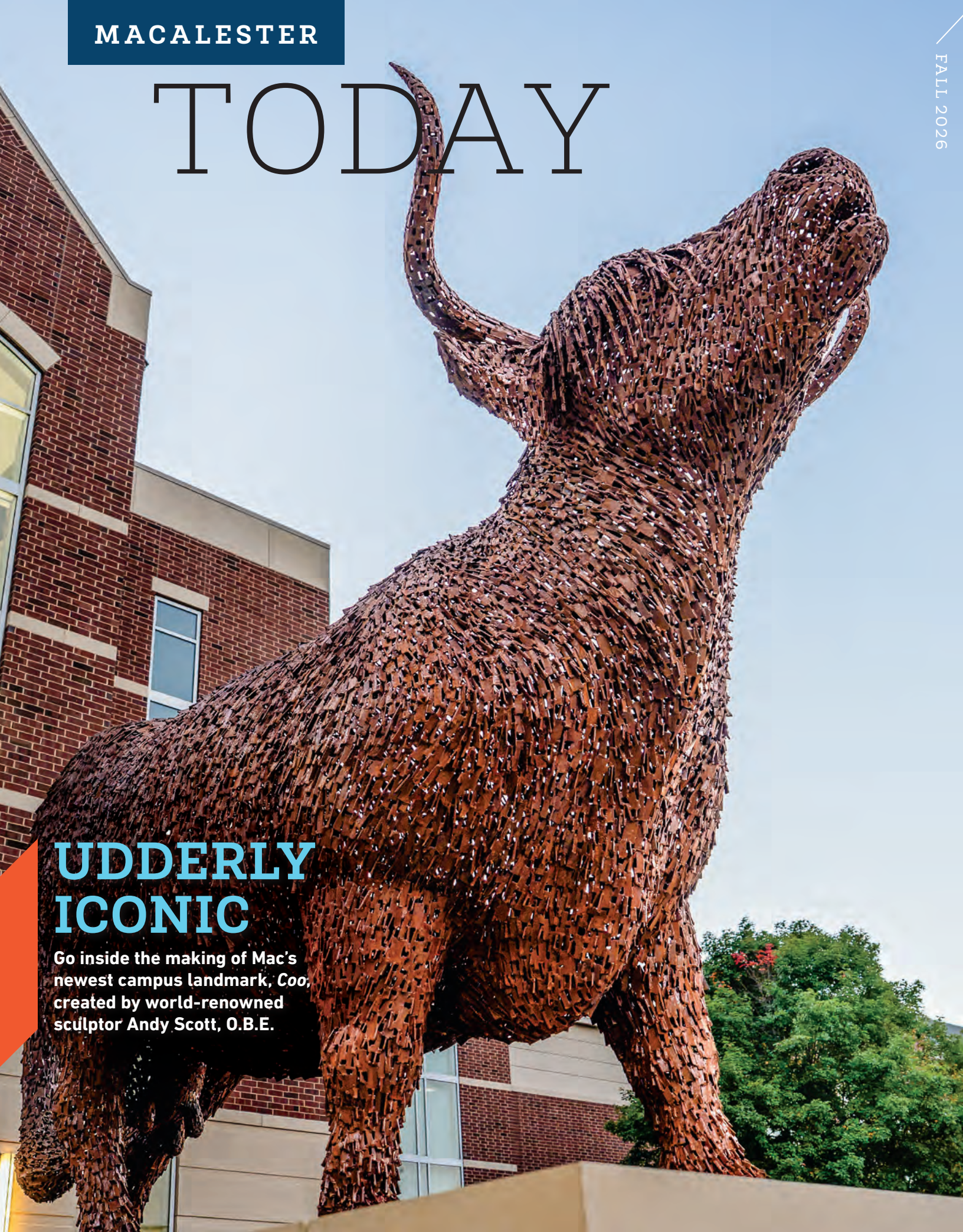
MACALESTER

TODAY

FALL 2026



UDDERLY ICONIC

Go inside the making of Mac's newest campus landmark, *Coo*, created by world-renowned sculptor Andy Scott, O.B.E.

MACALESTER

TODAY

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ON THE COVER: Morning light catches *Coo*, Mac's new twelve-foot tall Highland cow sculpture, as she gazes across Shaw Field.

PHOTO BY RYO HAMASAKI

FROM LEFT: CASEY FORD; CHRIS GASH; ANDRES HERNANDEZ; GORDON COONS; DOROTHY HONG



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A New Place to Call Home

One thing that sets residential colleges apart from large universities and commuter schools is the experience of living together with other students on campus. When Mac alumni share with me their most formative college memories, it's remarkable how many involve discoveries made not in classroom settings, but in the residence halls.

Many of these reminiscences involve social connections like gatherings in the lounges or late-night conversations in hallways. Some of you even credit serendipitous dorm assignments with finding your life partner! At Reunion, I see the joy alumni feel in getting to be back in the residence halls with friends and remembering how living together—with people from all over the world—created opportunities for exploration and deep reflection that don't spontaneously occur after college.

Not every experience is joyful. Some lessons learned from residential life involve how to navigate roommate conflicts, correct laundry mishaps, and keep warm in the snow during an early-morning fire alarm evacuation. But even these nuisances contribute to learning how to be independent.

At Macalester, living and learning together on campus is essential to the kind of educational experience we provide: intimate, nurturing, facilitated by relationships, and intentionally mindful of the developmental milestones that characterize the transition from late adolescence to early adulthood.

We're taking big strides to expand access to that living-learning experience by constructing a building that will include a state-of-the-art residence hall and a new "front door" to the campus in the form of an admissions welcome center. Once open, the residence hall will allow us to provide on-campus housing to students for three years instead of pushing most students off campus after their first two.

This is important because many of our students—particularly international students and lower-income students—encounter significant barriers to signing a lease, including paying first and last months' rent, providing tax records and bank accounts, and finding a cosigner. And, since so many juniors study away, when they do sign a lease for an off-campus apartment, students often have to find a subletter for one semester. Bringing more students into campus housing removes these pressures.

Having more space for students to live on campus also will improve their college experience, in turn supporting our retention and graduation rate goals. Residential life has been shown to help students feel more connected to their college, and students who live on campus often have higher GPAs and graduation rates than commuters. And the pod-style design with kitchens on each floor will help students to develop the "survival" skills to move off campus when they're ready.



LEARN MORE about the project and how to get involved: macalester.edu/residence-hall

The building also will include a café on the ground level, open to members of the Mac community and to others. And the courtyard will feature native plantings, offering a new outdoor space for gathering and reflection. When prospective students and parents come for a tour or when alumni return for a visit, this new space on Grand Avenue will be a natural place to land for refreshment and connection.

Another exciting facet of this project is that the new building will be best-in-class for ecological responsibility and climate stewardship with a geothermal heating and cooling plant and a rooftop solar array. Eventually, we hope to expand these systems to provide energy for other buildings on the north side of our campus.

Opening a new residence hall and welcome center on Grand Avenue—one of St. Paul's most beloved thoroughfares—is a powerful symbol of the college's commitment to our city. We'll be a better neighbor when we can release critical housing stock back to local residents so that working families can rent homes

Point of Arrival

Construction crews have topped off Macalester's new residence hall and welcome center and are working to enclose the building's exterior this fall before shifting their focus to interior work. The building will give Mac something it has never quite had: a true point of arrival. A plaza along Grand Avenue and new landscaping reaching across the street to Bigelow Hall will, together, create what the design team hopes will feel like one connected Macalester intersection. "We want this to be the front door," says Nathan Lief, associate vice president for facilities services. "We want this to be that Instagram moment—that piece where people realize, 'Hey, we're here.'"



in the area. Throughout the process, we've consulted the community about our plans, coordinating with the city to minimize traffic disruption and support local businesses during construction.

We're proud to be making powerful investments in our students, our campus, our neighborhood, our planet, and our institutional mission. We are so grateful for early support from donors who have made lead gifts to get the project off the ground.

We'll open the building in August 2027, and I can't wait to see how students live and learn together there—creating new memories they can reminisce about at Reunions to come.

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

At a foundation dedication ceremony in May, President Rivera, center, poses with John Whaley, left, and trustee emerita Annette Mortinson Whaley '75, right, who made a lead gift for the building's café.

DAVID J. TURNER; TOP: JOHN SCHOOLMEESTERS

1600 GRAND



Hermogenes David Rios Torres '27 (Santa Cruz, Bolivia)
Majors: economics and statistics
Estimating the Health Impacts of the Hennepin Energy Recovery Center Using Causal Inference
Communities near the Hennepin Energy Recovery Center (HERC) have long raised concerns about air pollution and health. This project models how mixtures of pollutants affect conditions like asthma and cancer. By combining causal inference techniques with air quality and health data, we aim to give a more realistic picture of HERC's health impact on its community.

Ahmed Abdelhai '27 (Chicago)
Major: computer science
SayKid Summer Internship
SayKid is a company that is trying to help kids learn without screens. During my internship I worked on recreating and creating voice games for kids to play that pushes them to use their imagination.

Nadezhda Dominguez Salinas '27 (Toledo, Ohio)
Majors: computer science and mathematics
A Topological Approach to Understanding the Development of Knowledge Networks
Understanding how science evolves is key to anticipating the discoveries of tomorrow. We examine scientific development through a knowledge-network framework, where nodes represent scientific concepts and edges link concepts that co-occur in the abstract of a scientific paper.

Jana Abu-Subha '28 (Amman, Jordan)
Majors: environmental studies and computer science
Where Am I in Olin-Rice? Deep Learning for Indoor Robot Localization
Localization is the ability of a robot to determine where it is relative to a known environment. Our robots determine this by processing inputs from their sensors: wheel movement, depth sensors, and RGB cameras.

DAVID J. TURNER (4)

Academic Summer Showcase

A staple of Mac Fest, the Academic Summer Showcase is a culmination of Mac students' summer research work. 130 students from across majors, the Twin Cities, and the world pursued new lines of research, participated in internships, and studied closely with faculty throughout the summer. Like researchers in the professional realm, the students collect, translate, and present their work at a poster session to family, friends, peers, alumni, faculty, staff, and visitors.



HUTHAIFA MOHAMMAD '28
(Damascus, Syria)
Major: computer science
Observation Frames: Interaction Techniques for Attentive Observation in Mixed Reality
What if your headset could help you see the world like an artist, scientist, or explorer? This project uses mixed reality to create an "Observation Frame," a virtual viewfinder that helps people carefully study objects from different viewpoints while creating a 3D drawing.







MAC'S ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL RETURNED WITH A...MOO!

On October 9–10, more than a thousand community members gathered over a beautiful and warm autumn weekend to enjoy some of the best Mac has to offer. From returning favorites with new twists—the Scots football team hosted St. John's for the first time in twenty-five years, and Hartnett the Highland coo returned to campus with a broken horn (he's fine!)—and special, one-of-a-kind events like the grand unveiling of Macalester's new *Coo* sculpture and the accompanying artist talk by Andy Scott, O.B.E. (see page 12), Mac Fest continued a beloved homecoming tradition of community, connection, and fun.



Students on a trip supported by the Twin Cities Activation Fund spotted a great blue heron, a great egret, and a bald eagle at Minnehaha Falls.

What's In a City?

The Twin Cities Activation Fund brings students closer to their new home.

Ever heard of hiking down trails of gorgeous green space, the beautiful Mississippi River rushing alongside you, with a group of new friends…for your math, statistics, and computer science (MSCS) class?

MSCS professors Lauren Milne and Paul Cantrell did just that with fourteen of their first-year students, just one of their series of trips through the vibrant Twin Cities. With stops at restaurants in Frogtown and along Lake Street and Minnehaha Falls, the trips aim to help students get to know the Twin Cities community—and build community with each other.

It's one of several projects funded by the college's recently launched Twin Cities Activation Fund, part of the *Imagine, Macalester* strategic plan's goals to bring the cities to the students and vice versa. Faculty members have already dreamed up and developed exciting new opportunities like a Shakespeare class at the Guthrie Theater, Walker Art Center visits, a jazz concert at the Ordway, and more.

Both Cantrell and Milne built their first-year courses around the theme of playful exploration, Milne says. "In my class, Making, Prototyping, and Physical Computing, students have been using microcontrollers to craft interactive lights and chording keyboards," she says. "In Paul's class, Creative Coding, students have been exploring interactive computer programs to make art and understand how they work. The trips tie into the theme of creative exploration, and we were excited to both introduce students to the Twin Cities and build community across our classes."

With support from gifts contributed during Give to Macalester Days, eight to ten proposals will be funded per semester during the 2026–27 academic year.

DANIEL SEO '25

S'mores NIGHT



The Class of 2030 is here!

Representing fifty-nine countries and thirty-six states and containing 13 percent first-generation students and 17 percent international students, the 560 members of the first-year class arrived in August ready for their Macalester stories to begin.

To open this next chapter, our newest Scots got to know one another through an exciting array of Orientation Week activities—from talent shows and language fairs to movies on the lawn and wellness workshops—including gathering 'round to enjoy s'mores on the Great Lawn after a big first day.



My first day on campus! Checked out the Resource Fair after move-in and met some new people at lunch (which was completely zero waste!). We took the campus tour together, too.



Met my other Scottish housemates (House MacLean!) and saw the entire first-year class at Orientation—a little intimidating but exciting! Then got to relax at the s'mores social—they even had a DJ! Overall, great first day :)

DAVID J. TURNER



Nora Cole '30 (@ThisPinkMoth), *What I Once Was*, acrylic on canvas



Sophia Varoz '27 (@zoravart)
4 Coyotes, watercolor on paper (selection)
Mac course: Traditional and Digital Illustration

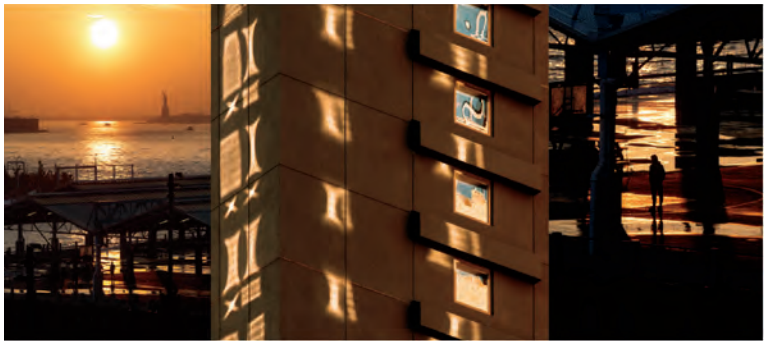
MOOD BOARD

MACALESTER'S FINE ARTISTS

It's no secret that Mac students are talented across the board…and the easel. And the pottery wheel. And the canvas. And any other medium that might catch their creative eye. Take a tour through this mini-exhibition of work from some up-and-coming Scots artists.



Sydney Greene '29 (@corncobble2.0)
Lynx Portrait, charcoal and ink
Mac course: Drawing 1



Ranoromiangaly Andriamihaja-Rabe '27 (@ilaympanaosary)
Tsy Irery Mandrakizay, photography triptych
Study away studio residency



Santiago Cotera '27
Phoneme Vessels, glazed stoneware
Mac course: Ceramics II



ATHLETICS

BUILDING COMMUNITY

Just a couple months ago, the stadium lights were off, the gym was quiet, and an entire incoming class of student-athletes were preparing to experience all the "firsts" of college. Fast-forward to today: With an entire fall season behind them, our Scots are gearing up for the snowy start of winter sports.

From then to now—and every step between—Athletics has been working hard to sharpen the Scots' competitive edge and prepare for even more success. And the fundamental building block for a strong team? Community.

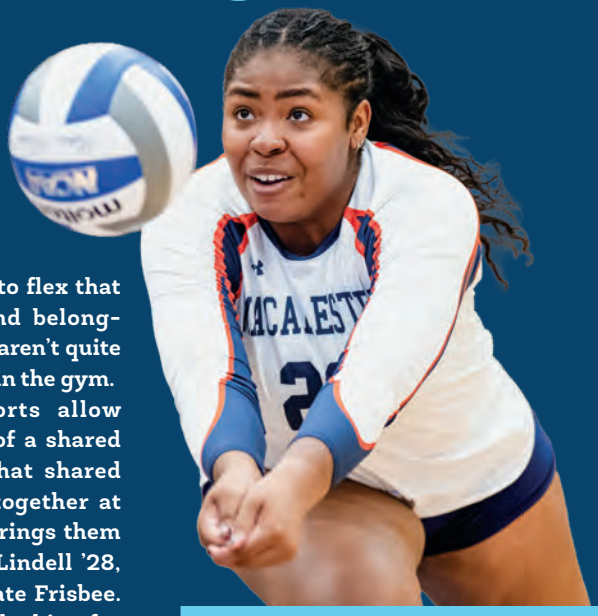
It all starts in the preseason. "Preseason is when we begin turning a group of talented individuals into a team," says golf coach Johnny Green. "It gives us time to build relationships, establish trust, and develop the habits and standards that will define us throughout the year."

This year, 135 first-year athletes (a quarter of the Class of 2030) joined their returning teammates in rigorous practice, intensive training, and team culture building—establishing the tight-knit bonds that create a community during their respective preseason windows. Community building continues throughout the year with social events hosted by student-athlete leadership groups and teams.

But there are still ways to flex that competitive spirit—and find belonging—for those students who aren't quite ready to spend *all* their time in the gym.

"Student-led club sports allow players to take ownership of a shared competitive project, and that shared responsibility of working together at practice and tournaments brings them closer together," says Erik Lindell '28, captain of Flat Earth Ultimate Frisbee. "Our first-year students are looking for a community on campus, and we can be that community."

So whether that club sport is the White Squirrels men's soccer, Maclax lacrosse, or Black Bears rugby, there are no strangers—just future teammates, fond memories, and a community that can last a lifetime.



At the beginning of the semester, the Athletics Department welcomed new and returning students into the fold at Spirit Night, featuring club sports tabling, pep rally festivities, and the volleyball team's home opener.

CHRISTOPHER MITCHELL



(Some) Work and All Play

(Makes the World a Better Place)

BY ASHLI CEAN LANDA

Rebecca Morelo Jackson '13 is director of marketing and sales at the Children's Museum of Atlanta, where she explores play as an idea and play as a practice. Play is one critical way children investigate, interact with, and learn about the world around them, says Morelo Jackson, adding that it also can lay a foundation for a better, brighter future for everyone.

What brought you to the Children's Museum?

I got to the Children's Museum less through children and more through an interest in play. I was new to Atlanta and looking for a "chill job" while I figured out a more serious "adult job." I started in 2019 as a play facilitator—leading field trips, engaging in play with kids and their families—and moved into my current position in 2025. Like a lot of Mac kids, I'm very at home in the world of ideas, and the Children's Museum is a very stimulating place in that world.

At Mac, I double-majored in media and cultural studies and Latin American studies, and I studied in Bolivia at a radio station that had developed out of a theater troupe—it was a playful, highly creative environment. It made me wonder where we find those kinds of spaces in the US.

What is it about play that interests you?

I like the autonomy to follow your own curiosity that's inherent in play. I visited the Minnesota Children's Museum in St. Paul during Mac's senior week, and it struck me as a really effective type of learning—hands-on and playful. Mac was a place where there was very rigorous work but where we were also encouraged to go into the world, play with our ideas, and figure out how they live in a real environment.

Why is play so important for children?

Play is crucial for kids' healthy development. It generates lots of skills, psychologically, emotionally, and physically. Kids need a safe environment where they can become comfortable with trying things that don't work out and be like, "That's actually fine—that's great." You have to learn a lot of ways things don't work to figure out how they do work.

Describe some of the exhibits/play spaces at the Children's Museum of Atlanta.

We have over 20,000 square feet of immersive environments designed to activate play's many modes: imaginative, object, physical, etc. Some are mini-models of real-life places like cafés or kitchens, where kids can role-play being adults; some lean into "loose parts"—the pieces don't have designated uses but are open for experimentation. We also lead more facilitated activities so folks can deep-dive into natural phenomena, scientific processes, and art practices.

How does being in Atlanta enhance the museum's mission?

One of the things I love about Atlanta, and one of the things that I loved about the Twin Cities, is that it's very diverse. There are people from a lot of different walks of life.

If you have a robust children's museum, all these families have the chance to meet each other in a place structured around having fun and new experiences. I can't think of a better social soup for inoculating kids against prejudice, against fear of people who are different from themselves.

On the flip side, it helps kids learn the feeling of "I belong here." It's not even a question—they sense that, "This place was built for me. I get to make choices. I get to listen to myself about what's interesting to me."

What do you—and the museum—actually mean when you say you want to change the world?

We want to explore ways to create an environment of social possibility. What can we do now to make a better future possible? In the world of adults, we talk policy and rules—but we need to look at the foundation those are built on. In that way, I think the work of the museum is like "pre-advocacy": It's about the fundamental values we want people to have—namely, deep respect and compassion for yourself and others. If you have that, you're not going to harm yourself or others.

How do you do that through play?

You look for opportunities to tell kids that they have autonomy—they get to make choices. In the case of a three-year-old at the museum, that might look like honoring their desire to make a mess on Messy Thursdays and supplying the materials. You help them work through conflict by modeling healthy ways of disagreeing or acknowledging that difference exists, and that's okay. I want them to know that the world is vast, and there are infinite ways to move around in it—and, actually, you're the best person to figure out how you should do that.

My hypothesis is that if you invite people into a safe place where they're treated with respect, allowed to make autonomous decisions, and enjoy themselves, they end up learning a lot of useful things for living life—for how we should do life for ourselves and towards one another.

CASEY GARDNER FORD

Shaggy and Steely, *Coo* Joins the Fold

Over six months in a Los Angeles studio, Scottish sculptor Andy Scott, O.B.E., welded thousands of steel segments into Macalester's newest landmark.



BY ABRAHAM SWEE
PHOTOS BY RYO HAMASAKI

Created from a single sketch and welded together by hand with nary a computer in sight, an outsized Highland coo—poised with head held high and mouth open mid-bellow—came to life in a Los Angeles sculpture studio.

In April, that sketch served as the basis for a skeleton outline made of steel bar. By summer, she had a shaggy coat, a fringe of bangs, and a sweeping set of horns (and yes, this coo is a lady, udders and all). By early October, after a cross-country ride on a specialized semi-trailer, *Coo*, as she's simply called, was lifted onto a large pedestal in front of the Macalester College Leonard Center. A new member of the fold had arrived.

For Andy Scott, a Scottish sculptor who holds the prestigious Officer of the Order of the British Empire designation, or O.B.E., it was a poignant arrival. The figurative sculptor had spent six months welding the spitting image of Mac's new mascot into life.

"You begin to sense that a character starts to appear in the beast, especially when you shape the eyes," Scott says. "She quickly became a big, powerful bovine watching over us every day in the studio. And it creates a sense of loss when it finally rolls out the door and there's a big empty space where she once stood."

Bittersweet, yes. But *Coo* clearly and joyously found a new home. Just an hour or so shy of her big reveal during a Mac Fest unveiling ceremony, the sculptor watched silently, unbeknownst to members of the Mac Theater and Dance Department, as they erected a custom screen to temporarily hide the massive cow. The screen would later drop to much fanfare, but, on such a windy fall day, and with such a large sculpture to hide (*Coo* tops out at twelve feet tall), it was a risky and unusual attempt at concealment.

"People don't usually try this," Scott chuckled while lounging on a nearby patio. "That's dedication."

Unveiling ceremonies for Scott's works typically skip the specific "unveiling" part. And it's no wonder. He's known for monumental pieces like *The Kelpies*, the 100-foot steel horse heads in Falkirk, Scotland, and, much closer to Mac, *The Calling*, the soaring 89-foot loon outside Allianz Field on Snelling Avenue in St. Paul. There's rarely a curtain big enough.

For the artist, who grew up on the south side of Glasgow, this new larger-than-life commission was uniquely personal. It's not often an American liberal arts college with Scottish roots asks you to sculpt one of Scotland's most beloved animals. The request took him back two decades to the day he brought his future wife and business partner, Hanneke, on a second date to a Highland cattle show.

"If you'd have told me then that some twenty-two years later I'd be standing at Macalester College in St. Paul unveiling a Highland coo," Scott says, "I would have never believed you."



Faculty take center stage as *Coo* is unveiled at Mac Fest on October 9. The sculpture honors Mac's professors, a fitting "symbol of their dedication, passion, and talent," said President Suzanne Rivera.

DAVID J. TURNER

From sketch to steel

The idea to welcome a giant coo sculpture to campus took root after Macalester named the calm and protective beast its new mascot in 2024. Dr. Bill McGuire, whose Minnesota United FC had commissioned *The Calling*, connected the college with Scott, and The Justin and Jansel Kelly Family Foundation graciously stepped forward to fund the sculpture as a gift honoring Macalester faculty. Scott sent over a single sketch. It was all Mac needed to green-light the project.

The artist and his studio got to work quickly—without the use of computer modeling. "We're proudly, defiantly old-school," Scott says. "Sometimes I think we're the last dinosaurs in town, but I'm determined to stay that way."

Once a hand-bent frame was complete, seemingly endless sheets of steel were fed through a

windswept hair over
jaunty horns and laughing eye
steel coo, welcome home

Hai-coo by Beth Severy-Hoven, faculty

sixty-ton guillotine, filling bucket after bucket with small steel segments. Then, starting at the hooves, the artist began to weld.

"I basically start at one corner and weld and weld and weld until I get to the other end—there's no CAD (computer-aided design) drawings—and hopefully by the time I get done, it looks like a cow," he says. "Most of the time, luckily for me, it does."

Early on, Scott made the choice to give *Coo* a bit of Scottish energy, opening her mouth to capture the bovine mid-bellow. "I love the idea that she's shouting out, 'I'm here.'"

He also chose corten steel, which rusts to a protective patina that echoes the Highland cow's rusty coat, and, as it turns out, matches the brick of the Leonard Center. "I wish I could say that I knew it would match the building," he says. "Pretend that I did."

It took roughly twenty-five weeks of welding to create *Coo*. In June, Scott took a single week off, putting down his five-pound hammer to cheer on Scotland at the World Cup in Boston (he wrote Mac leaders as he embarked, "I am off to pack my kilt.").

Coming home to Mac

Coo arrived—in two parts, the body and head—on campus at 5 a.m. on Wednesday, October 7. Crane operators carefully assisted Scott and his team as they first lifted *Coo*'s body into place. Once she found her footing, they then attached the head.

Creating a COO



THE SKETCH

It all started with a drawing. Scott says it was the only sketch he made for the project.



CHALK OUTLINE

Before any steel was cut, Scott used chalk to outline *Coo* at full size on his studio floor.



STEEL SKELETON

By early April, the hand-bent steel frame was complete. "The pics with me in them give you a nice sense of scale," Scott reported to campus.

The install, which took two hours, went like clockwork. "I always say I learn a lot from the crane crews and facilities teams, and this process was a breeze," says Scott.

Scott stayed the week, and Mac put him to work. He visited a sculpture class, had lunch with student artists and student-athletes, and gave an artist talk for the community as part of Mac Fest.

At the unveiling ceremony on October 9, the pipe band played, the crowd counted down, and the curtain dropped—without a hitch.

"Holy udders," Donnie Brooks, associate vice president for Student Affairs and director of Athletics, exclaimed at the podium, welcoming a sculpture he said matches the Macalester temperament perfectly. "We're welcoming. We're grounded. And we do not back down."

Studio art major Ash Granda-Bondurant '27 told the crowd that they were "100 percent Team Loch Ness" during the 2024 mascot vote but said this shaggier alternative was easy to celebrate. "*Coo* is a symbol of hardiness, community, and a little bit of stubborn charm."

Dean of the faculty Tom Halverson accepted the gift on behalf of the faculty. "It's a bit transparent and a bit vulnerable. And like some of us, it has started to patina."

At two and a half tons, *Coo* is a purposeful, sturdy gift to Mac, built to last for generations of Scots (and to withstand possible college shenanigans). "She's a strong lady," Scott says. "You could set a battleship on top of her. You don't need to worry."

But for all her hardy steel, Scott says *Coo*'s purpose is a much gentler one.

"Some artworks are full of deeper meaning. This is a simple, proud, bold statement. I hope she lifts your spirits. I hope she becomes a proud member of the Macalester campus." His final message to the crowd at Mac Fest: "I hope you grow to love and enjoy and look after our cow." M





COO COAT

Starting at the hooves and working his way across the body, Scott welded thousands of small steel segments onto the frame.



SHAGGY LOOK

With the bulk of *Coo*'s body finished by mid-summer, attention turned to her head and that famous shaggy fringe.



FINISHING TOUCHES

With *Coo* nearly complete, the sculpture underwent shot-blasting and a chemical wash that gives her corten steel its rusty patina.



MAC ARRIVAL

Coo traveled to St. Paul by semi-trailer, her head and body packed separately.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ANDY SCOTT STUDIO



MY FAVORITE FAILURE

Nobody likes to fail. But some failures become more valuable with time.

BY ERIN PETERSON
ILLUSTRATIONS BY CHRIS GASH

Read any book or website of inspirational quotations and you'll probably come away with the idea that failure is little more than a speed bump on the path to success.

President Theodore Roosevelt? "The only man who never makes a mistake is the man who never does anything." Thomas Edison? "There are probably one hundred disappointments to one success." Serena Williams? "A champion is defined not by their wins, but by how they can recover when they fall."

Easy for them to say.

The reality is that in the middle of it—before you're a household name, an iconic athlete, or a face on Mount Rushmore—it's not always clear that there may be a brighter future ahead.

So for this story, we asked successful alumni and community members to look back at a real failure that they experienced—and share, in their own words, what they've been able to draw from it.



Bijanca Clark '17 never wanted to go home again.

I'M FROM MOORHEAD, which is on the border of Minnesota and North Dakota, but I've always felt like a big-city girl in my heart. My plan was to leave at eighteen and never come back.

It worked for a while. I've been to Australia and Madrid; Austin, Texas; and Los Angeles.

I was in Miami for years, building my own media portfolio in the crypto space. There were all these conferences, so I just put myself out there. I took a microphone, got behind a camera, and did interviews with experts in the space.

But I wasn't making any money, so I went into sales. It was great money but soulless. At some point, I was like, "I can't stay at this job." I quit without another one lined up.

I wasn't able to get another job right away, and my savings were dwindling. I had no job, no prospects, and I was living in an Airbnb month to month.

I thought, "I don't have a community here. I don't feel connected. This is not living. I could die in my apartment, and no one would find me for days."

So I went home. I moved in with my brother and three-year-old nephew. It was embarrassing. It was humbling.

But I also thought, "I'll figure out something." And I did. I found a job in sales at a TV station and went from there.

Today, I'm a host and producer of *North Dakota Today*, a lifestyle show. My whole life, I wanted to be on television. It was a perfect storm that led me back to my hometown, to broadcast television—I never would have come back here otherwise.

It's true that the town has changed and grown and transformed. So have I. I'm a completely different person. I have a voice, and I can help highlight the things I love about this place.







Art professor Megan Vossler overlooked a camera setting and ruined a project years in the making.

YEARS AGO, DURING A DRAWING CLASS, students and I were talking about the idea of temporary disruptions to spaces. One of the ideas was about conjuring up a "baroque buffet" for the squirrels on campus.

It was an idea that stayed with me over the years, so one summer I decided to create a video of a squirrel buffet for a faculty exhibition. I got donated pastries from local bakeries; I set up goblets and silver platters from my drawing prop storage; and I checked out a pipe-and-drape setup from Special Events. I put my camera on a tripod and turned it on.

The squirrels came in a little bit slowly at first, but eventually they were tussling over the food and even taking it up into the trees. They were really, really into it. I was so excited and thought I might have enough footage for a four- or five-minute video.

But when I went to look at the footage later, I realized I had never deactivated the autofocus, which meant it was constantly refocusing in a way that made the footage unusable. There was no way to edit it.

I felt terrible! It felt like such a waste of time. How could I not have noticed this camera setting beforehand?

What I *didn't* do was take a deep breath and regroup to go out the next weekend and try it again.

I just thought, "Well, that's done." I let that idea go and moved forward with other things.

For me, the takeaway wasn't that you always have to jump back in and keep trying the same thing. It was more that you don't let a failure end your motivation or your willingness to take other risks.

The thing about being an artist is that you have to create the time and space for experimenting with ideas, even when you don't know how things are going to turn out. That's hard when we're all so overscheduled and overcommitted. People don't want to spend time on something unless they know that it's going to turn out well. But sometimes you have to be willing to throw things away.



Lee Wallace '95 couldn't sell a cup of coffee.

WHEN PEACE COFFEE WAS FOUNDED IN 1996, our original customers were food co-ops and churches who would buy our coffee wholesale. And then, in 2010, we opened our first coffee shop in the Longfellow neighborhood of Minneapolis.

We thought it would be a good way to connect with the community in a different way. And it was! The coffee shop had a community room, and all kinds of different nonprofits and politicians would use it. When my college roommate would come to town from Rhode Island, she would take her family there. The regulars called it their Cheers.

But we were trying to make sure we also had the most ethically sourced milk, the most ethically sourced sugar. We wanted to bring in more people than those who could afford to spend $12 on a cup of coffee. We were always offsetting the losses from the coffee shop with money from the wholesale side of the business.

We thought if we added more coffee shops—we eventually had four—we could make it work, but we never quite got there. And when the pandemic hit, we closed all of them.

In the end, we were trying to run two totally different businesses, and my passion was in running the roastery. The pandemic was a forcing function, and the hardest part was laying people off.

I'm not sure I would call it my "favorite failure," though, because failure is a weird word to apply to learning. You don't want to beat yourself up because it limits your ability to grow from the things that you try. "Failure" is about measuring yourself. "Learning" is about figuring out where you're going to go next.



Rhiannon Gallagher '93 walked away from the most prestigious opportunity she'd ever gotten.

AFTER MACALESTER, I got a Fulbright to go to the UK. It was a diplomatic Fulbright, which meant there were palace obligations and diplomatic dinners. Almost everybody who got that Fulbright came from an Ivy League school.

I was so out of my depth! My classmates couldn't believe I didn't have a ball gown. I didn't have any money, and I was shopping for ball gowns at thrift stores in London.

At one point, my classmates were having a discussion about homelessness, and people were saying things like, "Do we invoke Derrida for this? Is this a Foucauldian question?" And meanwhile, I was looking outside the window at a man who was selling *The Big Issue*, the magazine that homeless people on the street sell in London.

I was thinking, "Why wouldn't we just ask him?"

This is the Macalester in me.

These were not my people; this was not the conversation I wanted to have. I wasn't able—I wasn't willing—to speak the language being spoken. It felt wrong to even try. I left after just a year, even though I had a scholarship for three.

Eventually, I started working at the Coleman Company, which makes camping products including RVs. I was working in their business development division in 1995, and my job was to figure out what to do with this new internet thing.

I was spending days getting lost in the bowels of the thing.

I was on an RV forum when I saw a post from a woman from Virginia who was trying to escape from her abusive husband. Someone had given her an RV, and she wrote, "How do I get to my sister in California?"

People wrote in and said, "You're going to stay with me in Ohio." They said, "You're going to stop at this Walmart." People were planning this route for her! Five years earlier, this would never have been possible. I was watching the map. I was watching this community get this lady and her kids from Virginia to California.

I thought, "This is magic." I was a disciple of former geography professor David Lanegran, and I was fascinated by what it meant to apply geography to an online community.

I knew I was in the right place.

I think when you graduate, you feel like you have to pick the perfect thing that will keep you happy. But you don't. In London, I was fundamentally in the wrong place.

Don't be afraid to step off the path when you realize you're in the wrong room.



Stephen Barnes '85 couldn't build a better backpack.

IN 2007, I WAS WORKING AT OSPREY. We had this incredible history designing backpacks and thought we could tackle another problem: hydration for athletes. We started by interviewing ten thousand customers.

The three of us working on this tried so many things, close to one hundred variations.

We spent eighteen months on it! We made incredible Rube Goldberg pieces of sh**. We failed at everything we tried.

Eventually, we got to the point where we had to admit that the smartest brains in the space of backpack design couldn't solve this. It felt like the ultimate failure, not to be able to solve it.

The issue was that we thought about everything from a "backpack perspective." That's what we did as a company! But we needed to think less about the backpack and more about the reservoir. And when we did, we ended up creating a reservoir with a little bit of a back panel adhered to it. That became the mental unlock for what the product actually became.

The failure was that we couldn't get out of our thought pattern. We needed to be open to different ways of thinking, and learning to do that was one of my greatest takeaways from my Macalester experience.

The true innovators are the ones who can recognize failure and move on quickly, and if we had done that, we could have solved the problem in six months.

In the end, it was a success—we thought we might sell seven thousand units initially, and we ended up selling twenty-five thousand. Now, they're doing 150,000.

It wasn't until we *reshaped* the problem that we were able to solve the problem.



Libie Motchan Duggal '14 built a brand for the wrong customers.

I'M THE COFOUNDER OF Fulton, a modern arch-support brand that makes cork-based insoles and footwear designed for orthopedic support and comfort.

When we started, we wanted to create insoles for young people who might not realize that the root of their foot and back pain was their unsupportive shoes.

We didn't want to be positioned like a medical, geriatric product. At the time—2021—there were all sorts of digitally native companies like Harry's, Allbirds, and Warby Parker that were disrupting unsexy categories. That's what we thought Fulton would be like.

So we brought on these cool young models and a cool photographer from Brooklyn. The whole look and feel of the website was modern and sleek and minimal. We focused on younger audiences on platforms like Instagram.

When we launched, we thought we would sell out immediately.

Instead, it was crickets. And it stayed that way for months.

It was stressful and, at times, existential. We didn't have a plan B. So instead of continuing to convince ourselves that our original thesis was right, we started trying to understand why it was wrong.

We interviewed customers, ran focus groups, and dug deeply into what people were saying online. And we realized we had built the brand around the customer we wanted to have—not the customer who actually needed our product most. Our real customer was the sixty-year-old woman whose plantar fasciitis was keeping her from her daily walk, or the grandfather whose aching knees made it hard to keep up with his grandkids.

So we changed Fulton. We rebuilt our website, stripped away many of the bells and whistles, and focused on the actual problems our customers were trying to solve. We used older models. We changed where and how we advertised.

It was much less sexy—and much more relevant.

The business took off.

That failure fundamentally changed how I think about entrepreneurship. I learned not to fall in love with my hypothesis. Fall in love with the problem you're trying to solve. The best founders aren't the people who are right all the time. They're the people who can recognize quickly when they're wrong, let go of their ego, and change course. M

Erin Peterson is a Minneapolis-based writer.



THE OPTIMIST

Fred Swaniker '99, the founder and CEO of Sand Technologies, believes AI is here to help solve humanity's hardest problems.

BY ABRAHAM SWEE



At Evolve 2025 in New York, Fred Swaniker and Sand Technologies celebrated their US launch, bringing together leaders in music, government, and technology. Here, Swaniker joins recording artists Timbaland, Tommy Brown, and Jidenna for a conversation on the intersection of AI and creativity.

ANDRES HERNANDEZ

When an EF3 tornado touched down in St. Louis in 2025, it left behind a sobering reality: five lives lost, dozens injured, and thousands of buildings damaged. In the hours and days that followed, city leaders worked to determine where to deploy limited resources. To speed things up, they got help from an emerging tool: physical artificial intelligence, a branch of AI that connects digital intelligence to physical systems.

In just two days, a new AI operating system called Symmetri mapped out 170,000 buildings, estimated nearly $1 billion in reconstruction costs, and highlighted which families and property owners were hit the hardest. The physical AI, created by Sand Technologies, did its work by tapping into satellite imagery, property data, and social vulnerability information, transforming its findings into intelligence tips—telling city staff where to send first responders, distribute food, and prioritize emergency repairs.

For Sand Technologies founder and CEO Fred Swaniker '99, it was a powerful case study of how physical AI can close the gap between data and lives saved. "AI is privileged," Swaniker says. "It's sucking up a lot of the world's resources, a lot of energy, a lot of financial resources—it's threatening people's jobs," Swaniker says. "And so if it's going to be so privileged, it had better solve society's biggest problems."

A serial entrepreneur and digital innovator who grew up in Ghana, the Gambia, Botswana, and Zimbabwe, Swaniker has—at just forty-nine years old—launched eight companies, raising more than $1.7 billion in capital, creating almost four hundred thousand jobs for young people and earning some extraordinary accolades along the way, including being named one of *Time* magazine's 100 most influential people of 2019. But his current work at Sand has perhaps grabbed the most headlines as he puts artificial intelligence to work in the real world.

Physical AI creates practical ways to use data from energy grids, water systems, telecommunications, and other critical infrastructure. According to Swaniker, unlike large language models built on the 6 percent of the world's data that lives on the internet, Sand's physical AI relies on the other 94 percent, hidden inside cameras and sensors in the physical world. "There's a big transition happening right now, where intelligence is moving from the digital world to the physical world."

For instance, Sand's physical AI models are helping the city of London monitor and improve water quality on the Thames River while making smarter decisions about the city's aging infrastructure. And in Africa, where the patient-to-doctor ratio can run eight thousand to one compared to the United States' two hundred to one, the company is using AI to fill the gaps, from creating geospatial maps to help health ministries deliver care, to providing diagnostic support to front-line nurses, creating jobs rather than killing them. "We are focused on AI systems that don't eliminate humans but empower humans to do more," he says.

A self-described "AI optimist," Swaniker has built a "digital twin" of himself so that students or staff have access to his help, anytime and anywhere. "It's about codifying what's in your head so that others can replicate it," he says. "I've always been driven by building things that will live long beyond me." And while he acknowledges the disruption AI has introduced into the economy, especially for college grads searching for entry-level jobs, he finds





ABOVE: When Swaniker was eighteen years old, his mother asked him to become headmaster of a school she had founded in Botswana. The role helped cement his belief in the power of community and opportunity.

TOP: Actor Angelina Jolie, left, Fred Swaniker, center, and philanthropist Rebecca Oppenheimer, right, sit among filmmakers and creatives at ALX Ethiopia, a leadership development organization that's part of Swaniker's African Leadership Group. During the visit, Jolie connected with African storytellers shaping new narratives about the continent.

comfort in history. "This is not new at all," he says. "What has always determined your success in life has been your ability to learn on the job and to reinvent yourself as the world changes."

An inspiring public speaker whose TED Talk about Africa's future has been viewed more than two million times, Swaniker often challenges his listeners to become agents of change. "Those of us who are privileged enough to be healthy, to be alive, to be educated—we shouldn't be doing easy things and solving small problems," he says. "We need to be doing hard things and solving the big problems."

Swaniker can't help but smile when he recalls the thoroughly analog approach he took to finding a college, mailing more than two hundred letters to US colleges that fit his family's tight tuition budget of $2,400 a year. "Four weeks later, I'm getting a package back, and it would say, 'Oh, the $2,400 you saw, that's for in-state American students,'" he remembers. "'For international students, it's $45,000. And we don't give scholarships.'"

He eventually earned acceptance letters from several selective schools committed to paying his way, including one reminding him how fortunate he was to be admitted to the alma mater of so many Nobel Prize winners. "But then Macalester sent me a note saying how lucky they felt that I had applied, and I thought, 'If I'm going to go halfway across the world, I should go to a place where I'm going to be welcomed and where I really feel like it'll be home.'" It didn't hurt that Macalester was the alma mater of fellow Ghanaian Kofi Annan '61 and that his own mother had gone to graduate school at the University of Minnesota, showing him pictures of herself in the snow as proof of the winters that awaited him.

Nearly thirty years later, that warm welcome has come full circle with the arrival of Macalester's first cohort of Swaniker Scholars, a select group of top students from Africa who will receive full scholarships at Macalester and eight other colleges, including the University of Chicago, Bates College, and Tufts University. Made possible by the African Leadership Group, which Swaniker founded to catalyze a new generation of ethical leaders across the continent, the scholarship program also reflects its founder's strong feelings about the problem-solving skills he developed while studying economics on Grand Avenue.

"I wanted them to have the kind of college experience I had," he says. "A liberal arts experience at Macalester gives you the analytical skills, the critical thinking, and the questioning of the status quo to take you in lots of directions."

Additional reporting by Laura Billings Coleman

Macalester Welcomes the Swaniker Scholars

A bank teller's desk in Nairobi, Kenya. A United Nations negotiating room in Cairo, Egypt. A refugee camp in Kakuma, Kenya. These were the places where three future Macalester students would start asking how they could best serve their communities.

In fall 2025, all three arrived at Mac as the college's first cohort of Swaniker Scholars—a global scholarship program from the ALX Foundation working to invest in Africa's most promising young leaders.

Meet the founding cohort.



OJULLU JOSHUA '29

Gambella, Ethiopia
Mac-tivities: Club soccer

Forced to flee his home country as a child due to armed conflict, Ojullu Joshua spent his teen years in the United Nations Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya. As he grew older and searched for a way to attend college, he taught math and science to younger kids. Eventually, he met two Macalester students visiting the camp to teach a course on computer literacy, and from that moment, Mac became a dream. "Coming to Macalester felt like something I was destined for," Joshua says. "Sometimes with hope and patience, good things eventually find people who never lose hope and chase the things they're destined for."

The economics and statistics double major plans to one day return to his native Gambella, Ethiopia, to more equitably turn the region's natural resources into jobs and opportunity for others.



ISMAIL ABOELMAGD '29

Cairo, Egypt
Mac-tivities: Club tennis, student dispatcher for Public Safety

At sixteen, Ismail AboElMagd was appointed the United Nations' youth and children climate champion for Africa—where he advocated for his home continent in climate negotiations. Now at Mac, the international studies major is preparing for a career in conflict mediation. He just wrapped up a summer internship at the Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping, and Peacebuilding. Before graduation, he hopes to start a Macalester peace forum, one inspired by his hero, Kofi Annan '61.

"This opportunity to become a Swaniker Scholar comes with a big deal of responsibility and a big deal of empowerment," AboElMagd says. "There's much support and sponsorship, but you also want to live up to that responsibility in everything you do around the world and here at Macalester."



INNOCENT WAMBUA '29

Nairobi, Kenya
Mac-tivities: African Music Ensemble

Before college, Innocent Wambua spent six months in a leadership training program as a bank teller in the same Nairobi, Kenya, neighborhood where he grew up. The experience reshaped how he saw his community and how he wants to serve it. Many of his neighbors had never opened a bank account, often because no one had told them about the advantages of doing so. Now an economics and statistics major at Mac, he's working toward a career where he can help build a better financial system that serves everyone.

"I came to realize how much financial exclusion plays a role in low-income communities," Wambua says. "That's what has inspired my passion to create more financial opportunities for those around me."



WHERE THE STORIES FLOW

Five years into the Macalester Native and Indigenous Initiative, its reach is rippling across campus and beyond.

BY ABRAHAM SWEE

On a brisk April morning, the smell of masa and simmering beans wafts from the teaching kitchen in the Lealtad-Suzuki Center for Social Justice. Inside, stationed among an assortment of pots and pans, educational studies professor Dr. Kehaulani Fagatele-Folau shares a chapter from Robin Wall Kimmerer's *Braiding Sweetgrass* centered on the Three Sisters.

Corn, she tells students in her Race, Culture, and Ethnicity in Education course, is the eldest sister—tall and quick to grow, supporting her siblings like a trellis. Beans—the middle sister—nourish the soil beneath and climb up the corn stalk, tying the new family together. Squash—the youngest sister—is short and stout, and her broad leaves shade and protect. "Together, they are sisters who thrive as one."

The telling of the creation story complete, students split into teams, cooking up their own Three Sisters-inspired meals. The hands-on activity offers an appetizing introduction to a traditional Indigenous story. But for Fagatele-Folau—one of five faculty fellows hired as part of the Macalester Native and Indigenous (MNI) Initiative—this lesson in creation serves as a deeper teaching moment.

"There were many struggles to get lunch provided in schools," Fagatele-Folau says, referring to decades of activism that led to the government mandating lunch in public schools. "What could happen if we understand that history? And what might happen if my students, many of them future educators themselves, explore the idea of sharing the Three Sisters story with their own students? What could come from those possibilities?"



Professor Kehaulani Fagatele-Folau cooks alongside students after sharing the legend of the Three Sisters.

(PHOTO BY DAVID J. TURNER)

A new commitment

Fagetele-Folau's class is one piece of a broader initiative designed to foster engagement that better examines those possibilities. The Macalester Native and Indigenous Initiative is the college's most comprehensive effort to date to center Indigenous people, knowledge, and history. When faculty, staff,

◀ ***Three Sisters*, 2026, by Gordon Coons. A Twin Cities artist and enrolled member of the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin, Coons often works in the Ojibwe Woodland style, marked by bold outlines and vivid colors. His new piece, created for *Mac Today*, features the Three Sisters of corn, beans, and squash beneath a copper harvest moon. A *makwa*/bear dances and sends prayers for a bountiful harvest, representing Coons's own *Makwa*/Bear Clan.**







Brook LaFloe '15 shares traditional beadwork with students in the library's Idea Lab.

(PHOTOS BY KURT STEPNITZ)

and students established MNI in 2022, they built on decades of work already underway at the college. Since then, MNI's influence has rippled through the Macalester ecosystem, flowing into disciplines and departments as different as chemistry, music, and entrepreneurship.

A $1 million grant from the Mellon Foundation, the nation's largest supporter of the arts and humanities, has largely funded the people at the initiative's center: a cohort of faculty fellows who expand interdisciplinary Native and Indigenous studies on campus. Two additional funds established by generous alumni, the Heidepriem Endowed Fund for Indigenous Support and the Ikway Ogimaa Fund, animate the campus landscape with community programming, staff and faculty development, and paid student research and internships.

All five MNI postdoctoral fellows are teaching and conducting research. Native community members guest lecture as part of the Indigenous Voices: Classroom Guest Series. The Office of Sustainability and its student workers tend a Three Sisters garden. Native entrepreneurs frequent the library's Idea Lab. The work surges on.

For history professor Dr. Katrina Phillips, who helped found MNI and chairs the initiative's steering committee, the momentum has been striking. "Change in academia often happens at a glacial pace, but the intentional progress we've made across campus almost feels surreal," Phillips says.

MNI's charge five years ago builds on work by faculty, staff, and students who have worked for decades to make Indigenous people and their knowledge more visible at Mac. Phillips says the institutional commitment was both a necessary responsibility and a joyful opportunity, given Macalester's location on Mni Sota Makoce, the traditional homelands of the Dakota people.

"To do this work in a place like Minnesota, just a few miles from Bdote—the sacred site of creation for the Dakota people—it means a lot," says Phillips, a citizen of the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe. "As a Native woman and as a Native scholar, it's incredible to showcase what Native and Indigenous studies can look like at a small liberal arts college like Macalester."

Creating a larger ripple

Mni is the Dakota word for water. It's also a fitting three-letter acronym for the initiative—something fellow Fagatele-Folau noticed long before arriving on campus. "I love that play on words," she says. "As someone from the ocean, water is life and central to my research and scholarship."

The Madau-Moana (Pohnpeian-Tongan) scholar's research centers on the knowledge of the Indigenous peoples of the Pacific, where she traces her ancestry and where the ocean is widely regarded as a living ancestor. Now in the Twin Cities, she learns from Dakota knowledge-keepers to better un-



derstand and protect local waterways. Of the chance to center Indigenous knowledge in her teaching, she says, "It means everything."

With a doctorate in education, culture, and society, Fagatele-Folau was hired by Mac's Department of Educational Studies, where she now extends Indigenous perspectives into curriculum and pedagogy. Her fellow MNI fellows have taken up posts in Anthropology; Philosophy; Spanish and Portuguese; and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.

It's a distinctly Macalester way of doing things. Instead of housing Indigenous studies experts within a single department, as many peer institutions do, Mac has moved to thread Indigenous knowledge and scholarship through its broader curriculum, classes, and departments, a process known as indigenizing. That interdisciplinary approach extends beyond MNI, with Indigenous scholars already embedded in American Studies, Biology, History, and Linguistics.

"Being an Indigenous scholar is not only about Indigenous histories—it's about lifeways and culture and art and science and really every area of the liberal arts," says Lisa Anderson-Levy, executive vice president and provost. "MNI is providing us with new ways to think about indigeneity or what indigenizing even means."

Finding themselves in the syllabus

Students are taking notice. Issa Teigita '28, who is from Saipan in the Commonwealth of the Northern

Meet the MNI Fellows



Dr. Daniel Coral Reyes
SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE

Recent courses: Analysis of Hispanic Texts; Cinemas of Abya Yala: Representation, Collaboration, and Production

Research interests: Indigenous filmmaking in Latin America, particularly how contemporary filmmakers reclaim and reinterpret early 20th-century archival footage from the Amazonian rubber boom.



Dr. Kehaulani Fagatele-Folau (Pohnpeian-Tongan)
EDUCATIONAL STUDIES

Recent courses: Moana: Theories of Water; Education and Society

Research interests: Indigenous feminisms and Pacific Islander epistemologies, with a current focus on the Tongan deity Hikule'o and what their cosmology reveals about Tongan philosophies of gender, fertility, and the afterlife.



Dr. Aila O'Loughlin (Sámi-American)
PHILOSOPHY

Recent courses: Indigenous Philosophy; Environmental Ethics

Research interests: Indigenous kinship ethics, a framework for right and wrong based on whether an action strengthens or damages kin relationships, including relationships humans have with animals, land, and the natural world, with a current focus on mining in Sápmi.



Dr. Robert Weiner
ANTHROPOLOGY

Recent course: Religion and Colonialism

Research interests: Collaborative archaeology in the Indigenous Southwest, particularly at Chaco Canyon, where his recent book project traces the history of the region's monumental roads and their significance in Diné (Navajo) and Pueblo cultures today.



Dr. Melanie Yazzie (Diné)
WOMEN'S, GENDER, & SEXUALITY STUDIES

Recent courses: Indigenous Feminist and Queer Studies; Worlds Upside Down: Revolutions in Theories and Practices

Research interests: Centering an Indigenous feminist methodology, Diné (Navajo) history, water rights, and Indigenous environmental justice, including recent work on the Northeastern Arizona Indian Water Rights Settlement and its implications for Navajo claims to the Colorado River.



The Indigenous Land Campus Mural, installed in 2025, was designed by Minneapolis artist Natchez Beaulieu, an Anishinaabekwe from the White Earth Nation, and made possible by a gift from the Class of 1965.

While not a MNI project, college leaders say the mural is a welcome sign of the wisdom-sharing MNI has helped bring to campus. "It's a very core part of how we are talking about intergenerational knowledge," says mural contributor Mads Goodwin Clark, "making sure that it is intergenerational and that it's youth to elder."

(PHOTO BY DAVID J. TURNER)

Mariana Islands, learned from friends that Fagatele-Folau had joined the faculty. A fellow Pacific Islander, she signed up for the professor's first course, Moana Epistemologies and Pedagogies.

An early reading reshaped how Teigita saw her own home. The essay, by Tongan writer Epeli Hau'ofa, reframes the Pacific not as a scattering of small, dependent islands but a vast sea of interconnected peoples. "Reading that, I realized that is exactly who we are: a highly supportive community," Teigita says.

Teigita believes what she learned in the course was more than academic: "I saw Kehau and her teachings from the Pacific as an inspiration. And I saw that through our culture, which is something others often think of as small, I can be someone bigger."

Then and now

One of the first people to sign up to support the MNI initiative was Walter "Super" LaBatte Jr. '70. A Sisseton Wah'peton Dakota artist, historian, and storyteller raised on the Upper Sioux reservation, LaBatte has long been a Macalester super fan (on a Reunion panel this summer—in a moment of genuine excitement—he ripped open his jacket to reveal a Mac T-shirt, exclaiming, "I love Mac!").

Helping to launch MNI programming, LaBatte visited campus in 2022 with his niece and co-author, Teresa Peterson, for a reading from their book, *Voices from Pejuhutazizi: Dakota Stories and Storytellers*. The book offers five generations of Dakota storytelling drawn from a manuscript by LaBatte's grandfather. "Tickling his heart," LaBatte says, roughly 150 people flowed into the Kagin Ballroom to hear his family's stories come to life. "I was rather excited, maybe even surprised to see there were that many students interested in my experience," he says. "It felt good to be able to share my stories with them."

The moment stands in contrast to the late 1960s, when he was one of the college's first Native students. The then-history major remembers being approached by a classmate with a survey about future course offerings at Mac. When he suggested Native American history as an option, the peer rebuffed his idea.

The conversation stuck with LaBatte for decades and it even caused him to rethink his future. Enjoying the similarities between the Dakota language and German, he switched his major to the latter. In the process, he found joy in sharing knowledge and traditions between two cultures.

"I just love experiencing other people's culture and environment. And at Macalester, there's quite a difference in how they approach that nowadays," LaBatte says, pointing to the MNI Initiative and a lineup of current courses that center Native history. "We've made a tremendous amount of progress."

Programming with purpose

Each year, the MNI steering committee greenlights a longer list of partnerships and events. Most give Mac students, faculty, and staff opportunities to collaborate with local Indigenous communities. The Indigenizing Initiatives series has featured a festival of new Native plays and a screening of *Star Wars: A New Hope* in Ojibwe (Ajuawak Kapashesit '13, who did the language dub, was present for a Q&A). A celebration of the Honor the Earth organization, which has promoted Indigenous environmental initiatives for the past thirty years, brought together Indigenous leaders to discuss environmental justice issues with students.



Artist-educator and entrepreneur Brook LaFloe '15, from the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa, spent an evening in the library's Idea Lab this spring. The cofounder of Niniijaanis One of Ones, a social enterprise for Native children, had received an inquiry from the Department of Entrepreneurship and Innovation—would she like to host a Native beading workshop and chat with students about launching her own community-driven business?

And so, in the middle of finals week, LaFloe dished out colorful beads across worktables. "To see college students crafting, enjoying themselves, taking a necessary break," LaFloe says, "it was all so refreshing."

The workshop gave LaFloe a chance to share an artistic tradition practiced today by many Indigenous peoples. "I take very seriously the chance to learn things about my own culture that were taken away and then to give that back and pass that on," says LaFloe, whose business supports Native artists and culture bearers. "It's an honor to share our culture with others."

Sustaining the work

The future of MNI, leaders say, runs deep—and while the program has made real strides, the college is at the starting line of a much longer commitment. The Mellon Foundation grant has been extended through 2028. A global Indigenous studies concentration has launched. And a special community building seminar for staff and faculty is working to create lasting bonds with Indigenous communities in and outside of Macalester.



Walter "Super" LaBatte Jr. '70, right, and history professor Dr. Katrina Phillips at LaBatte's 2022 book talk for *Voices from Pejuhutazizi*.

Mads Goodwin Clark, associate director of the Lealtad-Suzuki Center for Social Justice, coleads the community building seminar and serves as the staff advisor to the student group Proud Indigenous Peoples for Education (PIPE). Both roles are deeply personal for them, a member of the Mdewakanton Dakota. "Knowing that our story is integral to the mission of MNI and trying to be a good relative in that way has been challenging but also very rewarding," Goodwin Clark says.

Some of their favorite memories include workshops with Native artists introducing faculty and staff to Native dance and beadwork. A visit to Wiċaȟapi, a Native burial ground in St. Paul, was particularly moving.

Each moment, they say, is a part of something larger: MNI finding its way to every corner of campus. "All those small steps make a much larger drop in the pond so we can keep the momentum going."







PIPE's Lasting Legacy

Macalester's newest initiative builds on decades of work by Indigenous students, faculty, and staff who made space for Native visibility on campus long before MNI arrived. Much of that momentum can be credited to Proud Indigenous Peoples for Education (PIPE)—the student group founded in 1969 as the Native American Coalition.

For years, PIPE has connected its campus community with its local Indigenous one. Most memorable, perhaps, are PIPE's campus powwows held in the 1970s, the late 1980s and early '90s, and the 2010s. It's a tradition students hope to bring back in spring 2027.

"I hope we had a strong, positive influence on Macalester," says Janice LaFloe '92, who co-led the revival of the campus powwow in 1989. "What I got to see was an increase in Macalester knowing a little bit about who American Indians are today, not as a people to be viewed as history, but as contemporaries."

Dancers and drummers from local tribes compete at Macalester's campus powwow, one of three hosted by student group PIPE between 1989 and 1991.

(PHOTOS COURTESY OF MACALESTER COLLEGE ARCHIVES)

BY DAWN ARAUJO-HAWKINS

The Spirit of Democracy

As president of Interfaith Alliance, Paul Brandeis Raushenbush '86 mobilizes a diverse religious coalition in support of democratic institutions.

For more than thirty years, the Interfaith Alliance, a national coalition of progressive religious leaders, has sought to counter the theocratic tendencies of right-wing Christianity and to promote democracy in the United States. The group has worked for causes including the separation of church and state, combating antisemitism and Islamophobia, and delegitimizing the use of religion for anti-LGBTQ+ discrimination.

For Interfaith Alliance's current president and CEO, Paul Brandeis Raushenbush '86, this work is all the more important in today's political climate when white Christian nationalists are weaponizing their idea of "divine sanction" to consolidate political power.

"The First Amendment is very clear that there is no privileged religious position in America," Raushenbush says. "We're insisting that there should be freedom—true freedom—for people to exercise their faith in whatever way they feel called to."

Two of Interfaith Alliance's goals this year are to train at least one hundred thousand people in nonviolent mobilization and resistance and to organize a twenty-eight day, national The Vote is Sacred bus tour to locations where there's been a threat of election disruption. The group also continues to call attention to the myriad ways religion is used to buoy authoritarianism.

For instance, in February, Interfaith Alliance, along with Muslim, Sikh, and Hindu groups, sued the Trump administration, arguing that the almost entirely Christian members of its Religious Liberty Commission did not sufficiently represent people of faith in the US. Although a federal judge dismissed the case in July, Raushenbush said the lawsuit at least allowed Interfaith Alliance to shine a light on the hypocrisy of the administration, which he considers a win.

"We've been able to show that this does not represent religious America, and we've been able to rally the religious community," he says.

This work of promoting social justice and religious freedom runs in Raushenbush's family ethos. One of his great-grandfathers, Baptist pastor and theologian Walter Rauschenbusch, was one of the most renowned figures of the Social Gospel movement, preaching a theology of salvation that centered more on systemic ills than individual sins. Another of Raushenbush's great-grandfathers, Louis D. Brandeis—the first Jewish Supreme Court justice—was known for his robust defense of the First Amendment.

In 1932, his paternal grandparents, both economists, drafted an unemployment compensation law for Wisconsin, the first such law in the nation. His mother, Marylu, was a devout Presbyterian engaged in civil and women's rights advocacy, and his father, Walter, was an agnostic law professor who helped write legislation to end discrimination against Black homebuyers.

When Raushenbush decided to major in religion at Macalester, he wasn't planning a career in religion. In fact, after graduating, he moved to Spain and became a DJ. After returning to the States, Raushenbush began attending Judson Memorial Church in New York City, a congregation with a long history of inclusivity and social justice. It was on the advice of Howard Moody, the pastor there, that Raushenbush went to visit Union Theological Seminary. He ended up enrolling in a Master of Divinity program and then, while Raushenbush was serving at a Baptist church in Seattle—working with youth both at the church and at the LGBTQ+ youth center—he was ordained in the American Baptist Churches USA denomination.

After leaving pastoral ministry, Raushenbush was hired as the music editor at Beliefnet, one of the digital media boom's first religion and spirituality sites, in 2000. Three years later, Raushenbush became the associate dean of religious life at Princeton University, where he was responsible for hiring Sohaib Sultan, the school's first Muslim chaplain. Then, for six years, Raushenbush was the executive editor for global spirituality and religion at *The Huffington Post*.

He came to Interfaith Alliance in 2022, drawn by the opportunity to use the skills he'd amassed over his varied career in ministry, media, and multifaith spaces. "This position combined all of those skill sets that I had into one job," he says.

A large part of what Raushenbush sees as his job is to bring what he calls "the best of religion" to US democracy—which might seem difficult at a time when the nation's religiosity is declining. According to a 2025 Gallup poll, only 49 percent of US adults say religion is an important part of their daily life, a drop from 65 percent in 2007. But Raushenbush says he actually sees signs of a spiritual revival taking place, albeit not in the way revivals have historically been understood.

"It's not about one religion, but it's about, 'What does it mean to actually show up for our democracy? What does it mean to love our neighbor?'" he says, noting that in the past year and a half, Interfaith Alliance's local affiliates have increased from eight to forty.

The goal, however, isn't to simply invert what the Religious Right has done and impose progressive religious values on everyone.

"No one has a monopoly on faith," Raushenbush says. "The America that I dream of includes very conservative religious people who are able to practice their faith exactly how they want—but they don't get to dictate to the rest of us how to practice ours." M

Dawn Araujo-Hawkins is a religion journalist based in Kansas City, Missouri.

DOROTHY HONG





BY ABRAHAM SWEE / PHOTOS BY JOHN SCHOOLMEESTERS

A pile of laundry growing untouched in a dorm room. The anxiety of job interview prep. A lack of reliable electricity available to community members in a town in Somalia. Each is an example of a unique problem tackled by Mac students in Intro to Entrepreneurship—a course that starts with a simple question: What is a problem in the world, near or far, that needs solving?

Co-taught by Erik Halaas, program manager in the Entrepreneurship & Innovation (E&I) Department, and Allan Martinez Venegas '14, E&I's director, the course trains students to identify a problem and to understand it deeply. Then, and only then, are they encouraged to think up solutions, create prototypes, and pitch ideas. We sat down with Halaas and Martinez Venegas to talk about their method and how anyone can embrace an entrepreneurial mindset professionally and personally.

Why start with the problem instead of a product?

AMV: We say, "Be obsessed with the problem, not with the solution." Solutions are flexible. They're fickle. They are the "how," not the "why." They can change. But the problem is what you always need to keep at the forefront. We have found that startups and ventures—even those beyond the realm of business—are most successful when they identify a meaningful problem to tackle and use it as their north star.

EH: The majority of businesses fail. And often, it's not because the business wasn't a good idea, but because it wasn't solving a real problem or meeting a real need for someone. We talk a lot about this triangle of desirability, feasibility, and viability. And you have to start with desirability: Is this a need that actually needs addressing?

When finding a good problem to solve, you reference a "moment of obligation." What is that?

EH: It's those moments in your life where you experience something or are exposed to something that irks you, often over and over again, and you're compelled to act. Many of the ideas our students tackle in the course come from these moments of obligation. Then the question becomes, "Is the problem big enough to matter but small enough to act on, and are you uniquely positioned to do something about it?"

What's a student project that's stuck with you?

AMV: We had a group of students who identified one of the most anxiety-inducing moments of a college student's life: preparing for an internship or a job interview. Through their "inspiration" phase, meaning their research, they also identified that prevalent ways of preparing are not that effective, teaching you to perform rather than to be yourself. Often, you go online and find the ten most common interview questions and practice. After a lot of research and conversations with students and experts, including our Career Exploration team here at Macalester, they acted on the



Scan to watch a video with the professors to learn more about embracing an entrepreneurial mindset.

INTRO TO ENTREPRENEURSHIP

fundamental feedback that if interview prep feels like something you improve on consistently rather than cramming the day before, it's often more effective. So they developed and tested prototypes. Finally, they learned how to create a persuasive, compelling story that moves people to act, to buy into this solution and the problem it tackles. By the time they presented, people in the audience were asking how they could invest.

What is the "entrepreneurial mindset," and how might alumni apply it in their own lives?

AMV: When teaching at Mac, the entrepreneurial mindset is less about venture creation and more about embracing an action-oriented method that goes from identifying your moment of obligation to taking action in a way that creates meaningful value for yourself and others. Anyone who follows our five action steps—identify a meaningful problem (framing); learn from real people about that problem (inspiration); come up with lots of ideas and select your best ones (ideation); craft and test increasingly more developed prototypes and devise a plan (implementation); and tell a great story about your work (storytelling)—can embrace an entrepreneurial mindset.

What does it mean to embrace entrepreneurship at Macalester?

EH: Entrepreneurship, at its core, is about problem-solving. It's about heeding your moment of obligation, conducting effective research, incorporating multiple perspectives, crafting bold ideas, and encouraging counterthought to your narrative. You take all of that information and go out into the world and take action with purpose. That's what we're trying to teach our students, of any major, to do with their Mac education.

We love the energy that comes with the breadth of students engaging in entrepreneurial thinking. Especially in this course, we get to see what happens when you pair someone working in linguistics with someone in computer science or the fine arts. We get to see what collaboration looks like when those same folks work together to tackle a meaningful problem—it's liberal arts at its finest.

Why does this kind of course matter for career readiness, even for students who never start a business?

AMV: One reason this all fits at Macalester is that it's another way Mac offers students a chance to take action on something they care about. The entrepreneurial mindset teaches a specific, action-oriented methodology for doing that—no matter what direction you go. If you go into a social impact organization, you'll be better equipped to identify problems, be innovative with the resources available, and rally others to your cause. If you're in a corporate setting, you'll be able to make a really good argument as to why this is the right thing to invest in. Entrepreneurship is a way to stay curious, take initiative, be bold, and create value for yourself and others.

by Robert Kerr '92

CLASS NOTES

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.

1951

Rev. Ronald Gustafson turned 100 on May 8. "He still participates occasionally at his Presbyterian Church in Johnston, Iowa, and at the chapel at the Bishop Drumm facility, where he resides," according to son Clark Gustafson '75.

1962

Mac Gimse's latest sculpture/poetry project, "Striving for Peace on Horizon's Brim," was dedicated in 2023. The poetry from the project was set to music and performed by the St. Olaf Choir in Carnegie Hall in New York City in February 2020. Mac began teaching courses about the visual cultures of India, China, Japan, and Southeast Asia at St. Olaf College in 1970.

1964

Anne Harbour married James J.L. Collins in Hereford, England, on July 1. "Having served with the pipe band of the Royal Scots, James enjoyed meeting members of the Macalester Pipe Band in Glasgow for the worldwide pipe band competition in 2024," Anne writes. She continues to lead the Friends of Blackfriars Rose Gardens.

1967

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

1972

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

Mel Duncan helped organize Unarmed Civilian Protection in Palestine, an effort to offer direct protection to civilians in the occupied West Bank. After spending six months in the Palestinian teritories in 2025, Mel returned home and provided protective presence at Como High School in St. Paul during Operation Metro Surge.

Edward Lief received the Hereditary Society Community of the United States of America's Lifetime Achievement Award in April at the Library of Congress in Washington, DC. He was recognized for his more than thirty years as a leader in national genealogical hereditary societies, including his tenure as president of the Society of the Descendants of the Colonial Clergy.

1975

James Rutenbeck was an editor on *The Ride Ahead*, which received an Emmy for Outstanding Social Issue Documentary in June. The feature documentary aired on the PBS series *POV* in 2025. He is currently directing *The Non-Speakers' Stories Project,* an anthology series of short films created in collaboration with non-speaking autistic people across the United States.

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.

1984

"My light still shines, and I am now on Medicare," writes TJ Naim. "Stay healthy, my friends!"



Macalester alumni joined President Suzanne M. Rivera and environmental studies professor Roopali Phadke in Iceland in August for an unforgettable journey to witness the total solar eclipse. Along the way, travelers visited the Hellisheiði Power Station and its Geothermal Exhibition, exploring Iceland's innovative approach to renewable energy.



Macalester geography professor William Moseley reported that there was "a nice Macalester College contingent" at the AP Human Geography scoring session in Cleveland this past June, including Kristen Conway-Gomez '92, Daniel Kerwin '10, Hardt Bergmann '17, and Brennan Standel '23.

1986

David "Chids" Chidsey retired from a forty-year career as a middle school teacher in June. For twenty-seven years, he spent his summers at Camp Timanous in Raymond, Maine, where he was waterfront director and head of the camping trips program. Chids has bought a house in his wife's hometown, Palmer, Alaska, and plans to spend less time in Maine.

1987

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

1990

Ginny Moran received an M.C. Lang Fellowship in Book History, Bibliography, and Humanities Teaching with Historical Sources last year. After completing her second class at the Rare Book School in Charlottesville, Va., she will be ready to teach a course at Macalester on alternative libraries and "infoshops" in the spring of 2027.

1992

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

1995

Meredith Aby-Keirstead became director of Women Against Military Madness in Minneapolis this past June. She previously taught social studies in the Bloomington, Minn., Public Schools for twenty-nine years. While in San Francisco to speak at an anti-imperialist conference, Meredith celebrated her new job with Christina Sabee.

In June, Eric Christensen was elected to a six-year term as bishop of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

1997

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

1999

The Minnesota School Public Relations Association named Celine Clark Haga its 2026 Minnesota School Communicator of the Year. She was also one of four finalists for the National School Public Relations Association's National School Communicator of the Year award and was elected the organization's vice president for advocacy at its 2026 national seminar.

Kate D. Gallagher '16

Kate D. Gallagher '16 (she/her/hers) met her future wife, Emma Swanson '16, when they were both first-years living in Doty Hall. That same year, she found community at the Gender and Sexuality Resource Center, a cozy hangout where she cochaired student programming and led groups like the Queer Women's Identity Collective. And while she graduated in 2016, Gallagher's ties to Mac have only strengthened. She returned to campus to get married in front of Old Main. She's served on the Alumni Board of Directors, volunteered as an alumni mentor through the Center for Disability Resources' MentorUP program, and cochaired her own ten-year Reunion this past summer. Now, she's preparing to welcome back members of the alumni community as a committee member for the Scots Pride Reunion, set for June 3–6, 2027. The event will bring LGBTQIA+ alumni from across class years together to reconnect and celebrate.



What keeps you volunteering at Mac?

I had such a positive experience as a member of the LGBTQIA+ community while I was a student that it just made sense to get involved as an alumna. I started attending Reunion annually after my junior year and that year (Reunion 2015) had a Scots Pride gathering. Maybe it was kismet, but I thought, "How better to join the larger alumni community than with a gathering of LGBTQIA+ alumnae of all ages?" Getting to experience students and alumni connecting with each other—and the college itself—is so fulfilling.

What should people expect at next year's Scots Pride Reunion?

Reflection, intergenerational connection, reminiscing, laughter, crying, hugs, and dancing! More concretely: a talk or panel themed around our identities, a lovely dinner, and a very fun dance party. Scots Pride also has swag you can only get at Reunion like a T-shirt I designed, ball caps with a progress pride Macalester logo, and rainbow enamel pins.

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

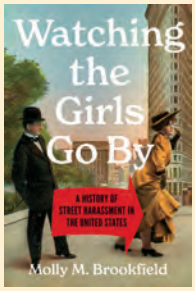
The overly obvious answer is my wife. Emma and I met and started dating as first-years. We got married in the depths of the pandemic shutdown in spring 2020 in front of Old Main with no guests. Our officiant was my advisor from Mac, Joan Ostrove—who I had previously honored at our Lavender Graduation ceremony.

Beyond my network of friends and my literal family, Macalester helped shape my values and gave me the strength of mind to live those values in the wider world. Macalester opened me to make connections with alums of all ages and live authentically and proudly as myself.

▶ Save the date for Scots Pride Reunion, June 3–6, 2027.



Dio Cramer '20, John Kim, Jeremy Meckler '10, and Rebecca Snedeker. *Mississippi River Open School for Kinship and Social Exchange: Experimental Modes of Teaching and Learning for the Planetary Emergency* (University of Minnesota Press, 2026)



Molly M. Brookfield '09. *Watching the Girls Go By: A History of Street Harassment in the United States* (University of North Carolina Press, 2026)



Robert W. Haynes '73. *Old Temples in Moonlight* (Finishing Line Press, 2026) and *Rancho Selfless* (Cyberwit, 2026)

'Disability Sneak Attack'



Mesmerized by an orchestra performance in fifth grade, Gaelynn Lea '06 became determined to play the cello. An effect of osteogenesis imperfecta, her shortened limbs presented challenges to that goal, but, as she always does, she embraced adaptation, teaching herself how to play a violin held upright—just like a tiny cello. Her musicianship eventually led to a 2016 NPR Tiny Desk Contest win, multiple critically acclaimed albums, and more recently, a Broadway composing credit for *Macbeth*. Now, she's added author to her list of accomplishments. Her memoir, *It Wasn't Meant to Be Perfect* (Algonquin, 2026), examines life on the road as a touring musician, as well as her work as a disability advocate.

What motivated you to write a memoir?

People kept asking after shows if I'd ever write one. At first, I wasn't sure what the through line would be, but as I kept doing disability advocacy work, I realized I did have ideas I wanted to express, and I also hoped to do what I call a disability sneak attack. I wanted the book to be rooted in music and creativity, a true artist's touring memoir, but with real disability topics woven in. It's funny and lighthearted. That was the goal: something that leaves people feeling uplifted.

The title suggests a theme of embracing imperfection. Where does that come from?

I think disability is a kind of universal. We're all somewhere on a spectrum of physical ability, and it changes throughout our lives. And often it's our biggest challenges that lead to growth or a new direction. If you really look back at your life, you'll see that hard thing actually led to this amazing thing, and you can't really take them apart. I want people to consider embracing their bodies and their lives as they are instead of always trying to perfect them.



How can others start living out that philosophy?

Adaptation is a perfectly viable way to make things work. I have a very visible physical disability, and so everything I do throughout the day involves some sort of adaptation. The idea of adapting becomes much less scary if you're encouraged to try it. Fear often prevents people who would otherwise enjoy many different things from painting to writing or learning. Don't worry about fitting the mold; adapt and do things your own way.

What do you wish venues and musicians understood about accessibility?

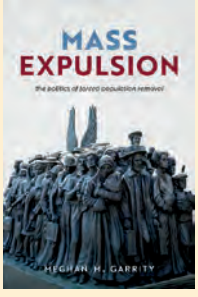
We need to start thinking of disability rights as civil rights—because they are. It's been almost four decades since the Americans with Disabilities Act passed, and venues that still aren't accessible have essentially chosen to look the other way. I don't play inaccessible venues anymore, even though it limits where I can perform. It would be powerful to see nondisabled musicians take that same stance as well.



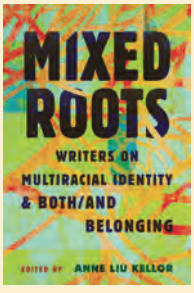
Kate Bredeson '98. *The Diaries of Judith Malina,* four volumes (Northwestern University Press, 2026)



Andrea Baumgardner '91. *BernBaum's: Recipes from Fargo's Nordic-Jewish Deli* (Dottir Press, 2026)



Meghan Garrity '08. *Mass Expulsion: The Politics of Forced Population Removal* (Oxford University Press, 2026)



Anne Liu Kellor '97. *Mixed Roots: Writers on Multiracial Identity & Both/And Belonging* (Beacon Press, 2026)



Morgan Roe '09 and her husband, Wade, welcomed their first child, Ada Jo Kelley, in February 2025.



Geoffrey Gates '70 recently had lunch at SoL Cafe, the restaurant that Antony Gor '20 has opened in Duluth, Minn.



Patrick Guarasci '00 and Chad Jones '00 met up at the annual conference of the Committee on States at the Muhammad Ali Center in Louisville, Ky.

Eric Xuba Evaristo Laurion has moved back to the Macalester-Groveland neighborhood. Eric is a licensed therapeutic bodyworker with twenty-eight years of experience, specializing in pain, injury, surgery, and trauma recovery.

2000

Leda Cunningham recently launched the Suicide Widows Project to support people who, like her, lost a spouse or partner to suicide. She is requesting your help in identifying volunteers to sign up for confidential interviews that will inform a needs assessment and action plan. Visit suicidewidows.org to learn more and sign up.

2002

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

Mary Robert Nahm Garrett has been promoted to associate provost and dean of faculty at Berea College.

2005

Chris Fletcher coauthored the book chapter "Business and Human Rights" in *The Oxford Handbook of the UN Human Rights System.*

2007

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

2008

Maeve Kane received a 2026-29 Mellon Foundation New Directions Fellowship for a new project using natural language processing techniques with historical texts. She is an associate professor of history at the State University of New York at Albany. Earlier this year, Maeve and James Mallek '10 welcomed their second child.

2010

Emily Cox earned an MFA in creative writing from Western Washington University in June 2025.

2011

Tez Steinberg has now rowed solo across the Pacific not once, but twice, and his adventures are the subject of *The Row,* a documentary by Academy Award-winner Bryan Fogel that premiered at the Telluride Film Festival in September.

2012

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

2013

Beth Moretzsky and Michael Ablan recently welcomed Ethan Noah Ablan into the world, surrounded by family and Macalester friends. Michael completed a master's in regulatory science at Johns Hopkins University in May.

2014

Marni Schreiber was selected for the inaugural cohort of Aspen Religion Fellows, a program of the Aspen Institute's Religion & Society Program supporting leaders who advance pluralism across society. Marni, a senior portfolio and policy manager at the Tepper Foundation, joins nine other leaders across multiple sectors in the eighteen-month fellowship.

2017

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

2018

Eamon Smith has accepted a position as metadata librarian with the W.E.B. Du Bois Library at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

2022

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



Dan Emerson '76 on the field with granddaughter, Reagan.

Dan Emerson '76

In January of 2007, the Indianapolis Colts pulled off the largest comeback in NFL conference championship game history. Complete with trick plays and on-field fireworks provided by quarterback Peyton Manning, the team would rally from a 21-3 deficit to beat the New England Patriots, 38-34. Dan Emerson '76 was there with his wife and daughters and watched the thrilling evening unfold. "It was truly epic," he says. To this day, it remains his favorite moment in more than four decades with the team.

In a dedicated run that began in 1984, Emerson started working for the Colts before they even officially arrived in Indianapolis. As a senior associate at an Indianapolis law firm hired to defend the team from an eminent domain proceeding filed by its previous host city, Baltimore, Emerson developed the legal theory that helped secure the team's move to Indiana. His first case successful, he never really left the Colts, eventually joining the team full-time, rising to general counsel and then chief legal officer.

While working with longtime owner and friend Jim Irsay, who died in 2025, and now a new generation of Irsay family ownership, Emerson has advised the team on everything from the contracts of Manning and Andrew Luck to the construction of Lucas Oil Stadium. Now, as he prepares to retire after forty-two years with the Colts, Emerson reflects on failure, preparation, and the importance of having fun.

Never let yourself be outprepared

I got some really good advice from senior lawyers when I was a brand-new attorney: Never let yourself be outprepared or outworked by the other side. And that "other side" isn't necessarily an adversary—it's anyone that you're dealing with. You always want to be as prepared as you possibly can. Failure to prepare is preparing to fail. That's such easy advice, but I took it to heart, and it's served me well.

You learn more from losing than winning

Before I was spending all my time with the Colts, I was an employment litigator and a commercial litigator. There, you often lose motions, arguments, and entire cases. Every time you lose something, you've got to assign a reason to it—work to understand why it happened and learn from the experience. You learn a lot more from losing than you do from winning. Every time a motion I made would fail or a judge wouldn't rule my way on something, I always did everything I could to learn from it. That way you minimize the likelihood of it happening again.

Lead by example

Leaders should always lead by example. You want to maintain your credibility, be straight with people, and work your tail off so others can see that's the way to do it. I also try to inject a fair amount of humor and humility into what I do—and I've found that works for me. There are plenty of people out there in leadership positions who often don't lead by example and, honestly, are kind of jerks, and I think that hurts their ability to be effective.

Build relationships away from the office

Many of my strongest professional relationships were formed outside the courtroom and away from Colts headquarters. Instead, they came from a softball league put on by the Indianapolis Bar Association. It gave me the opportunity to meet all sorts of other lawyers from other firms on a neutral field. If you develop a relationship with your potential adversary on neutral turf, it helps the relationship, and you create a basis for trust in your work. And I've found it's usually easier making friends with a bat in your hand than a cocktail.

Stay in a job only if you're having fun

The older I get, the more I value fun. I've known a lot of people who have stayed in jobs for years, even though they're not really enjoying themselves. That's not worth it, and it's corrosive. Do everything you can to be kind and have fun while you're on the clock, and make sure you can look at yourself in the mirror at the end of the day and admit whether you really are enjoying your work, day in and day out. It sounds like something off a greeting card. But damn it, it's true.

PHOTO PROVIDED



This past spring, "soccer mates" Steve Cox '76, Chris Ward '76, and Morrey Nellis '73 took a road trip from Oklahoma City to the Santa Elena Canyon in Texas on the Rio Grande in Big Bend National Park.



Lauren Higbee '07, Vanessa Waltz '07, and their respective partners met up in Southern California, where both couples now live. "After living on opposite sides of the country for the past decade," Vanessa writes, she and Lauren are "excited to see each other more often."



Although they were unable to attend the fiftieth anniversary celebration of Macalester's Anthropology Department, Sara Johnson '06 and Joseph Patton '07 met up this past April in Zurich, Switzerland, where Joseph lives. They reminisced about their "twenty-plus-year friendship that started with a fortuitous meeting in the Anthropology Department ethnography lab."



Nicki Groves '94 met Katrin O'Grady '19 on the Plain of Six Glaciers in Lake Louise, Alberta, this past June. "There is a reason to wear Mac gear when out traveling," Nicki writes.



Richard Galvin '85 met up with US Army Maj. Ed Fitzpatrick '09 at a Holzgerlingen Twister American football game. They are both stationed in Stuttgart, Germany, where Ed works for the US European Command and Richard works for the US Africa Command.



"Although we couldn't make it to the official Mac Reunion this year, a few of us gathered for a meal in St. Paul," Eric Chan-Tin '06 writes. Top row (from left): Eric and Dang Vang '06. Bottom row: Thao Huynh '06, Pakou Vang '06, and Youa Yang '04.

NATIONWIDE

TARTAN TRIVIA

FEBRUARY 19, 2027

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

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

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



Holly Ellingson '19 married Ezekiel Peterson on June 20, 2026, in St. Ignatius, Mont. Many Macalester alums joined them to celebrate. Pictured (back row): **Marlee Yost-Wolff '19**, **Katrin O'Grady '19**, **Nadia Mezic '18**, the newlyweds, **Gianna Bortoli '19**, **Hallie Kircher-Henning '19**, **Carmen Garson-Shumway '18**, **Elena Smith '19**, and **Aidan Hennen '17**. Front row: **Emi Morison '19**, **Amy Pelz '19**, **Kit Anderson '19**, **Betsy Schein '19**, and **Garret Salzman '19**.



Lillie Carlile '13 and **Alex Schieferdecker '13** were married May 24, 2025, at Macalester's Weyerhaeuser Chapel. They celebrated with friends at Lake Harriet in Minneapolis. Pictured (from left): **Jonathan Gershberg '13**, **Brigid Warnke '13**, **Patrick Snyder '13**, **Paul Runge '13**, **Audrey Groce '13**, the newlyweds, **Christian Behrends '13**, **Natalie Westberg '15**, **Jonas Buck '13**, **Will Johnson '13**, **Graham Sutherland '13**, and **Laura Moulton Sutherland '13**.



Diala Abboud '20 married Cameron Moye on June 15, 2025, in Mount Hood, Ore. Several alums joined her to celebrate. Pictured (from left): **Amelia Gerrard '20**, **Katie Hunter '20**, **Makayla Barker '20**, **Valeria Bustamante Callejas '20**, Diala, **Shireen Zaineb '20**, **Ikran Mursal '20**, **Margaret Duarte Breen '20**, and **Blair Cha Kirby '20**. Not pictured: **Eleanor Wettstein '20** and **Anya Wolterman '20**.



Erin Leary '23 and **Elise Sexton '23** were married May 30, 2026. Many Macalester friends and family were present. Front row (from left): **Debra Shetka '80**, **Zoe Tkaczyk '22**, Erin, Elise, **Carson Krone '23**, **Malia Borg '23**, and **Hannah O'Connor '24**. Back row: **Leila Gassman '23**, **Bea Green '23**, **Astrid Berger '23**, **Jonathan Hauser '23**, **Aaron Backs '22**, **Jason Beal '22**, **Drew Snider '24**, **Sophie Lefkoe '23**, and **David Geeganage '23**. Not pictured: **Beth Thye Sexton '87**.

CELEBRATE WITH MAC!

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

MEET ALUMNI COUNCIL PRESIDENT JULIE BAILIT '93

Julie (Schultz) Bailit '93 is not shy to admit that the moment she stepped foot on the Macalester campus in 1989, "There was something in the water, and I was infused with the Macalester spirit," she says. Nearly thirty-five years later, that spirit is still very much alive. "Mac students contribute so meaningfully to the world, and with each new class, that work is reinvigorated in such beautiful ways."

The religious studies major, who lives in Needham, Massachusetts, runs Heal Faster with Julie, where she helps clients with medical anxiety prepare for surgery and heal through guided meditation. As president of the Macalester Alumni Council (formerly the Alumni Board), she also helps Scots across the globe rekindle connections with the college and each other. Staying connected with Mac, Bailit says, takes some intentionality, but it doesn't have to be hard or time-consuming. Here are the ways she recommends getting started.



TOPHER COX

JULIE'S ALUMNI STARTER KIT

Keep your info current on MacConnect.

Bailit updates her profile regularly, citing how powerful a tool MacConnect can be. This year, she used the search function to connect her own kids with alumni working in fields they were curious about—and to check in on classmates she wanted to see at Reunion. "You never know when MacConnect might come in handy."

Return to campus for Reunion.

Attending her first Reunion was an emotional moment for Bailit, who felt the memories of being a Mac student flood right back. She recommends returning for your specific Class Reunion, which happens every five years, but it's not necessary. "Walking into a room full of Scots, it doesn't matter when they graduated or what they majored in—you quickly realize, 'These are my people.'"

Attend a regional Mac event like Mac in Your City or Tartan Trivia.

Not everyone can make it back to St. Paul. Bailit recently helped organize a group of alumni to volunteer together at a Massachusetts soup kitchen. It was a chance for alums to support their community, but also, "now that I know Mac alums are here, we can reengage in so many more ways."

Reach out and reach back.

"We've got thirty thousand of us out in the world," Bailit says. "And for our newest alums, we can offer them such a beautiful gift—to help them find their way at a time we all remember being daunting. Students should feel empowered to reach out, and alumni should take the time to respond, to reach back and lift others up through the Mac network."

Make a gift to the Macalester Fund.

Bailit made her first gift in 1993, the year she graduated, and now gives regularly to the fund's "Support It All" designation, which allows the college to put resources toward its greatest needs. "My years at Mac were some of the most impactful in my life and it feels so good to give back to the place that continues to give me so much joy."

Get to Know Julie Bailit '93

"Wizard of Oz" engagement: Julie and her husband, Michael, knew they would make great business and life partners from the very beginning. They got engaged while co-producing a theater production of *The Wizard of Oz* with a cast that included sixty children (and stage moms).

Professional partnership: Julie, as the director of administration for Bailit Health Purchasing, has worked side-by-side with Michael for seventeen years. After a recent life-threatening surgery, she decided to pursue a passion for helping people heal, becoming a mind-body coach.

Mac major: Religious studies. When she arrived at Mac, Bailit planned to become a rabbi, but her favorite class (see below) opened up new possibilities.

Favorite Mac class: Anthropology of Religion with Anna Meigs, where she attended a Black Baptist church in St. Paul every week, conducted ethnographic interviews, and sang in the church choir.

Ready to find your own path back to Mac? Start at **macalester.edu/alumni**.

1945

Hannah Hayano Semba, 99, died March 10, 2026. A Japanese American who was forced to live in government incarceration camps during World War II, Semba shared her story through such organizations as the Minnesota Historical Society, Minnesota Public Radio, the Japanese American Citizens League, the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, and an oral history project at St. Olaf College. Survivors include four children, five grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

1948

Florence M. Rawn, 100, of Duluth, Minn., died May 22, 2026. She worked at St. Joseph Hospital in Brainerd, Minn., and Methodist Hospital in St. Louis Park, Minn. Survivors include sister Joanne Rawn Kaufman '58 and cousin Mary Strand Davies '53.

1949

Shigeru Ochi, 102, died July 21, 2026. He enrolled at Macalester after his release from the Manzanar concentration camp in California, where he was incarcerated during World War II. When Ochi was unable to afford the cost of student housing, he was allowed to sleep on a cot next to the coal furnace in the basement of Bigelow Hall in exchange for stoking the fire each morning. He attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology on a full scholarship, earning a master's degree in applied mathematics, and later earned a PhD in biometry from the University of Minnesota. Ochi was a founding member of Comten, an early tech startup that went public in 1968, and worked to improve patient care as a biostatistician for nationwide clinical trials conducted through the Veterans Administration. Survivors include two sons, James Ochi '80 and Robert Ochi '85; daughter-in-law Amy Shapiro Ochi '85; grandson Derek Ochi '12; and niece Meloni Mits Hallock '70.

1950

James Loomis, 99, of Paynesville, Minn., died April 13, 2026. He served in the US Navy during World War II. During his thirty-six years with the Paynesville Public Schools, Loomis taught, coached, and served as an athletic administrator. He was inducted into the Minnesota Athletic Directors' Hall of Fame in 2001. Survivors include his wife, Betty; six children; eleven grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Donald F. Peterson, 100, died May 7, 2026. He served in the US Army in the South Pacific during World War II. After a long career in homeowners' insurance, Peterson retired from Austin Mutual Insurance Company in 1994. Survivors include a daughter, three sons, eight grandchildren (including Jakob Wartman '08), and twelve great-grandchildren.

1951

Eben W. Dobson, 98, of Eugene, Ore., died June 10, 2026. He served with the Air Force as a jet fighter pilot in the Korean War. Dobson worked for Investors Diversified Services (later American Express) for more than thirty years, attaining the title of senior vice president. He also raised and sold Arabian horses on a farm in southern Oregon. Survivors include his wife, Betty Soreng; ten children and stepchildren; twenty-one grandchildren; and numerous great-grandchildren.

Merle Bendewald Gustafson, 96, died July 5, 2026. In addition to working as a county social caseworker and supervisor in Huron, S.D., and as a guardian ad litem and school social worker in Worthington, Minn., Gustafson founded and coordinated the children's program at New Horizons Shelter in La Crosse, Wis. Survivors include her husband, Ronald Gustafson '51; two daughters; two sons (including Clark Gustafson '75); nine grandchildren; and eleven great-grandchildren.

Susan Kim Oas, 97, died June 22, 2026, in Renton, Wash. She worked as a medical technologist in various laboratories, most recently at Auburn General Hospital. Survivors include four children, thirteen grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

1952

June Lomnes Dahl, 95, died June 19, 2026, in Madison, Wis. Dahl was the first woman to attain tenure in the Department of Pharmacology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She cofounded the Wisconsin Cancer Pain Initiative in 1986 and was recognized internationally for her work to improve the relief of cancer-related pain, winning the Macalester Distinguished Citizen Award in 1993. Survivors include two sons and a grandson.

Virginia Carruthers Hegseth, 95, of Saddlebrooke, Ariz., died June 15, 2026. She operated Virginia's Photography from 1980 to 1995. Survivors include three children, four grandchildren (including Juliane Ray '01), four great-grandchildren, and a sister.

Lois Bowman Lamb, 94, of Kenmore, Wash., died April 24, 2026. She worked as a dental hygienist for many years. Survivors include a daughter, a son, two grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Mary Ballas Makredes, 95, died July 5, 2026. She was a social worker in Hennepin and Ramsey counties who specialized in child welfare. Survivors include three children and seven grandchildren.

Harrison W. "Bill" Oehler, 95, of Naples, Fla., died May 1, 2026. He worked for the Boy Scouts of America in the Dakotas, Texas, and Minnesota and retired as a trainer with New York Life in 1994. Survivors include three children, three grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

1953

Doris Erbele Highland, 94, died Aug. 2, 2026, in Prescott Valley, Ariz. She retired from the Minnesota Department of Transportation in 1991. Survivors include a daughter and a son.

1955

Joe G. Rollins, 93, died July 4, 2026, in Rochester, Minn. He served in the US Navy and the US Air Force, retiring in 1977 from the Air Force Reserve as a full colonel. Rollins also worked as a corporate pilot for Honeywell for twenty-six years, retiring in 1992. Survivors include a daughter, a son, three grandchildren, a great-grandson, and a brother.

William Tilsner, 97, of St. Louis Park, Minn., died June 16, 2026. He worked as a teacher and principal in the St. Paul school system for more than thirty years. After his retirement in 1984, he worked for his family's business, Tilsner Carton Company. Survivors include two sons, two grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Mary Helen Bauck Zitzow, 92, of Perham, Minn., died April 28, 2026. During most of her thirty years with the Perham Public Schools, Zitzow was a special education teacher. Survivors include six children, eight grandchildren, twelve great-grandchildren, a sister, and a brother.

1957

Patricia Johnsrud Fossum, 91, died April 11, 2026. She was a military spouse who worked with the Air Force Office of Special Investigations and taught elementary school in Illinois and Alabama. After her retirement, she operated seven booths with her husband in a flea market and antique mall in Montgomery, Ala., for more than twenty-five years. Survivors include two children.

Marilyn Anderson McKeeth, 93, of Black River Falls, Wis., died July 19, 2026. She taught kindergarten at several schools and directed the choir at her Methodist church for more than thirty years. Survivors include a daughter.

1958

Hermine DeBoer Makman, 89, of Concord, Calif., died Aug. 23, 2025.

1960

Helen Pegorsch Ackerson, 88, died June 20, 2026. She trained horses and traveled to horse shows and later in life co-owned Yesterdays, an antique store in Spearfish, S.D., with her husband, Ronald. Survivors include her husband, two daughters, and three grandsons.

Gordon T. Dethmers, 93, died April 1, 2026, in Oakdale, Minn. He served in the US Army and worked as a civil engineer in the Twin Cities area. Survivors include his partner, Shirley Hagle; three children; two grandchildren; a great-grandchild; and a brother.

Gene H. Fischer, 88, of Atlantic, Iowa, died July 29, 2026. He worked as a manager in retail at JCPenney and Pamida. Survivors include his wife, Pat; two daughters; ten grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and a sister.

Lucy Ward Landon, 88, died May 10, 2026, in Washington, Iowa. She was an occupational therapist in New York City and worked for Christian boarding schools in Stony Brook, N.Y., and Brockville, Ontario. Landon also worked in retail sales and child care in Iowa. Survivors include two sons, five grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and two sisters.

1961

Mary Leverentz Henderson, 87, died June 6, 2026. She was a junior high school teacher and a stay-at-home mother. Survivors include her husband, Scott; three children; seven grandchildren; and three brothers.

Karen Rochel Hollaus, 87, died July 4, 2026. After working for 3M, Hollaus became a certified ski instructor with Otto Hollaus Ski School.

Gerald F. Johansen, 87, died May 27, 2026, in St. Louis Park, Minn. As a pitcher with a local semiprofessional baseball team, Johansen once played against Satchel Paige during an exhibition game. During his more than thirty years as a lawyer, Johansen practiced as a county attorney and public defender and took over the law practice of V.V. Lindgren in Winnebago, Minn. Survivors include his wife, Jan Nelson Johansen '61; two daughters; six grandchildren; two great-grandsons; and a sister.

J. Elaine Freye Kienitz, 86, died February 6, 2026. She taught junior high school and worked in the district office of Rep. Martin Sabo for about twenty years. Survivors include a son.

Virginia Green Kimmer, 84, died Feb. 2, 2025. She worked at Fraser School, a school for children with learning disabilities, and taught kindergarten at Highcroft Elementary School and the Blake School. Survivors include a daughter.

Laurence E. Nyquist, 87, died Aug. 5, 2026. He began his career as a planetary scientist at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston in 1970. Nyquist's work helped establish the ages of extraterrestrial materials, including materials from the moon, rocks on Mars, and the parent bodies of asteroids. An asteroid was named in Nyquist's honor. He and his wife, Connie Martinson Nyquist '61, had a daughter, a son, five grandchildren, and a great-grandchild.

Marcia A. Pliefke, 94, of Mankato, Minn., died July 14, 2026. She taught kindergarten in South St. Paul, Minn., for many years.

Dennis K. Ryan, 86, of La Crosse, Wis., died June 5, 2026. He served in the Army Medical Corps in West Germany from 1967 to 1970 and practiced ophthalmology for thirty years at Gundersen Clinic, focusing on pediatric ophthalmology. Ryan also did medical mission work in Nigeria and Peru. Survivors include his wife, Sharon Bouley Ryan '61; a daughter; a son; two granddaughters (including Madrigal von Muchow '19); a sister; and two brothers.

// COMMUNITY LOSSES



William D. Jones, former director of public safety and assistant director of the physical plant at Macalester, died May 13, 2026, in Rochester, Minn. He was 96. Jones also served in the military and the government for twenty-two years and worked as head of the security section at Mayo Clinic in Rochester. Survivors include two daughters and three grandchildren.



Harold J. Pontiff of Minneapolis, a former information security analyst at Macalester, died May 12, 2026, at the age of 80. He also worked in information technology services at the University of Minnesota, the State Higher Education Coordinating Board, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, and Hamline University. Pontiff and his wife, Connie Dierks, raised two children.



James D. Rognlie, former director of Macalester's Physical Plant Department, died June 1, 2026. The Shakopee, Minn., resident was 85 years old. He also was a deputy director of the Minnesota Zoo for five years and launched a business, Building Maintenance Management. Survivors include his wife, Marsha; three children; ten grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and a brother.



Former Macalester psychology professor **Rosalyn Rubin** of St. Paul died May 19, 2026. She was 92. During her forty-year career, Rubin also taught at the University of Minnesota and Metro State University, from which she retired as chair of the psychology department. Survivors include two daughters, two granddaughters, and a great-granddaughter.



Former Macalester geography professor **Ridgway Satterthwaite** of Post Mills, Vt., died May 17, 2026, at the age of 89. He also served as director of Macalester's International Center. Satterthwaite was later director of the Associated Colleges of the Midwest's Costa Rica program, facilities manager and executive director of Farm and Wilderness Camps, and a training director with the Peace Corps in Eswatini and Cabo Verde, Africa. He launched his own business, Daily Money Management, in 1996. Survivors include four children, three grandchildren, and two sisters.

1962

Marshall W. Anthony, 87, of St. Peter, Minn., died June 15, 2026. He owned and operated Anthony and Anthony Attorneys at Law and practiced law for fifty-eight years. Survivors include his wife, Janet; four children; and three grandchildren.

Richard A. LaBree, 86, died July 17, 2026. After serving in the US Army, LaBree taught English and coached cross country and track at Rosemount High School for thirty years. He also led wilderness survival courses and mountaineering expeditions in Wyoming. LaBree reconnected with Ginny Hoffert Hanson '63 in 2002, and they spent the next twenty-four years as partners. As a student athlete, LaBree won several conference championships, both individually and as a member of Macalester's track and cross country teams. After graduation, LaBree volunteered as an assistant coach for Macalester's track and cross country teams and was inducted into the college's Athletic Hall of Fame in 2002. Before his death, LaBree established the Glory Days Alumni Fund for Cross Country and Track and Field to support student athletes in those sports. Fellow alumni are welcome to donate to the fund.

1963

Kermit E. Frye, 84, of Bloomington, Minn., died July 16, 2026. During his career in computing, he worked for Control Data, Ceridian, and General Dynamics. While pursuing his lifelong passion for genealogy, Frye co-authored *Germanic Genealogy* with the Germanic Genealogy Society, wrote *The Old Bloomington Cemetery*, and indexed the *Minnesota Genealogist*. Survivors include two sons, seven grandchildren, and two sisters.

C. Wendell Vandersluis, 85, of Minneapolis died June 17, 2026. He was drafted in 1959 and served in Germany. He worked as a photographer with the men's athletic department at the University of Minnesota for thirty years. Survivors include his wife, Cynthia Marsh.

1964

Judith Kurth Hazen, 83, died May 6, 2026, in St. Paul. After working as a social worker and administrator for St. John's Hospital, Hazen was ordained as a Lutheran pastor in 1996. She served five churches before her retirement in 2008. She had two children and four grandchildren.

Michael L. Moeller, 83, died Feb. 22, 2026. He worked and traveled throughout Western Europe and served on work-related and nonprofit boards of directors. Survivors include his wife, Rhoda Goodrich Moeller '65; a daughter; a son; four grandchildren; and four siblings.

1965

Ann Hertel Gustafson, 82, of River Falls, Wis., died June 14, 2026. In addition to working as a victim witness coordinator for Pierce and St. Croix counties, Gustafson held leadership positions with women's organizations and helped launch organizations that advocate for victims' rights. Survivors include three sons and six grandchildren.

1966

Joan Graves Baillie, 81, died June 3, 2026, in Johns Creek, Ga. During her career in education, Baillie worked with the Head Start program, the national Girl Scout council, and the Vanderbilt University admissions office. She also served as director of events and conferences at Emory University's Oxford College. Survivors include her husband, Douglass Baillie '66; two sons; five grandchildren; and a brother.

Murray Riley Owens, 81, died July 24, 2026, in St. Paul. He served in the US Air Force in Vietnam and worked for Unisys and Metro Transit. Survivors include his wife, Janet Schuba, and a daughter.

1967

Cheryl L. Ellis, 80, of Fargo, N.D., died July 17, 2025. She was an attorney who practiced family law and worked as a reporter for the *Fargo Forum*.

Robert A. Olds, 80, of Minnetonka, Minn., died April 23, 2026. He was the head golf professional at Minnetonka Country Club from 1970 to 2008. Olds also won the Minnesota PGA Foundation Pro-Am in 1987 and qualified for the National PGA Club Professional Championship four times. He was named Minnesota Section PGA Golf Professional of the Year in 1982 and was inducted into the Minnesota Golf Hall of Fame in 2019. Survivors include his wife, Nancy; a daughter; a son; and six grandchildren.

1968

Peter G. Sausen, 79, died June 27, 2026. After working in local government in Minneapolis and White Bear Lake, Minn., Sausen served the state of Minnesota as an assistant commissioner of the Department of Finance and Debt Management. Survivors include his wife, Pamela Smith; sister Barbara Sausen '63; niece Karen Buhr '97; and nephew Ed Buhr '93.

1969

Jules A. Goldstein, 79, died May 3, 2026. He served with the US Army in Vietnam and "lent his many talents" to such organizations as Mount Zion Temple, Jewish Family Service of St. Paul, and the St. Paul Jewish Federation. Goldstein was inducted into the Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party's Hall of Distinguished Service. Survivors include his wife, Janice Galanter Goldstein '69; three children (including Leah Goldstein Moses '95 and Seth Goldstein '98); children-in-law Douglas Moses '97 and Tom DeCaigny '98; four grandchildren; a sister; and a brother.

James J. Jordan, 79, died June 14, 2026, in Oro Valley, Ariz. After working for the actuarial department of the Mutual Service Insurance Company in St. Paul, Jordan moved to Alaska and worked for that state's Division of Insurance, eventually becoming its director. He also launched an insurance consulting practice and served as executive director of the Alaska State Medical Association. Survivors include his wife, Karen McCarthy Jordan '69, and a brother.

1970

Brian J. Wold, 78, died July 6, 2026. He worked as a teacher in the St. Paul Public Schools for more than thirty years. Survivors include his wife, Suzanne Harris '82.

1971

Joel R. Stegner, 76, of Edina, Minn., died June 11, 2026. He worked in health care analytics and research for several health care organizations in the Twin Cities area. Stegner also sang with the Dale Warland Festival Chorale, the Minnesota Chorale, and the Edina Chorale. Survivors include his partner, Mary Jubenville; two children (including Grant Stegner '08); five grandchildren; and two siblings.

1972

Lina Manswela Ochieng, 84, died May 2, 2026. She was a high school and international school teacher of English and French in Kenya. Survivors include a co-wife, seven children, eighteen grandchildren, and a great-grandchild.

1973

Clem L. Crowe, 75, of St. Paul died April 24, 2026. He worked with the Hallie Q. Brown Community Center, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, and Schmitty & Sons School Bus Company. Survivors include his wife, Josephine Weaver-Crowe; four children; nineteen grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and six siblings.

Betty Stensrud, 96, of Rogers, Minn., died Dec. 19, 2025. She worked as an elementary and special education teacher in Robbinsdale, Minn. Survivors include two children, six grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

Ned W. Windmiller, 75, died April 29, 2026. He practiced as a dentist in Stillwater, Minn., from 1976 to 2020. He was an accredited cosmetic dentist who traveled internationally to present on the profession's most innovative techniques and materials. Survivors include his wife, Chris; two daughters (including Mollie Windmiller '03); a son; and four grandchildren.

1975

Miguel Sancho Soares died in April 2026 in Atlanta. He was a teacher, writer, artist, and traveler. Survivors include his spouse and five siblings.

1976

Anne L. Peterson, 71, of Walnut Creek, Ohio, died Jan. 18, 2026. She worked as a librarian with the University of Akron and the law firm of Benesch-Friedlander.

Timothy K. Wilson, 71, died Nov. 17, 2025. Survivors include his wife, Pamela; two daughters; three grandsons; and a brother.

1977

Anthony C. Gully, 71, died June 5, 2026. After working as a supervisor at Control Data, Gully began working in purchasing at Cooperative Power (later Great River Energy), retiring as a senior materials agent in 2017.

1978

Monica Mellen Burgess, 72, died June 21, 2026. She worked in 3M's Riker Labs division and later helped engineer mainframe computers and managed a manufacturing plant with Unisys. Burgess joined Dell Technologies as an executive director in 1994. After her retirement in 2002, she became a partner in Black Hills Harley-Davidson. Survivors include her husband, Jim; two sons; a grandson; two sisters; and a brother.

Brian L. Gulbranson, 70, died June 7, 2026. He worked as a geologist with the Minnesota Geological Survey and as a consultant for Summit Envirosolutions. Survivors include his wife, Debra; two children; four grandchildren; and a sister.

1984

Jeffrey M. Peterson, 64, of St. Paul died July 2, 2026. He taught English in Japan, worked as a baker at North Country Co-op, and was a biological technician with the US Forest Service. Survivors include two sisters.

1990

Marguerite A. Daly, 98, died May 21, 2023. She is survived by daughters Teresa Daly '83 and Mimi Daly Larson '89, two sons (including Stephen Daly '81), nine grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and a brother.

Katy R. Hanson, 59, died Jan. 27, 2026, in Portland, Ore. She worked as a chef, sous chef, and cheesemonger. Survivors include her partner, Joe; her mother; and two brothers.

2010

Rose Friedman, 38, died Sept. 17, 2026, at her home in New York City. She was an editor and reporter at NPR for fifteen years, shaping the network's arts and cultural coverage. She became best known as one of the cocreators of the popular "Books We Love" reading guide and recently helped lead NPR's America 250 series. She was a shop steward for SAG-AFTRA, the union that represents NPR's editorial workers, and said her proudest professional achievement was convincing NPR to increase its paid parental leave. Friedman graduated from Mac *cum laude* with a degree in history and media studies and was advised by history professor Peter Weisensel. Survivors include her partner, Andrew; two children; her parents; and two sisters.



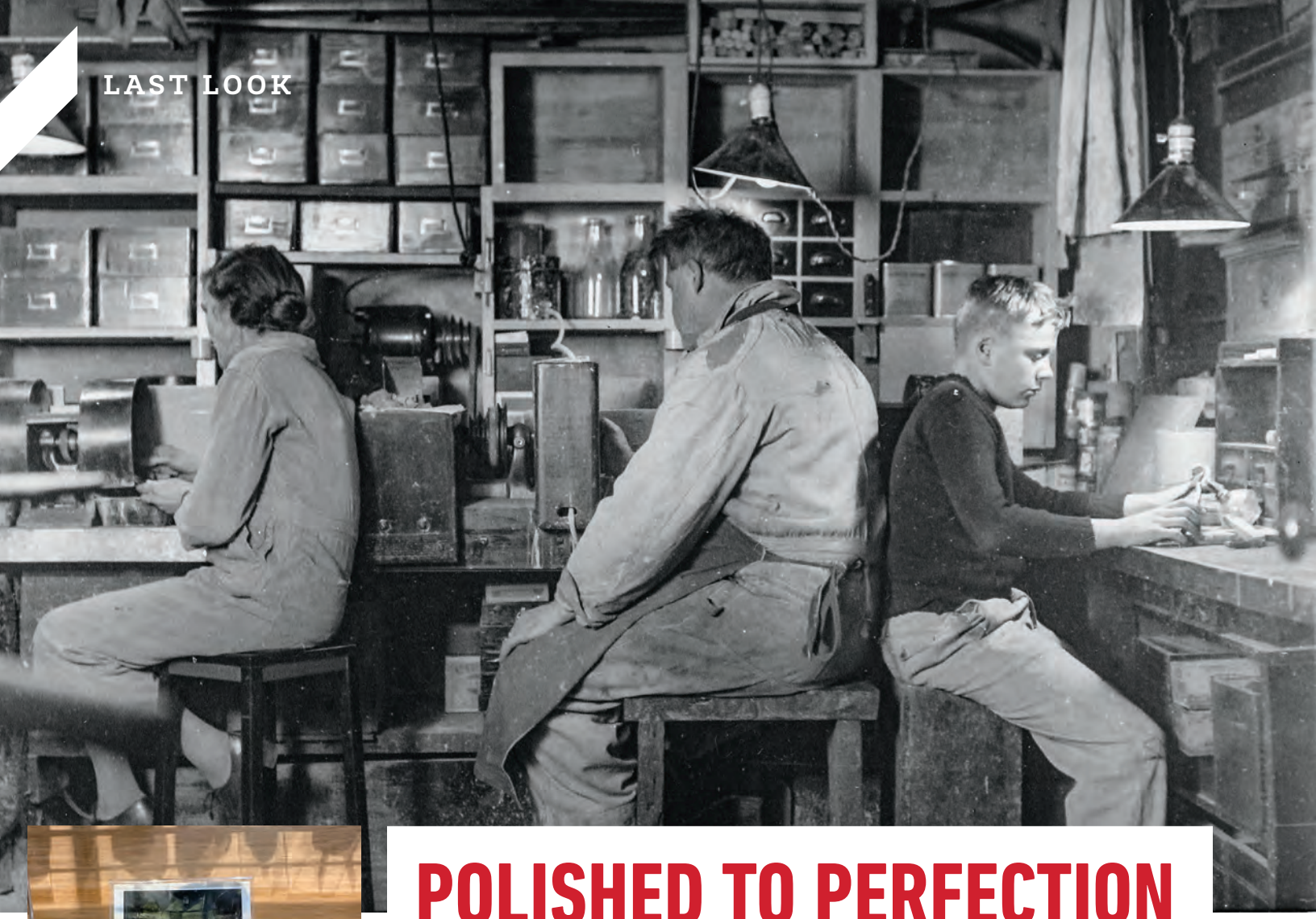
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Support students and innovation at Mac in the 2026 tax year.

Learn more by scanning the QR code or visiting **macalester.edu/macalesterfund**.







POLISHED TO PERFECTION

A St. Paul family's treasured collection finds a new home in the Geology Department.

In the early 1930s, in the basement of their St. Paul home on Marshall Avenue, the Anderson family spent hours at the polishing wheels. Geneste, husband William Sr., and their children were readying agates—finds they had gathered from across Minnesota and beyond—for their glassy close-up. It was the middle of the Great Depression, and agates, rocks, and minerals kept the family hopeful about the world around them. Their collection soon filled the family library, which they converted, shelf by shelf, into a mini "geology museum."

Nearly a century later, that collection has a new home at Macalester. It was donated to the Geology Department by Mary Kazeil Anderson, whose late husband, Bill, was one of the family's youngest collectors.

The Anderson Collection includes thousands of agates, minerals, and fossils, many still carrying the family's handwritten labels with a date, a location, and the collector's initials. Even more remarkable, William Sr. was an avid photographer, and many of his images can be matched directly to agates in the collection.

A significant portion of the Anderson Collection is on display in cases in the basement of Olin-Rice Science Center. Additional pieces are available to geology students for research and class instruction. Mary Anderson's generosity has also reached beyond the collection. Sustained financial support has helped the Geology Department fund special research trips, including a recent study away opportunity for sixteen students and five faculty and staff in Argentina.

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

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James Wallace Society



QUESTIONS? Call Trent Russell, associate director of Planned Giving, at 651-696-6982.

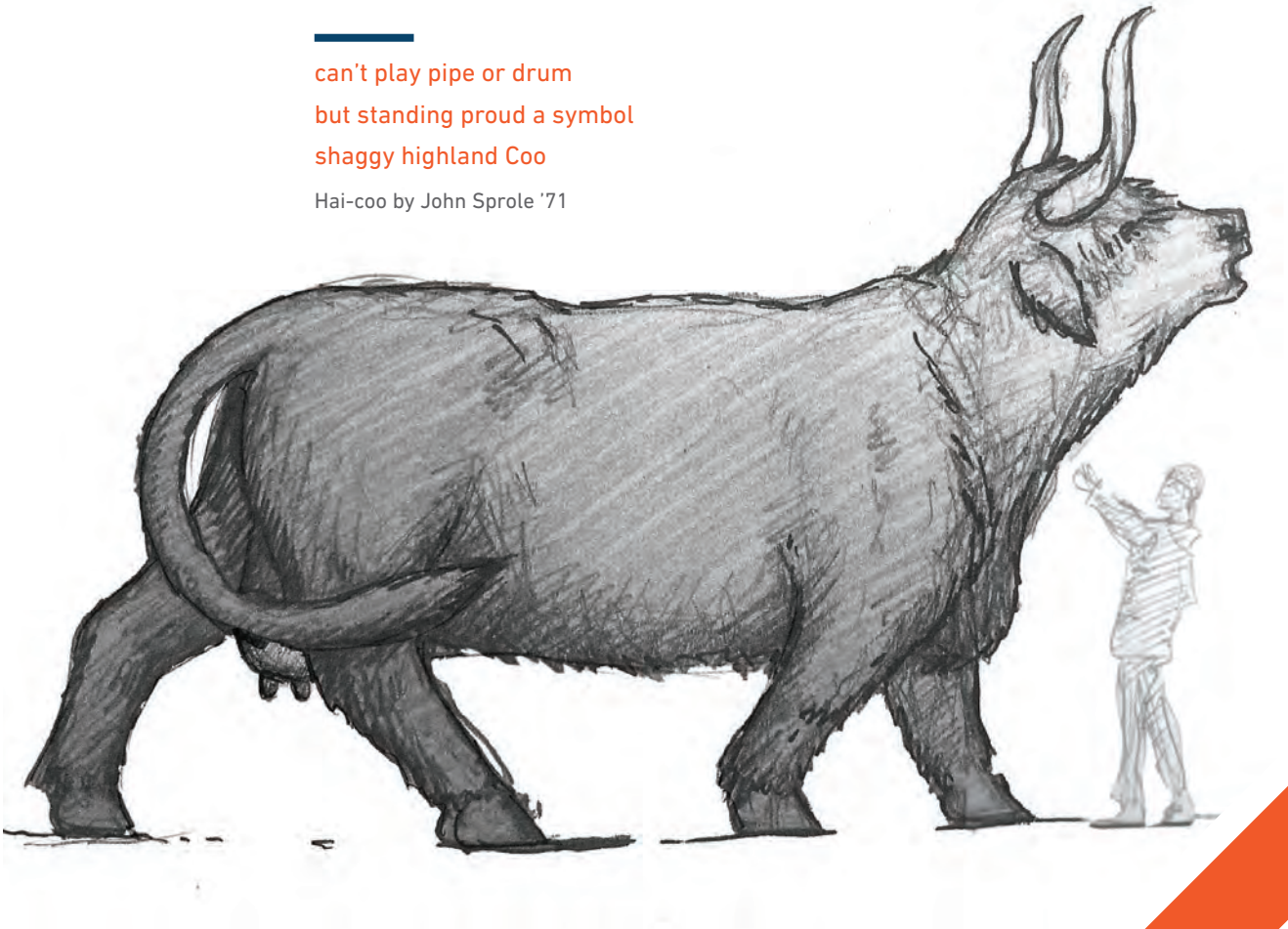
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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

can't play pipe or drum
but standing proud a symbol
shaggy highland Coo

Hai-coo by John Sprole '71



COURTESY OF ANDY SCOTT STUDIO

First Draft of a Legend

Every monumental bovine sculpture needs to start somewhere. For *Coo*, it was this hand-drawn sketch by Scottish sculptor Andy Scott, O.B.E. "From a simple sketch to the sculpture behind me," Scott said at her unveiling, "it was an absolute delight to work on." Follow her journey from paper to two and a half tons of steel on page 12.