026. After a career in parish ministry with the Presbyterian Church in New Jersey and the

Washington, DC, area, Lynn became a licensed clinical social worker and served as director of AIDS services with the Whitman-Walker Clinic in the 1980s. Lynn retired in 2008 from the Center for Pastoral Counseling of Virginia. He received Macalester's Distinguished Citizen award. Survivors include Lynn's husband, Edward Blanton, and a brother.

Sharon Gerdes Pease, 82, died Jan. 22, 2026, in Lakewood, Colo. She worked as a social worker with Medicaid and other government programs. Survivors include two daughters and three grandchildren.

Robert J. Wallace, 83, of Fairmont, Minn., died April 16, 2026. He owned and operated his family's business, Bob Wallace Mercantile (later Wallace's Department Store), and served as president of the Fairmont Area Chamber of Commerce. Survivors include his spouse, Catherine Shell, a daughter, three sons, and a grandson.

1967

Terry Trowbridge Bergman, 81, of Arden Hills, Minn., died Feb. 3, 2026. She spent much of her career working with children with learning differences and developmental disabilities. Bergman served as head of school at The Quaker School at Horsham, Pa. Survivors include two sons, a granddaughter, and two siblings (including Janet Trowbridge Williams '64).

James M. Burkhart, 80, of Clovis, Calif., died Oct. 6, 2025. He was chief financial officer of S&J Ranch in Madera, Calif., where he worked for more than forty years. Survivors include his wife, Nancy, a daughter, and a grandson.

Jodie A. Erikson, 80, died March 29, 2026. After working as a teacher and school principal in Madison, Wis., and the Twin Cities, Erikson embarked on a second career as a stockbroker and certified financial planner with what is now Mor-

gan Stanley. After her retirement, she owned and operated an A&W restaurant in Aurora, Minn., with her husband.

Leslie Powell Gilreath, 79, died June 23, 2025. She was a stay-at-home mother and later director of marketing with Lakeland Regional Health System and vice president and creative director of Marketing Partners Inc. After her retirement in 2006, Gilreath studied to be a commissioned ruling elder in the Presbytery of Lake Michigan. Survivors include three children, seven grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and a brother.

Kathleen A. Schmaltz, 80, of Concord, Calif., died Nov. 25, 2025.

1968

Michael Riskin, 79, of Baltimore died March 1, 2026. He was a teacher and psychotherapist at the Glaydin School, a substance use disorder coordinator with and director of Loudoun County Mental Health, and a therapist in private practice in Virginia. He incorporated music into his practice and was inducted into the Minnesota Music Hall of Fame. Survivors include his wife, Nancy, a daughter, and nine grandchildren.

Bruce D. Williamson, 78, of Spring Park, Minn., died Oct. 11, 2025. He served in the US Army Reserves and worked as a credit consultant before embarking on a career in politics. Williamson was a member of the Minnesota Legislature from 1974 to 1978 and later served as a city council member and mayor of Spring Park. Survivors include two sisters and two brothers.

1969

Mary McCuen Calgren, 79, of Edina, Minn., died Feb. 11, 2026. She was a homemaker and taught preschool part time. Survivors include her husband, Robert Calgren '68, a daughter, a son, four grandchildren, and two sisters.

Charles G. Pavlish, 78, died March 6, 2026, in St. Paul. He served in the US Army from 1970 to 1972. Pavlish taught British literature and college writing for thirty-four years at Shakopee High School, where he also coached football and basketball. Survivors include his wife, Carol, two children (including Tim Pavlish '00), a granddaughter, a sister, and a brother.

1970

Jean F. Henjum, 77, of St. Paul died Dec. 23, 2025. During her career in health services, Henjum worked for Macalester College and the University of Minnesota's family practice residency programs and clinics. After retiring in 2000, she served as an officer at Flannery Construction. Survivors include her husband, Gerry Flannery, two children, two grandchildren, and three siblings.

Norman W. Kilburn died March 13, 2026. He joined the US Air Force in 1970 and was among the first to participate in the Air Force's physician assistant training program. Kilburn also worked at the Centers for Disease Control and the Veterans Benefits Administration in Atlanta. Survivors include his wife, Bettina, and a sister.

1971

Preston D. Clark, 83, of Minnetonka, Minn., died Jan. 13, 2026. He served in the US Army in Vietnam, taught junior high school, and worked for the Minneapolis Police Department, Bachmann's European Flower Market, the *Minnesota Star Tribune*, and Lustrasilk Corp. Clark also launched a number of his own businesses. Survivors include his wife, Yolanda Holness Clark '71, two sons, five grandchildren, two sisters, and a brother.

Jan A. Leite, 76, died Feb. 27, 2026. She worked at 3M for more than thirty-four years.

1972

Dean W. Christensen, 75, died Dec. 31, 2025. After retiring from a thirty-year career as an

agricultural research scientist, Christensen owned and helmed the Brick Oven Bakery in Northfield, Minn. Christensen had a sister, and he and his spouse, Joyce Francis '70, had two children and two grandchildren.

James R. Peters, 78, of Belfast, Maine, died Nov. 13, 2025. After working in the mapping department at Burlington Northern Railroad, Peters worked for the State of New York for nearly thirty-four years, first in the mapping department at the Department of Transportation and then as a computer programmer with the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance. He also played bagpipes and served as drum sergeant with the Schenectady Pipe Band. Survivors include his wife, Debra, three children, six grandchildren, and three brothers.

Susan J. Shaw, 75, of Lexington, Ky., died Dec. 17, 2025. She provided administrative support to faculty, staff, and students at the University of Kentucky for twenty-two years. Survivors include two sisters and two brothers.

Peter E. Shuttleworth, 74, of Naples, Fla., died April 18, 2025.

1973

Lisa Hambalek, 74, died Nov. 10, 2025. She held a leadership role in the US Postal Service in Washington, DC, and Dallas. Survivors include a sister and a brother.

1975

Michael L. Paoletta, 73, died recently. He began his career in banking at Chicago Title and Trust and worked for numerous banks in the Chicagoland area. Paoletta retired from Central Illinois Bank in 2015. Survivors include two siblings.

1976

Dale Handeen, 71, of Montevideo, Minn., died Oct. 1, 2024. She was a Montessori preschool teacher, a children's advocate, an art teacher, and a humanist minister. Survivors include two brothers, Richard

'73 and Paul '72, and nephew Dan Handeen '96.

William J. Martinez, 68, of Cottage Grove, Minn., died July 15, 2024. Survivors include his father and four siblings.

1977

Spencer R. Blaw died Feb. 13, 2026. According to his sister Laura Anne Blau '76, "Spencer worked tirelessly for social justice." He helped Somali friends establish Ubah Academy, did fundraising and counseling with tenants' unions, and oversaw Red Cross blood drives. In addition to Laura, survivors include his partner, Christie Baird '75, and two other siblings.

Tom Evered, 69, died Aug. 3, 2024. He was general manager and senior vice president of Blue Note Records during the early 2000s. Jazz pianist Jeremy Kahn '79, on his Substack site kahnman.com, recalls Evered's "generous habit of sharing music," which started when they were friends at Macalester and continued in later years, when Evered would send

him "care packages" of new Blue Note releases.

Maureen E. Short, 73, of Fergus Falls, Minn., died Feb. 13, 2026. She worked in real estate development, established a pet grooming business, and worked in event production, hospitality, and bar management. Short also offered her home as a sanctuary for injured and rescued animals and volunteered at a primate sanctuary.

1978

Gregory M. Schwartz, 69, died Jan. 24, 2026. He founded Mt. Tom Roses, a wholesale grower serving florists in the Holyoke, Mass., area, in 1981. After closing the business in 2001, he worked as a seventh-grade social studies teacher, taught small business management as an adjunct, and served as executive director of the non-profit Solutions CDC. Survivors include his wife, Nancy, daughter Leah Schwartz '09, a son, two grandsons, a sister, and a brother.

1986

Janet F. Montgomery, 62, of Somerville, Mass., died Dec. 26, 2025. She was a faculty assistant in Harvard University's Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology. Survivors include her husband, Nelson, her mother, and a sister.

1988

Timothy N. Driver, 59, of Wellesley, Mass., died Jan. 10, 2026. After working for CNN, Andersen Consulting, and AOL, Driver launched Retirement-Jobs.com in 2006 to address "the growing need for meaningful employment opportunities for people over 50." Survivors include his wife, Lisa, three children, his mother, and two brothers.

1989

Vera Eccarius-Kelly, 60, died Dec. 6, 2025. As professor of comparative politics at Siena University, she focused her research on ethnic nationalism and diaspora politics. Eccarius-Kelly also served as associate

dean of Siena's School of Liberal Arts. The national chapter of Every Campus a Refuge awarded her its Silver Certification for her work with refugees. Survivors include her husband, Bill Kelly '81, and two brothers.

1999

Alice Address, 47, died Aug. 7, 2025. She and her husband, Ryan, had two children.

2014

Nathan L. Ackerman, 33, of Wiliston, Vt., died Dec. 22, 2025. Survivors include his parents.

2015

Ryan Merker died March 12, 2026. He was chair of United World College Vietnam. Current student Gabby Bui '29 credits Merker for offering them the opportunity to study abroad through UWC and the inspiration to attend Macalester. "I can name at least thirty people whose lives have been changed forever because of Ryan," Bui writes.



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Field Notes from the Past

Student research expands the Ordway collection

The Katharine Ordway Natural History Study Area has been Macalester's "other campus" since 1967. Located along the bluffs of the Mississippi River seventeen miles southeast of campus, it has been an invaluable resource for student research and fieldwork in the areas of anthropology, environmental studies, biology, art and art history, geography, geology, and others.

This past fall semester, a new course was offered that focused on the past, present, and future uses of the Ordway site itself: *Indigenizing Ordway: Reclaiming (Hi)stories, Narratives, and Knowledge*, co-taught by professors Marianne Milligan (linguistics and environmental studies) and Katie Phillips (history). Students in the class visited both the Ordway and the Archives

and utilized archival materials relating to the original purchase and expansion of the site; the building of the research/classroom space there; reports from the naturalists living and working on-site; and previous student work. They also researched the history and use of the site prior to colonial occupation.

Materials created by the class include Ordway-themed zines, which have been donated to the Archives to include in the Ordway collection. A further outcome of the student research is a summer research project creating a full inventory of the materials held in the Ordway classroom, which will help determine what else can be brought to the Archives to add to the collection for the benefit of future researchers.

—Ely Sheinfeld, college archivist



Do you have a suggestion about what to cover next?
Please email us at archives@macalester.edu.

Dear reader,

As we arrived for our first day of college, we both hoped Macalester would be right for us. Prepare one of us for law school. Make the other a better writer. Help us tackle housing reform and infectious diseases. Our hopes were ours, but they quickly became experiences, then memories alongside the extraordinary Macalester community.

Like many Macalester students, our hopes changed as we grew. We had the freedom to leave our paths and the guidance to move forward. We have crossed the finish line at the MIAC championships, performed in musical ensembles, and studied in countries far from home. Along the way, we switched our future plans from law school to grad school and swapped our English major for music and biochemistry.

What made the difference for us was the support and guidance we had along the way. Generations of Macalester students lit the path for us, and that is why we decided to join the Brighter campaign as student representatives. The support you have shown us over the past four years has helped us take full advantage of our time at Macalester, and has given us renewed confidence as we take our first steps out in the world as alumni.

Thank you for supporting this mission—we can't wait to get to work alongside you as alums.

With deep appreciation,

**Emma Rohrs '26 &
Hamza Mahamud '26**
Student co-chairs,
The Brighter Campaign



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WILL MATSUDA '15

Coast and Cosmos

Starlight glimmers above and below the horizon of the Oregon Coast, near Otis, in this photo by Will Matsuda '15. The freelance photographer, often most at home in nature, works to provide new perspectives—in this case, resting his camera on the windshield of his 2009 RAV4, refracting the starlight into blurred lines. Find more of Matsuda's work—and his perspective on how photography can change the way you see the world—inside on page 24.