



## REUNION '69...CELEBRATE, CONNECT, COMMENCE

### August 1965

It hardly feels like it happened more than half a century ago.

Arriving by car, plane, train, bus, or maybe even by ship, we arrived at Macalester to begin our freshman year. We were excited, scared, intimidated, eager, filled with false bravado.

Those first days were a happy chaos. Unpacking. Saying goodbye. Meeting strangers from literally all over the world, some of whom would be our roommates during that first year. We would be moving into the dorms—places named Bigelow, Dayton, Doty, Kirk, Turck, and Wallace, or another building so new that it hadn't yet been named Dupre. Some of us would end up moving off campus a year later, because there was a shortage of dorm rooms available.

In the confusion of those first days, we even had to be told not to turn our clocks and watches back, no matter what the radio said, because only Minneapolis—not St. Paul—had been on daylight time that summer.

*I got there by taking a Greyhound bus from Great Falls, Montana, north to Havre, where I caught the Great Northern Railway, traveled across the Dakotas overnight and disembarked at the Minneapolis station.*  
(Susan Bartsch Backer)

How did you get to Macalester freshman year?  
We'd love to have you share your stories!

Ahead lay the experiences—large and small—that would define our time at Mac over the next four years.

There were endless bridge games in The Grille, and endless late-night trips across Snelling Avenue for burgers or pizza from “the spoon.” There was the circuit of neighborhood 3.2 bars where some of us would become regulars. (Anyone remember Deutches Haus? The site is now a martial arts school.)

The music of the time was everywhere—the Beatles, the Stones, Dylan, and countless others, wafting through the open windows of dorm rooms and off-campus apartments. There were weekend dances in Cochrane Lounge, and folk music in the basement of the student union, where a number of local luminaries appeared at No Exit. The performers included Leo Kottke, before he got his first record deal.

A few of us may remember the trip we took, less than a month after we first arrived at Mac, to see Dylan perform with The Band at the old Minneapolis Auditorium. Concert tickets were cheap then.

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in  
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**MACALESTER COLLEGE FIELDHOUSE**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 16 - 8:30 P.M.**

**Tickets Available At:**  
DAYTON'S - 332-6123  
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(Charge it!)

**Ticket Prices:**  
All Seats Reserved -  
\$2.25 - \$2.75 - \$3.25

We arrived at Mac during a time when the college—and the world around it—was changing. And we were part of the change.

We were the class that launched a period of evolutionary change in campus life, beginning with a discussion of whether the college should continue to act *in loco parentis*.

We cultivated an active tradition of reasoned, peaceful political protest—focusing on, but not limited to, the war in Vietnam.

The war would cast a long shadow throughout our time at Mac. Remember the time—was it junior year?—when the men were required to take a standardized test to establish that we were “smart enough” to be in college and receive a student deferment? By the fall of 1967, several of us even found ourselves traveling to Washington to take part in that year’s “March on the Pentagon,” which later became the subject of Norman Mailer’s book *Armies of the Night*.

That tradition of protest would continue until we graduated, culminating in the controversial, student-produced multimedia program that marked commencement day.

## CELEBRATE

**June 2019.** Now, some 54 years later, we will once again converge on the Macalester campus—by plane, car, train or bus. It’s time to celebrate our 50th Reunion—and the wonderful people and events that shaped our lives from 1965–1969 and onward.

This is a very special commemoration—and an opportunity that won’t come again. Macalester will be honoring us as “Golden Scots” at an Induction Ceremony in Weyerhaeuser Chapel, with pipers and other appropriate Scottish trappings.

Every graduating class is “special,” but ours has a unique place in the history of Mac. In the words of the theme for this event, our reunion is a chance to **Celebrate** our time at Mac, to **Connect** once again with our classmates, and to **Commence** our engagement with the challenges—and the active lives—that still lie ahead for most of us.

To help organize these festivities, a Class of 1969 Reunion Committee has been formed, chaired by Jane Reister Conard and Linda Karrer Trout. Three committees are now in place and are going full steam to make this a very special and inclusive reunion for everyone. The sub-committees and their co-chairs include Sue and John Gnagy, and Maureen Acosta, Class Gift; John Chamberlain and Katha Ukena Chamberlain, Program; and Susan Bartsch Backer and Sara Kemp Graffunder, Communications.

Each sub-committee has a full team of classmates so that many voices can be heard. We will feature each team in our future communications. We are all focusing on making the upcoming reunion as special as our class and all of you are.

## THEN AND NOW: BRIGGS HOUSE

As a new Golden Scot, you will check in at Briggs House when you arrive on campus. You would have known it as the residence of President Harvey Rice and his wife, and site of the Freshman Week Welcoming Tea.

In the 1980s the President’s House became the Hugh S. Alexander Alumni House and was a focal point for alumni gatherings and other special events. In 2016 the Alumni House became the Briggs House, renamed after the late Mary Kay Briggs, a beloved staff member who managed the house from 2005 to 2016. We hope to see all of you there next June as we gather to celebrate, connect, and commence with new vigor into the next stages of our lives.

The campus will appear familiar to you when you arrive, but of course over 50 years there have been quite a few changes, with a new library, student center and athletic center. Every building you remember has been renovated, remodeled, or repurposed.

## MEET THE REUNION COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Ten classmates have agreed to be on the communications team, which will be bringing you either a newsletter or email news each month (except for Dec.) The newsletters are intended to give you a chance to think about Macalester and that formative time in your life before you come to Reunion. Members of this team are: Susan Bartsch Backer and Sara Kemp Graffunder, co-chairs, along with Chuck Ballentine (who will be coordinating a class Facebook page), Charlie Baxter, Debbie Oyan Dornaus, Buddy Ferguson, Eric Hendrickson, Paul Halverson, Anne Silvers Lee, Mark Linder, Karen Olson Murray, and Carol Terry.

We would love to hear from you as you think back on your Macalester experience, and we would especially like to **hear from you** soon with contributions for the November newsletter. The November theme will be GRATITUDE. Please send your ideas to Sara Kemp Graffunder, [sara@acm.org](mailto:sara@acm.org), or Susan Bartsch Backer, [backersu100@gmail.com](mailto:backersu100@gmail.com), so they can be shared with the committee members who will be responsible for the November newsletter. Thanks!



## THE MACALESTER EXPERIENCE...THEN AND NOW

### REUNION 2019 TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

As planning shapes up we will update this for you. You can also visit [macalester.edu/reunion](http://macalester.edu/reunion):

#### Thursday, June 6\*

Registration opens at 1p.m.  
Residence Hall Check-In  
Welcome and Social Gathering at Briggs House  
Women’s Retreat  
James Wallace Society Dinner (by invitation only for Wallace Society Members)

#### Friday, June 7

10:30 a.m.–Golden Scots Induction Ceremony  
Golden Scots Luncheon  
Social and Dinner  
Informal gathering at Briggs House

#### Saturday, June 8

Breakfast with President Rosenberg and Alumni Awards  
All Class Picnic  
All Class Social  
Class Dinner

#### Sunday, June 9

Brunch available on campus  
Worship Service  
Noon–Residence halls close

\* Classmates who live outside the Twin Cities should plan to arrive Thursday so as not to miss the Golden Scots Ceremony on Friday morning.

## CONNECT WITH US ON FACEBOOK

Reconnect and share photos, memories, and Reunion ideas on our private group page at [facebook.com/groups/Mac1969](https://facebook.com/groups/Mac1969)