



## NOW WHAT? LOOKING BACK, MOVING FORWARD

Welcome to the first of four Reunion newsletters. With the theme, “Now What? Looking Back, Moving Forward,” our Class of 1972 50th Reunion will be held at Macalester June 2-5, 2022. Visit our class webpage at [macalester.edu/reunion/classof1972](http://macalester.edu/reunion/classof1972) for a greeting from our Reunion co-chairs, and bookmark that page for more Reunion event information. Special thanks to Peggy Davis for designing our Reunion logo. We can’t wait to see you next June!

## YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN YOU WILL RUN INTO SOMEONE FROM MACALESTER

By Linda Kennedy

Maybe it will be someone you never expected to see again or perhaps, someone you instantly like. Here are some examples. I’ll bet you have some, too.

On a street frequented by those who wanted to be seen in a trendy part of Seattle, I saw a very tall man walking toward me. I was new to town. No one here ever even heard of Macalester, much less went there. I had not seen anyone from Macalester since my graduation three years earlier. As the man got closer, I ran toward him. “Jim Bennett!” I yelled back to my companion, “It’s Jim Bennett. From Macalester!” Jim was taller than anyone on campus and very popular. I obviously knew him better than he knew me because he was confused at my approach and bear hug. But all I had to do was say “Macalester,” and we were old friends.

A few years later, I had to go to the emergency room. I was pregnant, worried, and close to hysterics. It was 2 a.m. When did you last have an emergency in the middle of the day? A tired-looking nurse calmly told me the doctor would be right in. During the doctor’s exam, I looked at his nametag—Carter Hill, MD. “Where did you go to school?” I asked. “The University of Minnesota,” he replied, a little on the defensive. “Before that,” I said. “I went to Macalester College in St. Paul.” That was it. My blood pressure must have dropped 20 points! I had

run into a kindred soul. He said medically, I was okay. And, of course, by then, Dr. Carter Hill “knew” me better than I knew him.

More years went by, and I was working on a public health food safety video for Thanksgiving. It was about safely handling and storing poultry. Someone had volunteered their kitchen for the shoot. I parked at the location, and on the car in front of me, I saw a ‘Betsy-Tacy, and Tib’ bumper sticker. I hadn’t read the books but, I knew they had something to do with Minnesota. I went inside, and we completed the project. One of the women was especially nice, and I mentioned the bumper sticker. “Oh, that’s my car,” she said. She admitted she still liked to escape into Maud Hart Lovelace’s fictional Minnesota world. I told her I never read the books but, I knew a little about Minnesota since I graduated from Macalester. “Macalester,” she said, “I went there, too!” Well, that was the open sesame. We got to know each other and have been friends for 20 years.

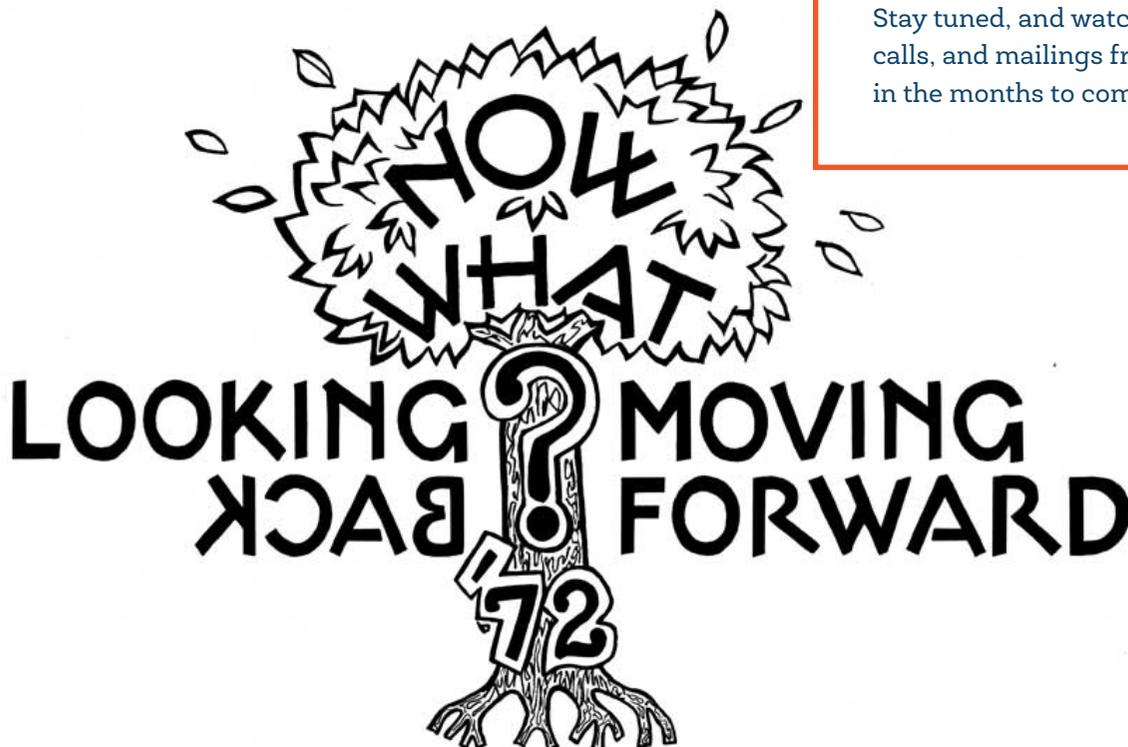
After all these years, I still hope for those encounters! At our Reunion we will be able to connect with people we knew AND people we didn’t know.

## GIFT COMMITTEE UPDATE

Excitement is building for our Reunion! Our 15-member Gift Committee is beginning its work to raise a special class gift in honor of this milestone. We have three goals:

- 1) Total dollars raised;
- 2) Percent participation; and
- 3) James Wallace Society participation. This society recognizes those who have included Mac in their will, as a beneficiary of their IRA, 401k, or estate plans.

We hope that each member of the Class of 1972 will make a special contribution to our 50th Reunion Gift. Stay tuned, and watch for emails, phone calls, and mailings from your classmates in the months to come!



## MACALESTER MEMORIES: THINGS I STOLE FROM MACALESTER

For this first edition of “Macalester Memories,” the Class of ’72 presents “Things I Stole from Macalester.” As you know, some members of our class were an iconoclastic and rebellious bunch, and perhaps at times our zeal for getting the most of what Mac had to offer involved acquiring what Mac was not actually offering...

- ▶ “On a rainy night fall semester of our freshman year, my two roommates and I took the college seal from the Fieldhouse, and we kept it on the wall above the couch in our Kirk Hall dorm room all year. At the end of spring semester, we did return it. Was fun to notice people’s reactions and comments all year.”
- ▶ “I ‘liberated’ five gallons of pineapple sherbet from the dining hall. It was consumed late one night in the Kirk Hall commons.”
- ▶ “I stole the ballots from a student election. Previously, more students had voted to secede from student government than had voted for the student body president. Therefore, I believed that the election could not be held since any winner would not represent us. The election was held again, but I couldn’t steal the ballots again because of tight security! I was later disciplined, but didn’t regret it.”
- ▶ “The Weyerhaeuser Chapel construction site was a frequent source of materials for student ‘projects,’ especially dorm room lofts and bookshelves. Some lumber from the site was put to unusual use: after being transported across Snelling Avenue and stored for a time in an apartment basement, it reappeared in Old Main as a barricade when students occupied the building.”
- ▶ “I once wrote a pretty good paper on my version of utopia—a non-capitalist sharing society. Implementing this philosophy one night (in an event that got us fired by those capitalists we railed against) my friend and I gave away many of the hamburgers we made at The Grille. While it wasn’t stolen but rather freely given up, my earliest loss at Macalester was my innocence. Reading *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* and *Manifest Destiny and Mission in American History* stole my small-town Minnesota-boy naiveté.”
- ▶ “I stole a test answer sheet once. It was a new testing system where you erased the answer square until you revealed a red dot for the right answer. You were graded on how many erasures it took to reveal the red dot. I was afraid of a test that would not allow me to change my answers without losing points. After about five minutes of guilt-ridden erasing, I realized it was much easier to go over my notes and study for the test. I threw away the answer sheet, studied, did well on the exam, AND Mac stopped using the eraser answer sheets!”

And there you have it! Scholars all. Most of us have served our time, are free once again, and look forward to our Reunion June 2-5, 2022.

**What are your memories, even if you didn’t steal anything?** Email them to [jhessler@macalester.edu](mailto:jhessler@macalester.edu) and we will post them on our Class of 1972 webpage at [macalester.edu/reunion/classof1972](http://macalester.edu/reunion/classof1972) later this fall.

## GREETINGS FROM PRESIDENT RIVERA

Hello, Scots!

In May, after months of being apart, Macalester was fortunate to have the opportunity to hold some physically distanced, in-person events as part of Commencement. Being together at Macalester was phenomenal. I’m looking forward to more such events in the coming year, especially your 50th Reunion, June 2-5, 2022!

You may have heard me say that alumni form the largest branch of the Macalester family tree.

We look to you for wisdom and perspective, and your Reunion theme, “Now What? Looking Back...Moving Forward,” indicates that you are still deeply thoughtful, engaged, and ready to continue making the world better.

You have a great team of classmates who already are planning your Reunion weekend. In the meantime, there are many ways to stay connected to the college. In October, we launch our Big Questions event series. These in-person and virtual events will take place around the U.S. and around the globe. You can learn more at [macalester.edu/bigquestions](http://macalester.edu/bigquestions). We also launch our strategic planning process in October and will be inviting feedback from the Macalester community.

I do hope to see you soon at an event—and especially at Reunion 2022. For more news and messages from me, please visit [macalester.edu/president](http://macalester.edu/president).

Yours,  
Dr. Suzanne M. Rivera  
President

